

**Analysis and optimisation of plant biomass
degrading enzyme production
in *Aspergillus***

Helena Marie Culleton

**Analysis and optimisation of plant biomass
degrading enzyme production
in *Aspergillus***

Analyse en optimalisatie van de productie van planten
biomassa afbrekende enzymen in *Aspergillus*
(met een Nederlandse samenvatting)

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door

Helena Marie Culleton

geboren op 3 april 1986 te Wexford, Ireland

Promotor: Prof. Dr. ir. R.P. de Vries

Co-promotor: Dr. V.A. McKie

For my parents and family

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Chapter 1

General Introduction

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Filamentous Fungi

Fungi form a large and diverse group of eukaryotic organisms. To date, about 80,000 fungal species have been described, with the actual number world-wide being estimated at 1.5 million [57]. Fungi have the ability to grow in many diverse and often harsh environments, including extreme heat [73], extreme acidity [107], high pressure [96] and radiation [27]. The major recognized fungal groups are Chytridiomycota, Zygomycota, Glomeromycota, Ascomycota and Basidiomycota [70], with the majority of described species belonging to the latter two phyla. Fungi can be unicellular (yeast) or multicellular (filamentous), but some species have the ability to switch between both forms (dimorphic fungi) [14]. Filamentous fungi are chemoheterotrophic and depend on the presence of organic material for their carbon and energy source. To facilitate this, filamentous fungi grow by means of extending hyphae which branch sub-apically to form a network of hyphae called a mycelium. This hyphal mode of growth supplies a large surface area for the uptake of nutrients but also enables the fungus to colonize its substrate in an efficient manner [52]. The organic material, which acts as a substrate for most fungal species is generally composed of large, complex molecules which need to be broken down before they can serve as a source of nutrition. To this end, filamentous fungi secrete diverse enzymatic mixtures, tailor-made to the polysaccharide which they encounter.

The genus *Aspergillus*

The genus *Aspergillus* is a group of ascomycete filamentous fungi, consisting of more than 250 species. Of these species, the majority are saprotrophic fungi that live off dead or decaying organic matter but there are some e.g. *A. fumigatus* and *A. chevalieri*, which are opportunistic human pathogens [67, 79] and others e.g. *A. niger* and *A. flavus* which are phytopathogens [16, 48]. Some *Aspergillus* species e.g. *A. flavus* and *A. parasiticus*, are known to produce mycotoxins [25, 58], others e.g. *A. niger* and *A. oryzae*, are extensively used in industry for the production of enzymes and metabolites [52] while *A. nidulans* is routinely used as a model organism for lower eukaryotes [50]. The diversity of topics that are relevant to *Aspergillus* has resulted in it becoming one of the most widely studied groups of filamentous fungi. Combined with the fact that many Aspergilli have good fermentation capabilities and high levels of protein secretion [30], it is of no surprise that this fungus has been applied in industries such as food [94] and feed [13], pulp and paper [22], biofuels, biodegradable plastics, textiles [9] and as hosts for heterologous protein production [28]. As common soil fungi, found in many different environments, Aspergilli are also found to be capable of producing an extensive set of enzyme mixes that degrade a very broad range of polysaccharides [23].

Plant biomass degrading enzymes and their substrates

Plant biomass is the most abundant and universally used carbon source by most fungal species on earth. Primarily consisting of plant cell walls, it contains a complex structure of polysaccharides, proteins and lignin which differ greatly in monomeric composition and linkage. Fungi, including *Aspergillus*, degrade these polysaccharides extracellularly by secreting enzymes which release oligo- and monosaccharides that can then be utilized by the fungal cell [52]. Plant polysaccharides can be divided into two main groups; plant cell wall polysaccharides (cellulose, hemicelluloses [xyloglucans, xylan, galacto(gluo)mannan] and pectin) and storage polysaccharides (e.g. starch and inulin.) The plant cell wall consists of the primary and secondary cell wall, which both differ in composition and function. The primary cell wall is rich in polysaccharides (~90% polysaccharides (cellulose, hemicelluloses and pectin) and ~10% proteins) and is formed during growth [3]. The secondary cell wall is deposited on the primary layer after cell elongation stops and consists mainly of cellulose, hemicelluloses and lignin [10]. These cell wall polysaccharides interact with each other as well as the aromatic polymer, lignin, to form a network of linkages and hydrogen bonds that give the plant cell wall its rigidity [34].

Due to the diverse and complex structure of plant biomass, fungi are required to produce a large range of enzyme activities to degrade these polysaccharides into their monomeric components [23, 34]. These enzymes can be divided into families based on the catalytic modules present in their corresponding amino acid sequence i.e. glycoside hydrolases (GH), glycosyl transferases (GT), polysaccharide lyases (PL), carbohydrate esterases (CE) and carbohydrate binding modules (CBM). The resulting Carbohydrate-Active enzyme database (CAZy-<http://www.cazy.org>) has become a powerful tool in providing insight into the carbohydrate potential of a fungus and supports the identification and prediction of the function of novel genes [17, 23]. A full description of the enzyme activities involved in plant polysaccharide degradation are detailed below and corresponding CAZy families and EC numbers are presented in Table 1.

Cellulose

Cellulose is the most abundant plant cell wall polysaccharide. It exists as highly ordered linear polymers of β -1,4-linked D-glucose residues which are bundled together in microfibrils via hydrogen bonds (Fig. 1) [45]. This polymeric structure gives the plant cell wall its strength and definition [34]. Four enzymes groups are involved in the biodegradation of cellulose: endoglucanases, cellobiohydrolases, β -glucosidases and *exo*-glucanases. *Endo*-glucanases and cellobiohydrolases hydrolyze cellulose into gluco-oligosaccharides and cellobiose, respectively. These oligosaccharides are then further degraded into D-glucose molecules by the action of β -glucosidases and *exo*-glucanases (Fig. 1, Table 1).

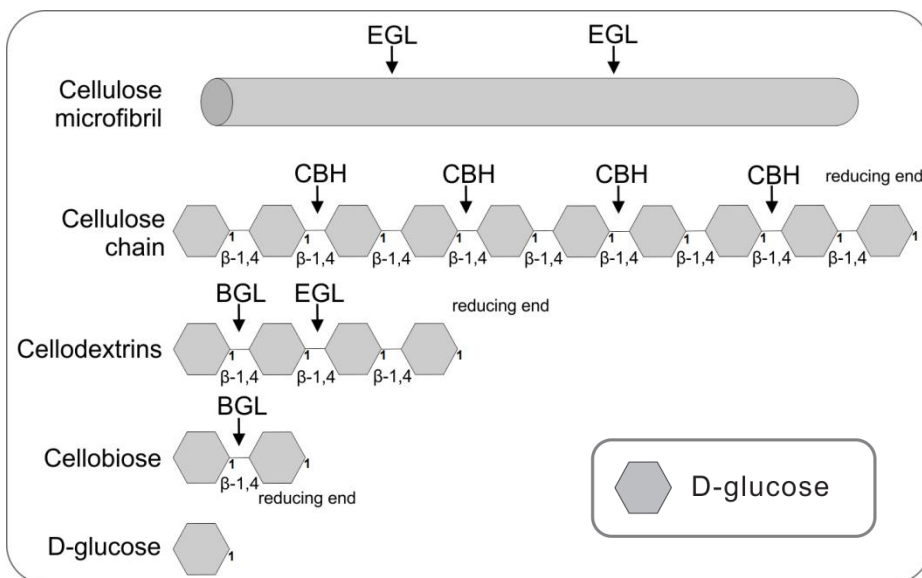


Figure 1: Representation of cellulose and its hydrolysis by cellulose degrading enzymes. The enzymes involved in the complete biodegradation of cellulose are indicated. Abbreviations of enzyme names are explained in Table 1. The figure is modified from [5].

Hemicelluloses

The hemicellulose group of polysaccharides represent the second most abundant polysaccharide in plant cell walls and form cross-links with cellulose through hydrogen bonds to provide extra rigidity and protection against plant pathogens, such as fungi [20, 127]. Hemicellulose is present in three main forms in the plant cell wall: xylans, xyloglucan and mannans.

Xylan

The xylan group of polysaccharides consists of a backbone of β -1,4-linked D-xylose residues which can be acetylated and/or substituted with either single residues or short side chains of α -1,2- or α -1,3-linked L-arabinose (arabinoxylan) and/or single α -1,2-linked D-glucuronic acid residues (glucuronoxylan) [42, 125]. D-xylose can be found attached to the L-arabinose residues while feruloyl and *p*-coumaroyl residue substitutions can be found in the terminal L-arabinose residues. The D-xylose attached to the L-arabinose residues may be acetylated while methylation is only found in the D-glucuronic acid residues [106, 124] (Fig. 2). The main xylan present in cereals is arabinoxylan while hardwood contains mainly glucuronoxylan [34]. Due to its variable composition, the enzymatic mixture produced to break down xylan can be highly

varied [8, 15, 60, 103]. *Endo*-xylanases cleave the xylan backbone into smaller oligosaccharides which act as a substrate for degradation by β -xylosidases to D-xylose [93]. The L-arabinose side chain residues are hydrolyzed by α -arabinofuranosidases and arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolases, and the glucuronic acid residues by α -glucuronidases. The acetyl, feruloyl and *p*-coumaroyl are removed by the action of xylan acetyl esterases, feruloyl esterases and *p*-coumaroyl esterases, respectively [93] (Fig. 2, Table 1).

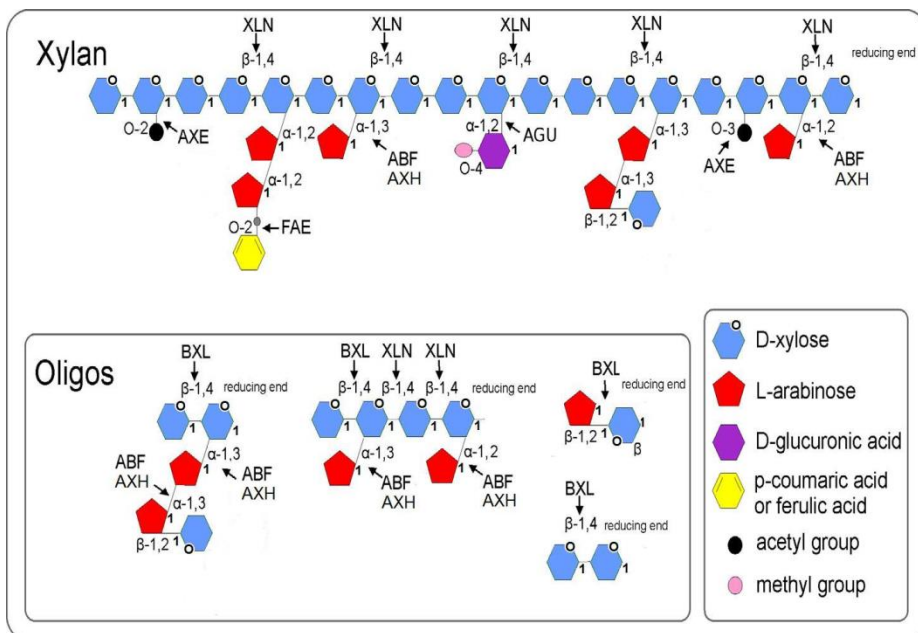


Figure 2: Representation of xylan and its hydrolysis by xylan degrading enzymes. The enzymes involved in the complete biodegradation of xylan are indicated. Abbreviations of enzyme names are explained in Table 1. The figure is modified from [5].

Xyloglucan

Xyloglucan consists of β -1,4-linked D-glucose residues substituted by D-xylose. Two major groups of xyloglucans have been identified [119]. The XXXG-type xyloglucan contains repeating units of three β -1,4-linked D-glucose residues which are substituted with D-xylose residues through an α -1,6-linkage and are separated by an unsubstituted D-glucose residue (Fig. 3). The XXGG-type xyloglucan consists of two D-glucose residues substituted with α -1,6-linked D-xylose separated by two unsubstituted D-glucose residues [99]. The structural features of these structures have been discussed in detail by Vincken *et al.* (1997) [119]. The D-xylose residues in xyloglucan can be

substituted with D-galactose via β -1,2-linkages and in some instances D-galactose has been further decorated with L-galactose or L-fucose via an α -1,2-linkage [46]. The D-xylose and unsubstituted D-glucose residues may also be substituted with L-arabinose via α -1,2-linkages, which in turn may be further decorated with β -1,2-linked D-xylose [59, 61, 129] (Fig. 3). As the basic backbone of xyloglucan is similar to that of cellulose, the same *endo*-glucanases and β -glucosidases can be responsible for hydrolyzing both polysaccharides although *endo*-glucanases which are specific to the xyloglucan backbone have also been reported (e.g. from *A. aculeatus*) [85]. Accessory enzymes for xyloglucan degradation include: α -xylosidases, α - β -galactosidases and α -fucosidases. As with xylan, the L-arabinose side chain residues of xyloglucan can be removed by α -L-arabinofuranosidases. Xyloglucan acetylsterases are active only if one or more of the D-galactose residues are acetylated [34, 52] (Fig. 3, Table 1).

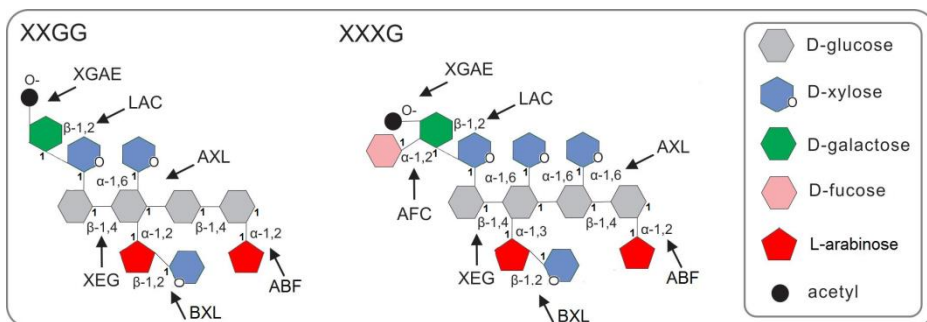


Figure 3: Representation of both the XXGG and XXXG forms of xyloglucan and its hydrolysis by xyloglucan degrading enzymes. The enzymes involved in the complete biodegradation of xyloglucan are indicated. Abbreviations of enzyme names are explained in Table 1. The figure is modified from [5].

Mannan (galacto(gluco)mannan)

Mannan or galacto(gluco)mannan, consists of a β -1,4-linked D-mannose backbone, which can be interrupted by varying amounts of β -1,4-linked D-glucose residues and substituted with α -1,6-linked D-galactose residues. These D-galactose residues were found to be further decorated with β -1,2-linked D-galactose residues in the galacto(gluco)mannan from *Nicotiana plumbaginifolia*, although this is not common [105]. Water-soluble galactoglucomannan contains acetyl groups attached to the mannan backbone and has a higher degree of D-galactose substitution than water-insoluble galactoglucomannan [110] (Fig. 4). The backbone of galactoglucomannan is hydrolyzed to manno-, gluco-manno-, and galacto-gluco-mannooligosaccharides by β -endomannanases and β -mannosidases [75]. The complete hydrolysis of galactoglucomannan requires the additional action of β -glucosidases, α -galactosidases and galactomannan acetyl esterases [34, 74] (Fig. 4, Table 1).

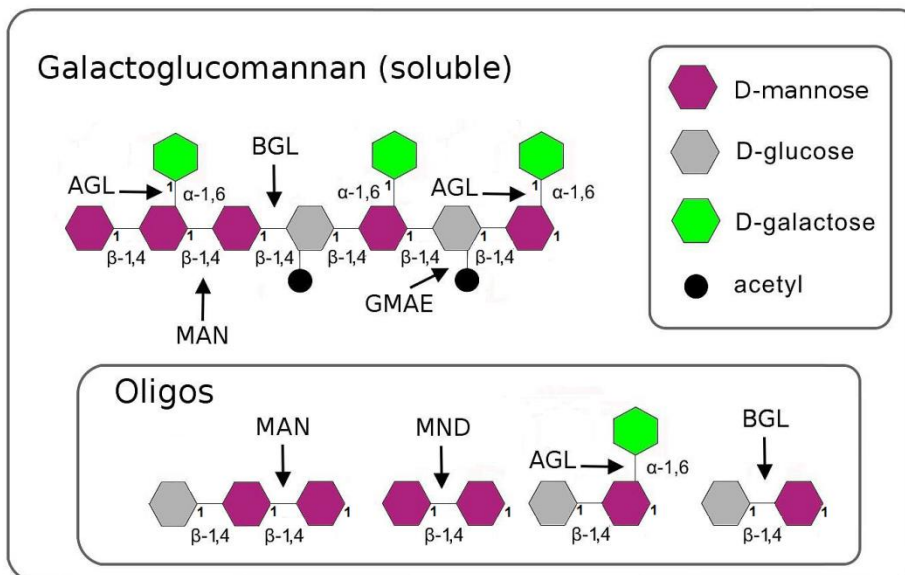


Figure 4: Representation of the water-soluble galactomannan structure and its hydrolysis by galactomannan degrading enzymes. The enzymes involved in the complete biodegradation of galactomannan are indicated. Abbreviations of enzyme names are explained in Table 1. The figure is modified from [5].

Pectin

Pectin is also responsible for rigidity and definition and plays an important role in the physiology of the plant cell wall including porosity, pH, ion balance and surface charge [52, 126]. It contains several substructures: homogalacturonan (HGA), xylogalacturonan (XGA), rhamnogalacturonan I (RG-I) and rhamnogalacturonan II (RG-II) [126].

Homogalacturonan (HGA)

HGA or pectin's "smooth" region, consists of a linear chain of α -1,4-linked D-galacturonic acid residues which can be acetylated at O-2 or O-3 or methylated at O-6 [127] (Fig. 5). Pectin methyl and acetyl esterases act on this substrate to de-esterify the backbone and make it suitable for cross-linking to calcium molecules, thus forming a type of gel which plays an important role in intracellular adhesion [77]. HGA is cleaved by *endo*- and *exo*-polygalacturonases and/or pectin and pectate lyases while the acetyl and methyl groups are removed by pectin acetyl and methyl esterases [26] (Fig. 5, Table 1).

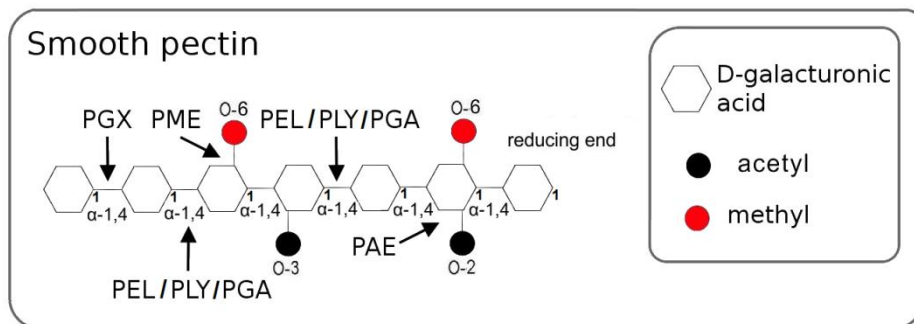


Figure 5: Representation of the homogalacturonan (HGA) structure and its hydrolysis by pectin degrading enzymes. The enzymes involved in the complete biodegradation of homogalacturonan (HGA) are indicated. Abbreviations of enzyme names are explained in Table 1. The figure is modified from [5].

Xylogalacturonan (XGA) and Rhamnogalacturonan I (RG-I)

XGA and RG-I together make up the “hairy” region of pectin [34, 52]. XGA, like HGA, contains an α -1,4-linked D-galacturonic acid backbone which can be substituted with β -1,3-linked D-xylose [101], which in turn can be further decorated with β -1,2- or β -1,4-linked D-xylose (Fig. 6) [69, 80, 131]. RG-I contains an alternating backbone of α -1,4-linked D-galacturonic acid and α -1,2-linked L-rhamnose residues, the latter with long side chains of L-arabinose (arabinan), D-galactose (galactan) or mixture of both (arabinogalactan) [68] (Fig. 7 and 8). The main chain may also have ester-linked acetyl groups attached to the D-galacturonic acid residues [100, 102] (Fig. 7). The arabinan side chains consist of α -1,5-linked L-arabinose residues which can be substituted with α -1,3-linked L-arabinose and/or feruloyl residues [63]. The galactan chains exist as a linear chain of β -1,4-linked D-galactose residues which also can be substituted with feruloyl residues [63]. The arabinogalactan side chains can either consist of a backbone of β -1,4-linked galactan substituted with L-arabinose residues or β -1,3-linked galactan which can be substituted with either β -1,6-linked D-galactose or α -1,3-, α -1,5- and α -1,6-linked L-arabinose residues [63] (Fig. 8).

While many of the same enzyme activities act on HGA and XGA, some xylogalacturonases which are specific to XGA may also be present [113]. The β -linked D-xylose side chains of XGA are removed by β -xylosidases (Fig. 6, Table 1). RG-I is cleaved by endorhamnogalacturonan hydrolases, exorhamnogalacturonan hydrolases, rhamnogalacturonan lyases and α -rhamnosidases [34] while the acetyl groups are removed by rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterases [33] (Fig. 7, Table 1). The side-chains of RG-I are hydrolyzed by endo-/exo-arabinases, arabinofuranosidases, endo-/exo-galactanases and β -galactosidases [34] (Fig. 8, Table 1).

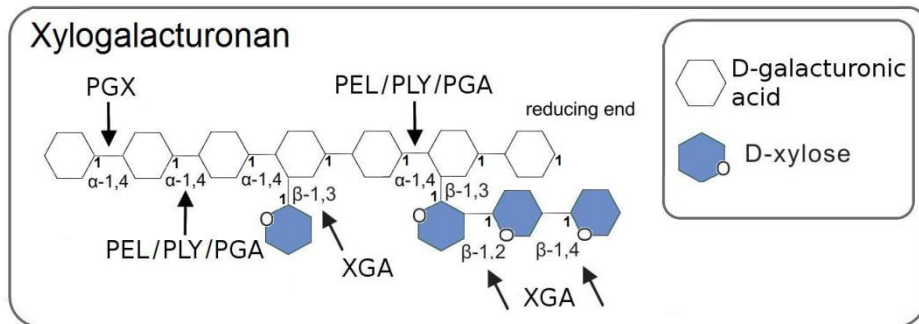


Figure 6: Representation of the xylogalacturonan (XGA) structure and its hydrolysis by pectin degrading enzymes. The enzymes involved in the complete biodegradation of xylogalacturonan (XGA) are indicated. Abbreviations of enzyme names are explained in Table 1. The figure is modified from [5].

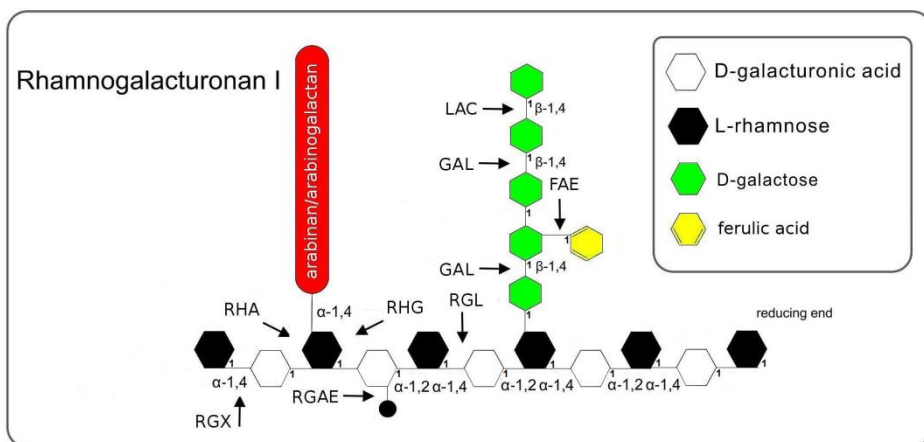


Figure 7: Representation of the rhamnogalacturonan I (RG-I) structure and its hydrolysis by pectin degrading enzymes. RG-I contains an alternating backbone of α -1,4-linked D-galacturonic acid and α -1,2-linked L-rhamnose residues, the latter to which long side chains of L-arabinose (arabinan), D-galactose (galactan) or mixture of both (arabinogalactan) can be attached (Fig. 8). The enzymes involved in the complete biodegradation of rhamnogalacturonan I (RG-I) are indicated. Abbreviations of enzyme names are explained in Table 1. The figure is modified from [5].

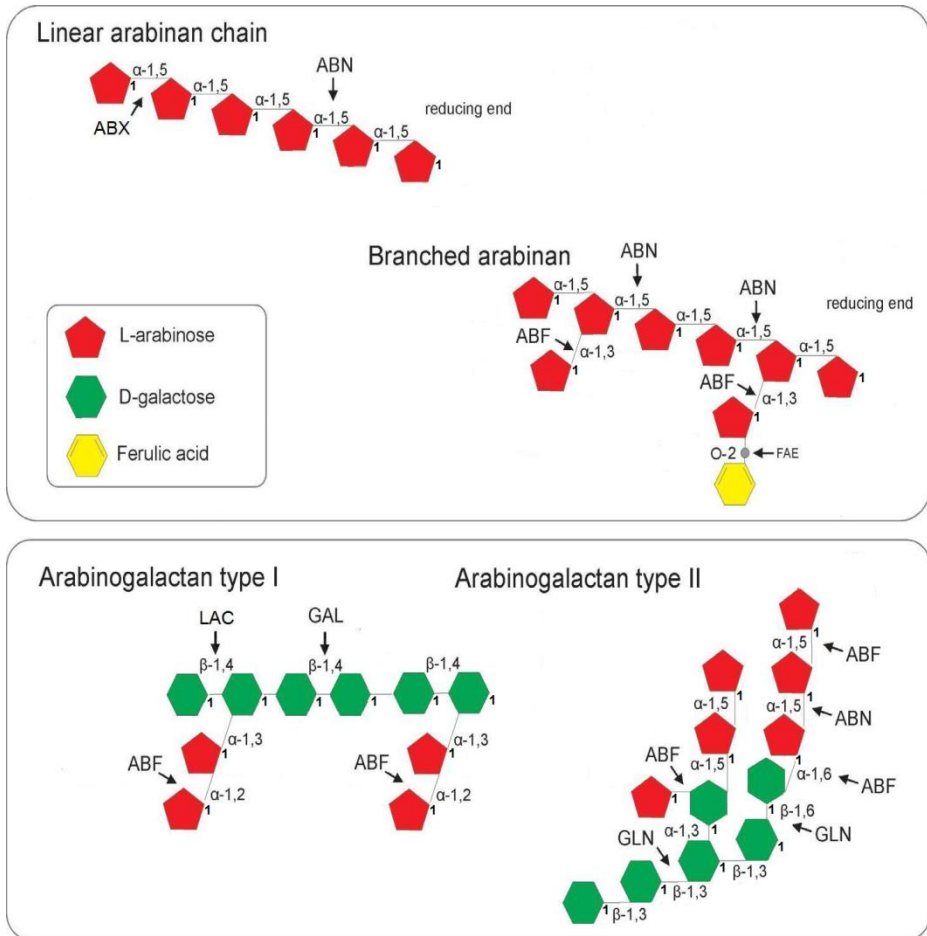


Figure 8: Representation of the rhamnogalacturonan I (RG-I) arabinan and arabinogalactan side chains and their hydrolysis by pectin degrading enzymes. The enzymes involved in the complete biodegradation of rhamnogalacturonan I (RG-I) are indicated. Abbreviations of enzyme names are explained in Table 1. The figure is modified from [5].

Rhamnogalacturonan II (RG-II)

RG-II is a complex polysaccharide, consisting of approximately 30 monosaccharide units [34] with a backbone of eight or more D-galacturonic acid residues [118] and is substituted with up to five different side-chains [118]. These decorations may be of mono- or oligosaccharide structure and can consist of the following residues; L-rhamnose, D-galactose, L-arabinose, D-glucuronic acid, L-fucose, D-apiose, L-aceric acid, 2-O-methyl L-fucose, 2-O-methyl D-xylose, L-galactose, 2-keto-3-deoxy-D-lyxo-heptulosaric acid (Dha) and 2-keto-3-deoxy-D-manno-octulosonic acid (KDO) [118] (Fig. 9). Due to its extremely complex structure, enzymatic degradation of pectin requires a large set of activities (Table 1). The identification of the enzymes involved in the degradation of RG-II residue however, thus far remain unclear (Fig. 9).

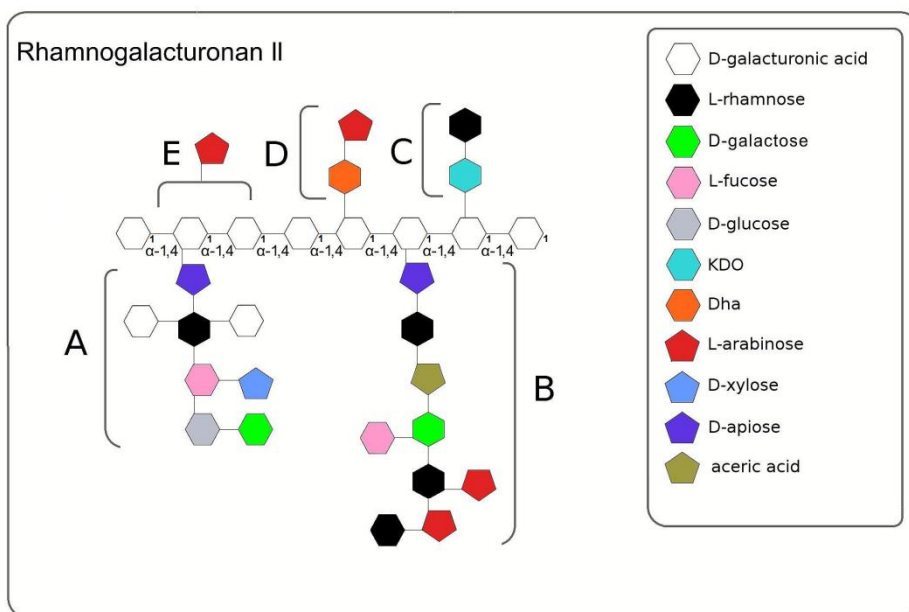


Figure 9: Representation of the rhamnogalacturonan II (RG-II) structure. A-E represent rhamnogalacturonan II (RG-II) side chains, with two possible positions for 'E' being indicated. The enzymes involved in complete hydrolysis of this polysaccharide remain elusive, and are therefore not included in the figure. The figure is based on [91].

Table 1: CAZymes involved in plant biomass degradation. Adapted from [23].

Substrate	Enzyme Class	Enz.	CAZy families	EC no.
Cellulose	β -1,4-D-glucosidase*	BGL	GH1,3	3.2.1.21
Cellulose	Cellobiohydrolase	CBH	GH6,7	3.2.1.91
Cellulose	β -1,4-D-endoglucanase	EGL	GH5,7,12,61	3.2.1.4
Xylan	α -L-arabinofuranosidase*	ABF	GH43,51,54	3.2.1.55
Xylan	α -glucuronidase	AGU	GH67,115	3.2.1.139
Xylan	acetyl xylan esterase	AXE	CE1	3.1.1.72
Xylan	arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase	AXH	GH62	3.2.1.55
Xylan	β -1,4-D-xylosidase*	BXL	GH3,43	3.2.1.37
Xylan	feruloyl esterase*	FAE	CE1	3.1.1.73
Xylan	β -1,4-D-endoxylanase	XLN	GH10,11	3.2.1.8
Xyloglucan	α -L-arabinofuranosidase*	ABF	GH43,51,54	3.2.1.55
Xyloglucan	α -L-fucosidase	AFC	GH29,95	3.2.1.51
Xyloglucan	α -1,4-D-galactosidase*	AGL	GH27,36	3.2.1.22
Xyloglucan	α -D-xylosidase	AXL	GH31	3.2.1.-
Xyloglucan	β -1,4(1,2)-D-galactosidase*	LAC	GH2,35	3.2.1.23
Xyloglucan	xyloglucan-active β -1,4-D-endoglucanase	XEG	GH12,74	3.2.1.151
Xyloglucan	xyloglucan acetylerase	XGAE	-	-
Xyloglucan	β -xylosidase*	BXL	GH3,43	3.2.1.37
Galactomannan	α -1,4-D-galactosidase*	AGL	GH27,36	3.2.1.22
Galactomannan	β -1,4-D-glucosidase*	BGL	GH1,3	3.2.1.21
Galactomannan	galactomannan acetyl esterase	GMAE	-	-
Galactomannan	β -1,4-D-endomannanase	MAN	GH5,26	3.2.1.78
Galactomannan	β -1,4-D-mannosidase	MND	GH2	3.2.1.25
Pectin	α -L-arabinofuranosidase*	ABF	GH43,51,54	3.2.1.55
Pectin	<i>endo</i> -arabinanase	ABN	GH43	3.2.1.99
Pectin	<i>exo</i> -arabinanase	ABX	GH93	3.2.1.-
Pectin	β -xylosidase*	BXL	GH3,43	3.2.1.37
Pectin	feruloyl esterase*	FAE	CE1	3.1.1.73
Pectin	β -1,4-endogalactanase	GAL	GH53	3.2.1.89
Pectin	β -1,3/-1,6-endogalactanase	GLN	GH5	3.2.1.164
Pectin	β -1,4(1,2)-D-galactosidase *	LAC	GH2,35	3.2.1.23

Pectin	pectin acetyl esterase	PAE	CE12	3.1.1.-
Pectin	pectin lyase	PEL	PL1	4.2.2.10
Pectin	rhamnogalacturonan lyase	RGL	PL4,11	4.2.2.-
Pectin	<i>endo</i> -polygalacturonase	PGA	GH28	3.2.1.15
Pectin	<i>exo</i> -polygalacturonase	PGX	GH28	3.2.1.67
Pectin	pectate lyase	PLY	PL1,3,9	4.2.2.2
Pectin	pectin methyl esterase	PME	CE8	3.1.1.11
Pectin	rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	RGAE	CE12	3.1.1.-
Pectin	rhamnogalacturonan galaturonohydrolase/exorhamnogalacturonase	RGX	GH28	3.2.1.40
Pectin	α -rhamnosidase/rhamnogalacturonan rhamnohydrolase	RHA	GH78	3.2.1.40
Pectin	rhamnogalacturonan hydrolase/endorhamnogalacturonase	RHG	GH28	3.2.1.-
Pectin	d-4,5-unsaturated glucuronyl hydrolase	UGH	GH88	3.2.1.-
Pectin	unsaturated rhamnogalacturonan hydrolase	URH	GH105	3.2.1.-
Pectin	β -1,4-exogalactanase	XFG	-	-
Pectin	β -1,6-exogalactanase	XSG	-	-
Pectin	β -1,3-exogalactanase	XTG	GH43	3.2.1.145
Starch	Isoamylase	ISA	GH31	3.2.1.68
Starch	α -amylase	AMY	GH13	3.2.1.1
Starch	Glucamylase	GLA	GH15	3.2.1.3
Inulin	<i>endo</i> -inulinase	INU	GH32	3.2.1.7
Inulin	<i>exo</i> -inulinase	INX	GH32	3.2.1.80
Inulin	invertase/fructofuranosidase	SUC	GH32	3.2.1.26

*indicates enzyme activities which are involved in the degradation of more than one different substrate.

Storage polysaccharides: Starch and Inulin

In addition to the cell wall polysaccharides outlined above, plants also consist of storage polysaccharides such as starch and inulin [52]. The formation of these polysaccharides allows the plant to store simple sugars such as glucose and fructose.

Starch is located in the plastids and is comprised of a branched α -linked D-glucose backbone that is degraded by the enzymatic action of α -amylase which is an *endo*-acting enzyme that hydrolyses starch into gluco-oligosaccharides. These gluco-oligosaccharides are then further degraded into D-glucose by the action of glucoamylases and isoamylase [112] (Fig. 10, Table 1).

Inulin is found in the roots and rhizomes of many plants and is composed of a linear polymer of β -2,1-linked D-fructose, connected to a terminal sucrose residue [86]. This polysaccharide is hydrolyzed by *endo*- and *exo*-inulinases to D-fructose [40], while the sucrose disaccharide is broken down into D-glucose and D-fructose by the action of fructofuranosidase (invertase) [120] (Fig. 10, Table 1).

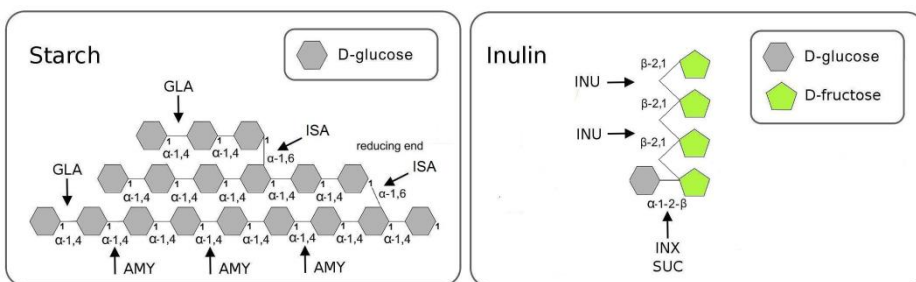


Figure 10: Representation of the starch and inulin structures and their hydrolysis by starch/inulin degrading enzymes. The enzymes involved in the complete biodegradation of starch/inulin are indicated. Abbreviations of enzyme names are explained in Table 1. The figure is modified from [5].

Plant polysaccharide degradation by *Aspergillus*

Plant polysaccharide degradation has been studied in detail in *Aspergillus* [34, 37]. To date, the genome sequences of *A. niger* [6, 90], *A. nidulans* [47], *A. oryzae* [72], *A. fumigatus* [81], *A. flavus* [87], *A. sojae* [98], *A. clavatus* [128], *A. terreus* [128], *A. aculeatus*, *A. carbonarius*, *A. kawachii*, *Neosartorya fischeri*, *A. sydowii*, *A. versicolor*, *A. brasiliensis*, *A. tubingensis*, *A. glaucus*, *A. zonatus*, *A. acidicus* and *A. wentii* are all available; (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject>, <http://genome.jgi.psf.org/programs/fungi/genome-releases.jsf>). Comparative analysis of these genomes increases our understanding of the biology of these species and helps us realize their full potential in industrial applications but also in plant biomass degradation [52].

One such comparative study compared the plant polysaccharide degrading potential of *A. nidulans* to that of two industrially relevant strains: *A. niger* and *A. oryzae* [23]. Comparison of the CAZy content of the genomes of these fungi demonstrated significant differences (Table 2). The *A. oryzae* genome contained a significantly higher number of xylan- and pectin-related genes than the other two species, while this was the case for galactomannan-related genes in *A. nidulans* and for inulin-related genes in *A. niger*. Differences in the genome content don't always correlate with the growth profiles of these species found in the Fung-Growth website (www.fung-growth.org). While a good correlation can be found for inulin this is less clear for the other polysaccharides (Fig. 11, Table 2).

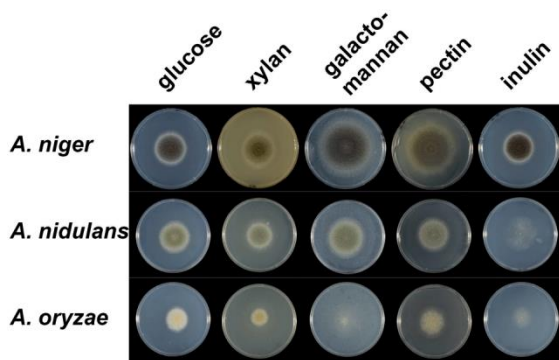


Figure 11: Growth comparison of three *Aspergilli* on four plant polysaccharides relative to growth on glucose.

Table 2: Comparison of the number of putative genes involved in plant biomass degradation of three *Aspergilli*. Modified from [23].

Polysaccharide	CAZy families	<i>A. nidulans</i>	<i>A. niger</i>	<i>A. oryzae</i>
cellulose	GH1,3,5,6,7,45,61	37	30	33
xylan	GH3,10,11,43,62,67,115; CE1,15	20	20	37
xyloglucan	GH12,29,31,74,95	6	7	8
galactomannan	GH2,5,26,27,36	19	12	12
pectin	GH2,28,35,43,51,53,54,78,88,93,105; PL1,3,4,9,11; CE1,8,12	73	66	92
starch	GH13,15	16	15	21
inulin	GH32	2	5	4

Efficient degradation of polysaccharides not only relies on the production of a specific set of enzymes but also requires synergistic interactions between the enzymes themselves. Synergy between enzymes in *Aspergilli* is a well-accepted phenomenon and one which has been shown to enhance its degrading abilities [34]. Addition of acetylxylan esterase increased the release of xylose and associated oligosaccharides for the *endo*-xylanases by up to a factor of 4.4 (*endo*-xylanase I), 14.7 (*endo*-xylanase II) and 16.3 (*endo*-xylanase III) [65]. The action of *endo*-xylanase and β -xylosidase on the xylan backbone increased 2- and 2.5-fold through the cooperation of arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase and α -L-arabinofuranosidase, respectively [33]. Similarly, in the degradation of pectin, the action of β -galactosidase was shown to support the activity of feruloyl esterase A by increasing the amount of ferulic acid released by over two-fold [33].

Regulatory systems of *Aspergillus* related to plant biomass degradation

Due to the complexity of plant biomass and its large variety depending on species, tissue and season, efficient degradation by fungi requires a fine-tuned production of diverse enzyme sets, tailored to the available biomass. This is organized through a set of transcriptional regulators that activate or repress the expression of genes encoding plant biomass degrading enzymes. Regulation of plant biomass degradation has been best studied in *Aspergillus* and will be discussed in the next sections and is summarised in Table 3. The general model for regulation of plant biomass utilization is depicted in Fig. 12 (de Vries, unpublished data). When a monomeric component of a polysaccharide is sensed by the fungus, a signalling pathway results in the activation of a transcription factor (regulator) that enters the nucleus and binds to the promoter of its target genes. These genes are then expressed and produce enzymes involved in metabolism of the compound to enable the cell to grow. As monomeric compounds are rare in the environment, the presence of it suggests the presence of the polymeric compound it originates from. Therefore, genes encoding extracellular polysaccharide degrading enzymes are also expressed resulting in liberation of more of the monomeric compound.

The amyolytic regulator AmyR

AmyR controls the genes involved in starch degradation, such as glucoamylase (*glaA*), alpha-amylase (*amyA*, *amyB*) and α -glucosidase (*agdA*) [92, 109]. AmyR contains a Zn₂Cys₆ DNA-binding domain and belongs to the Gal4 regulator-family [83]. AmyR can bind to CGGN₈CGG and CGGAAATTTAA sequences in the promoter of its target genes in the presence of specific compounds (inducers), such as starch and maltose [92]. Maltose was long considered the true inducing compound of the system but recent studies have questioned this. In *A. oryzae*, isomaltose has been shown to be

the best inducer [78], while glucose has also been shown to induce activation of AmyR in *A. niger* and *A. oryzae* [19, 117]. In *A. niger*, AmyR also regulates genes encoding β -glucosidases and α - and β -galactosidases [117].

The (hemi-)cellulolytic regulator XlnR

XlnR is also a member of the Gal4 (Zn₂Cys₆) family of regulators. While this regulator was originally described as a xylanolytic regulator [115], later studies demonstrated that it also controls genes involved in the degradation of cellulose and xyloglucan [31, 49, 114] as well as several genes of the pentose catabolic pathway [11, 12, 29, 55, 116]. XlnR binds to GGCTAR sequences in the promoter of its target genes in the presence of its inducer, xylose [36]. While *xlnR* itself is constitutively expressed, the protein gets activated in the presence of xylose by C-terminal proteolytic cleavage that results in transport of XlnR to the nucleus [56].

XlnR has also been studied in *A. oryzae* and *A. nidulans* where it performs a similar role, although the set of target genes are not identical in the three species. However, approximately 20 genes were shown to be consistently regulated by XlnR in these three species [4].

The arabinolytic regulator AraR

After the availability of the *A. niger* genome sequence [90] three genes with amino acid homology to XlnR were identified and analysis of these genes demonstrated that the closest homolog encoded AraR also contains a Zn₂Cys₆ DNA binding domain [12]. AraR activates the expression of genes encoding enzymes releasing arabinose from arabinoxylan and pectin, as well as genes encoding other pectinases and genes of the pentose catabolic pathway. The binding site of AraR has not yet been determined, but *araR* itself is induced in the presence of arabinose [12], suggesting autoregulation. Analysis of the function of AraR in *A. nidulans* revealed differences in its effect on specific target genes, such as *ladA* (encoding L-arabitol dehydrogenase) [11].

The inulinolytic regulator InuR

InuR was identified through analysis of the surrounding region of genes encoding inulin-degrading enzymes (invertase, *endo*- and *exo*-inulinase) in *A. niger* [130], based on the gene organization for *amyR* in *Aspergillus* [92]. Interestingly, InuR has sequence similarity to AmyR and is likely to have originated from a common ancestor, similar to XlnR and AraR.

InuR is also a member of the Zn₂Cys₆ family of transcriptional regulators, but its DNA binding site has not yet been determined. The inducer of InuR has been suggested to be sucrose [130].

The galactose-related regulators GalR and GalX

GalR and GalX form a two-factorial regulatory system for galactose utilization in *A. nidulans* [21]. GalR was identified by homology to XlnR and is also a member of the Zn₂Cys₆ family of transcriptional regulators. Detailed analysis demonstrated a second gene encoding a Zn₂Cys₆ regulator (GalX) next to GalR in the genome of *A. nidulans*. GalX regulates the expression of GalR and some D-galactose metabolic genes, while the majority of the metabolic genes as well as at least one α -galactosidase encoding gene are under control of GalR. GalR is unique to *A. nidulans*, while GalX is found in several Aspergilli as well as other filamentous ascomycetes [21]. In *A. niger* GalX regulates the oxido-reductive D-galactose catabolic pathway [53].

The pectinolytic regulator RhaR

In *A. niger* the presence of a general galacturonic acid responsive regulator that controls most pectinases was suggested, with additional regulators responding to rhamnose and arabinose (AraR, see above) [35]. Analysis of micro array data on a pectin-related compound identified several candidate regulator encoding genes that were specifically expressed in the presence of rhamnose and rhamnose-containing substrates. One was located next to genes of a recently discovered L-rhamnose catabolic pathway [123] and disruption of this gene (*rhaR*) resulted in reduced growth on L-rhamnose as well as reduced α -rhamnosidase activity compared to the wild [52]. RhaR affects the expression of not only α -rhamnosidase encoding genes, but also genes encoding other pectinolytic enzymes, such as rhamnogalacturonases, rhamnogalacturonan lyases, rhamnogalacturonan and pectin acetyl esterases and β -galactosidases [52]. Most of these genes are related to degradation of the rhamnogalacturonan I.

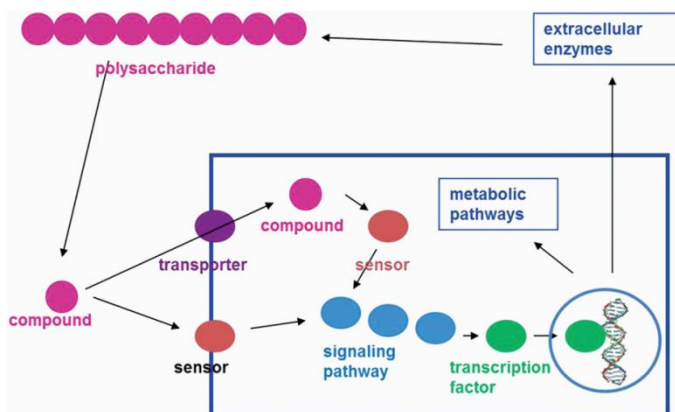


Figure 12: Model for the utilization of plant polysaccharides by fungi.

The mannanolytic regulator ManR

ManR is also a member of the Zn_2Cys_6 family of transcriptional regulators and was identified in *A. oryzae* [82]. ManR was shown to regulate genes encoding *endo*-mannanase, β -mannosidase, α -galactosidase, acetylmannan esterase and β -glucosidase and disruption of this regulator resulted in a significant reduction in growth on galactomannan [82].

The carbon catabolite repressor CreA

CreA was originally discovered in *A. nidulans* as a glucose-repressor that suppresses the expression of its target genes in the presence of glucose [41] and its DNA-binding site was established to be SYGGRT [66]. Later studies demonstrated that CreA suppresses the expression of many genes in the presence of sufficient amounts of easily metabolizable carbon sources, such as glucose, but also xylose, mannose, glucuronic acid and others [97]. Its role seems to be in conserving energy by turning off genes for secondary carbon sources when sufficient amount of a primary carbon source is present. This not only includes genes of alternative metabolic pathways, but also genes involved in the release of monomeric carbon sources, such as those encoding plant biomass degrading enzymes [97]. Several studies demonstrated significant increases in the production of plant polysaccharide degrading enzymes by fungi when *creA* is deleted [32, 62, 108]. One of the best cellulose producing strains is the *Trichoderma reesei* RUT-C30 strain, which has been shown to be a *cre1* deletion strain [104]. It was also suggested that a bigger effect on protein production can be achieved by removing the repression on the positively acting regulator (e.g. AmyR) than on its target genes (e.g. amylase-encoding genes) [2].

Interaction between regulators

In recent studies, the interaction between several regulators was examined and demonstrated. XlnR and AraR both regulate the genes associated with the common steps of the L-arabinose and D-xylose catabolic pathways [12]. In addition, they act antagonistically with respect to their target genes. In a wild type strain, XlnR-regulated genes are expressed on xylose while AraR-regulated genes are expressed on arabinose. In a *xlnR*-knockout however, AraR-regulated genes are also expressed on xylose while in an *araR*-knockout, XlnR-regulated genes are also expressed on arabinose [12]. The mechanism of this interaction has not yet been elucidated.

XlnR and CreA, together, determine the expression level of xylanolytic genes in the presence of D-xylose. In a wild type strain, xylose induces the genes through the action of XlnR, but increasing levels of xylose result in a reduction of the expression of these genes [32]. This did not occur in a CreA-mutant, demonstrating that this modulation of the expression level occurs via CreA [32]. In a recent study this data has

been confirmed for a larger group of xylanolytic genes, although the strength of the CreA effect differed for sub-groups of these genes [71].

Table 3: Regulators involved in plant biomass utilisation in *Aspergillus*.

Regulator	Function	Inducer	Reference
Positively acting regulators			
AmyR	Starch degradation, glucose/galactose release	D-glucose, isomaltose	[78, 92, 117]
AraR	L-arabinose release and catabolism	L-arabitol	[11, 12]
GalR	D-galactose catabolism	D-galactose	[21]
GalX	D-galactose catabolism	D-galactose	[21, 53]
InuR	Inulin degradation	Sucrose	[130]
ManR	(galacto-)mannan degradation	Mannobiose	[82]
XlnR	(hemi-)cellulose degradation, D-xylose catabolism	D-xylose	[114, 115]
Negatively acting regulators			
CreA	Carbon catabolite repression	Sufficient levels of monomeric carbon sources	[41, 97]

Improved enzyme production

The initial focus of protein production in filamentous fungi was to increase homologous expression. Examples of such studies are the development of an *A. niger* strain in which secretion of glucoamylase went from 0.5 g/L to levels of up to 30 g/L through classical mutation-selection techniques, media development and fermentation optimizations, over a 20 year period. Finkelstein (1987) showed that recombinant technology could be used as a viable alternative to the classical methods of strain improvement [43] and thus created an interest in these fungi as possible production hosts for heterologous proteins.

The high yields achieved with homologous protein production have not yet been realized with heterologous proteins [51]. Apart from protease activity, which is one of the leading problems for heterologous protein production, this may be due to a number of factors including transcription, translation, secretion and host strain physiology. To improve recombinant protein production in fungi, several strategies have been developed. Genetic strategies include the introduction of multi-copies of the target protein gene, the use of strong promoters and effective secretion signals, gene fusions to genes associated with well-expressed and secreted proteins and development of

protease-deficient host strains [95, 121]. Some success has also been obtained using a bioprocessing approach of optimizing fungal morphology, mycelia immobilization and culture conditions [1, 18].

Transcriptional control

Studying gene expression in filamentous fungi has increased our understanding of the molecular mechanisms controlling transcription initiation and/or regulation along with the selection of strong promoters. The promoter regions of the *Aspergillus* amylase genes consist of four highly conserved regions, which work together to enhance expression levels [76, 122]. A sequence of CCAAT, present in the *amdS* promoter region of *A. nidulans* and responsible for high-level expression of acetamidase, was also found in many other promoter regions in *A. nidulans* [84, 122]. Furthermore, the enolase gene (*enoA*) which is one of the most highly expressed genes in *A. oryzae*, was found to contain a 15-bp sequence, essential for transcriptional regulation of that gene [111, 122].

A number of other studies have shown transcriptional control to be a contributor in production levels of heterologous proteins in filamentous fungi. One such analysis, carried out by Archer *et al.* (1994) showed that hen egg-white lysozyme (HEWL) mRNA levels under the control of the *glaA* promoter in *A. niger* correlated well with HEWL protein production, but comparable HEWL and glucoamylase mRNA levels did not lead to comparable secreted protein levels [7].

Protein synthesis and secretion

A general model for protein synthesis and secretion in fungi was proposed [44]. During synthesis, proteins are transported to the endoplasmic reticulum where folding and glycosylation are initiated. In Aspergilli, folding and maturation of secretory proteins is assisted by protein disulfide isomerase (Pdi). SNARE proteins facilitate vesicle-mediated transport of the completed proteins to the more-porous hyphal tip for extracellular secretion while those which did not fold or glycosylate correctly are sent to the proteosomes or vacuoles for degradation. It has been hypothesized that over-production of recombinant proteins into the ER has the potential of congesting the folding, assembly and secretion pathways of the fungal hosts. The over-production of foldases and chaperones, which catalyze and mediate the folding of emerging polypeptides into functional proteins, could alleviate this bottleneck [122]. After secretion, recombinant proteins often face the risk of degradation by homologous proteases produced by many filamentous fungi. Different heterologous proteins are subject to degradation by different proteases [7] although careful consideration of species such as *A. vadsensis* [38] or the use of protease deficient mutants can limit this.

Bioprocessing strategies

Optimization of the yield of secreted heterologous proteins also relies on the response of protein secretion to growth conditions. Alterations to the growth medium, including agitation and dissolved oxygen [24], have been shown to relate directly to the specific responses of a given promoter but also to fungal morphology, protease production [39] and cell viability [7]. Ambient pH directly regulates the level of proteases produced in *A. niger* [39] while carbon and nitrogen sources can have either repressing or inducing effects on enzyme production [88, 89]. Carbon and nitrogen sources can also effect protease activity with most extracellular proteases being inhibited under conditions of high glucose or ammonium in the medium [121]. Furthermore, some studies have shown that gene expression and protein secretion might be quite different in solid-state fermentation than that observed in submerged fermentation e.g. in submerged cultures some enzyme activities are found in the cell wall of the mycelia while in solid-state cultures they are found to be secreted into the media [54, 64].

Aim and outline of this thesis

Much research over the past 25 years has been applied to the development of filamentous fungi, most notably *Aspergillus*, as hosts for recombinant protein production. Their inherent abilities to grow at high rates and to high biomass densities and their exceptional capacity to secrete high levels of homologous product are well recognized. Despite there being many advances made in the hyper-production of heterologous proteins in filamentous fungi, their ability to produce and secrete homologous proteases along with different native protein glycosylation still requires further strain improvement to efficiently produce a wide range of heterologous proteins. The aim of this thesis was to develop an efficient fungal expression system for the production of recombinant proteins, in particular those involved in plant biomass degradation. Due to its potential in biomass degradation and with its favourable fermentation capabilities, *Aspergillus* was chosen for this study.

In **Chapter 2** eight different *Aspergillus* species were compared with respect to their genomic ability to degrade plant cell wall biomass. While all tested Aspergilli had a similar potential to degrade plant biomass, results showed that even in closely related species, their strategies differed markedly. Combining the approaches from different species is likely to result in better enzyme mixtures for industrial applications, such as the saccharification of plant biomass for biofuel production.

In **Chapter 3**, the molecular and phenotypical differences between *A. vadensis* and six other species of black Aspergilli were examined. Growth on varying carbon sources and extracellular enzyme profiles when grown on maltose/starch indicated significant and unique differences between *A. vadensis* and the other black Aspergilli. Further analysis of the partial genome of *A. vadensis* genome, combined with gene

expression data when grown on maltose indicate that its aberrant phenotype is likely caused by the low expression of *pvtT* and *amyR* regulators or their associated genes and not a mutation or deletion as was originally concluded.

In **Chapter 4** six novel constitutive promoters from *A. niger* (*pefla*, *ptktA*, *peflβ*, *ptal1*, *pcetA* and *ppgkA*) and a further five from *A. vadensis* (*pefla*, *prps31*, *pgpdA*, *pubi1* and *poliC*) were tested in *A. vadensis* using a gene encoding a secreted arabinofuranosidase from *Fusarium oxysporum* as a reporter for heterologous protein production. Of the promoters tested, 3 from *A. niger* (*pefla* > *ptal* > *ppgkA*) and 3 from *A. vadensis* (*pefla* > *poliC* > *prps31*) all resulted in higher ABF activity than for that of the commonly used *gpdA* promoter from *A. nidulans*.

In **Chapter 5** the potential of *A. vadensis* as an expression host was tested by successfully expressing an α -L-arabinofuranosidase (*abfB*) (GH54) and an *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase (*eglA*) (GH12) from *A. vadensis* under the control of the *gpdA* promoter from *A. vadensis*.

In **Chapter 6** an evolutionary screening method was used to improve the inulin degradation potential of *Aspergillus oryzae* through the upregulation of *exo*-inulinase. As an organism with no predicted *endo*-inulinase function, improved inulin degradation would be largely dependent on the overproduction of this enzyme. Subsequent generation growth of *Aspergillus oryzae* (Rib40) on inulin for 9 weeks successfully resulted in *exo*-inulinase overproducing mutants.

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Chapter 2

Closely related fungi deploy diverse enzymatic strategies to degrade plant biomass

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Abstract

Plant biomass is a major carbon source for many fungi and also an important industrial substrate for the production of food, textiles, fuels and chemicals. Degradation of plant biomass by fungi is a highly complex process that involves a large number of extracellular enzymes as well as non-hydrolytic proteins, whose production is controlled by a set of transcriptional regulators. *Aspergillus* species form one of the best studied fungal genera, largely due to their applications in biotechnology and relevance in human health. In this study we have compared the genomic content and the enzymes produced by eight *Aspergilli* for the utilization of plant biomass. While all tested *Aspergilli* have a similar genomic potential to degrade plant biomass, their approaches differ markedly in the overall activities as well as the specific enzymes they employ. An exception is *A. clavatus* that has a strongly reduced pectinolytic ability. Many of the genes have orthologs in (nearly) all tested species, but only very few of the corresponding enzymes are produced by all species during growth on wheat bran or sugar beet pulp. In addition, significant differences were observed between the enzyme sets produced on these feedstocks, largely correlating with their polysaccharide composition. These data demonstrate that *Aspergillus* species employ significantly different approaches to degrade plant biomass. Combining the approaches from different species is expected to result in improved enzyme mixtures for industrial applications, such as the saccharification of plant biomass for biofuel production.

Introduction

Plant biomass is the predominant carbon source for most fungi and consists largely of polymeric compounds, of which polysaccharides are the main components [15, 18]. In addition, lignin encrusts the polysaccharides and acts as a physical barrier that impedes fungal enzymes from gaining access to them. Fungi cannot take up intact polysaccharides, but need to degrade them extracellularly to monomeric and oligomeric compounds using diverse enzymatic mixtures [18, 55]. Plant polysaccharide degradation by fungi has been a topic of study for many decades due to its relevance in many industrial applications, such as paper & pulp, food & feed, beverages, textiles and detergents. More recently, the increasing interest in the production of alternative fuels and chemicals from plant biomass has provided an even greater push for research into fungal decomposition of plant biomass.

Analysis of an increasing number of fungal genome sequences has demonstrated the fundamental differences in the plant polysaccharide degrading machinery of fungi [2, 5, 8, 10, 19, 22]. In addition, the regulatory systems that control plant biomass degradation also differ strongly among fungi, although they are largely conserved among different *Aspergillus* species [29, 53]. Results from a previous study on the utilization of polysaccharides by three *Aspergilli* [10] suggest that related fungal species may have developed different approaches to plant biomass degradation. In nature, biomass-degrading fungi live in community with other microorganisms. It can be expected that different species target distinct components of the substrate and degrade them using dissimilar enzyme combinations. An enhanced understanding of these strategies will not only increase our knowledge of fungal biodiversity, but will help in the design of efficient industrial enzyme mixtures for plant biomass degradation. In this study, we compared the plant biomass degradation potential and approaches of eight *Aspergillus* species: *A. clavatus*, *A. fischeri*, *A. flavus*, *A. fumigatus*, *A. nidulans*, *A. niger*, *A. oryzae* and *A. terreus* (Suppl. Table 1).

Materials and methods

Media and growth conditions

The fungal strains used in this study are listed in Suppl. Table 1. *Aspergillus* minimal medium was described previously [17]. All monomeric and oligomeric carbon sources were added to a final concentration of 25 mM, while pure polymeric substrates and crude substrates were added to a final concentration of 1% and 3%, respectively. The pH of the medium was adjusted to 6.0. For plate growth, the centre of the plates was inoculated with 2 μ l of a suspension of 500 spores/ μ l and plates were incubated for 5 days at 30°C. All eight species were grown on minimal medium with 35 carbon sources including crude plant biomass, pure plant polysaccharides, oligosaccharides, monosaccharides and control substrates (casein, lignin) (Suppl. Fig. 1, www.fung-

growth.org). To confirm that the detected differences were species specific, a second isolate of each species was examined along with the sequenced strain. Growth on 25 mM D-glucose was used as a reference because the tested strains grow at different rates and D-glucose, among the monosaccharides, supported the fastest growth for all species. Growth on the other substrates relative to growth on D-glucose was then compared among the species. Growth on plates was analyzed by visual inspection by two authors independently after which these were compared and discussed.

Liquid cultures were inoculated with 10^6 spores/ml (final concentration) and incubated at 250 rpm for 3 days. All cultures were incubated at 30°C and performed in duplicate. Two to three strains of all species were grown in liquid cultures with 1% wheat bran or 1% sugar beet pulp. Culture filtrates after three days of cultivation were analyzed for the presence of free monomeric sugars, but no glucose, xylose, galacturonic acid, rhamnose or fructose was detected. SDS-PAGE analysis of the extracellular proteins revealed nearly identical profiles for strains of the same species (Suppl. Fig. 6), indicating that enzyme production is highly conserved within a species. Detailed analysis of the produced enzymes was therefore only performed on a single strain.

Chemicals and media

Glucose, maltose, sucrose, inulin, beechwood xylan, Guar gum, apple pectin and all *p*-nitrophenyl-substrates were from Sigma–Aldrich. Soluble starch was from Difco. Red Debranched Arabinan (S-RDAR), Azo-CM-cellulose (S-ACMC), Azo-galactan (S-AGALP) and AZ-rhamnogalacturonan (S-AZRH), Azo-wheat arabinoxylan (S-AWAXP) and polygalacturonic acid (PGA) were from Megazyme International Ireland.

Composition analysis of plant biomass substrates

Sugar composition was determined by analyzing the sugars as their alditol acetate derivatives using GC-FLD as described previously [30].

CAZy annotation

The identification step of CAZymes followed the procedures previously described [10] where sequences are subject to BlastP analysis [1] against a library composed of modules derived from the CAZy database, the positive hits are then subjected to a modular annotation procedure that maps the individual modules onto the peptide using hits against libraries of catalytic and carbohydrate models derived from CAZy using BlastP or Hidden Markov models [1, 20]. The functional annotation step involves BlastP comparisons against a library of modules derived from biochemically characterized enzymes [10].

Orthology and synteny analysis

Genome scale protein ortholog clusters were constructed using OrthoMCL [34] by inflation factor 1, E-value cutoff 1E-3, percentage match cutoff 60% as for identification of distant homologs [9]. The orthologs clusters were further split according to the synteny detected by the Sybil algorithm [12] at www.aspgd.org. Sequences of genes were manually double checked by multiple sequence alignments with MAFFT[28] and potential errors of gene models were corrected.

Enzyme assays

All exo-acting CAZy enzyme activities were performed in micro titer plates. Reactions were carried out in 100 μ L volumes containing 25 mM sodium acetate (pH 5), 0.01% substrate and suitably diluted culture filtrate. The mixture was incubated at 30°C for 2 h and the reaction was terminated by the addition of 100 μ L 250 mM sodium carbonate. Enzyme activities (α -arabinofuranosidase, cellobiohydrolase, α -galactosidase, β -galactosidase, α -glucosidase, β -glucosidase, glucoamylase (α -maltosidase), β -mannosidase, α -rhamnosidase and β -xylosidase) were determined spectrophotometrically at 405 nm by measuring the release of *p*-nitrophenol (*p*NP) from their appropriate *p*NP-substrates and standardized against a known concentration of *p*-nitrophenol (*p*NP). Activities were expressed as nmol *p*NP/mL sample/min.

Endoarabinanase, *endo*-1,4- β -glucanase (cellulase), *endo*-1,4- β -galactanase and rhamnogalacturonanase activities were measured using 20 mg/mL of Red Debranched Arabinan (S-RDAR), Azo-CM-cellulose (S-ACMC), Azo-galactan (S-AGALP) and AZ-rhamnogalacturonan (S-AZRH), respectively. *Endo*-1,4- β -xylanase activity was measured using 10 mg/mL Azo-wheat arabinoxylan (S-AWAXP). 100 μ L reactions were carried out containing equal volumes of buffered substrate (pH 4.5) and suitably diluted culture filtrate which were then incubated at 40°C for 1 h in the case of the endoarabinanase, *endo*-1,4- β -glucanase and *endo*-1,4- β -xylanase activities and 16 h for the *endo*-1,4- β -galactanase and rhamnogalacturonan activities. *Endo*-arabinanase reactions were terminated with the addition of 400 μ L 95% ethanol, *endo*-1,4- β -galactanase, rhamnogalacturonanase and *endo*-1,4- β -xylanase reactions with 250 μ L 95% ethanol and *endo*-1,4- β -glucanase reactions with a 250 μ L solution of sodium acetate trihydrate (40 mg/mL) and zinc acetate (4 mg/mL) in 76% ethanol. Precipitated reactions were then centrifuged at 1000 \times g for 10 min and optical density of supernatants was measured at 590 nm. Endoarabinanase reactions were measured at 520 nm. *Endo*-acting enzyme activities are expressed as amount of dye released (absorbance change)/mL sample/min.

Pectate lyase activity was assayed using polygalacturonic acid (PGA). Reaction mixtures contained equal volumes of 50 mM N-cyclohexyl-3-aminopropanesulfonic acid (CAPS) (pH 10.0) and 2.5 mg/mL PGA, to which suitably diluted culture filtrate

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was added. Changes in absorbance at 235 nm were measured for approximately 30 min at 40°C.

Laccase activity was assayed using 2,2'-azino-di-(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid) (ABTS). Reaction mixtures contained 700 μL H_2O , 100 μL 0.5 M glycine-HCl (pH 3.0), 100 μL culture filtrate and 100 μL 14 mM ABTS. The reaction was monitored by measuring the change in absorption at 436 nm at 30°C. The extinction coefficient of 29,300 $\text{M}^{-1}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$ was used for oxidized ABTS. Activity is expressed as is in nmol/min/ml.

Feruloyl esterase activities were determined spectrophotometrically (Shimadzu PharmaSpec UV-1700) at 37°C in 100 mM MOPS (3-(*N*-morpholino)propanesulfonic acid buffer (pH 6.0). Methyl caffeate (MC), methyl ferulate (MF), methyl *p*-coumarate (MpC) and methyl sinapate (MS) (1.18 mM stock solutions in 100 mM MOPS, pH 6.0) were used as substrates. Reaction mixture contained 100 μL of culture liquid, 870 μL MOPS buffer and the reaction was started by the addition of 30 μL substrate. Absorbance was monitored for 5 min at 308 nm for MpC ($\epsilon_{308} = 20,390 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$), 320 nm for MF ($\epsilon_{320} = 29,680 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$) and MS ($\epsilon_{320} = 15,890 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$), and 322 nm for MC ($\epsilon_{322} = 14,720 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$). FAE activities were expressed as nkat/l (10^{-9} mol/s/L).

Determination of monomeric sugars in the cultures

Presence of monomeric sugars in wheat bran and sugar beet pulp liquid cultures was measured by using Megazyme's Assay kits for D-glucose & D-fructose (K-FRUGL), D-xylose (K-XYLOSE), D-glucuronic acid (K-URONIC) and L-rhamnose (K-RHAMNOSE) using the provider's instruction. All measurements were done with two biological replicates.

SDS-PAGE

Protein profiles were obtained by combining 25 μL of culture supernatant supplemented with 5 μL of 5 x Laemmli Loading Buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 6.8, 2% SDS, 10% glycerol, 0.1 M dithiothreitol, 0.2 mg/mL Bromophenol Blue) and separating this on 12% SDS-PAGE gels. Proteins were visualized by silver staining and a PageRuler Unstained Protein Ladder (Thermo Scientific) was used as protein marker.

Proteomics analysis

Proteins from 3 ml of culture filtrate were precipitated with cold TCA/acetone and the amount of protein recovered was determined using the RCDC kit assay (BioRad, Mississauga, Ont). Five micrograms of protein were digested with trypsin and an aliquot analyzed by LC-MS/MS as previously described [44] on a Velos LTQ-Orbitrap mass spectrometer (Thermo-Fisher, San Jose, CA). MS/MS data were processed using

Proteome Discoverer Quant 1.3 (Thermo-Fisher) and spectral data were searched against *Aspergillus* protein databases downloaded from the *Aspergillus* Genome Database (AspGD). Search parameters used were 0.80 Da for fragment ion tolerance and 10.0 ppm for parent ion tolerance, fixed iodoacetamide cysteine modification and variable methionine oxidation. Protein and peptide identification confidence filters were applied to satisfy a 1% false discovery rate at the Peptide and Protein level. Protein grouping was applied so as to satisfy the principles of parsimony.

Hierarchical clustering and correlation analysis

Matrix files of presence/absence and activity of CAZy genes and protein production measured by proteomics experiments were generated. The hierarchical clustering of CAZy genes were created by R [48] using the Euclidean distance with complete linkage and visualized by iTOL [31, 32]. The dendrogram and heatmaps of protein abundance were created and visualized using Genesis [50] with Pearson's correlation and complete linkage.

Phylogenetic analysis

Sequences of the RPB1, RPB2 (RNA polymerase II genes), Tsr1 (putative ribosome biogenesis protein), Cct8 (putative chaperonin complex component TCP-1) and AguA (α -glucuronidase) genes were downloaded from the full genome data sets and aligned using the Muscle software in the MEGA5 package [52]. After aligning, the data sets were combined and maximum likelihood analysis was performed using RAXML version 7.2.8 [49]. Each locus was treated as a separate partition. The number of bootstrap replicates was set on 1000 replicates. Sequences of *Penicillium chrysogenum* Wisconsin 54-1255 were used as outgroup.

Results

Genomic potential of the studied Aspergilli related to plant biomass utilization

Based on the Carbohydrate-Active enZymes (CAZy) [35] annotation pipeline, total numbers of Glycoside Hydrolases (GH), Polysaccharide Lyases (PL) and Carbohydrate Esterases (CE) vary among the species (Fig. 1). The percentage of GH genes related to plant polysaccharide degradation (PPD) is 58-66% for all genomes, except that *A. clavatus* has 20-30% less GH genes than the others (Fig. 1), largely due to a reduction in pectinases (GH28, GH54, GH78, GH88) (Suppl. Table 2). *A. clavatus* also contains the lowest percentage of PPD-related PL genes (71% as compared to >86%), which are also all related to pectin degradation. When the genomes were compared for individual CAZy families, significant differences in numbers of genes were observed (Suppl. Table 3A&B). Variations in gene numbers are particularly obvious in certain CAZy families involved in the degradation of mannan (GH26),

pectin (GH28, GH53, GH78, GH88, GH93, PL1, PL3, CE8 and CE12), xyloglucan (GH29 and GH74), starch (GH31), sucrose/inulin (GH32), cellulose (GH45 and GH61), and xylan (GH115 and CE15). Genes encoding lignin peroxidase, manganese peroxidase or versatile peroxidase are not present in any of these genomes, but significant differences are found in the number of laccases and other oxidoreductase enzymes, which may play a role in lignin or polysaccharide degradation (Suppl. Table 3). *A. niger* is richest in laccases (13 in its genome), while the other species have 2-9. The variations in CAZy content are relatively small compared to previous studies with a more diverse set of fungal species [2, 5, 8, 10, 19, 22]. This can be explained by their close phylogenetic relationships and their similar habitats, which would push genome evolution in a similar direction.

Orthologous clustering of the CAZymes showed that only 14.7% of the genes encoding hydrolytic enzymes are shared by all species (Suppl. Table 4A). In contrast 27.5% of the genes are unique to a single species, with the largest number in *A. nidulans*, *A. niger* and *A. terreus*. For the oxidative enzymes, 10.8% of the genes are shared by all species, while 40.8% of the genes are unique to a single species, with again the largest number in *A. nidulans*, *A. niger* and *A. terreus* (Suppl. Table 4B). In general, the CAZyme distribution among the species follows their phylogenetic relationship. In total, this means that only 70 genes are shared by all species, while the number of unique genes differs strongly by species (Fig. 1).

Growth on plant biomass related substrates

Major differences of these eight species grown on mono- oligo- and polysaccharides were observed (Suppl. Fig. 1), indicating different carbon source preferences. Two isolates per species were tested to check that the differences are species specific and not strain specific. These carbon source preferences can be partially linked to their diverse genomic content of CAZyme-encoding genes. For instance, growth of *A. clavatus* was particularly poor on pectin which correlates well with its low number of 30 pectin-targeting genes, as compared to 55-92 for the other species (Suppl. Table 2). Good growth on inulin was observed for *A. niger* ATCC 1015 and *A. fischeri*, while for all other species growth was reduced on inulin, but not on sucrose. This does not correlate with the number of putative inulin/sucrose-targeting genes in the genomes, as *A. fischeri* has only two, while *A. niger* has four, fewer than the six genes for *A. terreus* which grows poorly on inulin (Suppl. Table 2).

All species grew well on wheat bran and also, with the exception of *A. clavatus*, on sugar beet pulp (Suppl. Fig. 1). These substrates were therefore selected to analyze their enzymatic ability in more detail. Composition analysis (Suppl. Table 5) showed that wheat bran contains mainly of cellulose and (arabino)xylan, with xyloglucan and

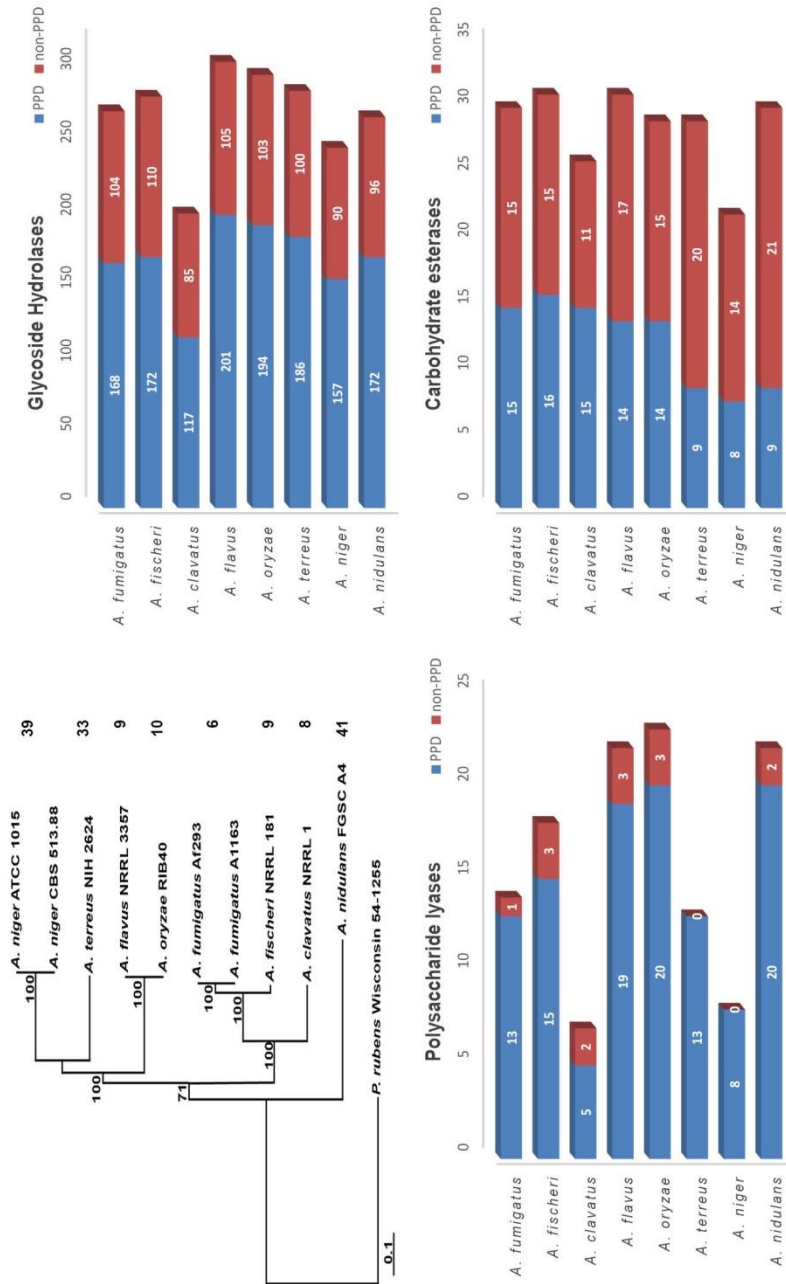


Figure 1: Taxonomic tree of the species used in this study and the numbers of glycoside hydrolases, polysaccharide lyases and carbohydrate esterases detected in their genomes. PPD = plant polysaccharide degradation related. The number of unique genes per species is indicated behind their name in the taxonomic tree.

pectin as minor components. In contrast, sugar beet pulp contains mainly cellulose, xyloglucan and pectin, which explains the reduced growth of *A. clavatus*.

Enzyme profiles during growth on wheat bran and sugar beet pulp

A preliminary test demonstrated that at Day 3 of cultivation, activities for eight plant biomass degrading enzymes were maximal for all fungi (data not shown). This time point was therefore selected for the full enzymatic analysis. Nineteen extracellular, lignocellulose-active enzyme activities of the liquid cultures were measured (Suppl. Fig. 2-4). Comparison of these profiles demonstrated strong differences among the species, not only in the quantities of the activities, but also in the induction of specific enzymes. For instance, the highest activity levels for most enzymes of *A. terreus* were observed during growth on sugar beet pulp, while wheat bran resulted in higher levels of most enzymes for *A. flavus* (Suppl. Fig. 2). When the individual activities were compared across the species, specific differences became noticeable. Wheat bran consists mainly of cellulose and arabinoxylan and the main regulator controlling degradation of these polysaccharides is XlnR, which is present in all *Aspergilli* [7]. Endoxylanase and β -xylosidase were mainly produced on wheat bran, and levels were particularly high for *A. niger* (Suppl. Fig. 2). Endoarabinanase, α -rhamnosidase, pectate lyase and endogalactanases, all related to pectin degradation, were mainly produced on sugar beet pulp, but rarely were all four activities produced by one species. Sugar beet pulp contains mainly cellulose and pectin and therefore pectinases and cellulases would be expected to be the main enzymes produced on this substrate, which is confirmed by our data.

Mass spectrometric analysis of the extracellular proteins confirmed the activity measurements with respect to the enzymes that were detected (Suppl. Table 6A-6D). Figure 2 and Suppl. Fig. 5 show the presence of orthologous enzymes involved in the degradation of different polysaccharides in wheat bran and sugar beet pulp. This analysis demonstrates the high degree of diversity among the species in the production of orthologous enzymes. Only a few orthologous enzymes are produced by all or most species and in most cases they are produced on both wheat bran and sugar beet pulp (Fig. 2) although often with significantly different levels (Suppl. Table 6A-6D). These data highlight the different enzymatic approaches used by the eight species to degrade plant biomass.

Correlation of CAZy profiles, taxonomy and enzyme activity of the eight Aspergilli

Figure 3 shows the correlation of the species for genome content, enzyme activity and production of individual enzymes. Correlating the number of genes per CAZy family demonstrated that with respect to genome content, closely related species (*A. oryzae* – *A. flavus*, *A. fischeri* – *A. fumigatus*) cluster together (Fig. 3A). This indicates that the

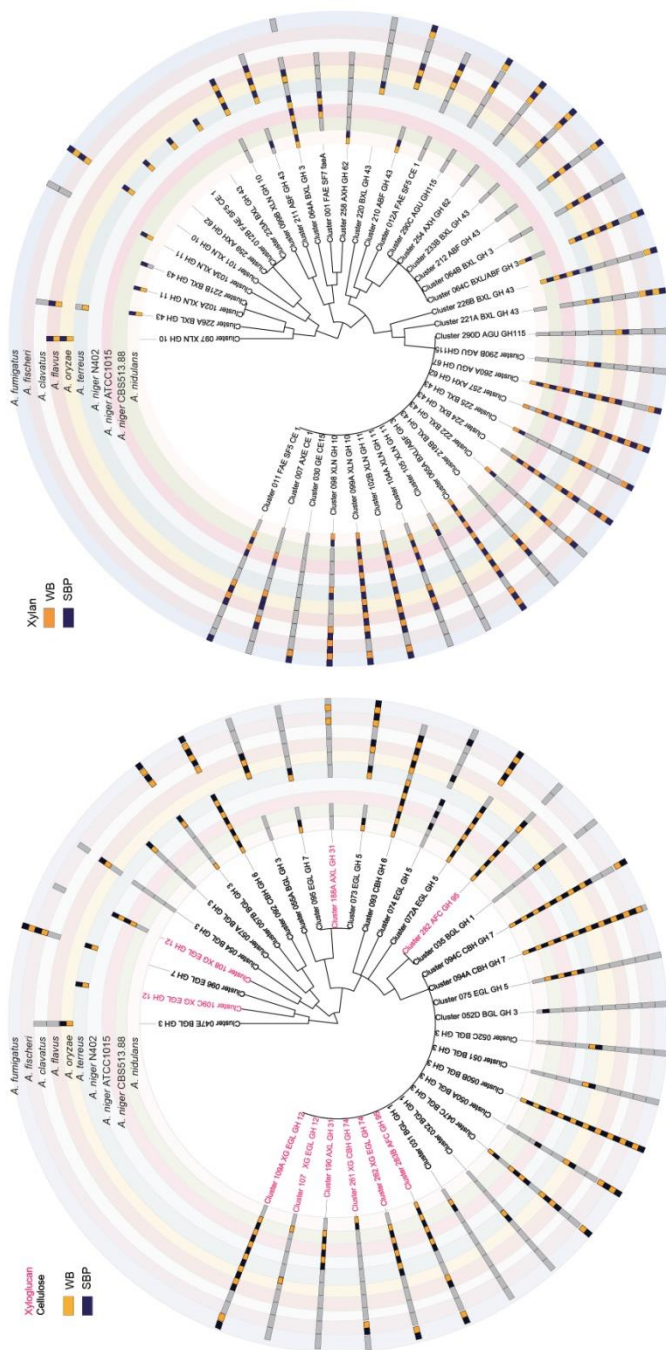


Figure 2: Proteins secreted by the eight *Aspergillus* species during growth on sugar beet pulp (SBP, purple) and wheat bran (WB, orange) as determined by mass spectrometry. Samples were taken after three days and are the same samples used for activity assays. The proteins are plotted using the ortholog clusters (Suppl. Table 4). Presence of the gene in a genome is depicted by a grey box in the circle corresponding to the species/strain.

evolution of their genome content related to plant biomass degradation follows the evolutionary history of the species. However, more distantly related species, *A. nidulans* and *A. terreus*, can display similar CAZy content. A possible explanation for this finding is that natural habitat exerts a stronger influence on genome evolution than phylogenetic relatedness.

No clear correlation was observed between the enzyme activities produced in response to complex substrates and evolutionary relatedness (Fig. 3B), possibly due to the range of non-plant substrates some species are known to consume (e.g. collagen for *A. terreus*, *A. flavus* and *A. nidulans* and insect larvae for *A. clavatus*), resulting in a varying biotope range and dependence on plant biomass. The composition of wheat bran and sugar beet pulp is different and they should elicit different activity profiles. For six of the tested species, the wheat bran and sugar beet pulp activity profiles diverge strongly. Unexpectedly, the sugar beet pulp and wheat bran activity profiles clustered together for *A. flavus* and *A. oryzae*. Two of the three tested *A. niger* strains (N402 and ATCC 1015) clustered together for both substrates, while the third (CBS 513.88) was strongly divergent in the enzyme activity profile. These results show that strains of the same species (CBS 513.88 and ATCC 1015) with near identical genomic content can use dramatically different sets of enzymes to hydrolyze complex biomass. It should be noted that genome sequence analysis suggests that strains ATCC 1015 and N402 are likely descended from the same isolate (A. Tsang and co-workers, unpublished data), which explains the clustering of their activity profiles.

Correlation of the proteomics data did not follow the activity correlation (Fig. 3B and 3C), which can be explained by the production of non-orthologous enzymes for the same general activity by different species (Suppl. Table 6A-6D). This adds an additional dimension to the highly divergent strategies of these Aspergilli. Considering the fairly similar genome content of these species, we conclude that the differences in their plant biomass degrading strategies are mainly at the regulatory level. More detailed studies into the regulation of orthologous CAZy-genes in several species could reveal whether this is due to different sets of target genes of the main regulators or whether additional unknown regulators modulate the influence of the main regulators.

Closely related fungi deploy diverse enzymatic strategies to degrade plant biomass

Figure 3: Correlation analysis of the genome (A), enzyme activity (B) and proteomics data (C). Continued on next page.

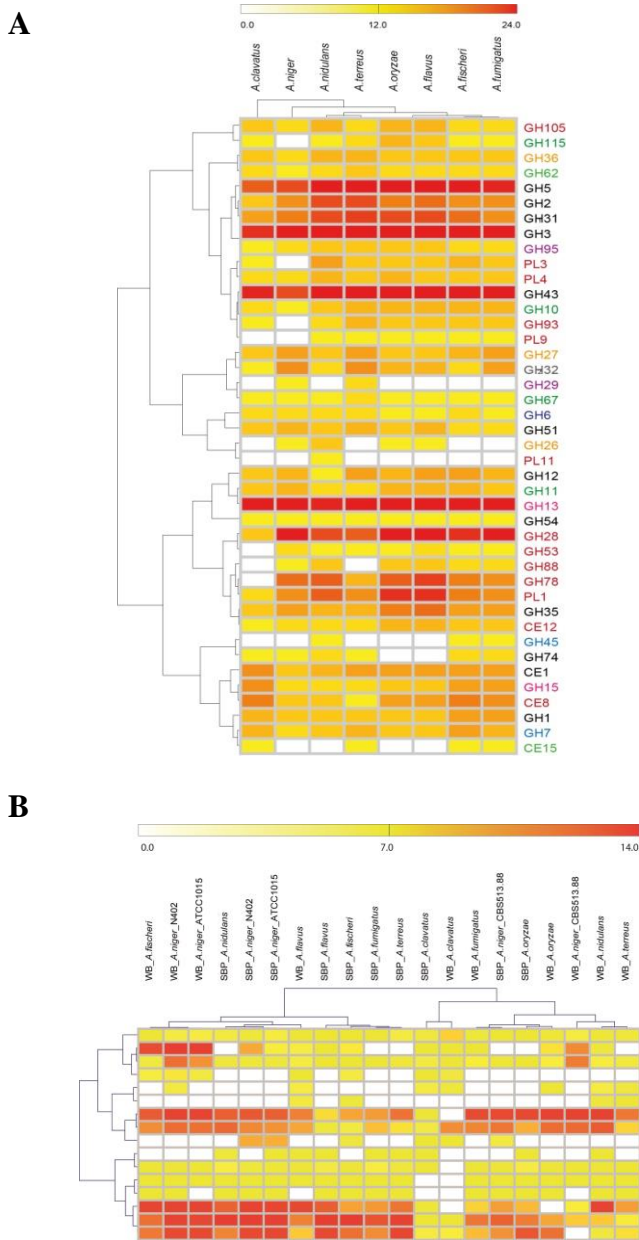
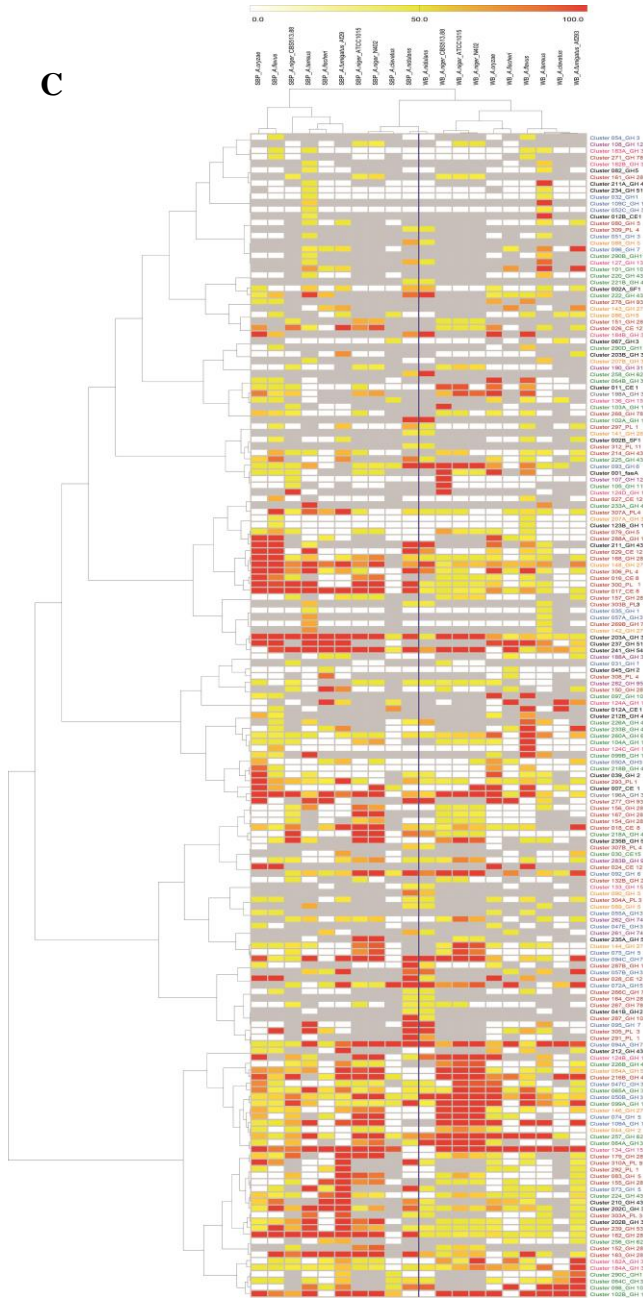


Figure 3 Cont: Correlation analysis of the genome (A), enzyme activity (B) and proteomics data (C). (Please see pdf file to enlargen text).



Discussion

In this study we compared eight *Aspergilli* with respect to plant polysaccharide degradation. The variations in CAZy content between these species was relatively low compared to previous studies in which a more diverse set of fungal species was compared [2, 5, 8, 10, 19, 22]. This can be explained by the close phylogenetic relationships and/or by and the highly similar habitats of these *Aspergilli*, which would direct genome evolution in a similar direction. Human use of and/or interaction with the species differs markedly; with *A. niger* and *A. oryzae* being widely used industrial fungi, *A. fumigatus* one of the most significant opportunistic fungal human pathogens, and *A. flavus* a plant pathogen. However, all these species are common inhabitants of soil and stored agricultural products, and their spores are widespread in both indoor and outdoor environments. Although some of the sequenced strains are domesticated and not recent natural isolates, the comparison to a second strain that is a natural isolate showed that growth on 35 carbon sources is identical for two strains of the same species. This demonstrates that the sequenced isolates have maintained their natural ability to use the tested carbon sources.

Hierarchical clustering of the plant polysaccharide degrading enzymes of these species demonstrated that in general the species with the most similar CAZy content are also taxonomically close.

The number of unique genes (Suppl. Table 2) per species also correlates well with the phylogenetic distance of the species. The lowest number was found for *A. oryzae*, *A. flavus*, *A. fischeri* and *A. fumigatus*. As the first two and the last two species, respectively, are closely related, their high similarity explains this low number. The more distant species (*A. nidulans*, *A. terreus*, *A. niger*, *A. clavatus*) have higher numbers of unique genes.

A high level of variation was detected in the enzyme activities of the tested species during growth on sugar beet pulp and wheat bran. While all species grew well on these substrates, with the exception of somewhat less growth of *A. clavatus* on sugar beet pulp, the enzyme profiles of the species showed strong differences. Wheat bran consists mainly of cellulose and arabinoxylan, while sugar beet pulp contains mainly cellulose and pectin. Enzymes able to degrade these different combinations of polysaccharides would therefore be expected to be prominent in the culture filtrate of all species grown on these substrates. Our study confirmed this as nearly all enzymes activities detected on wheat bran in all species are involved in xylan or cellulose degradation, while mainly pectinolytic and cellulolytic enzymes were detected on sugar beet pulp. The main regulator controlling the production of xylanolytic and cellulolytic enzymes in *Aspergillus* is XlnR, which has been studied in detail in *A. niger*, *A. oryzae* and *A. nidulans* [14, 27, 38, 39, 43, 51, 56, 57]. XlnR activates the expression of xylanolytic and cellulolytic genes in response to the presence of xylan or

xylose, the latter being the actual inducer. Indications for similar regulation have been reported for the other species [4, 13, 21, 25, 40, 45]. Regulation studies in *A. niger* have previously demonstrated that pectinolytic genes are induced by galacturonic acid, rhamnose, polygalacturonic acid or pectin [16, 26, 37]. Differences in pectinolytic gene content between *A. niger*, *A. nidulans* and *A. oryzae* may be influenced by the pH of their natural habitat [46]. An acidic pH favors pectin hydrolases, while a neutral to alkaline pH favors pectin lyases, supported by the finding that all fungal GH28 pectin hydrolases have activity optimum between pH 2 and pH 5, while pectin lyases have optimum between pH 7 and pH 10 (<https://mycoclap.fungalgenomics.ca>) [41]. The pH of most samples was 7 except for *A. nidulans* on sugar beet pulp (pH = 8), *A. niger* on wheat bran (pH = 5.5) and sugar beet pulp (pH = 4.5), and *A. clavatus* on sugar beet pulp (pH = 6). The pH in the sugar beet pulp cultures correlates well with the pectin hydrolase and lyase activities and with the proteomics results (Suppl. Table 6A-6D). Therefore, the differences in enzyme levels are likely caused by regulatory variation. Since the major regulators are shared by all tested species [53], their function or range of target genes in the tested Aspergilli is different and/or additional non-shared regulators are involved in the utilization of complex biomass. A difference in the function of the arabinolytic regulator AraR in *A. niger* and *A. nidulans* was recently described [6], and the inducers for activation of AmyR also appear to differ between *A. niger*, *A. nidulans* and *A. oryzae* [58]. More detailed analysis of the set of target genes, and function and mechanism of the polysaccharide related regulators in the other species will be required to understand the mechanism responsible for these differences. Interestingly, the production of several cellulases appears to be conserved among the species, suggesting that this may be a core-activity for all species. In contrast, the production of hemicellulases is highly varied, suggesting specific adaptations of the species in their biomass degrading approach.

Laccase activity was detected for most species, with the highest activity on wheat bran for *A. flavus* and on sugar beet pulp for *A. fumigatus*. This does not correlate with the numbers of putative laccases detected in the genomes, suggesting significantly different regulation of the production of these enzymes among the species. Induction of laccase-encoding genes was mainly studied in basidiomycetes in which transcription is modulated by metal ions (Cu^{2+} , Ag^+ , Mn^{2+}), aromatic compounds, nitrogen and carbon sources (nature and ratio) [47]. In ascomycetes, regulatory elements such as HSE (Heat shock elements), MRE (Metal response elements) and nitrogen metabolite regulation elements (NIT-2 like) were identified in the promoter region of laccase-like multicopper oxidase [33]. In addition, laccases are also involved in other biological processes, such as spore pigment formation [54], and not only in lignin degradation, so the total number of laccases likely does not reflect the number of laccases which play a role in plant biomass degradation.

Although the fungi tested in this study produce diverse enzyme sets, they all grow well on the crude plant biomass substrates. This suggests that different strategies for the degradation of plant biomass may be equally efficient (as measured by fungal growth). In biotechnological applications, such as biofuel production, complete hydrolysis of the plant biomass is difficult to achieve with currently available enzyme cocktails. This may in part be explained by the absence of specific activities in these mixtures. The data obtained in this study show the existence of distinctly different enzymatic approaches to degrade biomass. A judicious mix of these approaches is likely to result in improved enzyme cocktails for biomass hydrolysis. Recently it was shown that addition of *Podospora anserina* hydrolases increases the efficiency of a *Trichoderma reesei* enzyme mixture [11]. In this study we provide indications that similar results could be obtained with more closely related fungi. The advantage of using enzymes from other Aspergilli to improve enzyme cocktails of *A. niger* or *A. oryzae* is that heterologous production of these enzymes is not likely to cause problems due to the high similarity in gene structure of these species.

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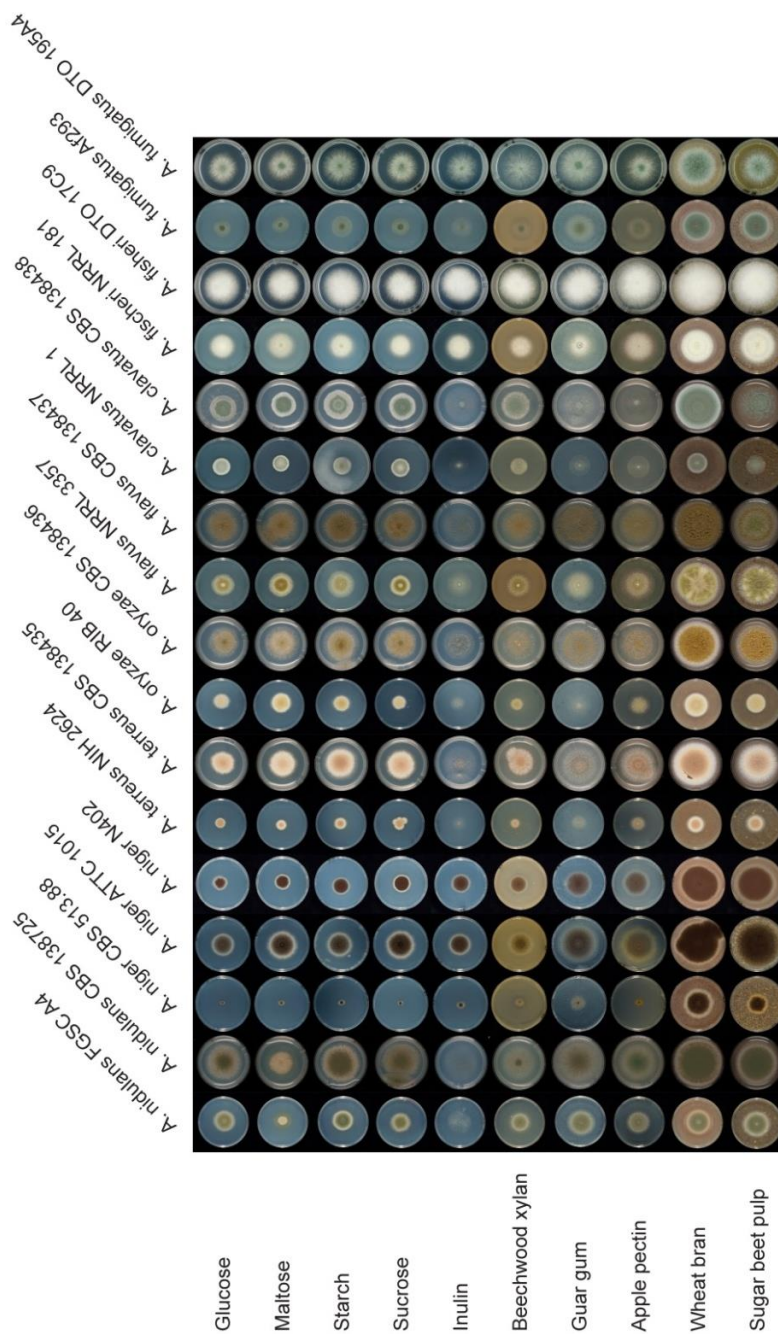
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Closely related fungi deploy diverse enzymatic strategies to degrade plant biomass

Supplementary Figure 1: Growth profiling of eight *Aspergilli* on plant-biomass related carbon sources. Growth of the eight *Aspergillus* species was evaluated on 35 plant biomass related carbon sources (full profiles are available at www.fung-growth.org). Minimal medium (MM) [17] was used supplemented with 25 mM of mono- or disaccharide, 1% polysaccharide or 3% crude plant biomass. Strains were grown for five days after which pictures were taken immediately. A second strain was also assessed for each species to confirm that the differences were species specific. The general growth speed differed between the strains of a species, but for most species no significant carbon source related differences were observed between the strains (data not shown). An exception to this is *A. niger* CBS513.88 that grew poorly on all pure carbon sources and was shown to have an amino acid auxotrophy (unpublished data), which explains this phenotype. Apparently, both wheat bran (WB) and sugar beet pulp (SBP) contain sufficient protein/amino acids to supplement this deficiency. All other strains grew well on MM + glucose and glucose was therefore used as an internal reference to compare the strains, to avoid misleading differences caused by general differences in growth speed between the species. Growth on the other substrates relative to growth on D-glucose was then compared between the species.

Growth on pure cellulose was zero to very poor for all species. Most fungi had similar growth on glucose, maltose, starch and xylan, with the exception of *A. nidulans*, for which poor growth on maltose was observed for one strain. Growth on sucrose was similar to growth on glucose for nearly all strains, but strong differences were observed on inulin. Good growth on this substrate was observed for *A. niger* ATCC1015 and *A. fischeri*, while for all other species growth was reduced compared to sucrose. This does not correlate with the number of putative inulin-targeting genes in the genomes as *A. fischeri* has only two (Table 2), while *A. niger* has six just like *A. terreus*, which grows poorly on inulin. This suggests that not all GH32 proteins may be involved in inulin degradation. Good growth compared to the other species was observed for *A. niger*, *A. nidulans*, *A. fumigatus* and *A. flavus* on guar gum (galactomannan). While *A. nidulans* has the highest number of galactomannan-targeting genes (Table 2), *A. niger* has in fact the lowest number and *A. terreus* again grows poorly, even though it has the second highest number of galactomannan-targeting genes. Growth of *A. clavatus* was particularly poor on pectin which correlates well with its very low number of pectin-targeting genes (only 30 putative genes), which was less than half of the other species (Suppl. Table 2). The monomeric composition of the plant biomass substrates was determined and the polysaccharides present in the substrates were estimated based on this analysis (Suppl. Table 5). Wheat bran and cotton seed pulp contain mainly cellulose and (arabino)xylan, with xyloglucan and pectin as minor components of cotton seed pulp. In contrast, sugar beet pulp contains mainly cellulose, xyloglucan and pectin. (Continued on next page).

Closely related fungi deploy diverse enzymatic strategies to degrade plant biomass



Supplementary Figure 2: Hydrolytic enzyme activity profiles of the eight species. Enzyme profiles of the eight *Aspergillus* species during growth on sugar beet pulp (SBP, red) and wheat bran (WB, blue). Samples were taken after three days and are identical to the samples used for proteomics. Vertical lines separate the activities related to the same substrate; from left to right: cellulose (C), xylan (X), galactomannan (G), starch (S), pectin (P). BGL = β -glucosidase, CBH = cellobiohydrolase, EGL = endoglucanase, BXL = β -xylosidase, XLN = endoxylanase, MND = β -mannosidase, AGL = α -galactosidase, AGD = α -glucosidase, GLA = glucoamylase, PLY = pectate lyase, RHG = endorhamnogalacturonase, RHA = α -rhamnosidase, ABN = endoarabinanase, ABF = α -arabinofuranosidase, GAL = endogalactanases, LAC = β -galactosidase.

Activity units were: For all *exo*-acting enzyme activities (ABF, CBH, AGL, LAC, AGD, BGL, GLA, MND, RHA, BXL) are expressed as nmol *p*NP released/ml sample/min. *Endo*-acting enzyme activities (ABN, EGL, GAL, XLN and RHG) are expressed as amount of dye released (absorbance change)/ml sample/min. Pectate lyase (PLY) activity is expressed as absorbance change/ml sample/min.

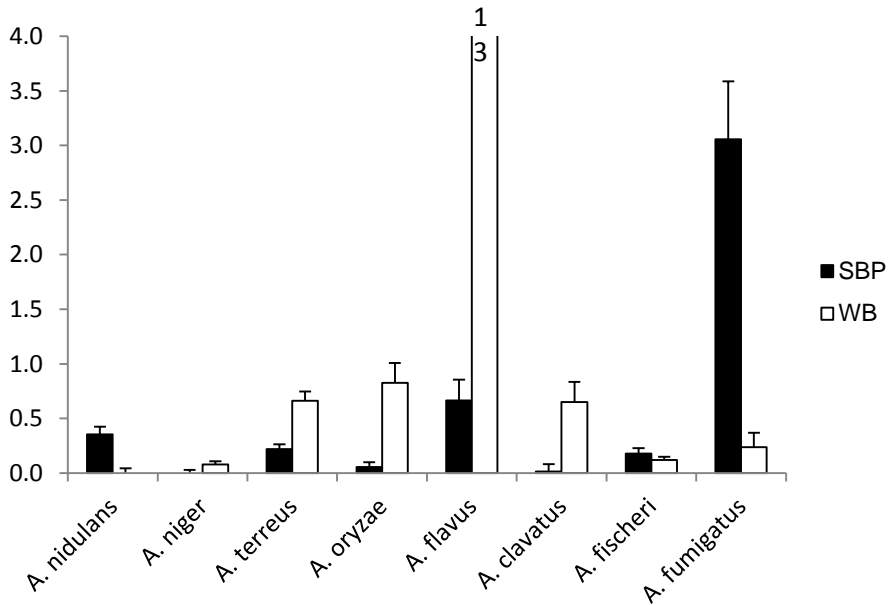
Significant differences can be observed between the profiles both with respect to the relative activity of the different enzymes as well as to the production of the different activities on SBP and/or WB. Related species do not have high similarity with respect to enzyme activity profiles. Significant differences were observed between *A. oryzae* and *A. flavus*, and between *A. fumigatus* and *A. fischeri*. The reduction of pectinase encoding genes in the *A. clavatus* genome is reflected in very low pectinolytic enzyme activity. (Continued on next page).

Closely related fungi deploy diverse enzymatic strategies to degrade plant biomass



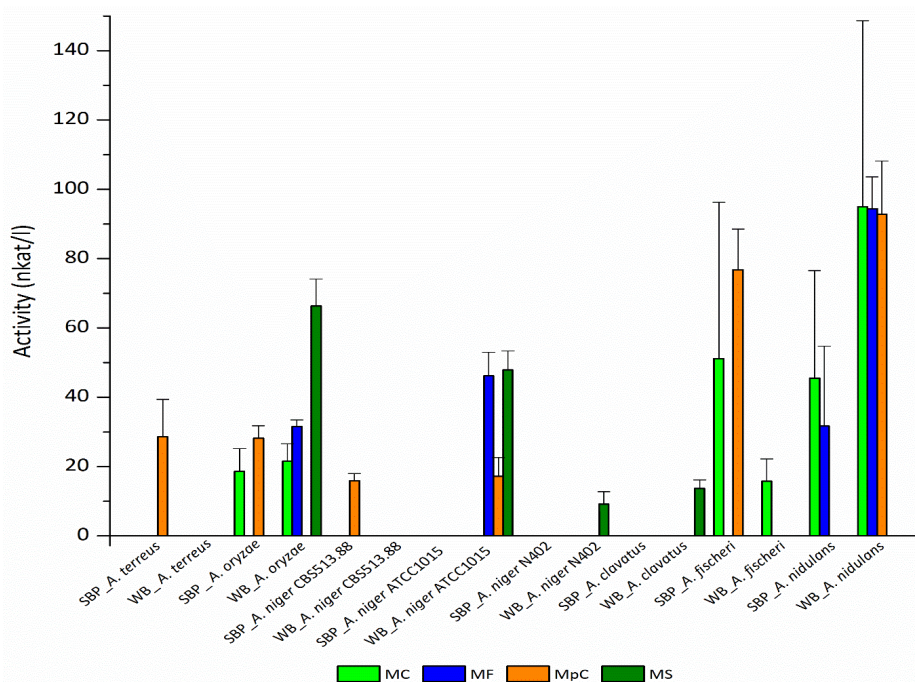
Supplementary Figure 3: Laccase activity of the eight species. Laccase activity of the eight *Aspergillus* species during growth on sugar beet pulp (SBP, red) and wheat bran (WB, blue). Samples were taken after three days and are identical to the samples used for proteomics. Laccase activity is in nmol/min/ml. *A. niger* N402 was used for these assays.

The highest laccase activity was observed for *A. flavus* during growth on WB and for *A. fumigatus* during growth on SBP. Activities in the other species were significantly lower.



Supplementary Figure 4: Differences in feruloyl esterase production. Fungal strains were grown in 50 ml liquid minimal medium [17] with 1% wheat bran (WB) or sugar beet pulp (SBP) in 250 ml Erlenmeyer flasks. Culture filtrate samples were taken on day 3 and used for enzyme assays. Feruloyl esterase activities were determined spectrophotometrically at 37 °C in 100 mM MOPS buffer (pH 6) using methyl caffeate (MC), methyl ferulate (MF), methyl *p*-coumarate (MpC) and methyl sinapate (MS) as substrates. Absorbance was monitored for 5 min at 308 nm for MpC ($\epsilon_{308} = 20,390 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$), 320 nm for MF ($\epsilon_{320} = 29,680 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$) and MS ($\epsilon_{320} = 15,890 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$), and 322 nm for MC ($\epsilon_{322} = 14,720 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$).

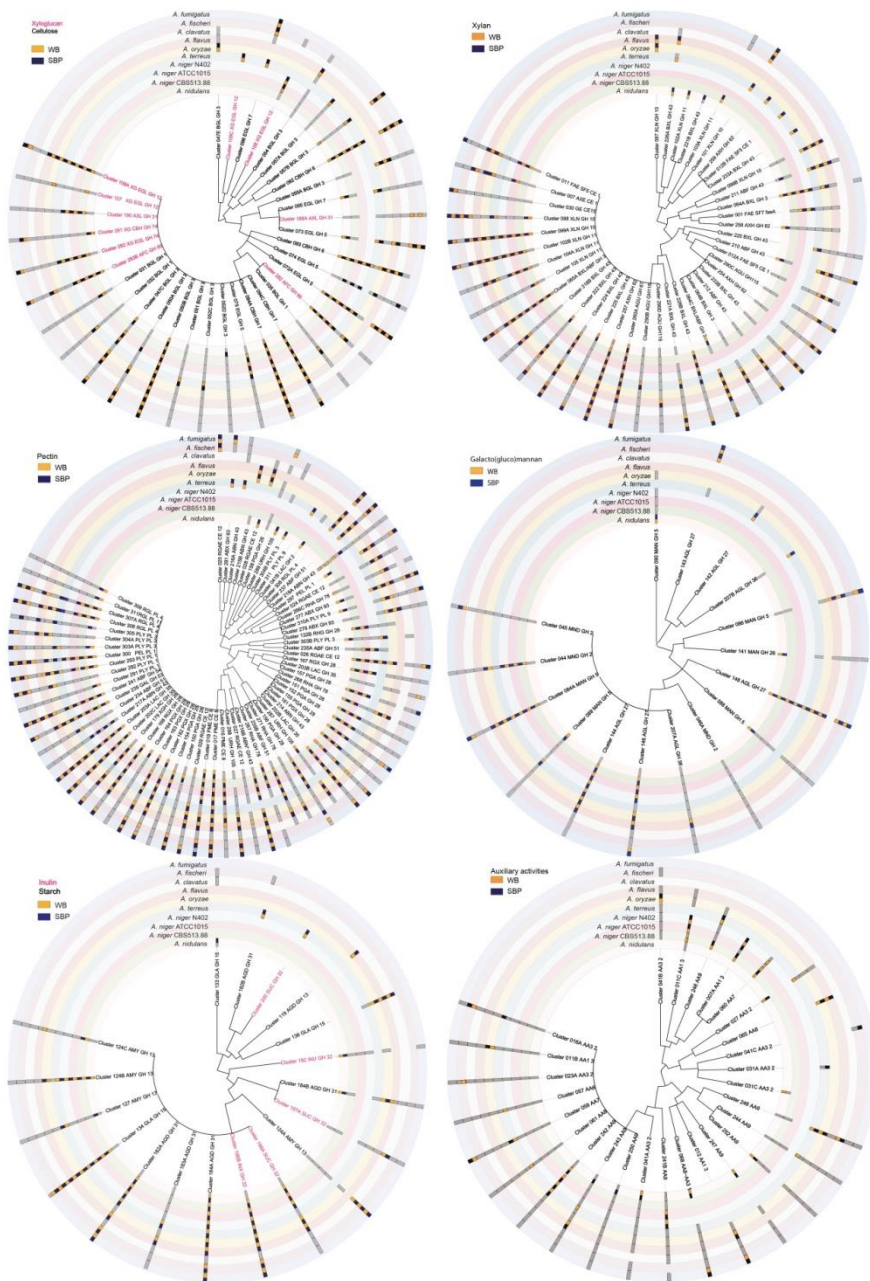
Strongly divergent FAE activity profiles were observed for the studied *Aspergilli*. Differences were observed with respect to the carbon source that induced the activities as well as the substrate that was converted in the assays. The highest FAE activities were detected in *A. nidulans* WB cultures, but no activity was observed against MS. Both *A. terreus* and *A. niger* CBS513.88 strains produced FAE activity only in SBP cultures with MpC as substrate. In contrast, *A. niger* N402 and *A. clavatus* produced FAE activity only in the WB cultures with MS as a substrate. While no activity was detected in the SBP cultures of *A. niger* ATCC1015, it produced activities against MF, MpC and MS in WB cultures. FAE activity against MC was detected in both SBP and WB cultures of *A. oryzae*, *A. fischeri* and *A. nidulans*. For other substrates, the activity profiles differed between these strains. As it is unlikely that the substrate specificity of orthologous enzymes would differ this much with respect to these four substrates, the data implies that different feruloyl esterases are produced by the strains.



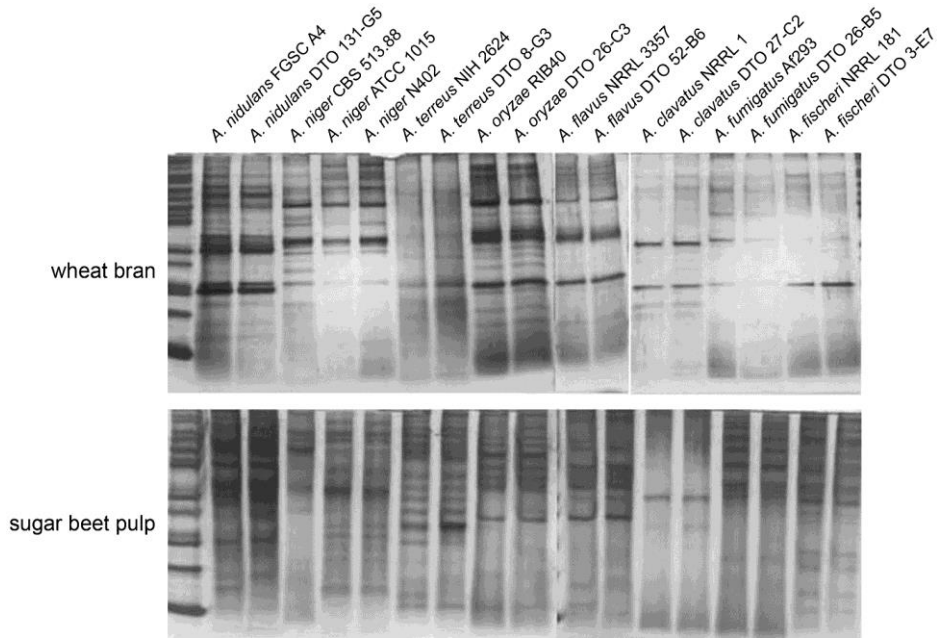
Supplementary Figure 5: Proteomic analysis of the presence of CAZy enzymes during growth on wheat bran and sugar beet pulp. Proteomics data of the eight *Aspergillus* species during growth on sugar beet pulp (SBP, purple) and wheat bran (WB, orange). Samples were taken after three days and are identical to the samples used for activity assays. The proteins are plotted using the ortholog clusters (Suppl. Table 4). The dendrogram was created with the presence/absence pattern of orthologous genes by R using Euclidean distance with complete linkage. The resulting tree was visualized by iTOL. Presence of the gene in a genome is depicted by a grey box in the circle corresponding to the species/strain. An orange colour indicates that the protein was detected during growth on wheat bran, while a purple colour indicates presence in sugar beet cultures.

These figures demonstrate the high diversity of the *Aspergillus* species, not only with respect to presence/absence of orthologs, but also with respect to the production of orthologous enzymes during growth on plant biomass. (Continued on next page; Please see pdf file to enlargen text).

Closely related fungi deploy diverse enzymatic strategies to degrade plant biomass



Supplementary Figure 6: Conserved SDS-PAGE profiles for isolates of the same species. **SDS-PAGE profiles of the strains used in this study.** Extracellular culture samples from the wheat bran and sugar beet cultures were separated by SDS-PAGE and the gels were stained using silver staining. Two or three isolates per species were analysed, which demonstrated high conservation of the extracellular protein profile within a species. Larger differences were visible between the species. The profiles of more closely related species (*A. oryzae* – *A. flavus* and *A. fumigatus* – *A. fischeri*) were more similar to each other than to the profiles of the other species.



Supplemental Table 1: Strains used in this study.

Species	Strain number	Alternative strain number	Genome sequence reference
<i>A. nidulans</i>	FGSC A4	ATCC 38163	[24]
<i>A. nidulans</i>		DTO 131-G5	n/a
<i>A. niger</i>	CBS 513.88		[46]
<i>A. niger</i>	ATTC 1015	CBS 113.46, NRRL 328, FGSC A1144	[3]
<i>A. niger</i>	N402		n/a
<i>A. terreus</i>	NIH 2624	FGSC A1156	Unpublished
<i>A. terreus</i>		DTO 8-G3	n/a
<i>A. oryzae</i>	RIB 40	ATCC 42149	[36]
<i>A. oryzae</i>		DTO 26-C3	n/a
<i>A. flavus</i>	NRRL 3357	CBS 128202, ATCC 200026	[59]
<i>A. flavus</i>		DTO 52-B6	n/a
<i>A. clavatus</i>	NRRL 1	CBS 513.65, ATCC 1007	[23]
<i>A. clavatus</i>		DTO 27-C2	n/a
<i>A. fischeri</i>	NRRL 181	CBS 544.65, ATCC 1020	[23]
<i>A. fischeri</i>		DTO 3-E7	n/a
<i>A. fumigatus</i>	Af293	FGSC A1435	[42]
<i>A. fumigatus</i>		DTO 26-B5	n/a

n/a = not available

Supplemental Table 2: Comparison of the polysaccharide degradation potential of eight *Aspergilli* based on their genome content.
The potential per polysaccharide was determined by adding up the number of genes per polysaccharide-related (sub-)family.

Species	Cellulose*	Xyloglucan	Xylan	Galactomannan	Pectin	Starch	Inulin
<i>A. nidulans</i>	GH1, GH12 ¹ , GH5 ¹ , GH6, GH7, GH45, AA9	GH12 ² , GH29, GH31 ¹ , GH7 ⁴ , GH95	CE1 ⁴ , CE15, GH3 ⁵ , GH10, GH11, GH43 ⁶ , GH62, GH67, GH115	GH2 ⁷ , GH5 ⁸ , GH26, GH27, GH36,	CE8, CE12, GH2 ⁹ , GH28, GH35, GH43 ¹⁰ , GH51, GH53, GH54, GH78, GH88, GH93, GH105, PL1, PL3, PL4, PL9, PL11	GH13 ¹¹ , GH15, GH31 ¹²	GH32
<i>A. niger</i> ATCC1015	22 (36)	7	29	19	71	21	2
<i>A. niger</i> ATCC1015	19 (33)	8	14	12	64	15	4
<i>A. terreus</i>	30 (43)	11	33	18	55	19	6
<i>A. oryzae</i>	22 (39)	7	34	14	89	23	4
<i>A. flavus</i>	22 (39)	7	34	14	92	22	4
<i>A. clavatus</i>	22 (28)	4	21	11	30	23	1
<i>A. fischeri</i>	30 (44)	8	29	14	66	24	2
<i>A. fumigatus</i> Af293	26 (37)	6	28	14	65	22	4

*In brackets the numbers including putative GH3 BGLs are given. BGLs are also involved in other processes than cellulose degradation and their high number in the genomes could hide the real difference in gene numbers related to cellulose degradation between the species. ¹Only endoglucanases of this family. ²Only xyloglucan-active endoglucanases of this family. ³Only α -xylosidases of this family. ⁴Only acetyl xylan esterases of this family. ⁵Only β -xylosidases of this family. ⁶Only β -xylosidases and α -arabinofuranosidases of this family. ⁷Only β -mannosidases of this family. ⁸Only endomannanases of this family. ⁹Only β -galactosidases of this family. ¹⁰Only endoarabinanases of this family. ¹¹Only α -galactosidases and α -amylases of this family. ¹²Only α -galactosidases of this family.

Supplemental Table 3B: Numbers of putative genes per Plant Polysaccharide Degradation-related CAZy family for the 10 genomes addressed in this study. Colour coding is meant to visualize the relative number of genes in the species and families.

GH family	1	2	3	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	15	26	27	28	29	31	32	35	36	43	45	51	53	54	62	67	74	78	88	93	95	106	115	Total				
GH family																																						
Aspergillus nidulans FGSC A4	3	10	21	16	2	3	3	2	1	13	2	3	3	10	0	10	2	4	4	18	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	9	3	2	3	4	1	163		
Aspergillus niger CBS 513.88	3	6	17	10	2	2	1	4	4	18	2	1	5	21	1	7	6	5	2	10	0	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	1	0	2	0	150			
Aspergillus niger ATCC 1015	3	6	19	10	2	2	3	3	16	2	1	5	22	1	7	4	5	2	11	0	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	2	0	149				
Aspergillus terreus NH2624	3	10	21	18	2	4	2	5	14	2	0	5	9	2	11	6	4	21	0	4	1	3	2	1	4	0	4	3	2	4	3	2	2	174				
Aspergillus oryzae RIB40	3	7	23	14	1	3	4	4	17	3	1	3	21	0	10	4	7	3	20	0	3	1	2	1	0	9	3	3	3	4	4	3	4	186				
Aspergillus flavus NRRL3357	3	8	24	15	1	3	4	4	5	16	3	1	3	21	0	10	4	8	3	21	0	2	1	2	1	0	11	3	3	3	3	4	3	194				
Aspergillus clavatus NRRL 1	4	3	12	9	2	4	2	3	17	6	0	3	3	0	5	1	3	13	0	3	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	1	110				
Aspergillus fischeri NRRL 181	5	6	19	16	2	5	4	4	5	17	5	0	4	12	0	8	2	5	3	16	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	7	2	3	2	1	165				
Aspergillus fumigatus AF293	5	6	18	13	1	4	3	4	16	5	0	4	5	14	0	6	5	5	3	18	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	6	2	3	2	1	161				
PI family																																						
Aspergillus nidulans FGSC A4	1	3	4	9	11	Total																																
Aspergillus niger CBS 513.88	9	5	4	1	1	20																																
Aspergillus niger ATCC 1015	6	0	2	0	0	8																																
Aspergillus terreus NH2624	6	3	3	1	0	13																																
Aspergillus oryzae RIB40	12	3	4	1	0	20																																
Aspergillus flavus NRRL3357	12	3	3	1	0	19																																
Aspergillus clavatus NRRL 1	2	1	2	0	0	5																																
Aspergillus fischeri NRRL 181	7	4	3	1	0	15																																
Aspergillus fumigatus AF293	6	3	3	1	0	13																																
CE family																																						
Aspergillus nidulans FGSC A4	1	8	12	15	Total																																	
Aspergillus niger CBS 513.88	4	3	2	0	9																																	
Aspergillus niger ATCC 1015	3	3	2	0	8																																	
Aspergillus terreus NH2624	5	1	2	1	9																																	
Aspergillus oryzae RIB40	5	5	4	0	14																																	
Aspergillus flavus NRRL3357	5	5	4	0	14																																	
Aspergillus clavatus NRRL 1	6	7	1	1	15																																	
Aspergillus fischeri NRRL 181	5	7	3	1	16																																	
Aspergillus fumigatus AF293	5	6	3	1	15																																	
Auxiliary activities																																						
Aspergillus nidulans FGSC A4	1	2	1	3	1	7	Total																															
Aspergillus niger CBS 513.88	3	13	2	2	7	27																																
Aspergillus niger ATCC 1015	3	12	2	3	7	27																																
Aspergillus terreus NH2624	2	7	2	1	12	24																																
Aspergillus oryzae RIB40	2	9	3	1	8	20																																
Aspergillus flavus NRRL3357	2	9	3	1	7	22																																
Aspergillus clavatus NRRL 1	3	2	2	1	7	15																																
Aspergillus fischeri NRRL 181	2	4	2	1	8	17																																
Aspergillus fumigatus AF293	2	4	2	1	7	16																																

Supplemental Table 4A Cont: Orthology clusters of feruloyl esterase (SF), glycoside hydrolase (GH), carbohydrate esterase and polysaccharide lyase (PL) families. (Continued on next 5 pages).

GUS	beta glucuronidase	GH 2 ANH395	An02g00510	52111 ATEG_01031	AC096023000653	AFL2C_03956	NFA_089700	AFUB_030140	Ab0g14520	Cluster 039	1
GUS	beta galactonidase	GH 2 ANH381	An01g01250	48827 ATEG_10252	AC096033000009	AFL2C_06828				Cluster 040	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2 ANH653		ATEG_00764						Cluster 041A	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2 ANH201		ATEG_00772						Cluster 041B	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2 ANH202		ATEG_10623	AC095973000389	AFL2C_05296	NFA_072510	AFUB_062230	Ab0g14550	Cluster 041C	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2 ANH107								Cluster 043	1
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2 ANH142	An11g05540	13876 ATEG_06639	AC095001000556	AFL2C_09201	ACL_A_083710	AFUB_061760	Ab0g14600	Cluster 044	1
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2 ANH180	An01g06530	172587 ATEG_07239	AC095003001410	AFL2C_01666	ACL_A_078510	NFA_054490	AFUB_074800	Ab0g09840	1
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2 ANH398	An12g01850	ATEG_09890	AC095005000740	AFL2C_00728	ACL_A_078510	NFA_045250	AFUB_100200	Ab0g09390	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH170	An15g04770	21699 ATEG_08844	AC095003001511	AFL2C_01662	NFA_063760	AFUB_064510	Ab0g05100	Cluster 047B	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH298	An11g02330	172646 ATEG_10230	AC095013000135	AFL2C_03662	NFA_073820	AFUB_016190	Ab0g11140	Cluster 047C	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH186	An03g06330	44520	AC095010000034	AFL2C_00334				Cluster 051	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH303	GH 3 ANH303	12891 ATEG_09329	AC095010000234	AFL2C_05886	ACL_A_010450	NFA_080770	AFUB_085750	Ab0g07190	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH227	GH 3 ANH227	38077	AC095001000596	AFL2C_07497				Cluster 052A	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH185	GH 3 ANH185	208571 ATEG_08617	AC095001000544	AFL2C_09197	ACL_A_08710	NFA_05450	AFUB_074800	Ab0g07000	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH652	An15g04890	182396 ATEG_01211	AC095003000554	AFL2C_10164	ACL_A_08860	NFA_050800	AFUB_064120	Ab0g05170	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH852	An03g06330	ATEG_00724	AC095003000337	AFL2C_00334				Cluster 052B	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH803	GH 3 ANH803	44520	AC095010000034	AFL2C_10300				Cluster 052A	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH277	GH 3 ANH277	12891 ATEG_09329	AC095010000234	AFL2C_05886	ACL_A_010450	NFA_080770	AFUB_085750	Ab0g07190	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH612	GH 3 ANH612	38077	AC095001000596	AFL2C_07497				Cluster 052C	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH785	GH 3 ANH785	AC095013000135	AC095013000135	AFL2C_12045				Cluster 052E	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH804	GH 3 ANH804	AC095013000135	AC095013000135	AFL2C_09849				Cluster 052E	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH976	GH 3 ANH976	AC09502000123	AC09502000123	AFL2C_07119				Cluster 054	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH804	GH 3 ANH804	AC095033000223	AC095033000223	AFL2C_09023				Cluster 055A	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH976	GH 3 ANH976	181816 ATEG_02713	AC095033000425	AFL2C_07763	NFA_100430			Cluster 055B	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH976	GH 3 ANH976	176691	AC095033000425	AFL2C_09452	NFA_112660			Cluster 055C	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH228	GH 3 ANH228	ATEG_00764						Cluster 055	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH185	GH 3 ANH185	ATEG_00764						Cluster 057B	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH185	GH 3 ANH185	ATEG_00764						Cluster 059	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 060	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 061	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062A	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062B	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062C	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062D	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062E	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062F	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062G	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062H	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062I	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062J	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062K	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062L	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062M	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062N	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062O	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062P	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062Q	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062R	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062S	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062T	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062U	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062V	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062W	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062X	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062Y	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 062Z	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 063	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064A	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064B	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064C	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064D	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064E	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064F	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064G	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064H	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064I	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064J	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064K	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064L	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064M	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064N	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064O	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064P	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064Q	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064R	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064S	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064T	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064U	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064V	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064W	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064X	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064Y	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 064Z	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 065	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 065A	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 065B	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 065C	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 065D	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 065E	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 065F	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 065G	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 065H	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 065I	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 065J	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 065K	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	152779 ATEG_00157						Cluster 065L	1
BGL	beta glucuronidase	GH 3 ANH146	GH 3 ANH146	15							

Supplemental Table 4A Cont: Orthology clusters of feruloyl esterase (SF), glycoside hydrolase (GH), carbohydrate esterase and polysaccharide lyase (PL) families. (Continued on next 2 pages).

AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31 AN1054	An09g5889	50655	ATEG_08685	AO090102006559	AFZG_09934	ACLA_016170	NFA_018610	AF-EL_062620	Abg545500	Cluster 187A	1
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31 AN1756			ATEG_08685	AO090102006559	AFZG_09934	ACLA_065300	NFA_067440	AF-EL_079430	Abg545400	Cluster 188A	1
AXL	alpha xylosidase	GH 31	An01g0359	40921	ATEG_06229	AO090101005658	AFZG_06180					Cluster 188B	1
AXL	alpha xylosidase	GH 31	An01g0359	40921	ATEG_06229	AO090101005658	AFZG_06180					Cluster 189	1
AXL	alpha xylosidase	GH 31	An09g03300	43344	ATEG_08390	AO090101006539	AFZG_06238	NFA_0102680				Cluster 190	1
AXL	alpha xylosidase	GH 31	An11g03200	52928	ATEG_05744							Cluster 191	1
INU	endo mannanase	GH 32						NFA_014960	AF-EL_048000	Abg540530		Cluster 192	1
INU	endo mannanase	GH 32						NFA_014960	AF-EL_048000	Abg540480		Cluster 193	1
INU	endo mannanase	GH 32										Cluster 194	1
INU	endo mannanase	GH 32	An13g03246	56564	ATEG_08165	AO090101004040	AFZG_06028	ACLA_084550	NFA_033540	AF-EL_018320	Abg291240	Cluster 195A	1
INU	endo mannanase	GH 32 AN11778	An12g08290	56664	ATEG_08165	AO090101004040	AFZG_06028	ACLA_084550	NFA_033540	AF-EL_018320	Abg291240	Cluster 195B	1
INU	invertase/beta fructofuranosidase	GH 32 AN1837	An15g0203	17633	ATEG_05660	AO090101000038	AFZG_05693	NFA_051650	AF-EL_093290	Abg546000		Cluster 197A	1
SUC	invertase/beta fructofuranosidase	GH 32	An09g11079	19863	ATEG_07873	AO090102006540	AFZG_10707					Cluster 197B	1
SUC	invertase/beta fructofuranosidase	GH 32										Cluster 198A	1
SUC	invertase/beta fructofuranosidase	GH 32										Cluster 199	1
SUC	invertase/beta fructofuranosidase	GH 32										Cluster 200	1
SUC	invertase/beta fructofuranosidase	GH 32										Cluster 201	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35 AN1194	An01g04420	180727		AO090101002519	AFZG_07489					Cluster 202A	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35	An09g0229	177434	ATEG_07446	AO090103000042	AFZG_02901	ACLA_088440	NFA_062310	AF-EL_072590	Abg546690	Cluster 202B	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35 AN0580	An01g0459	180728	ATEG_05131	AO090103000048	AFZG_08182					Cluster 203	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35 AN0756	An01g05159	180729	ATEG_06819	AO090103000049	AFZG_08182					Cluster 204	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35 AN10756	An14g05820	41810	ATEG_06819	AO090103000046	AFZG_03816	ACLA_021260	NFA_011850	AF-EL_011910	Abg546710	Cluster 205	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35						NFA_009810	AF-EL_048870	Abg340380		Cluster 205C	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35										Cluster 206	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35 AN0804						NFA_041490	AF-EL_049140	Abg546870		Cluster 207	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35										Cluster 208	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35 AN0818										Cluster 209	1
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35 AN0835	An09g02694	212736	ATEG_07629	AO090101006584	AFZG_11824	ACLA_044620	NFA_045480	AF-EL_065170	Abg341130	Cluster 209A	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0835										Cluster 209B	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0832										Cluster 209C	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0874	An09g02700	198816	ATEG_05379	AO090102000743	AFZG_03295	ACLA_047600	NFA_010790	AF-EL_065350	Abg346820	Cluster 209	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0872										Cluster 210	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0871										Cluster 211	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0870										Cluster 212	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0869										Cluster 213	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0868										Cluster 214	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0867										Cluster 215A	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0866										Cluster 215B	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0865										Cluster 216	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0864										Cluster 217	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0863										Cluster 218	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0862										Cluster 219	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0861										Cluster 220	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0860										Cluster 221A	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0859										Cluster 221B	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0858										Cluster 222	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0857										Cluster 223	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0856										Cluster 224	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0855										Cluster 225	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0854										Cluster 226	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0853										Cluster 227	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0852										Cluster 228	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0851										Cluster 229	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0850										Cluster 230	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0849										Cluster 231	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0848										Cluster 232	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0847										Cluster 233	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0846										Cluster 234	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0845										Cluster 235	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0844										Cluster 236	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0843										Cluster 237	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0842										Cluster 238	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0841										Cluster 239	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0840										Cluster 240	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0839										Cluster 241	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0838										Cluster 242	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0837										Cluster 243	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0836										Cluster 244	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0835										Cluster 245	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0834										Cluster 246	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0833										Cluster 247	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0832										Cluster 248	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0831										Cluster 249	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0830										Cluster 250	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0829										Cluster 251	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0828										Cluster 252	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0827										Cluster 253	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0826										Cluster 254	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0825										Cluster 255	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0824										Cluster 256	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0823										Cluster 257	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0822										Cluster 258	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0821										Cluster 259	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0820										Cluster 260	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0819										Cluster 261	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0818										Cluster 262	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0817										Cluster 263	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0816										Cluster 264	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0815										Cluster 265	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0814										Cluster 266	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0813										Cluster 267	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0812										Cluster 268	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0811										Cluster 269	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0810										Cluster 270	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0809										Cluster 271	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0808										Cluster 272	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0807										Cluster 273	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0806										Cluster 274	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0805										Cluster 275	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0804										Cluster 276	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0803										Cluster 277	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0802										Cluster 278	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0801										Cluster 279	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0800										Cluster 280	1
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN0799										Cluster 281	1
AGL	alpha galact												

Supplemental Table 5: Composition of the plant biomass substrates used in this study.

Values are given in mol%. Polysaccharide composition is inferred from the monomer values.

	Rhamnose	Arabinose	Xylose	Mannose	Galactose	Glucose	Uronic acid	Polysaccharides
Wheat bran	0	17	35	1	2	42	3	cellulose, (arabino)xylan
Sugar beet pulp	1	28	2	2	7	33	26	cellulose, pectin, xyloglucan

Supplemental Table 6A: Detection of proteins in cultures grown on wheat bran sorted by CAZy family. The colour codes indicate which percentage of the total number of detected peptides was of the specific protein. (Continued on next 4 pages).

		0-0.1%	0.1-0.5%	0.5-1%	1-2%	2-5%	5-10%	>10%		
enzyme code	function	CAZY	<i>A. nidulans</i>	<i>A. niger</i> ATCC 10165	<i>A. terreus</i>	<i>A. oryzae</i>	<i>A. flavus</i>	<i>A. clavatus</i>	<i>A. fischeri</i>	<i>A. fumigatus</i> AT293
FAE SF7	feruloyl esterase	faeA		51862	ATEG_08907	AO090001000207	AFL2G_07436			
FAE SF1	feruloyl esterase	SF1	AN1772	51478	ATEG_06863	AO090001000582	AFL2G_09228	ACLA_083360	NFIA_054700	Afu6g09040
FAE SF1	feruloyl esterase	SF1			ATEG_02212	AO090001000066	AFL2G_07310		NFIA_047590	Afu6g00450
FAE SF3	feruloyl esterase	SF3				AO090102000013				
FAE SF3	feruloyl esterase	SF3			ATEG_02415					
FAE SF4	feruloyl esterase	SF4		190471		AO090010000573	AFL2G_11725			
FAE SF4	feruloyl esterase	SF4		43194						
AXE	acetyl xylan esterase	CE 1	AN6093	211544	ATEG_09843	AO090011000745	AFL2G_05471	ACLA_081220	NFIA_089230	Afu6g06570
AXE	acetyl xylan esterase	CE 1	AN8320							Afu1g17510
AXE	acetyl xylan esterase	CE 1								NFIA_084920
FAE SF5	feruloyl esterase	CE 1				AO090005000945	AFL2G_00922	ACLA_065130	NFIA_115130	
FAE SF5	feruloyl esterase	CE 1	AN5267	43785	ATEG_08112	AO090023000158	AFL2G_04047	ACLA_050505	NFIA_089720	Afu2g14530
FAE SF5	feruloyl esterase	CE 1			ATEG_06844	AO090701000884	AFL2G_06446	ACLA_061520		
FAE SF5	feruloyl esterase	CE 1			ATEG_01914					Afu2g09440
FAE SF5	feruloyl esterase	CE 1								
?		CE 1	AN8782	53315	ATEG_06438	AO090005000277	AFL2G_00281	ACLA_017480		
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8				AO090003001514	AFL2G_01578	ACLA_012870	NFIA_077450	Afu5g09860
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8		44585		AO090012000749	AFL2G_03618	ACLA_044240	NFIA_095020	Afu6g01520
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8	AN4860	174365	ATEG_01704	AO090020000404	AFL2G_10916	ACLA_035610	NFIA_099500	Afu3g07650
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8	AN3390	214857		AO090102000010	AFL2G_09467		NFIA_099600	Afu6g06880
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8	AN7966							
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8				AO090113000039			NFIA_100100	Afu8g07250
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8						ACLA_059970		
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8					AFL2G_08528			
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8						ACLA_059980		
RGAE	rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12				AO090003001268	AFL2G_01979			
RGAE	rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12							NFIA_099110	Afu6g06480
RGAE	rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12		51400	ATEG_10016	AO090102000092	AFL2G_09543			
RGAE	rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12	AN2634			AO090113000155	AFL2G_08831		NFIA_092640	Afu2g17250
RGAE	rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12	AN2528	189254	ATEG_03511	AO090701000556	AFL2G_06177	ALCL_041970	NFIA_062750	Afu3g14510
GE	glucuronoyl esterase	GH 1		140573	ATEG_00945			ACLA_087520	NFIA_060260	Afu6g14390
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1	AN10124	213437	ATEG_00887	AO090003000497	AFL2G_02496	ACLA_020660	NFIA_010690	Afu1g14710
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1				AO090113000148	AFL2G_08626	ACLA_019180	NFIA_009040	Afu1g16400
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1				AO090120000075	AFL2G_08111		NFIA_060550	Afu6g14600
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1	AN9183	131747	ATEG_02857				NFIA_099670	Afu8g06970
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1	AN10375		ATEG_04135				NFIA_064710	Afu3g12600
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1						ACLA_064280		
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1						ACLA_040420		
GUS	beta glucuronidase	GH 2	AN3200	189620	ATEG_09745		AFL2G_05262			
GUS	beta glucuronidase	GH 2	AN2395	52111	ATEG_01031	AO090023000053	AFL2G_03956		NFIA_089700	Afu2g14520
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2			ATEG_10255					
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2			ATEG_04784					
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2	AN2463		ATEG_00712					
GUS	beta glucuronidase	GH 2	AN5361	46827		AO090036000009	AFL2G_08828			
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2	AN3201		ATEG_10243	AO090012000389	AFL2G_03296		NFIA_072410	Afu5g14550
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2	AN6388							
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2	AN1107						NFIA_072890	Afu5g14090
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2	AN1742	138876	ATEG_06636	AO090001000556	AFL2G_09201	ACLA_083570	NFIA_054490	Afu6g08840
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2	AN11680	172587	ATEG_07339	AO090003001410	AFL2G_01666	ACLA_078510	NFIA_045250	Afu4g00390
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2				AO090005000740	AFL2G_00728			
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2	AN3368	212893	ATEG_08684	AO090010000208	AFL2G_11464	ACLA_066240	NFIA_114030	Afu7g01320
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2			ATEG_09890					
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3			ATEG_10274					
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		139037						
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3								
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN7915	39613		AO090001000266	AFL2G_07497			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN10482	208871	ATEG_06617	AO090001000544	AFL2G_09187	ACLA_083710	NFIA_054350	Afu6g08700
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3								
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		210961	ATEG_02806	AO090003001511	AFL2G_01582		NFIA_095760	Afu6g02100
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3			ATEG_02724	AO090005000337	AFL2G_00334			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN4102	56762	ATEG_03047	AO090003000356	AFL2G_10322	ACLA_028810	NFIA_018950	Afu1g05770
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN6652	182309	ATEG_07121	AO090009000554	AFL2G_10164	ACLA_096980	NFIA_050080	Afu6g03570
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		44520		AO090010000034	AFL2G_11300			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3				AO090012000003	AFL2G_02949			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN7396	179265	ATEG_10320	AO090012000135	AFL2G_03066		NFIA_007920	Afu1g17410
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN1804			AO090026000123	AFL2G_07119			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3				AO090030000223	AFL2G_09023			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN5976	181816	ATEG_02713	AO090038000425	AFL2G_07763		NFIA_100430	
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3				AO090103000127	AFL2G_12245			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		176601		AO090166000048	AFL2G_09452		NFIA_112660	
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN3903		ATEG_04069	AO090166000090	AFL2G_09413	ACLA_087610	NFIA_060370	Afu6g14490
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN2227	129891	ATEG_09329	AO090701000244	AFL2G_05686	ACLA_010450	NFIA_080070	Afu5g07190
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3			ATEG_07931					
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN0712							
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN2612							Afu7g00240

Closely related fungi deploy diverse enzymatic strategies to degrade plant biomass

Supplemental Table 6A Cont: Detection of proteins in cultures grown on wheat bran sorted by CAZy family. (Continued on next 3 pages).

BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN2828		ATEG_07419	AO090701000841	AF2L2G_06408	ACLA_007810	NFIA_027390	Afu7g06140
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN3949							
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN7865						NFIA_057590	Afu6g11910
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		129779	ATEG_00157					
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3							NFIA_000750	Afu3g00230
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3							NFIA_098520	
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3							NFIA_057910	
BGL/BXL	beta glucosidase/beta xylosidase	GH 3	AN0479							
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 3	AN2359	205670	ATEG_05106	AO09000500986	AF2L2G_00957			Afu1g16920
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 3			ATEG_07383	AO090011000140	AF2L2G_04928			
BXL/ABF	beta xylosidase/alpha arabinofuranosidat	GH 3	AN8401		ATEG_09052	AO090103000120	AF2L2G_12252	ACLA_062400		Afu3g00290
BXL/ABF	beta xylosidase/alpha arabinofuranosidat	GH 3	AN2217	50997	ATEG_05314	AO090701000274	AF2L2G_05912	ACLA_010340	NFIA_080180	Afu5g07080
BXL/ABF	beta xylosidase/alpha arabinofuranosidat	GH 3			ATEG_08027					
?		GH 3	AN1416	45461	ATEG_00018	AO090103000019	AF2L2G_12338	ACLA_057390	NFIA_096770	Afu8g04060
?		GH 3								Afu1g00540
?		GH 3	AN3360	37673	ATEG_04963			ACLA_052760	NFIA_102600	Afu4g13770
?		GH 3		120104	ATEG_04729	AO090003000741	AF2L2G_02272	ACLA_039660	NFIA_065550	Afu3g11780
?		GH 3					AF2L2G_08686			
?		GH 3	AN2599							
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5	AN3013	210716	ATEG_01592	AO090005001389	AF2L2G_01298	ACLA_036770	NFIA_068300	Afu3g08820
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5	AN1205	205580	ATEG_05002			ACLA_085250	NFIA_057290	Afu6g11600
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5							NFIA_095570	
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5	AN8068		ATEG_09802	AO090003001341	AF2L2G_01726			Afu5g01830
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5	AN5214	209978		AO090005001553	AF2L2G_01447	ACLA_081650	NFIA_053150	Afu6g07480
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5		214608	ATEG_04396	AO090011000715	AF2L2G_05447	ACLA_081310	NFIA_085010	Afu2g09920
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5			ATEG_05003					
GLN	exo 1,6 galactanase	GH 5	AN9166	194447	ATEG_10242	AO090012000046	AF2L2G_02982			NFIA_072400
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5			ATEG_06371					NFIA_056040
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5	AN8947	175759	ATEG_07719					
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5	AN7533	123981	ATEG_06686	AO090001000604	AF2L2G_09249	ACLA_083150	NFIA_054930	Afu6g09250
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5	AN4052	202490	ATEG_03849	AO090003000990	AF2L2G_02039	ACLA_031040	NFIA_021060	Afu1g03600
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5			ATEG_06369	AO090005000423	AF2L2G_00412	ACLA_007330	NFIA_026860	Afu7g05610
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5			ATEG_03062	AO090009000373	AF2L2G_10368			
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5	AN1332	52811		AO090012000917	AF2L2G_05482			NFIA_113230
EXG	beta 1,6 galactanase	GH 5	AN3777		ATEG_05844	AO090011000757	AF2L2G_05474			NFIA_084850
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5	AN3358	50376	ATEG_08654	AO090010000122	AF2L2G_11381	ACLA_066420	NFIA_113780	Afu7g01070
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5			ATEG_10292	AO090012000006	AF2L2G_02951			NFIA_041960
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5	AN7639			AO090038000444	AF2L2G_07781	ACLA_044470	NFIA_099770	Afu8g07030
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5			ATEG_02669					
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5	AN2709							
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5	AN3297							
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5	AN6427		ATEG_09891					
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5	AN9276							
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5			ATEG_01374					
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5			ATEG_03677					
CBH	cellobiohydrolase	GH 6	AN5282	54490	ATEG_07493			ACLA_062580	NFIA_002990	Afu3g01910
CBH	cellobiohydrolase	GH 6	AN1273	133986	ATEG_00193	AO090038000439	AF2L2G_07778	ACLA_025560	NFIA_015660	
CBH	cellobiohydrolase	GH 7	AN0494	51773	ATEG_05092	AO090001000348	AF2L2G_07571	ACLA_065260	NFIA_063860	Afu6g11610
CBH	cellobiohydrolase	GH 7								
CBH	cellobiohydrolase	GH 7	AN5176	53159	ATEG_03727	AO0900120000941	AF2L2G_03805	ACLA_088870	NFIA_052720	Afu6g07070
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 7	AN3418		ATEG_06700	AO090010000314	AF2L2G_11497	ACLA_066030	NFIA_114250	Afu7g01540
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 7			ATEG_08705			ACLA_098940	NFIA_047960	Afu6g01800
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 10				AO090001000208	AF2L2G_07437			
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 10	AN7401		ATEG_03410	AO090103000326	AF2L2G_12071	ACLA_089910	NFIA_095670	Afu6g13610
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 10	AN1818	57436	ATEG_06809	AO090701000887	AF2L2G_06449	ACLA_048770	NFIA_106540	Afu4g09480
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 10			ATEG_08906	AO090103000423	AF2L2G_11963			
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 10	AN2356	50977						NFIA_057510
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 10			ATEG_07190					NFIA_061880
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 11	AN3613							Afu3g15210
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 11								
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 11		171269	ATEG_04943	AO090001000111	AF2L2G_07347	ACLA_085410	NFIA_058160	Afu6g12210
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 11		183088		AO090026000103	AF2L2G_07138			NFIA_055240
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 11				AO090103000141	AF2L2G_12233			
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 11	AN9365	52671	ATEG_07461	AO090126000626	AF2L2G_06946	ACLA_061140	NFIA_000850	Afu3g00320
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 11								NFIA_001010
XLN	endoxylanase	GH 11						ACLA_064270		
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12	AN0452	52011	ATEG_03755	AO090003000905	AF2L2G_02120	ACLA_029940	NFIA_020020	Afu1g04730
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12		211053	ATEG_07420	AO090026000102	AF2L2G_07140	ACLA_007820	NFIA_027400	Afu7g06150
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12			ATEG_05519					
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12			ATEG_09894					
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12				AO090038000175	AF2L2G_06984			NFIA_002040
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12				AO090701000185	AF2L2G_05831	ACLA_060930	NFIA_002610	Afu3g03610
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12		191511						NFIA_100330
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12					AF2L2G_04893			
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12								Afu3g01160
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12			ATEG_07466					
AGT	4 alpha glucanotransferase	GH 13		57002						
?		GH 13		162162						
GBA	glycogen debranching enzyme	GH 13	AN2314	211162	ATEG_07608	AO090010000483	AF2L2G_11646	ACLA_013550	NFIA_076670	Afu5g10540
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13		50927						
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13	AN4643	52452	ATEG_01729	AO090020000176	AF2L2G_11111	ACLA_035550	NFIA_069880	Afu3g07380
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13				AO090026000034	AF2L2G_07207			
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13				AO090038000234	AF2L2G_09036	ACLA_008120	NFIA_027660	Afu7g06380
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13	AN10420		ATEG_01029	AO090103000129	AF2L2G_12243	ACLA_059930	NFIA_099830	Afu8g07070
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13				AO090103000378	AF2L2G_12021			

Supplemental Table 6A Cont: Detection of proteins in cultures grown on wheat bran sorted by CAZy family. (Continued on next 2 pages).

AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13						AFL2G_08694				
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13							ACLA_070570	NFIA_086860	Afu2g11620	
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13							ACLA_070560	NFIA_086850	Afu2g11610	
AGS	alpha glucan synthase	GH 13	212915									
AGS	alpha glucan synthase	GH 13	40878									
AGS	alpha glucan synthase	GH 13	AN3307	54378	ATEG_03622	AO090003001500	AFL2G_01593	ACLA_063450	NFIA_001720		Afu3g00910	
AGS	alpha glucan synthase	GH 13		55204	ATEG_10371	AO090010000106	AFL2G_11365	ACLA_042430	NFIA_009960		Afu1g15440	
AGS	alpha glucan synthase	GH 13	AN5885		ATEG_01449	AO090026000523	AFL2G_06761	ACLA_070240	NFIA_086550		Afu2g11270	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13										
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13										
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13				AO090120000196						
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13	AN3402	47811	ATEG_10103	AO090120000196		ACLA_094010	NFIA_052910		Afu2g00710	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13	AN2018	45304	ATEG_08279	AO090003001210	AFL2G_01841	ACLA_052920				
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13	AN2018		ATEG_08279	AO090003001210	AFL2G_01841	ACLA_049350	NFIA_105920		Afu4g10130	
AGT	4 alpha glucanotransferase	GH 13	AN3308	188489	ATEG_03623	AO090003001498	AFL2G_01594	ACLA_063440	NFIA_001710		Afu3g00900	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13				AO090120000263	AFL2G_08276					
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13										
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13	AN4507									
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13	AN3388									
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13			ATEG_02515							
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13						ACLA_072270	NFIA_088650		Afu2g13460	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13		122069	ATEG_03624	AO090003001497	AFL2G_01595					
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13	AN10060	46621	ATEG_04879	AO090005000884	AFL2G_00860	ACLA_032290	NFIA_022510		Afu1g02140	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13	AN3309	46290	ATEG_00838	AO090005001193		ACLA_020060	NFIA_010270		Afu1g15150	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13			ATEG_00724							
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13					AFL2G_01127					
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13						ACLA_091300	NFIA_035590		Afu2g03230	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13								NFIA_035580		
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15	AN7402					ACLA_049360	NFIA_105910			
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15									Afu4g10140	
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15			ATEG_05980	AO090003000321	AFL2G_02658	ACLA_089470				
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15	AN11143	213597	ATEG_04375	AO090010000748	AFL2G_11865	ACLA_094080	NFIA_032960		Afu2g00690	
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15		189911		AO090138000105	AFL2G_08782	ACLA_044430	NFIA_094880		Afu8g01390	
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15						ACLA_082570	NFIA_053760		Afu6g00880	
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15						ACLA_078620	NFIA_001210		Afu3g00610	
MAN	endomannanase	GH 26	AN3336	40875		AO090011000055	AFL2G_04859					
MAN	endomannanase	GH 26	AN3326									
MAN	endomannanase	GH 26	AN7413									
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27			ATEG_01905					NFIA_048850	Afu6g02560	
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27		37736	ATEG_04382			ACLA_016820	NFIA_073100		Afu5g13830	
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27	AN0022	172332	ATEG_03427	AO090005000217	AFL2G_00225	ACLA_023390	NFIA_023390		Afu1g01200	
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27	AN7624	207284	ATEG_09830	AO090003001305	AFL2G_01765	ACLA_003130	NFIA_039990		Afu5g02130	
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27		39180								
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27	AN7152	41606	ATEG_02160	AO090023000151	AFL2G_04039			NFIA_029860	Afu4g03580	
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28	AN8327	46255				ACLA_097900				
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28		43957					NFIA_008150		Afu1g17220	
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28		182156								
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28		214598								
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28	AN6656	50181		AO090005000186	AFL2G_00201			NFIA_099410		
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28		172944	ATEG_01801	AO090005001400	AFL2G_01310	ACLA_036670	NFIA_083440		Afu3g00680	
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28	AN4372	141677	ATEG_04991	AO090023000401	AFL2G_04252	ACLA_052860	NFIA_102450		Afu4g13820	
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28		52219		AO090023000161	AFL2G_04049			NFIA_095620	Afu8g01970	
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28				AO090138000086						
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28									Afu8g06730	
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28			ATEG_07748							
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28					AFL2G_08764			NFIA_023290	Afu1g01320	
PGX	exopolygalacturonase	GH 28		178172								
PGX	exopolygalacturonase	GH 28	AN8891	191158	ATEG_10357	AO090010000753	AFL2G_11892	ACLA_043100	NFIA_096340		Afu8g02630	
PGX	exopolygalacturonase	GH 28	AN8761	42184	ATEG_07152	AO090026000784	AFL2G_06533			NFIA_048320	Afu6g02980	
PGX	exopolygalacturonase	GH 28	AN9045									
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		172236		AO090001000133	AFL2G_07371					
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		42917		AO090009000470	AFL2G_10228			NFIA_018590	Afu1g06140	
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28	AN10274	194481	ATEG_09025	AO090102000139	AFL2G_09582			NFIA_027770	Afu7g06410	
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28			ATEG_06408	AO090113000199	AFL2G_08671					
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28				AO090138000066	AFL2G_03102					
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28				AO090138000067	AFL2G_09746					
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		178393								
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		180922		AO090003000524	AFL2G_02475				Afu4g00100	
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28				AO090005000067	AFL2G_00087					
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		211163	ATEG_07607	AO090010000484	AFL2G_11646					
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		123651		AO090026000252	AFL2G_06999					
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28	AN9134	189722		AO090003000552	AFL2G_07863					
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		39337		AO090124000009	AFL2G_08037					
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28								NFIA_076680	Afu5g10530	
XGH	xylogalacturonase	GH 28				AO090026000120	AFL2G_07122					
XGH	xylogalacturonase	GH 28	AN3389	46065		AO090102000011	AFL2G_09468			NFIA_099610	Afu8g06890	
PGX	exopolygalacturonase	GH 28								NFIA_100120	Afu8g07265	
AF	alpha fucosidase	GH 29		44822	ATEG_08111							
AF	alpha fucosidase	GH 29			ATEG_05691							
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31	AN2017	214233	ATEG_06728	AO090003001209	AFL2G_01842	ACLA_049370	NFIA_105900		Afu4g10150	
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31	AN0020	55419	ATEG_02528	AO090005000767	AFL2G_00750	ACLA_031260	NFIA_021450		Afu1g03140	
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31	AN0941	119858	ATEG_05177	AO090005001084	AFL2G_01038	ACLA_019300	NFIA_009180		Afu1g16250	
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31	AN3504	49940	ATEG_02966	AO090023000288	AFL2G_04152			NFIA_018130	Afu1g06560	
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31	AN10935			AO090026000111	AFL2G_07131					
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31	AN8953			AO090038000471	AFL2G_07612					
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31	AN11054	50055	ATEG_08065	AO090102000559	AFL2G_09934	ACLA_001670	NFIA_038610		Afu5g03500	

Supplemental Table 6A Cont: Detection of proteins in cultures grown on wheat bran sorted by CAZy family.

CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61	AN3046	43784	ATEG_08113	A0090023000159	AFL2G_04048	ACLA_055060	NFIA_089730	Afu2g14540
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61			ATEG_06077	A0090023000787	AFL2G_04596	ACLA_047226	NFIA_108320	Afu4g07850
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61	AN6428		ATEG_05081	A0090103000087	AFL2G_12282		NFIA_055220	Afu6g09540
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61		194765	ATEG_10194					
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61	AN7891			A0090138000004	AFL2G_08699			
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61	AN3860							
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61			ATEG_08942					
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61			ATEG_01456					
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61								
AJX	arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase	GH 62			ATEG_00186	A0050103000088	AFL2G_12281	ACLA_017470	NFIA_087900	Afu2g12770
AJX	arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase	GH 62	AN2632	55136	ATEG_10497	A0090701000885	AFL2G_08447	ACLA_061510	NFIA_036210	Afu2g06620
AJX	arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase	GH 62	AN7908							
AJX	arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase	GH 62			ATEG_10378					
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH 67	AN9286	56619	ATEG_06085	A0090026000127	AFL2G_07114	ACLA_017270	NFIA_072510	Afu5g14380
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH 67			ATEG_09975					
XG CBH	xyloglucan active cellobiohydrolase	GH 74	AN1542							
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 74	AN5061	206333	ATEG_04708			ACLA_044310	NFIA_094990	Afu8g02330
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN8465	40284			AFL2G_05364			Afu8g01490
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78								
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN2631	176718	ATEG_05089	A0090001000105	AFL2G_07340		NFIA_045660	Afu3g02880
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN11954	51410		A0090003001016	AFL2G_02014			
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN10277	170172		A0090003001291	AFL2G_01720		NFIA_022970	Afu1g01660
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78		42916	ATEG_03018	A0090009000471	AFL2G_10287		NFIA_018620	Afu1g06130
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN7151		ATEG_02922	A0090010000561	AFL2G_11713		NFIA_057930	Afu6g12030
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN3780							
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78				A0090103000432	AFL2G_11972			
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78				A0090113000149/A	AFL2G_08627		NFIA_057930	Afu6g14610
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN6929	131668		A0090005001416				
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78							NFIA_060560	
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78					AFL2G_10644			
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN12368							
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78					AFL2G_03939			
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN10867	44977	ATEG_04706	A0090012000058	AFL2G_02993		NFIA_026130	Afu7g05040
UGH	unsaturated galacturonyl hydrolase	GH 88				A0090005000324	AFL2G_06324		NFIA_028210	Afu7g05090
UGH	unsaturated galacturonyl hydrolase	GH 88	AN3991	36414		A00901380000087	AFL2G06766		NFIA_023340	Afu1g01250
UGH	unsaturated galacturonyl hydrolase	GH 88	AN11078				AFL2G_06465			
UGH	unsaturated galacturonyl hydrolase	GH 88				A0090701000907				
UGH	unsaturated galacturonyl hydrolase	GH 88	AN4629							
ABX	exocarbinanase	GH 93	AN2080		ATEG_06045	A0090003001017	AFL2G_02013		NFIA_081320	Afu2G04570
ABX	exocarbinanase	GH 93				A0090011000141	AFL2G_04829			
ABX	exocarbinanase	GH 93	AN5231	49311	ATEG_07809	A0090012000101	AFL2G_03035	ACLA_008170	NFIA_027720	Afu7g06430
ABX	exocarbinanase	GH 93			ATEG_08029					
ABX	exocarbinanase	GH 93			ATEG_00891				NFIA_058060	Afu6g12120
AFC	alpha fucosidase	GH 95	AN8149	184037	ATEG_01560	A0090005000382	AFL2G_00373			
AFC	alpha fucosidase	GH 95				A0090005000512	AFL2G_00515			
AFC	alpha fucosidase	GH 95	AN6673	53702	ATEG_09768	A0090009000086	AFL2G_10565	ACLA_004070	NFIA_040960	Afu5g01190
AFC	alpha fucosidase	GH 95	AN10376		ATEG_04138				NFIA_064720	Afu3g12590
URH	unsaturated rhamnogalacturonyl hydrolase	GH 105	AN3196	41703	ATEG_09707	A0090001000174	AFL2G_07407	ACLA_056060	NFIA_030670	Afu4g02860
URH	unsaturated rhamnogalacturonyl hydrolase	GH 105				A0090003000163	AFL2G_02808			
URH	unsaturated rhamnogalacturonyl hydrolase	GH 105	AN10505			A0090001000063	AFL2G_07308	ACLA_072870	NFIA_089840	Afu2g14630
URH	unsaturated rhamnogalacturonyl hydrolase	GH 105	AN9383	41877	ATEG_02892	A0090113000146	AFL2G_08624	ACLA_077810		
URH	unsaturated rhamnogalacturonyl hydrolase	GH 105	AN7828							
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH115				A0090005001415	AFL2G_01323			
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH115	AN9329		ATEG_09974	A0090010000038	AFL2G_11304	ACLA_006360	NFIA_025630	Afu7g04680
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH115				A0090001000267	AFL2G_07498			
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH115			ATEG_04355					
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1			ATEG_00950	A0090003001295	AFL2G_01776			
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1		55212		A0090010000030	AFL2G_11297		NFIA_026110	Afu7g05030
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1		45821						
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1	AN4882	40837	ATEG_7577	A0090012000121	AFL2G_03052		NFIA_077100	Afu5g10170
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1				A0090012000451	AFL2G_03359			
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1				A0090103000463	AFL2G_11948			
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1	AN10147	208760		A0090138000204	AFL2G_08823			
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1	AN2331	41815		A0090010000504	AFL2G_11666	ACLA_094210	NFIA_033080	Afu2g00800
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1	AN2569		ATEG_01216	A0090010000087	AFL2G_11352	ACLA_013470	NFIA_076850	Afu5g10380
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1								
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1	AN9439						NFIA_023100	
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 1	AN0741		ATEG_08834	A00900110000673	AFL2G_05417			
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 1	AN5333		ATEG_05467	A0090102000072	AFL2G_09523		NFIA_060270	Afu6g14400
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 1	AN7646	45021	ATEG_08123	A00907010000321	AFL2G_05954		NFIA_033040	Afu2g00760
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 1	AN9367/AN9368			A0090011000030	AFL2G_04835			
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 3	AN6748		ATEG_06314	A0090005000472	AFL2G_00461		NFIA_027690	Afu7g06400
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 3	AN3337		ATEG_06285					
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 3	AN2542			A0090010000706	AFL2G_11846	ACLA_059210	NFIA_098670	Afu8g05910
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 3	AN8106		ATEG_08626	A0090038000502	AFL2G_07839		NFIA_023470	Afu1g01120
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 3	AN8453							
RGL	rhamnogalacturonan lyase	PL 4	AN7135	210947	ATEG_02193	A00900110000349	AFL2G_05136	ACLA_054660	NFIA_029620	Afu4g03780
RGL	rhamnogalacturonan lyase	PL 4	AN6395	47780	ATEG_10327	A0090012000147/A	AFL2G_03075	ACLA_018320	NFIA_030840	Afu1g17230
RGL	rhamnogalacturonan lyase	PL 4	AN12097			A0090013000057				
RGL	rhamnogalacturonan lyase	PL 4			ATEG_08610	A00901380000119	AFL2G_08794		NFIA_094270	Afu8g00820
RGL	rhamnogalacturonan lyase	PL 4	AN3950							
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 9	AN2537			A0090038000131	AFL2G_08953		NFIA_062360	Afu3g14890
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 9			ATEG_03526					
RGL	rhamnogalacturonan lyase	PL 11	AN2543							

Closely related fungi deploy diverse enzymatic strategies to degrade plant biomass

Supplemental Table 6B: Detection of proteins in cultures grown on sugar beet pulp sorted by CAZy family. The colour codes indicate which percentage of the total number of detected peptides was of the specific protein. (Continued on next 4 pages).

		0-0.1%	0.1-0.5%	0.5-1%	1-2%	2-5%	5-10%	>10%		
enzyme code	function	CAZY	<i>A. nidulans</i>	<i>A. niger</i>	<i>A. terreus</i>	<i>A. oryzae</i>	<i>A. flavus</i>	<i>A. clavatus</i>	<i>A. fischeri</i>	<i>A. fumigatus</i>
			ATCC 1015							AT293
FAE SF7	feruloyl esterase	fasA		51862 ATEG_08907		AO090001000207	AFL2G_07436			
FAE SF1	feruloyl esterase	SF1	AN1772	51476 ATEG_06863		AO090001000592	AFL2G_09228	ACLA_083360	NFIA_054700	Afu6g00040
FAE SF3	feruloyl esterase	SF3		ATEG_02212		AO090001000066	AFL2G_07310		NFIA_047590	Afu6g00450
FAE SF4	feruloyl esterase	SF4		ATEG_02415		AO090102000013				
FAE SF4	feruloyl esterase	SF4		190471		AO090010000573	AFL2G_11725			
FAE SF4	feruloyl esterase	SF4		43194						
AXE	acetyl xylan esterase	CE 1	AN8093	211544 ATEG_09843		AO090011000745	AFL2G_05471	ACLA_081220	NFIA_099230	Afu6g006570
AXE	acetyl xylan esterase	CE 1	AN8320							Afu1g117510
AXE	acetyl xylan esterase	CE 1							NFIA_084920	
FAE SF5	feruloyl esterase	CE 1				AO090005000945	AFL2G_00922	ACLA_065130	NFIA_115130	
FAE SF5	feruloyl esterase	CE 1	AN5267	43785 ATEG_08112		AO090023000158	AFL2G_04047	ACLA_055050	NFIA_089720	Afu2g14530
FAE SF5	feruloyl esterase	CE 1		ATEG_06844		AO090701000884	AFL2G_06446	ACLA_061520		
FAE SF5	feruloyl esterase	CE 1								Afu2g09440
FAE SF5	feruloyl esterase	CE 1		ATEG_01914						
FAE SF5	feruloyl esterase	CE 1						ACLA_017480		
?		CE 1	AN8782	53315 ATEG_06438		AO090005000277	AFL2G_00281	ACLA_012870	NFIA_077450	Afu5g09860
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8				AO090003001514	AFL2G_01578			
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8		44585		AO090012000749	AFL2G_03618	ACLA_044240	NFIA_095020	Afu8g01520
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8	AN4860	174365 ATEG_01704		AO090020000404	AFL2G_0918	ACLA_035610	NFIA_069500	Afu3g07850
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8	AN3390	214897		AO090102000010	AFL2G_09467	ACLA_05610	NFIA_099600	Afu8g06880
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8	AN7966							
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8				AO090113000039			NFIA_100100	Afu8g07250
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8						ACLA_059970		
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8					AFL2G_08528			
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8						ACLA_059980		
RGAe	rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12				AO090003001268	AFL2G_01979			
RGAe	rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12							NFIA_099110	Afu8g06480
RGAe	rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12		51400 ATEG_10016		AO090102000092	AFL2G_09543			
RGAe	rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12	AN2634			AO090113000185	AFL2G_08628		NFIA_092640	Afu2g17250
RGAe	rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12	AN2528	189254 ATEG_03611		AO090701000556	AFL2G_06177	ACLA_041970	NFIA_062750	Afu3g14510
GE	glucuronoyl esterase	CE15		ATEG_00945				ACLA_087520	NFIA_060260	Afu6g14390
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1		140573						
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1	AN10124	213437 ATEG_00687		AO090003000497	AFL2G_02496	ACLA_020660	NFIA_010690	Afu1g14710
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1				AO090113000148	AFL2G_08628	ACLA_019180	NFIA_039040	Afu1g16440
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1				AO090120000075	AFL2G_08111		NFIA_099670	Afu8g06970
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1	AN8183	131747 ATEG_02657					NFIA_064710	Afu3g12600
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1	AN10375	ATEG_04135				ACLA_064280		
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 1						ACLA_040420		
GUS	beta glucuronidase	GH 2	AN3200	189620 ATEG_09745			AFL2G_05262			
GUS	beta glucuronidase	GH 2	AN2395	52111 ATEG_01031		AO090023000053	AFL2G_03956		NFIA_089700	Afu2g14520
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2		ATEG_10255						
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2		ATEG_04784						
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2	AN2463	ATEG_00712						
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2	AN5361	46827		AO090038000009	AFL2G_08828			
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2	AN3201	ATEG_10243		AO090012000389	AFL2G_03296		NFIA_072410	Afu5g14550
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2	AN6388							
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 2	AN1107						NFIA_072890	Afu5g14090
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2	AN1742	138876 ATEG_06636		AO090001000556	AFL2G_09201	ACLA_083570	NFIA_054490	Afu6g08540
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2	AN11680	172587 ATEG_07339		AO090003001410	AFL2G_01666	ACLA_078510	NFIA_045250	Afu4g00390
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2				AO090005000740	AFL2G_00728			
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2	AN3368	212893 ATEG_08684		AO090010000208	AFL2G_11464	ACLA_066240	NFIA_114030	Afu7g01320
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2		ATEG_09890						
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		ATEG_10274						
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		139037						
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3								
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		39613						
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN7915	38077		AO090001000266	AFL2G_07497			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN10482	208871 ATEG_06617		AO090001000544	AFL2G_09187	ACLA_083710	NFIA_054350	Afu6g08700
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3								
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		210961 ATEG_02806		AO090003001511	AFL2G_01582		NFIA_095780	Afu6g02100
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		ATEG_02724		AO090005000337	AFL2G_06334			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN4102	56782 ATEG_03047		AO090009000356	AFL2G_10322	ACLA_028810	NFIA_018950	Afu1g05770
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN6652	182309 ATEG_07121		AO090009000554	AFL2G_10164	ACLA_096980	NFIA_050080	Afu6g03570
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		44520		AO090010000034	AFL2G_11300			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3				AO090012000003	AFL2G_02949			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN7396	179265 ATEG_10320		AO090012000135	AFL2G_03066		NFIA_007920	Afu1g17410
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN1804			AO09002600123	AFL2G_07119			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3				AO090038000223	AFL2G_09023			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN5976	181816 ATEG_02713		AO090038000425	AFL2G_07763		NFIA_100430	
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3				AO090103000127	AFL2G_12245			
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		176801		AO090166000048	AFL2G_09452		NFIA_112660	
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN3903	ATEG_04069		AO090166000090	AFL2G_09413	ACLA_087610	NFIA_060370	Afu6g14490
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN2227	129891 ATEG_09329		AO090701000244	AFL2G_05886	ACLA_010450	NFIA_080070	Afu5g07190
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		ATEG_07931						
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN0712							
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN2612							Afu7g00240

Supplemental Table 6B Cont: Detection of proteins in cultures grown on sugar beet pulp sorted by CAZy family. (Continued on next 3 pages).

BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN2828		ATEG_07419	AO090701000841	AFL2G_06408	ACLA_007810	NFIA_027390	Afu7g06140
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN3949							
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3	AN7865						NFIA_057590	Afu6g11910
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3		129779	ATEG_00157				NFIA_000750	Afu3g002230
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3							NFIA_098520	
BGL	beta glucosidase	GH 3							NFIA_057910	
BGL/BXL	beta glucosidase/beta xylosidase	GH 3	AN0479							
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 3	AN2359	205670	ATEG_05106	AO090005000986	AFL2G_00957			Afu1g16920
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 3			ATEG_07383	AO090011000140	AFL2G_04928			
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 3						ACLA_010590		
BXL/ABF	beta xylosidase/alpha arabinofuranosidase	GH 3	AN8401		ATEG_09052	AO090103000120	AFL2G_12252	ACLA_062400	NFIA_003180	Afu3g02090
BXL/ABF	beta xylosidase/alpha arabinofuranosidase	GH 3	AN2217	50997	ATEG_09314	AO090701000274	AFL2G_05912	ACLA_010340	NFIA_080180	Afu5g07080
BXL/ABF	beta xylosidase/alpha arabinofuranosidase	GH 3			ATEG_08027					
?		GH 3	AN1416	45461	ATEG_00018	AO090103000019	AFL2G_12338	ACLA_057390	NFIA_096770	Afu8g04060
?		GH 3								Afu1g00540
?		GH 3	AN3360	37673	ATEG_04963			ACLA_052760	NFIA_102600	Afu4g13770
?		GH 3	120104	ATEG_04729		AO090003000741	AFL2G_02272	ACLA_039660	NFIA_065550	Afu3g11780
?		GH 3					AFL2G_06866			
?		GH 3	AN2599							
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5	AN3013	210716	ATEG_01592	AO090005001389	AFL2G_01298	ACLA_036770	NFIA_068300	Afu3g08820
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5	AN1285	205580	ATEG_05002			ACLA_005260	NFIA_057290	Afu6g11600
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5								
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5	AN8068		ATEG_09802	AO090003001341	AFL2G_01726			Afu5g01930
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5	AN5214	262620		AO090005001553	AFL2G_01447	ACLA_081650	NFIA_053150	Afu6g07450
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5	214608	ATEG_04390		AO090011000715	AFL2G_05447	ACLA_081310	NFIA_085010	Afu2g09520
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5			ATEG_05003					
GLN	exo 1,6 galactanase	GH 5	AN8166	194447	ATEG_10242	AO090012000046	AFL2G_02982		NFIA_072400	Afu5g14560
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5			ATEG_08371				NFIA_056040	
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5	AN8947	175759	ATEG_07719					
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5	AN7533	123981	ATEG_06606	AO090001000604	AFL2G_05249	ACLA_083150	NFIA_054930	Afu6g09250
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5	AN4952	202490	ATEG_03849	AO090003000990	AFL2G_02038	ACLA_031040	NFIA_021060	Afu1g03600
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5			ATEG_06369	AO090005000423	AFL2G_00412	ACLA_007330	NFIA_028680	Afu7g05610
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5			ATEG_03062	AO090009000373	AFL2G_10308			
EXG	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5	AN1332	52811		AO090012000917	AFL2G_03782		NFIA_113230	
EXG	beta 1,6 glucanase	GH 5	AN3777		ATEG_09844	AO090011000757	AFL2G_05484		NFIA_084850	Afu2g09350
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5	AN3358	50378	ATEG_09854	AO090010000122	AFL2G_11381	ACLA_066420	NFIA_113780	Afu7g01070
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5			ATEG_10292	AO090012000006	AFL2G_02951		NFIA_041980	Afu5g00550
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5	AN7839			AO090038000444	AFL2G_07781	ACLA_044470	NFIA_099770	Afu6g07030
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5			ATEG_02669					
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5	AN2709							
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5	AN3297							
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5	AN6427		ATEG_09991					
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5	AN9276							
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5			ATEG_01374					
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5			ATEG_02671					
CBH	cellobiohydrolase	GH 6	AN2282	54490	ATEG_07493			ACLA_062560	NFIA_002990	Afu3g01910
CBH	cellobiohydrolase	GH 6	AN1273	133986	ATEG_00193	AO090038000439	AFL2G_07776	ACLA_025560	NFIA_015680	
CBH	cellobiohydrolase	GH 6	AN0494	51773	ATEG_05000	AO090001000348	AFL2G_07571	ACLA_005260	NFIA_057300	Afu6g11610
CBH	cellobiohydrolase	GH 7							NFIA_095570	
CBH	cellobiohydrolase	GH 7	AN5178	53158	ATEG_03727	AO090012000941	AFL2G_03805	ACLA_088870	NFIA_052720	Afu6g07070
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 7	AN9476		ATEG_08706	AO090010000314	AFL2G_11497	ACLA_060930	NFIA_114250	Afu7g01540
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 7						ACLA_098940	NFIA_047960	Afu6g01800
XLN	endoxyylanase	GH 10				AO090001000208	AFL2G_07437			
XLN	endoxyylanase	GH 10	AN7401		ATEG_03410	AO090103000326	AFL2G_12071	ACLA_086910	NFIA_095970	Afu6g13610
XLN	endoxyylanase	GH 10	AN1815	57436	ATEG_00809	AO090701000887	AFL2G_06449	ACLA_048770	NFIA_106540	Afu4g09480
XLN	endoxyylanase	GH 10			ATEG_08906	AO090103000423	AFL2G_11983			
XLN	endoxyylanase	GH 10	AN2356	50977					NFIA_057510	Afu6g11820
XLN	endoxyylanase	GH 10			ATEG_07190				NFIA_091880	Afu3g15210
XLN	endoxyylanase	GH 11								
XLN	endoxyylanase	GH 11	171269	ATEG_04943		AO090001000111	AFL2G_07347	ACLA_085410	NFIA_058160	Afu6g12210
XLN	endoxyylanase	GH 11	183088			AO090026000103	AFL2G_07138		NFIA_055240	
XLN	endoxyylanase	GH 11				AO090103000141	AFL2G_12233			
XLN	endoxyylanase	GH 11	AN9365	52074	ATEG_07486	AO090120000026	AFL2G_08066	ACLA_063140	NFIA_000850	Afu6g09380
XLN	endoxyylanase	GH 11							NFIA_001010	Afu3g00470
XLN	endoxyylanase	GH 11						ACLA_064270		
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12	AN0452	52011	ATEG_03755	AO090003000905	AFL2G_02120	ACLA_029940	NFIA_020020	Afu1g04730
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12		211053	ATEG_07420	AO090026000102	AFL2G_07140	ACLA_007820	NFIA_027400	Afu7g06150
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12			ATEG_05519					
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12			ATEG_09894					
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12				AO090038000175	AFL2G_08984		NFIA_002040	
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12				AO090701000185	AFL2G_05631	ACLA_060930	NFIA_005810	Afu3g03610
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12		191511					NFIA_100330	
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12					AFL2G_04893			
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12								Afu3g01160
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12			ATEG_07466					
GT	4 alpha glucanotransferase	GH 13			57002					
?		GH 13			182162					
GBA	glycogen debranching enzyme	GH 13	AN2314	211162	ATEG_07608	AO090010000483	AFL2G_11646	ACLA_013550	NFIA_076670	Afu5g10540
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13			50927					
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13	AN4843	52452	ATEG_01729	AO090020000176	AFL2G_11111	ACLA_035550	NFIA_069880	Afu3g07380
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13				AO090026000034	AFL2G_07207			
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13				AO090038000234	AFL2G_09036	ACLA_008120	NFIA_027660	Afu7g06380
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13	AN10420		ATEG_01029	AO090103000129	AFL2G_12243	ACLA_059930	NFIA_099830	Afu8g07070
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13				AO090103000378	AFL2G_12021			

Closely related fungi deploy diverse enzymatic strategies to degrade plant biomass

Supplemental Table 6B Cont: Detection of proteins in cultures grown on sugar beet pulp sorted by CAZy family. (Continued on next 2 pages).

AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13					AFL2G_08694				
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13						ACLA_070570	NFIA_086860	Afu2g11620	
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13						ACLA_070560	NFIA_086850	Afu2g11610	
AGS	alpha glucan synthase	GH 13		212915							
AGS	alpha glucan synthase	GH 13		40878							
AGS	alpha glucan synthase	GH 13 AN3307		54378	AATEG_03622	AO090003001500	AFL2G_01593	ACLA_063450	NFIA_001720	Afu3g00910	
AGS	alpha glucan synthase	GH 13		55204	AATEG_10371	AO090010000106	AFL2G_11365	ACLA_042430	NFIA_009960	Afu1g15440	
AGS	alpha glucan synthase	GH 13 AN5885			AATEG_01449	AO090026000523	AFL2G_06761	ACLA_070240	NFIA_086550	Afu2g11270	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13									
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13				AO090120000196		ACLA_094070	NFIA_032970	Afu2g00710	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13				AO090023000414		ACLA_052920			
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13 AN3402		47511	AATEG_10103						
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13 AN2018		45304	AATEG_08279	AO090003001210	AFL2G_01841	ACLA_049350	NFIA_105920	Afu4g10130	
AGT	4 alpha glucanotransferase	GH 13 AN3308		188489	AATEG_03623	AO090003001498	AFL2G_01694	ACLA_063440	NFIA_001710	Afu3g00900	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13				AO090120000283	AFL2G_08276				
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13									
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13 AN4507									
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13 AN3388			AATEG_02515						
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13 AN6324						ACLA_072270	NFIA_086650	Afu2g13460	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13		122069	AATEG_03624	AO090003001497	AFL2G_01595				
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13 AN10060		46621	AATEG_04879	AO090005000884	AFL2G_00860	ACLA_032290	NFIA_022510	Afu1g02140	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13 AN3309		46290	AATEG_00838	AO090005001193		ACLA_020060	NFIA_010270	Afu1g15150	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13			AATEG_00724						
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13					AFL2G_01127				
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13						ACLA_091300	NFIA_035590	Afu2g03230	
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13						NFIA_035550			
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15 AN7402						ACLA_049360	NFIA_105910		
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15								Afu4g10140	
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15			AATEG_05980	AO090003000321	AFL2G_02658	ACLA_089470			
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15 AN11143		213996	AATEG_04375	AO090010000746	AFL2G_11885	ACLA_094080	NFIA_032990	Afu2g00690	
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15		169911		AO090138000105	AFL2G_08762	ACLA_044430	NFIA_094880	Afu8g01390	
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15						ACLA_082570	NFIA_053760	Afu6g08080	
GLA	glucoamylase	GH 15						ACLA_078620	NFIA_001210	Afu3g00610	
MAN	endomannanase	GH 26 AN3336		40875		AO090011000055	AFL2G_04859				
MAN	endomannanase	GH 26 AN3326									
MAN	endomannanase	GH 26 AN7413									
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27			AATEG_01965				NFIA_048850	Afu6g02560	
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27		37736	AATEG_04382			ACLA_016820	NFIA_073100	Afu5g13830	
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27 AN0022		172322	AATEG_03427	AO090005000217	AFL2G_00225	ACLA_023390	NFIA_023390	Afu1g01200	
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27 AN7624		207264	AATEG_09830	AO090003001305	AFL2G_01785	ACLA_003130	NFIA_039990	Afu5g02130	
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27		39180							
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27 AN7152		41606	AATEG_02160	AO090023000161	AFL2G_04039		NFIA_029860	Afu4g03580	
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27						ACLA_097900			
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28 AN8327		46255					NFIA_088150	Afu1g17220	
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28		43957							
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28		182156							
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28		214598							
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28 AN6856		50161		AO090005000186	AFL2G_00201		NFIA_099410		
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28		172944	AATEG_01601	AO090005001400	AFL2G_01310	ACLA_036870	NFIA_068440	Afu3g08680	
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28 AN4372		141677	AATEG_04991	AO090023000401	AFL2G_04252	ACLA_052860	NFIA_102450	Afu4g13920	
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28		52219		AO090023000161	AFL2G_04049		NFIA_095620	Afu8g01970	
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28				AO090138000096					
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28								Afu8g06730	
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28			AATEG_07748						
PGX	exopolygalacturonase	GH 28		178172			AFL2G_08764		NFIA_023290	Afu1g01320	
PGX	exopolygalacturonase	GH 28 AN8891		191158	AATEG_10357	AO090010000753	AFL2G_11892	ACLA_043100	NFIA_096340	Afu8g02630	
PGX	exopolygalacturonase	GH 28 AN8761		42184	AATEG_07157	AO090026000784	AFL2G_06536		NFIA_049320	Afu6g02980	
PGX	exopolygalacturonase	GH 28 AN9045									
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		172236		AO090001000133	AFL2G_07371				
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		42917		AO090009000470	AFL2G_10228		NFIA_018590	Afu1g06140	
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28 AN10274		194461	AATEG_09025	AO090102000139	AFL2G_09682		NFIA_027700	Afu7g06410	
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28			AATEG_06408	AO090113000199	AFL2G_08671				
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28				AO090138000066	AFL2G_03102				
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28 AN11626									
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28				AO090138000067	AFL2G_08746				
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		178393							
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		189922		AO090003000524	AFL2G_02475			Afu4g00100	
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28				AO090005000067	AFL2G_00087				
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		211163	AATEG_07607	AO090010000484	AFL2G_11646				
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		123651		AO090026000252	AFL2G_06999				
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28 AN9134		169722		AO090003000552	AFL2G_07883				
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28		39337		AO090124000009	AFL2G_08037				
RHG	endorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28							NFIA_076660	Afu5g10530	
XGH	xylogalacturonase	GH 28				AO090026000120	AFL2G_07122				
XGH	xylogalacturonase	GH 28 AN3389		46065		AO090102000011	AFL2G_09468		NFIA_099610	Afu8g06890	
PGX	exopolygalacturonase	GH 28							NFIA_100120	Afu8g07265	
AFC	alpha fucosidase	GH 29		44822	AATEG_08111						
AFC	alpha fucosidase	GH 29			AATEG_06691						
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31 AN2017		214233	AATEG_00723	AO090003001209	AFL2G_01842	ACLA_049370	NFIA_105900	Afu4g10150	
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31 AN0280		55419	AATEG_02528	AO090005000767	AFL2G_00750	ACLA_031260	NFIA_021450	Afu1g03140	
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31 AN0941		119858	AATEG_05177	AO090005001084	AFL2G_01038	ACLA_019300	NFIA_09180	Afu1g16250	
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31 AN3504		49940	AATEG_02966	AO090023000288	AFL2G_04152		NFIA_018130	Afu1g06560	
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31 AN10935				AO090026000111	AFL2G_07131				
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31 AN8953				AO090038000471					
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31 AN11054		50055	AATEG_08066	AO090102000559	AFL2G_09934	ACLA_001670	NFIA_039610	Afu5g03500	

Closely related fungi deploy diverse enzymatic strategies to degrade plant biomass

Supplemental Table 6B Cont: Detection of proteins in cultures grown on sugar beet pulp sorted by CAZy family.

CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61	AN3046	43784	AATEG_08113	AO090023000159	AFL2G_04048	ACLA_055060	NFIA_089730	Afu2g14540
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61			AATEG_08256	AO090023000787	AFL2G_04596	ACLA_047220	NFIA_108320	Afu4g07650
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61	AN6428		AATEG_06077					
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61		56338	AATEG_05081	AO090103000087	AFL2G_12282		NFIA_055220	Afu6g09540
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61			AATEG_10194					
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61	AN7891	194765		AO090138000004	AFL2G_08699			
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61	AN3860							
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61			AATEG_08942					
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61			AATEG_01456					
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61						ACLA_017470		
AXH	arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase	GH 62			AATEG_00186	AO090103000088	AFL2G_12281	ACLA_071560	NFIA_087900	Afu2g12770
AXH	arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase	GH 62	AN2632	56136	AATEG_10071	AO090701000885	AFL2G_06447	ACLA_061510	NFIA_033210	Afu2g00920
AXH	arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase	GH 62	AN7908							
AXH	arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase	GH 62			AATEG_10976					
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH 67	AN9206	56619	AATEG_06085	AO090026000127	AFL2G_07114	ACLA_017270	NFIA_072510	Afu5g14380
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH 67			AATEG_09975					
XG CBH	xyloglucan active cellobiohydrolase	GH 74	AN1542						NFIA_096000	Afu8g02330
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 74	AN5061	206333	AATEG_04708			ACLA_044310	NFIA_094900	Afu8g01490
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN8465	40264			AFL2G_05364			
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78								
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN2631	176718	AATEG_05089	AO090001000105	AFL2G_07340		NFIA_004560	Afu3g02880
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN11954	51410		AO090003001016	AFL2G_02014		NFIA_022970	Afu1g01660
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN10277	170172		AO090003000291	AFL2G_01780		NFIA_018620	Afu1g06130
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78		42916	AATEG_03018	AO090009000471	AFL2G_10227		NFIA_057930	Afu6g12030
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN7151		AATEG_02922	AO090010000561	AFL2G_11713			
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN3780							
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78				AO090103000432	AFL2G_11972			
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78				AO090113000149/A	AFL2G_08627		NFIA_057930	Afu6g14610
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN6929	131668		AO090005001416			NFIA_060560	
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78					AFL2G_10644			
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78					AFL2G_03939			
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78	AN10867	44977	AATEG_04706	AO090012000058	AFL2G_02993		NFIA_026130	Afu7g05040
UGH	unsaturated galacturonyl hydrolase	GH 88				AO090005000324	AFL2G_00324		NFIA_026210	Afu7g05090
UGH	unsaturated galacturonyl hydrolase	GH 88	AN3991	36414		AO090103000087	AFL2G08766		NFIA_023340	Afu1g01250
UGH	unsaturated galacturonyl hydrolase	GH 88	AN11078				AFL2G_06485			
UGH	unsaturated galacturonyl hydrolase	GH 88				AO090701000907				
ABX	exoarabinanase	GH 93	AN2060		AATEG_06045	AO090003001017	AFL2G_02013		NFIA_061320	Afu2g04570
ABX	exoarabinanase	GH 93				AO090011000141	AFL2G_04929			
ABX	exoarabinanase	GH 93	AN5231	49311	AATEG_07909	AO090012000101	AFL2G_03035	ACLA_008170	NFIA_027720	Afu7g06430
ABX	exoarabinanase	GH 93			AATEG_06029					
ABX	exoarabinanase	GH 93			AATEG_00891				NFIA_058060	Afu6g12120
AFC	alpha fucosidase	GH 95	AN8149	184037	AATEG_01560	AO090005000382	AFL2G_00373			
AFC	alpha fucosidase	GH 95				AO090005000512	AFL2G_00515			
AFC	alpha fucosidase	GH 95	AN6673	53702	AATEG_09788	AO090009000086	AFL2G_10565	ACLA_004070	NFIA_040960	Afu5g01190
AFC	alpha fucosidase	GH 95	AN10376		AATEG_04136				NFIA_064720	Afu3g12590
URH	unsaturated rhamnogalacturonyl hydrolase	GH 105	AN3196	41703	AATEG_09707	AO090001000174	AFL2G_07407	ACLA_056060	NFIA_030670	Afu4g02860
URH	unsaturated rhamnogalacturonyl hydrolase	GH 105				AO090003000153	AFL2G_02698			
URH	unsaturated rhamnogalacturonyl hydrolase	GH 105	AN10505			AO090001000063	AFL2G_07368	ACLA_072870	NFIA_089840	Afu2g14630
URH	unsaturated rhamnogalacturonyl hydrolase	GH 105	AN6363	41877	AATEG_02892	AO090113000146	AFL2G_08624	ACLA_077810		
URH	unsaturated rhamnogalacturonyl hydrolase	GH 105	AN7828							
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH115				AO0900050001415	AFL2G_01323			
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH115	AN9329		AATEG_09974	AO090010000038	AFL2G_11304	ACLA_006360	NFIA_025630	Afu7g04680
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH115				AO090001000267	AFL2G_07498			
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH115				AO090113000058				
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1			AATEG_04355					
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1			AATEG_00950	AO090003001295	AFL2G_01776			
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1		55212		AO090010000030	AFL2G_11297		NFIA_028110	Afu7g05030
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1		45821						
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1	AN4882	40837	AATEG_7577	AO090012000121	AFL2G_03052		NFIA_077100	Afu5g10170
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1				AO090012000451	AFL2G_03359			
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1				AO090103000463	AFL2G_11948			
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1	AN10147	208760		AO090138000204	AFL2G_08823			
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1						ACLA_094210	NFIA_033080	Afu2g00800
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1	AN2331	41816		AO090010000504	AFL2G_11666	ACLA_013470	NFIA_076850	Afu5g10380
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1	AN2569		AATEG_01216	AO090010000087	AFL2G_11352			
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1							NFIA_023100	
PEL	pectin lyase	PL 1	AN5439							
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 1	AN741		AATEG_08834	AO090010000673	AFL2G_05417			
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 1	AN5333		AATEG_05467	AO090102000072	AFL2G_09523		NFIA_060270	Afu6g14400
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 1	AN7846	45021	AATEG_08123	AO090701000221	AFL2G_09594		NFIA_033040	Afu2g00760
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 1	AN9367/AN9368			AO090011000030	AFL2G_04835			
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 3	AN6748		AATEG_06314	AO090005000472	AFL2G_00481		NFIA_027690	Afu7g06400
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 3	AN3337		AATEG_06285					
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 3	AN2542			AO090010000706	AFL2G_11646	ACLA_059210	NFIA_096670	Afu6g05910
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 3	AN6106		AATEG_09626	AO090038000502	AFL2G_07639		NFIA_023470	Afu1g01120
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 3	AN8453							
RGL	rhamnogalacturonan lyase	PL 4	AN7135	210947	AATEG_02193	AO090011000349	AFL2G_05136	ACLA_054660	NFIA_028620	Afu4g03780
RGL	rhamnogalacturonan lyase	PL 4	AN6395	47780	AATEG_10327	AO090012000147/A	AFL2G_03075	ACLA_018320	NFIA_008140	Afu1g17230
RGL	rhamnogalacturonan lyase	PL 4	AN12097			AO090113000057				
RGL	rhamnogalacturonan lyase	PL 4			AATEG_08610	AO090138000119	AFL2G_08794		NFIA_094270	Afu8g00820
RGL	rhamnogalacturonan lyase	PL 4	AN3950							
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 9	AN2537			AO090038000131	AFL2G_08953		NFIA_062360	Afu3g14560
PLY	pectate lyase	PL 9			AATEG_03526					
RGL	rhamnogalacturonan lyase	PL 11	AN2543							

Supplemental Table 6C: Detected proteins in cultures grown on wheat bran sorted by number of species that contain an orthologue. The colour codes indicate which percentage of the total number of detected peptides was of the specific protein. (Continued on next page; Please see pdf file for enlarged text).

	0-0.1%	0.1-0.5%	0.5-1%	1-2%	2-5%	5-10%	>10%				
enzyme code								no species with detected protein	no of species with ortholog gene	percentage detected proteins per no. of orthologs	
BGL	beta glucosidase	CAZY 4 <i>A. nidulans</i>	Gh 2 AN4942	ATEG_030147	AO09001000299	AFLO2_01622	AFLO2_01622	ACLA_020810	NFA_019550	Afu1g05710	8
CBH	cellulohydrolase	Gh 7 AN4944	51772	ATEG_050202	AO09001000348	AFLO2_07571	ACLA_065620	ACLA_065620	NFA_023080	Afu1g01800	8
LAC	beta galactosidase	Gh 35 AN0756	51766	ATEG_00618	AO09001200045	AFLO2_03352	ACLA_021260	NFA_011250	Afu1g14170	8	
EXLAFB	beta xylosidase/alpha arabinofuranosidase	Gh 10 AN1217	52097	ATEG_09314	AO09001000274	AFLO2_05912	ACLA_011340	NFA_000150	Afu1g07080	8	
XXL	endoxylinase	Gh 10 AN1618	39768	ATEG_00509	AO09001000387	AFLO2_06449	ACLA_048770	NFA_105540	Afu1g09580	7	
GLA	glucosylase	Gh 15 AN1143	21397	ATEG_04375	AO09001000746	AFLO2_11108	ACLA_081800	NFA_032980	Afu2g00890	7	
AOD	alpha glucosidase	Gh 21 AN0941	119853	ATEG_05177	AO090005001084	AFLO2_01038	ACLA_019300	NFA_000180	Afu1g16250	7	
AXH	arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase	Gh 10 AN2632	2522	ATEG_00424	AO09001000886	AFLO2_06449	ACLA_061300	NFA_033370	Afu1g09580	7	
CBH	cellulohydrolase	Gh 6 AN5282	5448	ATEG_07493	AO09002300011	AFLO2_04039	ACLA_062560	NFA_025290	Afu3g19110	6	
EXLAFB	exocarbananase	Gh 5 AN2606	ATEG_06045	AO090003001017	AFLO2_02623	AFLO2_02623	ACLA_062400	NFA_031180	Afu1g04470	6	
AGL	alpha galactosidase	Gh 5 AN8401	41608	ATEG_02180	AO090023000151	AFLO2_12263	ACLA_062400	NFA_031180	Afu1g05350	6	
ABN*	endarabinanase	Gh 4 AN8007	19773	ATEG_00000	AO090023000055	AFLO2_08737	ACLA_062560	NFA_025290	Afu3g00770	6	
XXL	endoxylinase	Gh 11 AN3035	5247	ATEG_07461	AO090023000151	AFLO2_12263	ACLA_062560	NFA_025290	Afu3g00770	6	
ABF	alpha arabinofuranosidase	Gh 54 AN1571	20066	ATEG_07939	AO090023000001	AFLO2_03901	ACLA_066470	NFA_049530	Afu1g14620	6	
EGL	endoglucanase	Gh 3 AN1266	20550	ATEG_05502	AO090023000135	AFLO2_03906	ACLA_062560	NFA_025290	Afu1g16800	5	
BGL	beta glucosidase	Gh 5 AN7295	17924	ATEG_01020	AO090010003053	AFLO2_03906	ACLA_062560	NFA_025290	Afu1g17410	5	
XXL	endoxylinase	Gh 10 AN7401	ATEG_03410	AO090103000326	AFLO2_12071	AFLO2_12071	ACLA_066810	NFA_031670	Afu1g13810	5	
XG EOL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	Gh 12 AN1866	ATEG_07420	AO090006000102	AFLO2_07140	AFLO2_07140	ACLA_007820	NFA_027400	Afu2g04860	5	
POX	exopolygalacturonase	Gh 29 AN8761	42114	ATEG_07152	AO090020000784	AFLO2_06533	ACLA_062560	NFA_045300	Afu2g02990	5	
LAC	beta galactosidase	Gh 35 AN0960	46429	ATEG_05131	AO090120000158	AFLO2_08102	AFLO2_08102	NFA_000890	Afu1g16700	5	
RGAE	rharnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	Ce 12 AN2523	189254	ATEG_03511	AO09001000556	AFLO2_06177	ALCL_041970	NFA_062750	Afu3g14510	5	
CBH	cellulohydrolase	Gh 10 AN2827	93868	ATEG_01327	AO090023000041	AFLO2_03105	ACLA_038870	NFA_025720	Afu1g07070	5	
PGX	exopolygalacturonase	Gh 28 AN8591	191158	ATEG_10357	AO090010002763	AFLO2_11892	ACLA_043100	NFA_096340	Afu2g02830	5	
REL	exo cellulase	Gh 32 AN11778	58994	ATEG_08155	AO09001000400	AFLO2_06028	ACLA_094500	NFA_033540	Afu1g01240	5	
ABF	alpha arabinofuranosidase	Gh 11 AN9439	13197	ATEG_07886	AO090012000206	AFLO2_06216	ACLA_061420	NFA_035400	Afu2g15190	4	
PEL	pectin lyase	R_L 1 AN2569	ATEG_02116	AO090010000087	AFLO2_11352	AFLO2_11352	ACLA_062920	NFA_033900	Afu2g00650	4	
AMY	alpha amylase	R_L 9 AN3402	4779	ATEG_10103	AO090003000594	AFLO2_03285	ACLA_062920	NFA_033900	Afu2g00650	4	
ABF	alpha arabinofuranosidase	R_L 9 AN8472	ATEG_048472	AO090023000031	AFLO2_03285	AFLO2_03285	ACLA_062360	NFA_023080	Afu3g14890	4	
PLY	pectate lyase	R_L 9 AN2537	ATEG_02937	AO090023000031	AFLO2_08953	AFLO2_08953	NFA_000890	Afu1g14890	4		
PME	pectin methyl esterase	Ce 6 AN3390	214857	ATEG_00000	AO090102000110	AFLO2_09467	NFA_099600	Afu1g06880	4		
XGH	xyloglucanase	Gh 10 AN3339	40886	ATEG_00000	AO090102000122	AFLO2_09467	NFA_099600	Afu1g06880	4		
GUS	beta glucuronidase	Gh 2 AN2395	52111	ATEG_01031	AO090023000053	AFLO2_03956	NFA_089700	Afu2g14520	4		
BGL	beta glucosidase	Gh 10 AN2828	ATEG_07419	AO090010000041	AFLO2_06408	AFLO2_06408	ACLA_007810	NFA_027390	Afu2g08140	4	
ABF	alpha arabinofuranosidase	Gh 11 AN7979	133689	ATEG_01193	AO090003000439	AFLO2_07778	ACLA_025580	NFA_015880	Afu1g04470	4	
ANB	endorabinanase	Gh 43 AN1200	182100	ATEG_07817	AO090026000004	AFLO2_06513	ACLA_072730	NFA_039980	Afu2g14750	4	
GAL	endogalactanase	Gh 53 AN6727	197227	ATEG_02927	AO090001000492	AFLO2_09135	NFA_017780	Afu1g08910	4		
PLY	pectate lyase	R_L 1 AN17646	45221	ATEG_01233	AO090010000321	AFLO2_09584	NFA_032040	Afu2g00780	4		
FAE SFS	feruloyl esterase	Ce 1 AN5287	43785	ATEG_09112	AO090023000158	AFLO2_04047	ACLA_055050	NFA_039720	Afu2g14630	4	
PME	pectin methyl esterase	Ce 6 AN4960	174365	ATEG_01704	AO090020000404	AFLO2_10918	ACLA_035610	NFA_095900	Afu3g07650	4	
MAN	endomannanase	Gh 5 AN3358	53976	ATEG_09554	AO090010000122	AFLO2_11381	ACLA_066420	NFA_113780	Afu1g01070	4	
AGL	alpha galactosidase	Gh 21 AN7624	207254	ATEG_09530	AO090003001305	AFLO2_01785	ACLA_003130	NFA_039960	Afu2g01230	4	
AGU	alpha glucosidase	Gh 31 AN2017	214233	ATEG_00723	AO090003001209	AFLO2_01842	ACLA_049370	NFA_195900	Afu1g01800	4	
AGD	alpha glucuronidase	Gh 67 AN6526	59819	ATEG_06085	AO090002000127	AFLO2_01174	ACLA_017270	NFA_072510	Afu1g14380	4	
RGL	rharnogalacturonan lyase	Gh 4 AN7135	21947	ATEG_02193	AO090010000346	AFLO2_05158	ACLA_054660	NFA_029820	Afu4g03750	4	
XXL	endoxylinase	Gh 20 AN12074	ATEG_07190	AO090023000135	AFLO2_03906	AFLO2_03906	NFA_061880	Afu3g15210	3		
EGL	endoglucanase	Gh 11 AN3756	ATEG_01905	AO090023000111	AFLO2_07812	AFLO2_07812	NFA_046580	Afu6g02560	3		
AGD	alpha glucosidase	Gh 21 AN2017	ATEG_00000	AO090023000135	AFLO2_03906	AFLO2_03906	ACLA_062560	NFA_025290	Afu3g00770	3	
EGL	endoglucanase	Gh 7 AN8705	ATEG_08705	AO090120000185	AFLO2_02658	AFLO2_02658	ACLA_008940	NFA_047980	Afu6g1800	3	
GLA	glucosylase	Gh 15 AN1266	ATEG_05502	AO090023000321	AFLO2_02658	AFLO2_02658	ACLA_062560	NFA_025290	Afu2g09710	3	
SUC	invertase/beta fructofuranosidase	Gh 32 AN8063	ATEG_07479	AO090005000448	AFLO2_10707	AFLO2_10707	NFA_039960	Afu1g01800	3		
ABF	alpha arabinofuranosidase	Gh 43 AN7781	ATEG_06306	AO090005000085	AFLO2_00306	AFLO2_00306	ACLA_018160	NFA_033900	Afu1g16820	3	
BXL	beta xylosidase	Gh 3 AN8477	ATEG_01929	AO090023000031	AFLO2_06974	AFLO2_06974	NFA_000890	Afu1g16820	3		
ABF	beta xylosidase	Gh 3 AN2339	205678	ATEG_05106	AO090005000986	AFLO2_00657	NFA_002750	Afu3g16860	3		
BXL	beta xylosidase	Gh 43 AN2533	ATEG_10072	AO090010000838	AFLO2_06400	AFLO2_06400	NFA_002750	Afu3g16860	3		
EGL	endoglucanase	Gh 5 AN8068	ATEG_09802	AO090003001541	AFLO2_01726	AFLO2_01726	NFA_040280	Afu1g01830	3		
MAN	endomannanase	Gh 6 AN7639	ATEG_00000	AO090030000444	AFLO2_07781	AFLO2_07781	ACLA_044470	NFA_099770	Afu3g07030	3	
BXL	beta xylosidase	Gh 5 AN10199	ATEG_00000	AO090005000999	AFLO2_11296	AFLO2_11296	ACLA_013470	NFA_099800	Afu1g01040	3	
PLY	pectate lyase	R_L 3 AN2542	ATEG_02000	AO090010000706	AFLO2_11846	AFLO2_11846	ACLA_059210	NFA_098670	Afu2g05910	3	
ROX	exorhamnogalacturonase	Gh 28 AN10274	194461	ATEG_09025	AO090102000139	AFLO2_09582	NFA_027700	Afu1g06410	3		
PEL	pectin lyase	R_L 4 AN2331	41815	ATEG_00000	AO09010000504	AFLO2_09582	ACLA_013470	NFA_078500	Afu1g03080	3	
AXE	acetyl-xylan esterase	Ce 1 AN6093	211544	ATEG_09843	AO090011000745	AFLO2_05471	ACLA_081220	NFA_099230	Afu2g06570	3	
BGL	beta glucosidase	Gh 3 AN10482	208871	ATEG_06617	AO090001000544	AFLO2_09187	ACLA_083710	NFA_064350	Afu6g08700	3	
AGD	alpha glucosidase	Gh 57 AN6289	55419	ATEG_09528	AO090005000767	AFLO2_00760	ACLA_031260	NFA_021450	Afu1g03140	3	
BGL	beta glucosidase	Gh 3 AN1266	ATEG_00000	AO090023000223	AFLO2_09023	AFLO2_09023	NFA_033900	Afu1g01800	2		
MAN	endomannanase	Gh 6 AN8427	ATEG_09991	AO090023000135	AFLO2_03906	AFLO2_03906	NFA_025290	Afu3g00770	2		
XXL	endoxylinase	Gh 10 AN7401	ATEG_03410	AO090103000326	AFLO2_12071	AFLO2_12071	NFA_031670	Afu1g13810	2		
ANB	endorabinanase	Gh 43 AN1200	ATEG_07817	AO090026000004	AFLO2_06513	AFLO2_06513	NFA_039980	Afu2g14750	2		
ABX	exocarbananase	Gh 93 AN10011	ATEG_00000	AO090011000141	AFLO2_04029	AFLO2_04029	NFA_000890	Afu1g16820	2		
BXL	beta xylosidase	Gh 3 AN8477	ATEG_01929	AO090010000706	AFLO2_01029	AFLO2_01029	NFA_000890	Afu1g16820	2		
XXL	endoxylinase	Gh 10 AN7401	ATEG_03410	AO090103000326	AFLO2_12071	AFLO2_12071	NFA_031670	Afu1g13810	2		
ABX	exocarbananase	Gh 93 AN10011	ATEG_00891	AO090103000423	AFLO2_11993	AFLO2_11993	NFA_058060	Afu1g2120	2		
PEL	pectin lyase	R_L 1 AN2569	ATEG_02116	AO090010000087	AFLO2_11352	AFLO2_11352	ACLA_062920	NFA_033900	Afu2g00650	2	
FAE SFS	feruloyl esterase	Ce 1 AN5287	ATEG_09644	AO090010000884	AFLO2_04646	AFLO2_04646	ACLA_061510	NFA_033900	Afu2g00650	2	
RGAE	rharnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	Ce 12 AN10018	51400	ATEG_10018	AO090102000092	AFLO2_09543	ACLA_044240	NFA_095020	Afu3g01520	2	
PME	pectin methyl esterase	Ce 8 AN4855	ATEG_00000	AO090012000749	AFLO2_03618	AFLO2_03618	ACLA_044240	NFA_095020	Afu3g01520	2	

Supplemental Table 6D: Detected proteins in cultures grown on sugar beet pulp sorted by number of species that contain an orthologue. The colour codes indicate which percentage of the total number of detected peptides was of the specific protein. (Continued on next page; Please see pdf file for enlarged text).

		0-0.1%	0.1-0.5%	0.5-1%	1-2%	2-5%	5-10%	>10%					
enzyme code	function	CAZY	<i>A. nidulans</i>	<i>A. niger</i>	<i>A. terreus</i>	<i>A. oryzae</i>	<i>A. flavus</i>	<i>A. clavatus</i>	<i>A. fischeri</i>	<i>A. fumigatus</i>	no. species with detected protein	no. of species with ortholog of gene	percentage detected proteins per no. of orthologs
FAE SFS	feruloyl esterase	CE 1		ATEG_01914							1	1	100
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8 AN2390	21426		AO09012000010	AFLQ2_08467		NFIA_09960	A16q05650		6	6	100
ROAE	rhmannogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12			AO09000300185	AFLQ2_01797					2	2	100
ROAE	rhmannogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12						NFIA_09910	A16q02440		2	2	100
BGL	beta galactosidase	GH 3			AO09030000223	AFLQ2_09023					2	2	100
BGL	beta galactosidase	GH 3			ATEG_07931						1	1	100
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5			ATEG_06903						1	1	100
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5 AN2397			ATEG_09991						1	1	100
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5 AN6427			ATEG_09991						2	2	100
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5 AN676									1	1	100
		GH5			ATEG_03677						1	1	100
XLN	xyloglucanase	GH 10									2	2	100
XLN	xyloglucanase	GH 11 AN1513			AO090001000208	AFLQ2_07437					1	1	100
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12			ATEG_09894						1	1	100
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 13				AFLQ2_08994					1	1	100
MAN	endomannanase	GH 26 AN1413									1	1	100
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27			ATEG_01905						3	3	100
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27 AN1752	41609		ATEG_02149			NFIA_04850	A16q02560		7	7	100
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28			43957			NFIA_02990	A16q02590		1	1	100
PGA	endopolygalacturonase	GH 28			182156						1	1	100
SUC	invertase/beta fructofuranosidase	GH 32			ATEG_10253						1	1	100
ABN	endocarbananase	GH 43			AO090005000064	AFLQ2_00085					2	2	100
ABN	endocarbananase	GH 43			ATEG_03088						1	1	100
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 43			ATEG_10183						1	1	100
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61			ATEG_10194						1	1	100
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 61 AN2966									1	1	100
AXH	arabinoxylan arabinofuranosylhydrolase	GH 62			AN1958						1	1	100
AXH	arabinoxylan arabinofuranosylhydrolase	GH 62			ATEG_10493						1	1	100
RHL	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 78									1	1	100
ABX	arabinanase	GH 10 AN2900			ATEG_06445	AO090003001197	AFLQ2_03039				6	6	100
URH	unsaturated rhmannogalacturonyl hydrolase	GH 105 AN1268						NFIA_06120	A16q06470		1	1	100
PLY	pectate lyase	FL 3 AN2537			ATEG_06285						2	2	100
PLY	pectate lyase	FL 3 AN6453									1	1	100
RGL	rhmannogalacturonan lyase	FL 4 AN2950									1	1	100
RGL	rhmannogalacturonan lyase	FL 11 AN2543			ATEG_03529						1	1	100
PGX	expolygalacturonase	GH 28			178172						1	1	100
PGX	expolygalacturonase	GH 28 AN2945									1	1	100
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH 115			ATEG_04355						1	1	100
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8 AN4680	17495	ATEG_01704	AO090002000044	AFLQ2_06161	ACLA_035810	NFIA_09950	A16q07450		7	8	88
BXLABF	beta xylosidase/alpha arabinofuranosidase	GH 3 AN2117	50997	ATEG_05114	AO090001000274	AFLQ2_05912	ACLA_010340	NFIA_09910	A16q07060		7	8	88
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35 AN1756	51754	ATEG_06116	AO090001200445	AFLQ2_03352	ACLA_021260	NFIA_011720	A16q14170		7	8	88
ABF	alpha arabinofuranosidase	GH 54 AN1571	330915	ATEG_07109	AO090002000001	AFLQ2_03901	ACLA_066470	NFIA_09910	A16q04800		7	8	88
AXH	arabinoxylan arabinofuranosylhydrolase	GH 62 AN2032	54189	ATEG_10071	AO090001000885	AFLQ2_06447	ACLA_061910	NFIA_03310	A16q02030		7	8	88
PGX	expolygalacturonase	GH 28 AN1761	42184	ATEG_07163	AO090002000784	AFLQ2_04820		NFIA_04920	A16q03990		6	7	86
CBH	cellobiohydrolase	GH 6 AN2032	54490	ATEG_07493			ACLA_062560	NFIA_02290	A16q01910		5	6	83
ROAE	rhmannogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12 AN2034						NFIA_02040	A16q03250		4	5	80
ABF	alpha arabinofuranosidase	GH 43 AN2472			AO090001200036	AFLQ2_03365		NFIA_03290	A16q00650		4	5	80
RGL	rhmannogalacturonan lyase	FL 4			ATEG_08610	AO090130000119	AFLQ2_08794		NFIA_09470	A16q02050	4	5	80
CBH	cellobiohydrolase	GH 7 AN1776	53179	ATEG_03192	AO090001000941	AFLQ2_03805	ACLA_048870	NFIA_04570	A16q07070		6	8	75
XLN	xyloglucanase	GH 10 AN1613	57436	ATEG_00009	AO090001000887	AFLQ2_06449	ACLA_048770	NFIA_10540	A16q04940		6	8	75
XLN	xyloglucanase	GH 11 AN2965			AO090002000026	AFLQ2_08086	ACLA_064180	NFIA_02080	A16q02920		6	8	75
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13			AO090100000196		ACLA_094070	NFIA_03990	A16q09710		3	4	75
GLX	glucanase	GH 15 AN11143	21957	ATEG_04375	AO09000000746	AFLQ2_11885	ACLA_094880	NFIA_03320	A16q00990		6	8	75
PGX	expolygalacturonase	GH 28 AN2891	191165	ATEG_18257	AO090001000753	AFLQ2_11922	ACLA_043100	NFIA_09640	A16q02526		6	8	75
INV	meso invertase	GH 32 AN11778	56664	ATEG_08156	AO090001000406	AFLQ2_06408	ACLA_094550	NFIA_02560	A16q01240		6	8	75
SUC	invertase/beta fructofuranosidase	GH 32			189083	ATEG_07479	AO090002000840	AFLQ2_10707			3	4	75
ABF	alpha arabinofuranosidase	GH 43 AN1781			ATEG_08186	AO090005000095					3	4	75
PME	pectin lyase	FL 1 AN2568			ATEG_01216	AO090001000087	AFLQ2_11352				3	4	75
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35 AN2080	45429	ATEG_06131	AO090001000198	AFLQ2_06162		NFIA_02040	A16q11400		5	7	71
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5 AN2965			ATEG_09002	AO090000012414	AFLQ2_01726		NFIA_04020	A16q05800	4	6	67
XLN	xyloglucanase	GH 10			ATEG_08006	AO090001000423	AFLQ2_11983				2	3	67
XLN	xyloglucanase	GH 10			ATEG_07190			NFIA_06180	A16q15210		2	3	67
XGH	xyloglucanase	GH 28 AN2389	46955		AO090001200011	AFLQ2_09468		NFIA_09910	A16q06890		4	6	67
AGD	alpha glucosidase	GH 31 AN2953			AO090002000471	AFLQ2_07812					2	3	67
XG CBH	xyloglucan active cellobiohydrolase	GH 74 AN1542						NFIA_09900	A16q02030		2	3	67
PEL	pectin lyase	FL 1					ACLA_094210	NFIA_03300	A16q00900		2	3	67
PLY	pectate lyase	FL 3			ATEG_06106	AO090003000502	AFLQ2_07839		NFIA_023470	A16q01120	4	6	67
BGL	beta galactosidase	GH 5 AN4102	58782	ATEG_03047	AO090000000336	AFLQ2_10322	ACLA_028910	NFIA_018950	A16q05770		5	8	63
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5 AN2358	52379	ATEG_08164	AO090000000192	AFLQ2_11381	ACLA_056420	NFIA_11370	A16q01690		5	8	63
CBH	cellobiohydrolase	GH 7 AN2084	51179	ATEG_06263	AO090001000348	AFLQ2_07571	ACLA_038330	NFIA_05730	A16q11610		5	8	63
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 43 AN1713	122078	ATEG_01188	AO090001000562	AFLQ2_11714	ACLA_043260	NFIA_096240	A16q02010		5	8	63
ABF	alpha arabinofuranosidase	GH 51 AN6436	13191	ATEG_02163	AO090001000526	AFLQ2_06447	ACLA_071420	NFIA_066410	A16q01610		5	8	63
RGL	rhmannogalacturonan lyase	FL 4 AN2956	21094	ATEG_02163	AO090001000526	AFLQ2_06447	ACLA_071420	NFIA_066410	A16q01610		5	8	63
RGL	rhmannogalacturonan lyase	FL 4 AN2956	47780	ATEG_18257	AO090001200147	AFLQ2_09076	ACLA_018320	NFIA_068140	A16q17230		5	8	63
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13 AN2402	47817	ATEG_10103	AO090001000087	AFLQ2_09076	ACLA_018320	NFIA_068140	A16q17230		3	5	60
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 43 AN1919			ATEG_18072	AO090001000029	AFLQ2_11298		NFIA_06330		3	5	60
PLY	pectate lyase	FL 1 AN2533			ATEG_05467	AO090001000072	AFLQ2_09923		NFIA_09920	A16q14400	3	5	60
PLY	pectate lyase	FL 3 AN2537			AO090000000151	AFLQ2_08563		NFIA_06290	A16q14460		3	5	60
XG EGL	xyloglucan active endoglucanase	GH 12			21983	ATEG_07420	AO090002000102	ACLA_077820	NFIA_027400	A16q08150	4	7	57
ROX	exo-rhmannogalacturonase	GH 20 AN10274	15481	ATEG_00025	AO090000000198	AFLQ2_09654		NFIA_02770	A16q106410		4	7	57
LAC	beta galactosidase	GH 35			177454	ATEG_07446	AO090003000042	ACLA_088440	NFIA_052310	A16q05660	4	7	57
ABN	endocarbananase	GH 43 AN2007	197738		AO090001800055	AFLQ2_08737	ACLA_09890	NFIA_047920	A16q07170		4	7	57

Closely related fungi deploy diverse enzymatic strategies to degrade plant biomass

Supplemental Table 6D Cont: Detected proteins in cultures grown on sugar beet pulp sorted by number of species that contain an orthologue. (Please see pdf file for enlarged text).

GAL	endogalactanase	GH 53 AN3727	187227 ATEG_02927	AO09001000402	AFJLQ_09135	ACLA_013470	NFA_011770	AFJLQ_09016	4	7	57
PEL	pectin lyase	R_1 AN2531	41616	AO09001000504	AFJLQ_11668	ACLA_013470	NFA_076550	AFJLQ_01630	4	7	57
XG EGL	xyligucan active endoglucanase	GH 12	191511	AO09001000804	AFJLQ_06048	ACLA_100330	NFA_100330		1	2	50
FAE SFS	feruloyl esterase	CE 1	51400 ATEG_10016	AO09001000902	AFJLQ_09543				2	4	50
RGAE	ramnogalacturonan acetyl esterase	CE 12	189254 ATEG_03011	AO09001000558	AFJLQ_06177	ACLA_041970	NFA_062750	AFJLQ_041610	4	8	50
LAC	laminarivianin acetyl esterase	GH 2 AN2467							1	2	50
BGL	beta galactosidase	GH 3 AN2812							1	2	50
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5 AN1188	205580 ATEG_05502	AO09003000303	AFJLQ_06177	ACLA_061970	NFA_057290	AFJLQ_061770	3	6	50
AMY	alpha amylase	GH 13 AN2382							1	2	50
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27 AN2724	207264 ATEG_08330	AO090030001305	AFJLQ_01765	ACLA_003130	NFA_039990	AFJLQ_02130	4	8	50
PGA	endoxygalacturonase	GH 28 AN2327	46255	AO09001000360	AFJLQ_01257	ACLA_072670	NFA_088160	AFJLQ_017220	2	4	50
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 43 AN8264							3	6	50
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 43 AN8477							2	4	50
ABF	alpha arabinofuranosidase	GH 51	59979	AO09001000340	AFJLQ_06177	ACLA_018160			1	2	50
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 81 AN6426							1	2	50
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH 67 AN2696	56619 ATEG_06585	AO09002000127	AFJLQ_07114	ACLA_017270	NFA_072510	AFJLQ_04380	3	6	50
XG EGL	xyligucan active endoglucanase	GH 74 AN2561	206333 ATEG_04708	AO09001100014	AFJLQ_04629	ACLA_044310	NFA_094990	AFJLQ_01490	3	6	50
ABX	exocarbananase	GH 93							1	2	50
AFC	alpha fucosidase	GH 95 AN6873	53702 ATEG_09788	AO09000000068	AFJLQ_05858	ACLA_004070	NFA_040460	AFJLQ_01190	4	8	50
URH	unsaturated ramnogalacturonyl hydrolase	GH 106 AN11656							3	6	50
URH	unsaturated ramnogalacturonyl hydrolase	GH 106 AN2828							3	6	50
ALU	alpha glucuronidase	GH115	41877 ATEG_02992	AO090113000146	AFJLQ_08024	ACLA_078190			1	2	50
RGU	pectate lyase	R_3 AN8740							1	2	50
BGL	beta galactosidase	GH 3 AN2828							3	7	43
BXL	beta xylosidase/alpha arabinofuranosidase	GH 3 AN8401							3	7	43
XLN	endoxygalacturonase	GH 28 AN2401							3	7	43
PGA	endoxygalacturonase	GH 28	172944 ATEG_01601	AO090050001400	AFJLQ_01310	ACLA_036670	NFA_066640	AFJLQ_034470	3	7	43
RGU	pectate lyase	R_1 AN2746	45021 ATEG_08123	AO09001000371	AFJLQ_06584	ACLA_065840	NFA_033040	AFJLQ_02760	3	7	43
AQL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27	37736 ATEG_04362						2	5	40
ABF	alpha arabinofuranosidase	GH 43 AN2533							2	5	40
RGU	pectate lyase	R_3 AN2828							2	5	40
FAE SFS	feruloyl esterase	CE 1 AN2587	43785 ATEG_08112	AO09001000902	AFJLQ_09647	ACLA_058210	NFA_080870	AFJLQ_06910	2	5	40
PME	pectin methyl esterase	CE 8	44585	AO090012002749	AFJLQ_03610	ACLA_044240	NFA_095020	AFJLQ_01520	2	6	33
BGL	beta galactosidase	GH 3 AN1404							1	3	33
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 3 AN2938	205670 ATEG_01506	AO09005000398	AFJLQ_09587				1	3	33
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 3	44585	AO090011000140	AFJLQ_04628				1	3	33
MAN	endomannanase	GH 5 AN2739							2	6	33
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 7							1	3	33
GLA	glucanase	GH 15 AN2402							1	3	33
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28							2	6	33
ABF	alpha arabinofuranosidase	GH 51 AN2541							2	6	33
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 81							2	6	33
AAXH	arabinoxylan arabinofuranosylhydrolase	GH 62							2	6	33
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 76	42616 ATEG_03618	AO09006000471	AFJLQ_10227	ACLA_071560	NFA_061920	AFJLQ_01910	2	6	33
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 76 AN7151							2	6	33
ABX	exocarbananase	GH 93							1	3	33
BGL	beta galacturonidase	GH 2 AN2936	52111 ATEG_10331	AO09002000053	AFJLQ_03958				2	7	29
GUS	beta glucuronidase	GH 5 AN2796	179265 ATEG_10320	AO09005000353	AFJLQ_01447	ACLA_081650	NFA_007920	AFJLQ_017410	2	7	29
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5 AN2514							2	7	29
CBH	exo 1,6 galactanase	GH 5 AN2156	184447 ATEG_10242	AO090012000406	AFJLQ_02982				2	7	29
GNL	cellobiohydrolase	GH 6 AN1773	133088 ATEG_00193	AO09003000439	AFJLQ_07776	ACLA_025580	NFA_015680	AFJLQ_01540	2	7	29
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 7							2	7	29
XLN	endoxygalacturonase	GH 11	171289 ATEG_04943	AO09001000111	AFJLQ_07347	ACLA_085410	NFA_088160	AFJLQ_12210	2	7	29
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 43 AN2715							2	7	29
AGU	alpha glucuronidase	GH115 AN2938							2	7	29
RHG	endoxygalacturonase	GH 28	211183 ATEG_07607	AO09001000484	AFJLQ_11646				2	4	25
ABX	exocarbin ester	CE 1 AN2693	211544 ATEG_09943	AO090011000745	AFJLQ_05471	ACLA_081220	NFA_099220	AFJLQ_06070	2	8	25
GE	glucuronoyl esterase	CE15							1	4	25
BGL	beta galactosidase	GH 3 AN11482	208871 ATEG_06617	AO09001000544	AFJLQ_09187	ACLA_083710	NFA_054350	AFJLQ_08700	2	8	25
GLA	glucanase	GH 15							1	4	25
PGA	endoxygalacturonase	GH 28 AN4372	141877 ATEG_04981	AO09002000041	AFJLQ_14252	ACLA_052860	NFA_102450	AFJLQ_013920	2	8	25
AGD	alpha galactosidase	GH 31 AN2917	214233 ATEG_00723	AO090030001209	AFJLQ_01842	ACLA_049370	NFA_105900	AFJLQ_01050	2	8	25
LAC	laminarivianin acetyl esterase	GH 31 AN2917	118650 ATEG_05177	AO090050001084	AFJLQ_01838	ACLA_019300	NFA_069180	AFJLQ_06250	2	8	25
BGL	beta galactosidase	GH 35	41910	AO09001000316	AFJLQ_03616				1	4	25
ABRI	endoarabinanase	GH 43 AN2634	23918 ATEG_03320	AO090071000481	AFJLQ_06106	ACLA_042100	NFA_062960	AFJLQ_04620	2	8	25
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 43 AN1370	178622 ATEG_06559	AO09003000299	AFJLQ_09736	ACLA_090090	NFA_001240	AFJLQ_04480	2	8	25
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 81 AN11641	52688 ATEG_06448	AO09001000221	AFJLQ_07454	ACLA_022960	NFA_012990	AFJLQ_01260	2	8	25
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 81 AN11602	182430 ATEG_07790	AO09005000551	AFJLQ_06532	ACLA_059790	NFA_099510	AFJLQ_06830	2	8	25
PLY	pectate lyase	R_1 AN8744							1	4	25
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 81 AN27891	194765	AO09138000004	AFJLQ_08699				1	4	25
AXL	alpha xylosidase	GH 31	43342 ATEG_08390	AO090071000639	AFJLQ_06239				1	5	20
PGA	endoxygalacturonase	GH 28 AN2656	59185	AO090050001106	AFJLQ_09201				1	5	20
RGX	exorhamnogalacturonase	GH 28	42817	AO090000000470	AFJLQ_10228				1	5	20
AFC	alpha fucosidase	GH 95 AN8149	184037 ATEG_01560	AO09005000362	AFJLQ_00373				1	5	20
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 28	52219	AO09002000161	AFJLQ_04548				1	5	20
?		GH 3 AN3360	37673 ATEG_04963			ACLA_052760	NFA_102600	AFJLQ_01370	1	6	17
CO	cellulose oxidase	GH 81 AN2624	53797 ATEG_07620	AO090012000990	AFJLQ_03026				1	6	17
RHA	alpha rhamnosidase	GH 76 AN18977	170172	AO090030001291	AFJLQ_01780				1	6	17
XG	beta 1,6 glucanase	GH 5 AN3777							1	6	17
BGL	beta galactosidase	GH 1 AN2913	131747 ATEG_02657	AO09012000075	AFJLQ_08111				1	7	14
EGL	endoglucanase	GH 5	214686 ATEG_04390	AO090010007616	AFJLQ_05447	ACLA_081310	NFA_091610	AFJLQ_09520	1	7	14
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 27 AN2002	172322 ATEG_03427	AO09005000217	AFJLQ_06225				1	7	14
ABRI	endoarabinanase	GH 43	182100 ATEG_07117	AO090050002004	AFJLQ_06113	ACLA_072720	NFA_039990	AFJLQ_04760	1	7	14
AGT	exo 1,3 galactanase	GH 5 AN4652	202490 ATEG_03848	AO090030009990	AFJLQ_02039	ACLA_031040	NFA_021060	AFJLQ_03900	1	8	13
EXT	4 alpha glucuronotransferase	GH 13 AN2308	188489 ATEG_03623	AO090030001489	AFJLQ_01584	ACLA_063440	NFA_001710	AFJLQ_03000	1	8	13
AGD	alpha galactosidase	GH 31 AN2300	55419 ATEG_02528	AO09005000767	AFJLQ_00750	ACLA_031260	NFA_021450	AFJLQ_03140	1	8	13
AGL	alpha galactosidase	GH 36 AN1876	212736 ATEG_07829	AO09001000684	AFJLQ_11824	ACLA_044620	NFA_094580	AFJLQ_01130	1	8	13
BXL	beta xylosidase	GH 43 AN2784	47677 ATEG_01292	AO09012000331	AFJLQ_09750	ACLA_072000	NFA_088370	AFJLQ_03190	1	8	13
MND	beta mannosidase	GH 2 AN1142	138076 ATEG_06636	AO09001000856	AFJLQ_09261	ACLA_085570	NFA_054480	AFJLQ_06840	1	8	13

Chapter 3

Analysis of the molecular basis for the aberrant phenotype of *Aspergillus vadensis* compared to other black Aspergilli

Culleton, H.M., Zhou, M., Kowalczyk, J., Patyshakuliyeva, A., de Lely, P., Czech, A.S., van Bers, N.E.M., de Haan, J.R., McKie, V.A. and de Vries, R.P. 2014.
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Abstract

In the recent past, much research has been applied to the development of *Aspergillus*, most notably *A. niger* and *A. oryzae*, as hosts for recombinant protein production. Recently *A. vadensis*, a close relative of *A. niger*, has been suggested as a suitable and more favourable alternative for recombinant protein production as it does not acidify the culture medium and produces very low levels of extracellular proteases. Generated growth profiles of this species on a variety of different carbon sources revealed further phenotypical differences, with *A. vadensis* possessing a distinct inability to degrade maltose or starch compared to the other black *Aspergilli*. In this study we examined the molecular differences between *A. vadensis* and six other species of black *Aspergilli* with a particular focus on the *prtT* and *amyR* Zn2Cys6 regulatory gene loci on chromosome VI to examine if the lack of protease and amylase gene expression is due to a mutation/deletion in this area.

Introduction

The black Aspergilli (*Aspergillus* section *Nigri*) form an important subgroup of the genus *Aspergillus*, of which *A. vadensis* is a recently identified and novel member. Over the past 25 years, much research has been dedicated to the development of *Aspergillus*, most notably *A. niger* and *A. oryzae*, as hosts for the industrial production of recombinant proteins. To date however, yields for heterologous protein production still remain low due in part, to the acidification of the media due to the production of organic acids in the case of *A. niger* but also due to the presence of high levels of secreted proteases which effectively degrade many heterologous proteins [33]. Despite considerable progress being made in the development of host strains with reduced levels of secreted proteases [5, 21], these issues remain of significant importance in the area of fungal strain development. As a result, much research has been applied to the identification and assessment of the regulatory pathways involved in the induction of protease gene expression [13, 14, 16, 31]. Based on the available genome sequences from various *Aspergillus* species, the number of protease genes found in the fungal genome was between 100-200 [23], the regulation of which was revealed to be very complicated and interrelated with the global carbon, nitrogen and pH regulatory circuits [5, 15, 16]. Recently, however, Punt *et al.* (2008) identified the PrtT regulatory protein, a homologue of which was found to be present in many *Aspergillus* species and which was shown to govern expression of many secreted protease genes, including the major alkaline protease *alpA* and neutral protease *Np1* in *A. oryzae* and the aspergillopepsin encoding gene *pepA* in *A. niger* [25]. Furthermore, in all *Aspergillus* species carrying a *prtT* orthologue, a gene cluster related to starch degradation, including the Zn2Cys6 regulatory gene *amyR*, is present directly upstream of the *prtT* locus [25].

A. vadensis, a close relative of *A. niger*, has been suggested as a suitable and more favourable alternative to both *A. niger* and *A. oryzae* for recombinant protein production as it does not acidify the culture medium and produces very low levels of extracellular proteases thus facilitating heterologous protein production and many downstream processes [9]. To date, the use of His-tag affinity chromatography in fungal systems has not been either efficient or practical in fungal systems due to the difficulties experienced with degradation of the Histidine residues by extracellular proteases. Purification of recombinant enzymes from *A. vadensis* through His-tag affinity chromatography has been shown to be successful (Culleton *et al.* 2014), suggesting its potential as a versatile host in the fundamental research of proteins and for industrial enzyme production.

In this study we examined the molecular and phenotypical differences between *A. vadensis* and six other species of black Aspergilli i.e. *A. niger*, *A. acidus*, *A. aculeatus*, *A. carbonarius*, *A. brasiliensis* and *A. tubingensis*. We analysed the generated growth

profiles of the individual species on a variety of carbon sources to determine if *A. vadensis* has a similar ability for plant biomass degradation as the other black Aspergilli or if its unique phenotype exceeds its protease deficiency. Finally, we examine the *prtT* and *amyR* Zn2Cys6 regulatory gene loci on chromosome VI to determine if the lack of protease expression is due to a mutation/deletion in this area.

Materials and Methods

Strains, media and culture conditions

A. vadensis CBS 113365, *A. niger* ATCC 1015, *A. acidus* CBS 106.47, *A. aculeatus* CBS 172.66, *A. carbonarius* ATCC MYA-4641, *A. brasiliensis* CBS 101740 and *A. tubingensis* CBS 134.48 were used in the growth profiles of this study. *A. vadensis* CBS 137441 and *A. niger* N402 [4] were used for all remaining experiments. All strains were taken from glycerol stocks stored at -45°C and grown on MEA (Malt Extract Agar) prior to use. All plates were grown at 30°C.

Aspergillus minimal medium (MM) and complete medium (CM) were described previously [9]. Agar was added at 2% (w/v) for solid medium. All monomeric and oligomeric carbon sources were added to a final concentration of 25 mM, while pure polymeric substrates were added to a final concentration of 1%. The pH of the medium was adjusted to 6.0. For plate growth, the centre of the plates was inoculated with 2 µl of a suspension of 500 spores/µl and plates were incubated for 5 days. All species were grown on MM with 13 different carbon sources including monosaccharides (glucose, fructose, mannose and xylose), oligosaccharides (cellobiose, maltose and sucrose), pure plant polysaccharides (starch, inulin, beechwood xylan, apple pectin and galactomannan) and phosphoprotein substrate casein. Growth on 25 mM D-glucose was used as a reference for growth rate and growth on the other substrates relative to growth on glucose was then compared among the species. Growth on plates was then analyzed by visual inspection after incubation at 30°C for 5 days. For the analysis of enzyme activities, 400 mL liquid cultures (2.5 L baffled flasks) of MM + 1% (w/v) maltose / 1% (w/v) soluble starch were inoculated in duplicate with 1×10^6 spores/mL (final) and incubated at 30°C in an orbital shaker at 250 rpm.

For gene expression studies, *A. vadensis* was pre-grown in CM for 16 h at 30°C and 250 rpm after which the mycelium was harvest over a büchner funnel without suction and washed with MM without carbon source. Aliquots (approx. 1 g wet weight) of the mycelium were transferred to 50 ml MM with either 25 mM sucrose or 25 mM maltose and incubated for 2 h at 30°C and 250 rpm after which mycelium was harvested and frozen immediately in liquid nitrogen.

Analysis of the molecular basis for the aberrant phenotype of Aspergillus vadensis compared to other black Aspergilli

Enzyme profile comparison by SDS-PAGE

400 ml liquid cultures were inoculated with 1×10^6 spores/mL (final concentration) and were grown in duplicate in 2.5 L baffled flasks at 30°C and 250 rpm for 3 days, taking samples on a daily basis. The mycelia were removed from the culture filtrate samples by filtration over a Büchner funnel with nylon gauze. SDS-PAGE was done using a 12% polyacrylamide gel containing 0.1% (w/v) SDS with 15 µL culture filtrate samples being loaded for each expression strain. Protein bands were detected by Coomassie Blue staining [18].

Enzyme activity measurement

For the measurement of enzyme activities from the *A. vadensis* and *A. niger* liquid cultures, an initial 1:10 dilution of the culture filtrates was carried out in 100 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.5 including BSA (1 mg/mL). Para-nitrophenol (pNP) assays were used for the measurement of α - β -galactosidase and α - β -glucosidase activities. Initial α - β -galactosidase assays were performed in duplicate by the addition of 0.2 mL of diluted enzyme to 0.2 mL of 10 mM *p*-nitrophenyl α -D-galactopyranoside (pH 4.5) / β -D-galactopyranoside (pH 4.5) respectively and incubated at 40 °C for 60 min. Similarly, for the initial measurement of α - β -glucosidase activities, 0.2 mL of diluted enzyme was added in duplicate to 0.2 mL of 10 mM *p*-nitrophenyl α -D-glucopyranoside (pH 4.5) / β -D-glucopyranoside (pH 4.5) respectively and incubated at 40 °C for 60 min. The reactions were stopped with the addition of 3 mL of 2 % (w/v) tri-sodium orthophosphate, pH 12.0 and the absorbance was measured at 400 nm. Activities were expressed as Units/ml where one unit is defined as 1 micromole of *p*-nitrophenol liberated per minute per millilitre of culture filtrate. Depending on results obtained, further time-points were conducted to ensure that activity rates were linear.

Para-nitrophenol (pNP) assays were also used for the measurement of α - β -amylase activities. Initial α -amylase assays were performed in duplicate by the addition of 0.2 mL of diluted enzyme to 0.2 mL of 10 mM blocked *p*-nitrophenyl- α -D-maltoheptaoside + 2.5 U (final) thermostable α -glucosidase (pH 4.5) and incubated at 40°C for 60 min. Initial β -amylase activities were performed in duplicate by the addition of 0.2 mL of diluted enzyme to 0.2 mL of 10 mM blocked *p*-nitrophenyl- β -D-maltotrioside + 1.0 U (final) thermostable β -glucosidase (pH 4.5) and incubated at 40°C for 60 min. The reactions were stopped with the addition of 3 mL of 2 % (w/v) tri-sodium orthophosphate, pH 12.0 and the absorbance was measured at 400 nm. Enzyme blanks were prepared by adding Stopping Solution to enzyme dilution before the addition of substrate. Activities were expressed as Units/ml where one unit is defined as 1 micromole of *p*-nitrophenol liberated per minute per millilitre of culture

filtrate. Depending on results obtained, further time-points were conducted to ensure that activity rates were linear.

The Megazyme D-Glucose (glucose oxidase/oxidase; GOPOD) assay kit was used for the measurement of glucoamylase activities using soluble starch (Sigma; Cat. No. S-9765) as the substrate. Initial glucoamylase assays were performed in duplicate by the addition of 0.2 mL of diluted enzyme to 0.5 mL of 10 mg/mL (final) soluble starch (pH 4.5) and incubated at 40°C for 60 min. The reactions were terminated by placing in a boiling water bath for 2 min. All samples were then treated with 3.0 mL of GOPOD reagent (glucose oxidase, oxidase and 4-aminoantipyrine (pH 7.4) from Megazyme; Cat. No. KC-GLUC1 + KC-GLUC2) and incubated at 40°C for 20 min before absorbance was read at 510 nm. Enzyme blanks were prepared by boiling enzyme dilution before the addition of substrate. Sugar standards were prepared in quadruplicate by adding 50 µL of 1.0 mg/mL D-glucose (Megazyme; Cat. No. KC-GLUC3) and 150 µL of 100 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 4.5) to 0.2 mL of 10 mg/mL (final) soluble starch (pH 4.5) and treating as enzyme reactions (above). Activities were expressed as Units/ml where one unit is defined as 1 micromole of glucose liberated per minute per millilitre of culture filtrate. Depending on results obtained, further time-points were conducted to ensure that activity rates were linear.

Genome mining

The genome of *A. vadensis* CBS 137441 was sampled using both short Illumina GAI reads and long PacBio RS reads for the purpose of hybrid assembly by ServiceXS B.V. The Illumina reads were filtered based on their sequence quality by the Q25 phred score (corresponding to a chance of one error in 333 bases). Only reads longer than 45bp after filtering were kept. The filtering was done by the in-house developed Fastq Filter v.2.05 from ServiceXS. The PacBio long read data was generated from two SMRT cells by one 90 minute movie run and one 45 minute run. PacBio SMRT Portal v1.4 was used to process the raw data. Adapter sequences were removed from the reads, which were then split into sub-reads and filtered by overall quality cut-off value of 0.75 and sequence length 50bps. The first attempt of hybrid assembly was performed by PacBio's AHA hybrid assembler and scaffolder. Cerulean v1.0 [10] was then used to merge assembled short read contigs from Abyss [28] (k-mer size of 3) and PacBio long reads. The PacBio reads were not error-corrected and the input file consisted of the data from two runs. In-house scripts were written at the end, to combine the two versions of assemblies. Augustus v3.0.2 [29] and Genemark v2.2a [20] were used to call the potential gene models from the final assembly.

Genome comparison was performed by Mugsy v.1.2.2 [2] and visualized by gmaj [3] and IGV [32]. Comparative genomics analysis of *A. vadensis* and other *Aspergilli* was done by OrthoMCL [12] with option 1e-20, inflation size 1, and sequence

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coverage 60%. Multiple gene alignment was done by BLASTP [1] and Muscle [11], and was visualized by ClustalOmega [27]. Cross-species gene clustering was performed by MultiGeneBlast [22].

RNA isolation and gene expression analysis

Molecular biology methods were performed according to standard procedures [26], unless stated otherwise. Frozen mycelium was ground using a TissueLyser II (Qiagen). RNA was extracted using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen) [7] and purified with NucleoSpin RNA II (Macherey-Nagel) with DNase treatment. The quantity and quality of RNA samples were checked by NanoDrop-1000 spectrophotometer and by RNA gel electrophoresis. Total RNA in amount of 0.25 µg was converted into cDNA (ThermoScript™ RT-PCR System, Invitrogen) according to the instructions of the manufacturer and the obtained cDNA was diluted 10x and used in qPCR reaction.

Gene expression was assayed by real-time qPCR (Applied Biosystems 7500 Real-time PCR system) using ABI Fast SYBR Master Mix (Applied Biosystems) according to the supplier's instructions. The primers were designed using Primer Express® 3.0 software (Applied Biosystems), optimized and had amplification efficiencies > 97.5 and <102.7% (Supplemental Table 1). Expression levels were normalized against the histon H2B gene expression and calculated according to relative quantification $2^{-\Delta CT}$ method [19].

Results and Discussion

Comparative growth profiles on different carbon sources

The growth profiles of the different *Aspergillus* species showed notable differences between *A. vadensis* and some of the other black *Aspergilli* (Fig. 1; www.fung-growth.org). All strains grew well on MM + glucose and glucose was therefore used as an internal reference to compare the strains, to avoid misleading differences caused by general differences in growth speed between the species. Growth on the other substrates relative to growth on glucose was then compared between the species. All species had similar growth on the monosaccharides glucose, fructose, mannose and xylose, with the exception of *A. carbonarius*, which was slow to grow on all carbon sources, with especially poor growth on xylose. Growth on cellobiose and sucrose was similar to growth on glucose for all strains, while growth on the pure plant polysaccharides exceeded that generated on the simple sugars in all cases. The most notable growth differences for *A. vadensis*, were observed on maltose and starch, where no growth was observed on either carbon source. This was significantly lower than for the other *Aspergilli*, with the exception of *A. carbonarius*, which had poor growth on maltose and no growth on starch. The genes involved in maltose and starch degradation, such as glucoamylases (*glaA*), α -glucosidases (*agdA*) and to a lesser

extent α -amylase (*amyA*, *amyB*) are all regulated by the amyolytic regulator, AmyR [24, 30]. The unusual growth profile for *A. vadensis* when grown on these carbon sources could be explained by a mutation/deletion of the *amyR* regulatory gene. Interestingly, the *prtT* locus is found close to the *amyR* locus, with only two genes

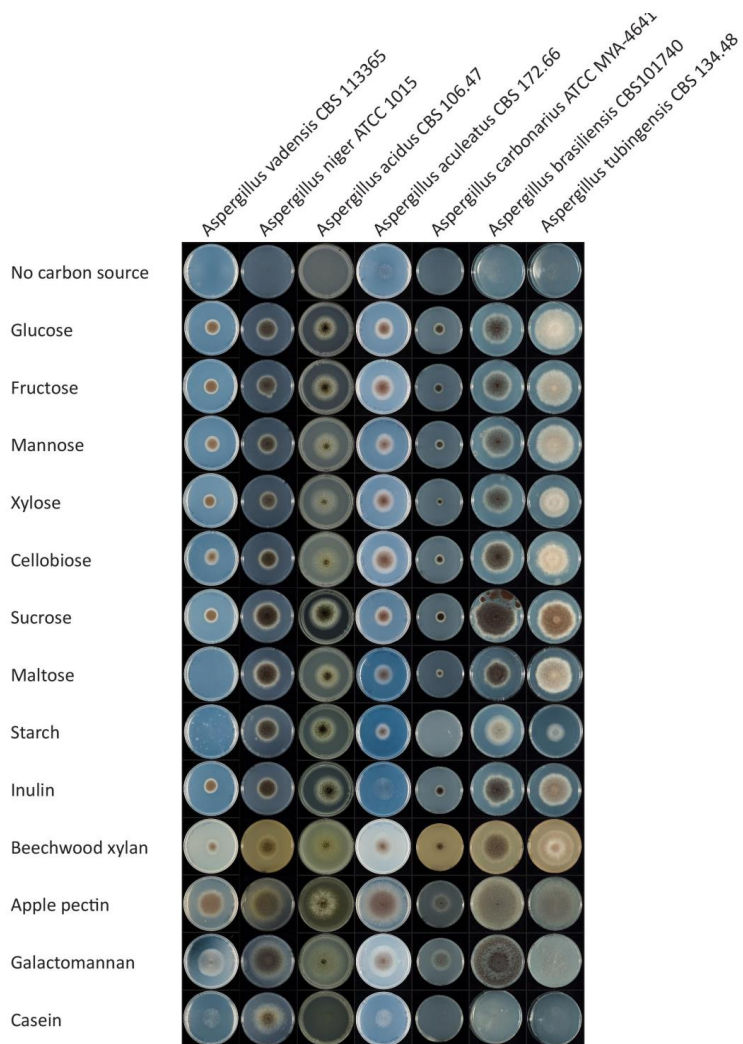


Figure 1: Growth profiles of *A. vadensis* compared to six other black *Aspergilli* when grown on 13 different carbon sources. All strains were grown on *Aspergillus* Minimal Medium (MM) + 25 mM / 1% carbon sources, pH 6.0 as indicated in Materials and Methods and incubated at 30°C for 5 days.

(*agdA/aglU* and *amyA*) between the two regulators, both of which are target genes of AmyR in *A.niger*. Further analysis of the *prtT/amyR* region of the genome revealed high conservation in the black Aspergilli (Fig. 2), as supported by the efficient maltose/starch degradation abilities observed for the other black Aspergilli. Growth on casein however, was comparably poor for most the species tested, with the exception of *A. niger*, indicating that this more common protease deficiency may be accounted for at a transcriptional level.

Extracellular enzyme profile and activity comparison

Liquid cultures of *A. vadensis* and *A. niger* were performed to compare enzyme production levels for both species during growth on maltose and starch. Culture filtrate samples were taken on a daily basis to monitor extracellular enzyme production and activities, with Day 3 giving optimum production as determined by SDS-PAGE (Fig. 3). *A. niger* demonstrated a clear increase in enzyme production levels over the 3 days when grown on both maltose and soluble starch compared to *A. vadensis*, which failed to show any detectable protein bands over this incubation period. This was in correlation with the growth for both of these species, with *A. niger* generating more dense mycelia in both maltose and starch liquid cultures compared to *A. vadensis*. Further evaluation of the enzyme profiles in *A. niger* showed an intense band at approximately 80 kDa, which likely corresponds to the extracellular glucoamylase (GlaA), for which the calculated molecular mass in *A. niger* CBS 513.88 (An03g06550) is ~70 kDa [6], but for which molecular weights of between 70-91 kDa in other strains have been reported [17]. The other faint protein band produced by *A. niger* on both maltose and starch is consequently expected to be α -glucosidase (AgdA), for which a calculated molecular mass in *A. niger* CBS 513.88 (An04g06920) is ~110 kDa [6].

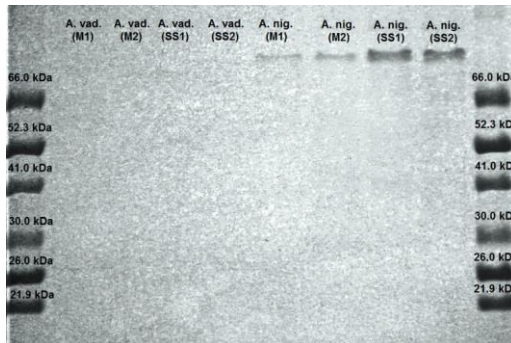


Figure 3: SDS-PAGE profile of *A. vadensis* (CBS 137441) and *A. niger* (N402) culture filtrate samples after 3 days of growth. M = 1% (w/v) maltose; SS = 1% (w/v) soluble starch. Cultures were grown in biological duplicates (1 & 2). Low molecular weight (LMW) ladder produced in house.

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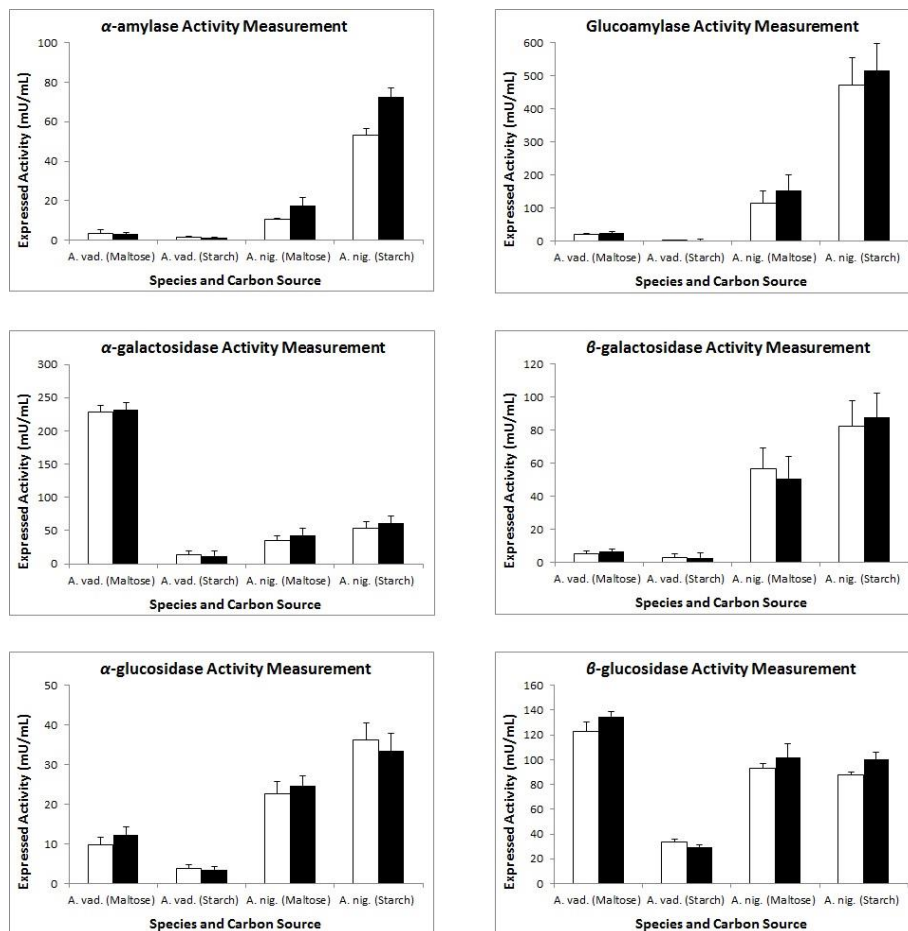


Figure 4: Measured activity values obtained from Day 3 culture filtrate samples from the indicated *A. vadensis* and *A. niger* strains. Error bars calculated on standard deviations between technical duplicates (White/Black). All polysaccharide substrates and *p*-nitrophenol substrates were tested at 40°C, pH 4.5 under conditions as described in Materials and Methods.

In combination with the visual profiles of extracellular enzyme production during growth on maltose/soluble starch, α -amylase, glucoamylase and α -glucosidase activities were measured and compared for both strains. The activities of α - and β -galactosidase and β -glucosidase were also measured as a control and indicative of the level of change in production of un-associated enzyme activities between both species. In correlation to what was discovered with the enzyme profiles, the overall levels of maltose/starch associated enzyme activities were much higher for *A. niger* than for *A. vadensis* on both carbon sources (Fig. 4). This was especially the case for glucoamylase with *A. niger* producing ~6 times the levels of *A. vadensis* on maltose (134 mU/mL vs. 21 mU/L) and ~200 times the levels on soluble starch (494 mU/mL vs. 2mU/mL). This again was in correlation with the growth for both of these species, with *A. niger* generating more dense mycelia in both maltose and especially starch liquid cultures compared to *A. vadensis*, demonstrating a greater degradation and utilisation potential for both carbon sources. Interestingly and in contrast to the general activity profile trend observed, the levels of α -galactosidase and β -glucosidase were higher for *A. vadensis* on maltose but not on soluble starch. Maltose is comprised of α -1,4-linked glucose molecules but is not highly branched with α -1,6-linked subunits as is the case with starch so only requires the action of α -glucosidase to hydrolyse it into glucose molecules. As indicated by the recorded enzyme activities (Fig. 3), some α -glucosidase expression was evident in *A. vadensis* cultures, especially when grown on maltose.

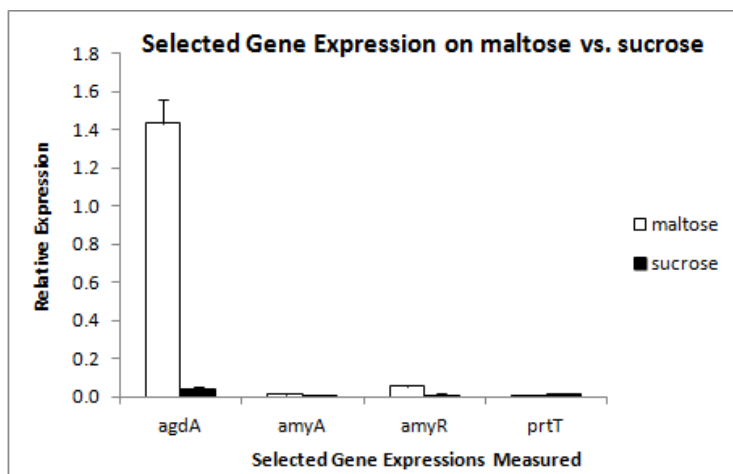


Figure 5: Measured gene expression levels for *agdA*, *amyA*, *amyR* and *ptrT* when grown on maltose and the control substrate, sucrose.

Maltose is degraded by the enzymatic action of this enzyme to give glucose molecules. AmyR controls genes involved in starch degradation but it has been reported for *A. niger* that it also regulates other genes, including those encoding α -galactosidases and β -glucosidases [34]. While starch and maltose are the most common inducers of this regulator, glucose also induces AmyR activation in *A. niger* [34]. In *A. niger* fructose is a relatively weak repressing carbon source [8], while glucose at higher concentrations can cause significant repression of many genes encoding poly- and oligosaccharide degrading enzymes. The increased levels of α -galactosidase and β -glucosidase on maltose for *A. vadensis* could be the result of regulation from a different regulator to AmyR that does not affect amylase gene expression.

Aspergillus vadensis genome and gene expression analysis

Liquid cultures of *A. vadensis* were performed on maltose and sucrose to compare gene expression levels for *amyR* and *priT* as well as for *agdA* and *amyA* that are lying in between them on the genome and are regulated by *amyR* (Figure 5). Sucrose was used as a control, because it supports good growth of *A. vadensis* and *amyR* and its associated genes should not be up-regulated on this carbon source. In correlation to what was observed in both the growth profiles and liquid expression studies, *amyR*, *priT* and *amyA* are all very poorly expressed on maltose, giving signals comparable to that observed on sucrose. Interestingly, *agdA* is expressed specifically on maltose and this correlates with the observed α -glucosidase activities observed in *A. vadensis* when grown on maltose (Fig. 3).

Analysis of the *A. vadensis* genome demonstrated that the region of +/-15k bp around *priT* is well preserved, with no missing or additional genes and no large insertions of non-coding regions. The amino acid sequences of PriT and AmyR are highly similar to those of the other black Aspergilli and do not contain internal STOP codons (data not shown). This combined data suggests that the phenotype of *A. vadensis* is therefore most likely caused by the low expression of *priT* and *amyR* and not a mutation or deletion of these regulators. The cause of this low expression however, remains unclear at this point, but this is likely due to a dysfunctional signal transduction, activation or sensing mechanism.

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Supplemental Table 1: Primers used in this study.

Primers	Sequence	Direction	Opt. Conc. (nM)
agdA_F	TTGGCCGCTCAACTTTCG	Forward	900
agdA_R	ATTGTCACCGCCCCAGTGT	Reverse	900
amyA_F	CCGCAACATTCACCATCCTA	Forward	900
amyA_R	TGCTCCTGACCGGCGTAT	Reverse	900
amyR_F	TCCACCGGAATCAAGTTATG	Forward	900
amyR_R	ACCCTGCGCCGTTCT	Reverse	900
prtT_F	GCATCTCTCCCCAACGA	Forward	300
prtT_R	GGCGACCATGCACGAAA	Reverse	300
H2B_F	GGTATCTCGACTCGCGCTATGT	Forward	300
H2B_R	TCGCGACACGCTCAAAGATAT	Reverse	900

Chapter 4

New promoters to improve heterologous protein production in *Aspergillus vadensis*

Culleton, H.M., Bouzid. O., McKie, V.A. and de Vries, R.P. 2014. Curr Biotechnol. 3: 1-8.

Abstract

Aspergillus is a widely used host organism for the industrial production of homologous and heterologous proteins. Although *Aspergillus niger* is most commonly used, a close relative of this species, *Aspergillus vadensis*, has been suggested as a suitable and more favourable alternative due in part, to the low levels of extracellular proteases which it produces. Despite much progress being made in the hyper production of homologous proteins, the yields obtained for heterologous proteins have still not reached a comparable level. Genetic strategies, including the development of strong constitutive promoters have been shown to lead to an increase in the levels of recombinant protein production. In this study, six novel constitutive promoters from *A. niger* (*pefla*, *ptktA*, *peflβ*, *ptall*, *pcetA* and *ppgkA*) and a further five from *A. vadensis* (*pefla*, *prps31*, *pgpdA*, *pubil* and *poliC*) were tested in *A. vadensis* using a gene encoding a secreted arabinofuranosidase from *Fusarium oxysporum* as a reporter for heterologous protein production. Remarkably, 9 of the 11 promoter constructs tested all resulted in higher ABF activity than the commonly used *gpdA* promoter. While this could partly be assigned to the number of copies of the expression cassette in the transformants, clear differences in productivity of the promoters could be observed.

Introduction

Over the past 25 years, much research has been dedicated to the development of filamentous fungi, most notably *Aspergillus*, as hosts for the industrial production of recombinant proteins. Although many *Aspergillus* species have the capacity to grow at high rates and to high biomass densities, the protein secretion levels observed in *Aspergillus niger* and *Aspergillus oryzae* make them the most commonly used industrial hosts among the Aspergilli [7]. While significant progress has been made in the hyper-production of heterologous proteins, yields have not yet reached the levels obtained for homologous proteins [3]. This may in part, be caused by the acidification of the media due to the production of organic acids in the case of *A. niger* but also by the presence of high levels of secreted proteases which effectively degrade heterologous proteins [25]. *Aspergillus vadensis*, a close relative of *A. niger*, has been suggested as a suitable and more favourable alternative for recombinant protein production as it does not acidify the culture medium and produces very low levels of extracellular proteases [5]. In fact, this species has been shown to produce higher levels of *A. niger* FaeB than *A. niger* itself [1] and also produced a basidiomycete esterase that could not be produced in *A. niger* [6].

Studying gene expression in filamentous fungi has greatly increased our understanding of the molecular mechanisms controlling transcription initiation and/or regulation of homologous proteins. Such genetic strategies, including the use of strong homologous promoters, have been developed to improve the yields associated with heterologous protein production in fungi. To date, the set of promoters which have been described for recombinant gene expression in *A. niger* have included several highly inducible or strong constitutively active promoters with the focus being on those which have shown high expression levels of their target genes [9]. Inducible expression systems, of which the glucoamylase (*glaA*) promoter from *A. niger* [11], the TAKA-amylase A (*amyB*) promoter from *A. oryzae* [13] and the alcohol dehydrogenase (*alcA*) from *A. nidulans* [27] are the most commonly used, allow for high and low expression from the same construct but are usually dependent on strictly defined conditions and media requirements. Expression of the *glaA* gene for example, is repressed in the presence of xylose but is highly induced if maltose or starch is used as the single carbon source [11]. Although transcriptional control under such inducible promoters allows for the fine-tuned regulation of expression yields and subsequent high biomass formation, the necessity for certain media components or expensive inducers in conjunction with a finely tuned timing of induction can make it both inflexible and costly for some industrial applications. The more favoured option often involves the use of constitutive promoters e.g. the glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase promoter (*gpdA*) from *A. nidulans* [22], the protein kinase A (*pkiA*) and the alcohol dehydrogenase (*adhA*) promoters from *A. niger* [23] and the glutamate

dehydrogenase promoter (*gdhA*) from *A. awamori* [19], which allow for the development of an expression cassette which is not media/component dependent. In recent studies, Blumhoff *et al.* (2013) identified six novel constitutive promoters in *A. niger*, of which a promoter with a strong similarity to multiprotein bridging factor 1 (*Mbf1*) from *S. cerevisiae* (*PmbfA*) was shown to give higher expression levels of the heterologous *gusA* reporter gene than the *gpdA* promoter, which is the most common promoter of choice for heterologous gene expression in *Aspergillus* [8, 10, 17, 18].

To further improve protein production in *A. vadensis*, six novel constitutive promoters from *A. niger* and a further five from *A. vadensis* were selected and tested in *A. vadensis* in comparison to the *gpdA* promoter from *A. nidulans*. A gene encoding a secreted α -arabinofuranosidase from *Fusarium oxysporum* was used as a reporter for protein production.

Materials and Methods

Strains, media and culture conditions

Escherichia coli DH5 α chemically competent strain (Invitrogen) was used as a host for recombinant DNA manipulation. Microarray analysis was carried out on RNA obtained from *A. niger* CBS 120.49 (N400) and *A. vadensis* Ref 7 and promoter constructs were obtained by PCR from the gDNA of *A. niger* N402 [2] and from *A. vadensis* Ref 7. *A. vadensis* CBS 113365 (*pyrG* -) was used as the parental strain for transformation. All other *A. vadensis* strains were derived from the parental strain and are listed in Table 1.

Aspergillus minimal medium (MM) and complete medium (CM) were described previously [5]. Agar was added at 2% (w/v) for solid medium. Pre-cultures for protoplast formation were grown overnight at 30°C in 200 mL MM supplemented with 0.5% (w/v) yeast extract, 0.2% (w/v) casamino acids, 2% (w/v) glucose and 1.22 mg/mL (final) uridine after inoculating with 5×10^6 spores/mL. For the analysis of promoter activities, 50 mL liquid cultures (250 mL flasks) of MM + sucrose (2%) were inoculated with 10^6 spores/mL (final) and incubated at 30°C in an orbital shaker at 250 rpm. For chromosomal DNA isolation, *A. niger* and *A. vadensis* transformants were cultivated in CM supplemented with 1% glucose.

Molecular biology methods

Standard methods were used for DNA manipulations, subcloning, DNA digestion reactions, DNA isolations and Southern Analysis [24]. Chromosomal DNA was isolated as previously described by de Graaff *et al.* 1988 [12].

Table 1: Strains used for this study. *A. niger* CBS 120.49 (N400) and *A. vadensis* CBS Ref 7 were used in microarray analysis to identify promoter constructs. gDNA from *A. niger* N402 and *A. vadensis* CBS Ref 7 were used in PCR reactions to obtain promoter constructs. *A. vadensis* CBS 113365 was used as the parental strain for transformation. All other *A. vadensis* strains marked with an asterisk (*) were derived from the parental strain as listed.

Species	Strain	Description	Reference
<i>A. niger</i>	CBS120.49		
<i>A. niger</i>	N402	<i>cspA1</i> mutant of CBS120.49	Bos <i>et al.</i> , 1988
<i>A. vadensis</i>	CBS113365	<i>pyrA5</i> mutant	de Vries <i>et al.</i> , 2004
<i>A. vadensis</i>	Ref7	Reference strain	This study *
<i>A. vadensis</i>	FP-401	<i>pef1a</i> of <i>A. niger</i> , <i>abf</i> of <i>F. oxysporum</i>	This study *
<i>A. vadensis</i>	FP-402	<i>ptkA</i> of <i>A. niger</i> , <i>abf</i> of <i>F. oxysporum</i>	This study *
<i>A. vadensis</i>	FP-403	<i>pef1β</i> of <i>A. niger</i> , <i>abf</i> of <i>F. oxysporum</i>	This study *
<i>A. vadensis</i>	FP-404	<i>ptal</i> of <i>A. niger</i> , <i>abf</i> of <i>F. oxysporum</i>	This study *
<i>A. vadensis</i>	FP-405	<i>pcetA</i> of <i>A. niger</i> , <i>abf</i> of <i>F. oxysporum</i>	This study *
<i>A. vadensis</i>	FP-406	<i>ppgkA</i> of <i>A. niger</i> , <i>abf</i> of <i>F. oxysporum</i>	This study *
<i>A. vadensis</i>	FP-407	<i>pgpdA</i> of <i>A. nidulans</i> , <i>abf</i> of <i>F. oxysporum</i>	This study *
<i>A. vadensis</i>	FP-450	<i>pef1a</i> of <i>A. vadensis</i> , <i>abf</i> of <i>F. oxysporum</i>	This study *
<i>A. vadensis</i>	FP-451	<i>prps31</i> of <i>A. vadensis</i> , <i>abf</i> of <i>F. oxysporum</i>	This study *
<i>A. vadensis</i>	FP-452	<i>pgpdA</i> of <i>A. vadensis</i> , <i>abf</i> of <i>F. oxysporum</i>	This study *
<i>A. vadensis</i>	FP-453	<i>pub1</i> of <i>A. vadensis</i> , <i>abf</i> of <i>F. oxysporum</i>	This study *
<i>A. vadensis</i>	FP-454	<i>poliC</i> of <i>A. vadensis</i> , <i>abf</i> of <i>F. oxysporum</i>	This study *

Selection of constitutive promoters for A. niger and A. vadensis using microarray expression data

A. vadensis Ref 7 was grown in a 200 mL MM + sucrose (2%) culture at 30°C and 250 rpm. After 48, 72 and 96 hrs the mycelia were gently harvested by filtration over a Büchner funnel with nylon gauze, dried, frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C. RNA for microarray analysis was extracted using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen) and purified using TRIzol® Plus RNA Purification Kit (Sigma-Aldrich) according to the instructions of the manufacturer. The quality of the RNA was analysed with an Agilent 2100 bioanalyzer using an RNA6000 LabChip kit (Agilent Technology). Expression data was analysed using the Bioconductor Affy tool package (<http://www.bioconductor.org>) under the statistical environment R. The probe intensities were normalized by using the Robust Multiarray Average (RMA) algorithm for the Affimetrix. CEL files, quartiles algorithm was used to perform normalization and gene expression values were calculated by the medianpolish summary method

(Bolstad BM, unpublished) with only the perfect match (PM) probes. The normalized data was analysed manually for genes with a high expression value. These were then compared to an in-house dataset of expression data from *A. niger* to identify genes that were highly expressed in *A. vadensis* as well as under most growth conditions in *A. niger*. This resulted in a selection of five genes for *A. vadensis*. In addition, six *A. niger* genes that were highly expressed under all conditions of the in-house dataset were also selected.

PCR and expression vectors

Promoters of the selected genes were amplified from *A. niger* and *A. vadensis* genomic DNA using primers targeting regions 1-1.3Kb upstream of the genes (Supplemental Table 1). PCR's were carried out using AccuTaq™ from Sigma and conditions supplied. PCR products were inserted into pGEMT easy vector (Promega) and plasmids were verified by sequencing.

The pGPDGFP expression vector was used to test the individual promoters in this study. As described by Lagopodi *et al.* (2002) [16], the pGPDGFP vector is composed of the *gfp* gene under the control of the *gpdA* promoter [22] and terminated with the *trpC* terminator [20]. A new expression vector was built based on the pGPDGFP vector where *gfp* was replaced with the arabinofuranosidase gene (*abf*) from *Fusarium oxysporum* using restriction enzymes *NcoI/HindIII*. The *gpdA* promoter was then replaced with the new promoter candidates using restriction enzymes *NotI/NcoI* (Fig. 1).

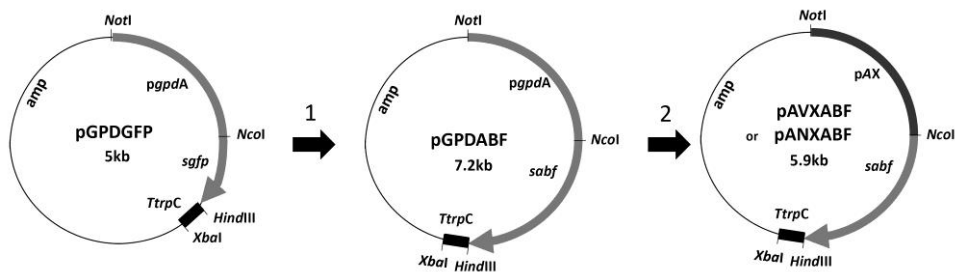


Figure 1: Expression plasmid construction steps. (1) Replacement of green fluorescence protein gene (*sgfp*) by arabinofuranosidase from *Fusarium oxysporum* (*sabf*). (2) Insertion of *A. niger* or *A. vadensis* selected promoters in place of glyceraldehydes-3-phosphate dehydrogenase promoter (*gpdA*) from *A. nidulans*.

Transformation of A. vadensis and selection of expression strains

The formation of protoplasts by *Aspergillus* strains was based on the protocols by Peraza *et al.* (2003) [21] and de Bekker *et al.* (2009) [4]. Strains were grown for 16 hrs, after which time the mycelia were gently harvested by filtration over a Büchner funnel with nylon gauze. After washing with 0.9% NaCl (w/v), 2.5 g (wet weight) mycelium was resuspended in 20 mL stabilization buffer (0.2 M phosphate buffer (pH 6.0) and 0.8 M sorbitol). Lytic enzymes were added to the following final concentrations; 5mg/mL lysing enzymes from *Trichoderma harzianum* (L1412, Sigma), 460 units/mL β -glucuronidase from *Helix pomatia* (G0751, Sigma) and 0.15 units/mL chitinase from *Streptomyces griseus* (C6137, Sigma). The mixture was incubated in an orbital shaker at 37°C for 1 to 2 hrs with gentle shaking (120 rpm). Protoplasts were separated from the mycelium by filtering over glass wool. The protoplasts were recovered by centrifugation in a swing-out rotor (10 min 2,200 rpm) and were washed twice with STC (1.33 M sorbitol, 50 mM CaCl₂ and 10 mM Tris/HCL, pH 7.5). Transformation was performed as described by Kusters-van Someren *et al.* (1991) [15], with 2×10^6 protoplasts, 0.5 μ g of pGW635 (carrying the *A. niger pyrG* gene for selection) and 20 μ g of the different expression vectors (carrying *Fox-abf* under the control of the studied promoters).

To test the resulting transformants for *abfB* expression, a fluorimetric ABF screen based on the conversion of the fluorogenic substrate 4-methylumbelliferyl- α -L-arabinopyranoside (0.02 mg/mL (final) in MM + 2% (w/v) sucrose + 2% (w/v) agar) when 1000 spores (2 μ L) from each transformant were grown at 30°C for 2 days and viewed under UV light. Based on fluorescence, two transformants per strain were brought forward for liquid expression studies.

α -Arabinofuranosidase activity measurement

Liquid cultures were inoculated with 1×10^6 spores/mL (final concentration) and grown at 30°C and 250 rpm with aliquot samples being taken on a daily basis for up to 5 days, centrifuged to remove mycelium and stored at -20°C. For the measurement of α -arabinofuranosidase (ABF) activity, culture filtrate samples (20 μ L) were incubated with 10 μ L of a 0.1% (w/v) *p*-nitrophenyl α -L-arabinofuranoside solution, 50 μ L of a sodium acetate buffer (pH 5.0) and 20 μ L water for 1 hr at 30°C in microtiter plates. The reaction was stopped by the addition of 100 μ L 0.25 M bisodium carbonate and the optical density at 405 nm was measured on a microplate reader. Activities were expressed as nanomoles of *p*-nitrophenol liberated per minute per millilitre of culture filtrate.

Southern blotting

For each of the selected strains, 5 µg of chromosomal DNA was digested with *Apal* and with *XhoI* for 6hr at 37°C. *Apal* has two restriction sites in the *abf* gene of *F. oxysporum*, so was used as a target. *XhoI* has two restriction sites in the pectin lyase gene (*pel*) of *A. vadensis*, which is present in a single copy in the *A. vadensis* genome and was therefore used as a control. For Southern analysis, digested DNA was transferred to a Hybond-N+ membrane (Amersham Biosciences). The hybridization of the DIG-labelled probes was performed according to the DIG user's manual.

Results*Selection of constitutive promoters for A. niger and A. vadensis*

Preliminary data demonstrated that during growth on MM with sucrose, very few proteins are produced by *A. vadensis* (data not shown), so this condition was selected for heterologous protein production. Microarray analysis from RNA isolated from sucrose grown mycelium was performed to identify highly expressed genes. Mycelium was harvested at 48, 72 and 96 hrs to select for genes that were continuously highly expressed. The resulting genes were then used to identify the orthologs from *A. niger* and the expression of these orthologs was then evaluated in an in-house micro array database for constitutively high expression. Based on this analysis five promoters from *A. vadensis* and a further six from *A. niger* were selected to be tested as promoters to drive gene expression and protein production (Table 2).

Table 2: Promoters tested in this study.

Source	Promoter	Acc/gene No.	Description
<i>A. niger</i> CBS513.88	<i>pef1α</i>	An18g04840	Similar to elongation factor 1 alpha
	<i>pktA</i>	An08g06570	Putative transketolase
	<i>pef1β</i>	An08g03490	Elongation factor 1 beta
	<i>ptall</i>	An07g03850	Putative transaldolase
	<i>pcetA</i>	An16g03330	Secreted thaumatin like protein
	<i>ppgkA</i>	An08g02260	Phosphoglycerate kinase
<i>A. vadensis</i> Ref 7	<i>pef1α</i>	KJ420614	Similar to elongation factor 1 alpha
	<i>prps31</i>	KJ420615	Similar to cytoplasmic ribosomal subunit
	<i>pgpdA</i>	KJ420616	Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase
	<i>pubi1</i>	KJ420617	Similar to ubiquitin
	<i>poliC</i>	KJ420618	Similar to mitochondrial ATP synthase

Development of expression strains

Of the genes identified from the microarrays, 1-1.3 kb fragments upstream of the coding regions were PCR amplified, inserted into pGEMT easy vector (Promega) and sent for sequencing. Sequencing results confirmed that the correct promoter regions were amplified. To test the efficiency of the selected promoters, the corresponding fragments were cloned into a vector containing an α -arabinofuranosidase encoding gene (*abf*) from *Fusarium oxysporum* as the reporter for protein production. This approach was adopted to enable us to determine the strength of the selected promoters by accurate measurement of the expression of a heterologous gene. Once cloned the expression vector containing the promoter sequence was then transformed into *A. vadensis* CBS113365 (Table 2). To test the resulting transformants for *abf* expression, a fluorimetric screen based on the conversion of the fluorogenic substrate 4-methylumbelliferyl- α -L-arabinopyranoside was applied to select the strongest expressers for each strain (Fig. 2).

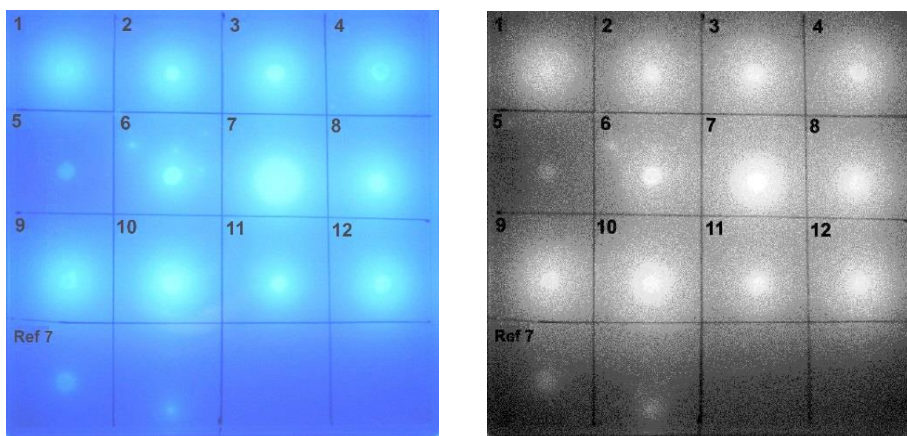


Figure 2: Fluorimetric screen to select the strongest ABF producers among transformants containing *pgpdA* from *A. nidulans*. The screen was based on the conversion of the fluorogenic substrate 4-methylumbelliferyl- α -L- arabinopyranoside (0.02 mg/mL (final)) when 1000 spores (2 μ L) from each transformant were grown at 30°C for 2 days and viewed under UV light. CBS 137441 was grown as a negative control. In this instance colonies no. 7 and no. 10 gave the strongest fluorescence and hence were chosen for liquid expression studies. Fluorimetric screens were conducted in the same way for the other promoter constructs (Fig. not shown).

*Promoter characterization using α -arabinofuranosidase (abf) from *Fusarium oxysporum* as a reporter for protein production.*

Of the transformants screened for ABF expression, two different transformants i.e. biological duplicates (labelled 01 and 02 in Fig. 3) from both the *A. vadensis* and *A. niger* promoter strains were chosen for liquid expression studies and grown in duplicate, with samples being taken on a daily basis for up to 5 days. Arabinofuranosidase (ABF) activities were measured for all samples, with day 4 samples showing optimum activity for both *A. niger* and *A. vadensis* transformants and activities being compared to FP-407 strain which contained *abf* under the control of *gpdA* from *A. nidulans* (Fig. 3).

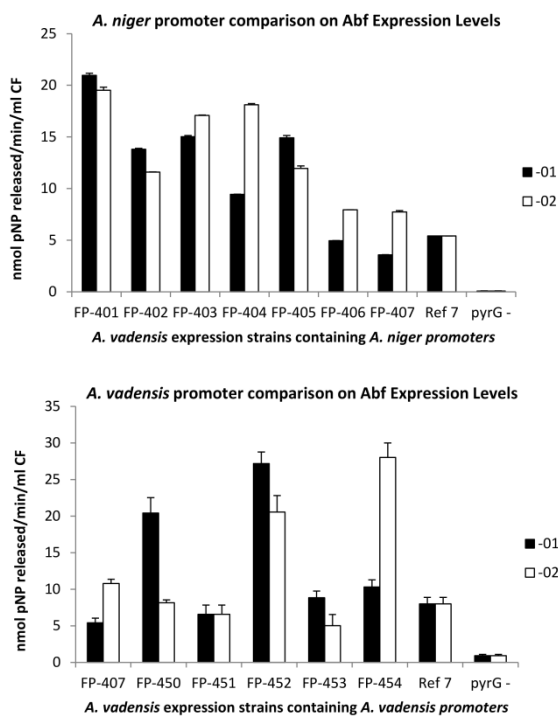


Figure 3: Comparison of arabinofuranosidase (ABF) activity levels in *A. vadensis* transformants strains expressing the heterologous *abf* of *Fusarium oxysporum* under the control of the selected promoters from both *A. niger* and *A. vadensis*. Cultures grown at 30°C and at 250 rpm, with culture filtrate samples being taken on day 4 (optimum) and assayed against *p*-nitrophenyl- α -L-arabinofuranoside substrate with absorbance measured at 405 nm. Activity levels expressed as nmol *p*-nitrophenol released per minute per mL of culture filtrate. FP-407 contains *abf* under the control of *gpdA* from *A. nidulans*. *A. vadensis* CBS 137441 and CBS 113365 (*pyrG* -) strains were grown and assayed as negative controls.

ABF activity was detected for all transformants tested and was significantly above the basal level of the parental strains which were grown as negative controls (Fig. 3). Expression duplicates were measured and the average obtained to give a standard deviation for each transformant and strain. The *gpdA* promoter from *A. nidulans* (FP-407) was used as a positive control and comparative standard in both sets of expression studies. Remarkably, all 6 selected promoters from *A. niger* and 3 of the 5 promoters selected from *A. vadensis* resulted in higher ABF activity than that expressed under the *gpdA* promoter. In the case of the *A. niger* promoters, the activity levels obtained portray the order of *pef1 α* (FP-401) > *pef1 β* (FP-403) > *ptal* (FP-404) > *pcetA* (FP-405) > *pktA* (FP-402) > *ppgkA* (FP-406) > *pgpdA* (FP-407). ABF activities of the *pef1 α* transformants were more than 4 times the ABF activity of the *pgpdA* transformants. The *A. vadensis* promoters resulted in ABF activity in the order of *pgpdA* (FP-452) > *poliC* (FP-454) > *pef1 α* (FP-450) > *pgpdA* (FP-407) > *pubi1* (FP-453) > *prps31* (FP-451) where the highest producer also displayed over four times the ABF activity of the lowest. In this instance, *pgpdA* did not result in the lowest level of ABF activity, as the levels of the *pubi1* and *prps31* transformants were approximately 14% and 19% lower, respectively. The *pgpdA* (FP-407) control gave consistent activity levels in both sets of expression studies with *pef1 α* from both *A. niger* (FP-401) and *A. vadensis* (FP-450) also giving similar results in both sets of expression studies signifying the close relationship between the two species. The *pgpdA* promoter from *A. vadensis* itself (FP-452) gave approximately three times the level of ABF activity of the *pgpdA* promoter from *A. nidulans* indicating a possible preference between the two promoter constructs. The corresponding activity levels for the two different transformants of each promoter construct were generally quite comparable in both sets of expression studies with over half of the promoter constructs giving < 30% variance between biological duplicates, however, in some cases e.g. the *pgpdA* (FP-407) control presented with ~ 50% difference in monitored *abf* activity levels between both strains. An exceptional difference of 64% was also noted for *poliC* (FP-454) in the *A. vadensis* expression study with one transformant generating 10.3 nmol *p*-nitrophenol released/min/mL and the other giving a value of 28 nmol *p*-nitrophenol released/min/mL.

Southern blots

To confirm the presence and determine the copy number of the promoter constructs in the genome of *A. vadensis*, the chromosomal DNA from selected transformants was digested with *ApaI* and *XhoI*. *ApaI* has two restriction sites in the *abf* gene of *F. oxysporum* at positions 534/530 and 1216/1212, which when separated generates two specific target bands. *XhoI* has two restriction sites in the pectin lyase gene (*pel*) of *A. vadensis* at positions 433/437 and 1152/1156, also generating two specific bands when

analysed. As mentioned above, the pectin lyase gene (*pel*) of *A. vadensis* is present in a single copy in the *A. vadensis* genome and was therefore used as a control to estimate the copy number of expression constructs present in each of the transformants (Fig. 4). The additional bands observed in the *A. vadensis* blot are likely due to heterologous hybridisation to other *pel* genes.

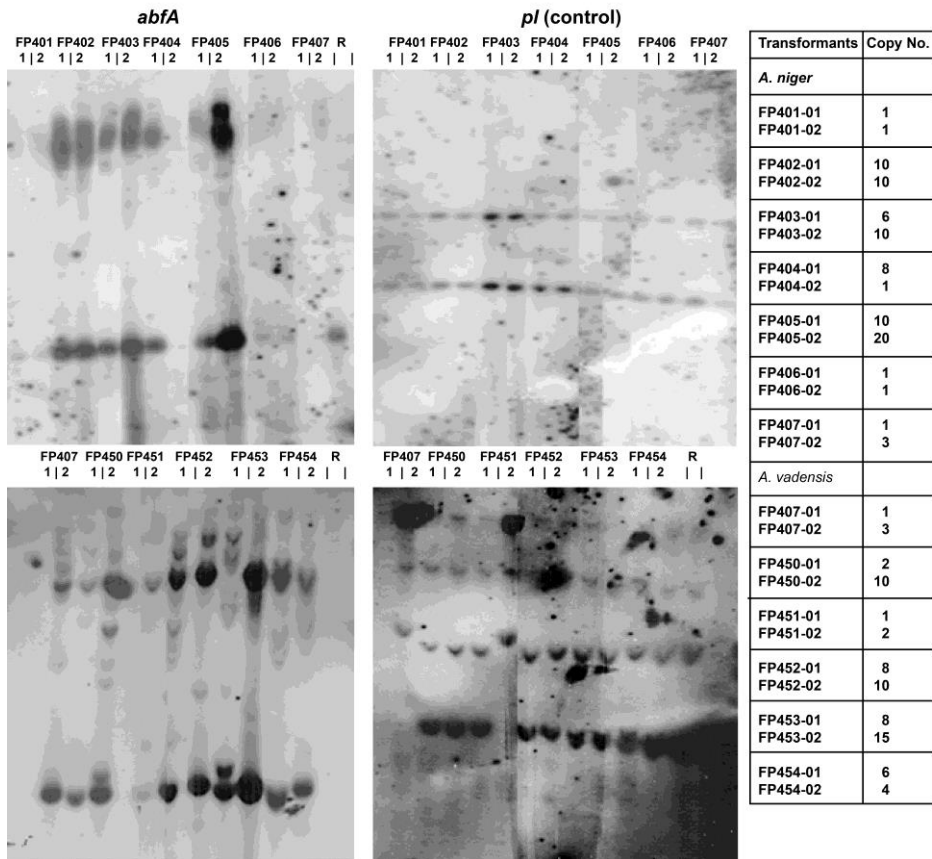


Figure 4: Estimated copy number of expression constructs based on Southern analysis of *A. vadensis* transformants FP401 - FP407 (*A. niger* promoters) and FP450 - FP454 (*A. vadensis* promoters), using an *abf* probe fragment of *Fusarium oxysporum*. CBS 113365 (R) was used as a negative control. A fragment of the *pel* gene (encoding a pectin lyase) was used as an internal control for *A. vadensis*. Copy-numbers were determined by comparing the intensity of the *abf* signal to that of the *pel* signal.

Discussion

To date, many strategies including the use of strong homologous promoters have been applied for the development of filamentous fungi as hosts for the industrial production of recombinant proteins. In this study we identified six novel constitutive promoters from *A. niger*, namely *pef1a*, *ptktA*, *pef1β*, *ptal1*, *pcetA* and *ppgkA* and a further five from *A. vadensis*; *pef1a*, *prps31*, *gpdA*, *pubi1* and *poliC*, and tested them in *A. vadensis* using a gene encoding a secreted α -arabinofuranosidase from *Fusarium oxysporum* as a reporter for heterologous protein production. In both sets of expression studies comparing the levels of ABF activity produced under firstly, the *A. niger* and secondly, the *A. vadensis* promoters, all *A. niger* promoters and 3 out of 5 *A. vadensis* promoters resulted in higher ABF activity levels than those observed under the control of the widely characterized *gpdA* promoter, which is currently the promoter of choice for recombinant gene expression in *Aspergillus* [8, 10, 17, 18]. In the case of the *A. niger* promoters, the highest expressing promoter, *pef1a*, gave greater than 4 times the level of *abf* activity of *gpdA*. Interestingly, when transformed into *A. vadensis*, the *gpdA* promoter from *A. vadensis* itself gave approximately three times the level of ABF activity of the *gpdA* promoter from *A. niger*, indicating the possibility of species differences and preferences between the two promoter constructs. The *pef1a* from both *A. niger* (FP-401) and *A. vadensis* (FP-450) gave comparable results in both sets of expression studies, signifying not only the close relationship between the two species but also demonstrating that this gene is likely expressed similarly in both species as well.

Expression vectors for recombinant protein expression are generally integrated into the chromosomal DNA of *Aspergillus* by either homologous or non-homologous recombination [9]. Multiple insertions of up to and greater than 10 copies are common and are often found to increase recombinant protein production in *Aspergillus* [26], but this is not always the case possibly due to the pleiotropic effect of random integrations or the titration of endogenous transcription factors [14]. To gain a better understanding of the actual strength of the promoter constructs tested in this study, we felt it was necessary to determine the copy number of expression vectors transformed into the individual strains and see if the differences in ABF activity between biological duplicates and promoter constructs could be explained this way. In the *A. niger* expression study *pef1a* (FP-401), *ppgkA* (FP-406) and *gpdA* (FP-407) all contain low copy numbers of the expression vector compared to *ptktA* (FP-402) where the duplicates both contain ~10 copies and *pcetA* (FP-405) which has an average of ~15 copies. With this information the promoter strengths can now be put into the order of *pef1a* (FP-401) > *ptal* (FP-404) >> *ppgkA* (FP-406) > *gpdA* (FP-407) > *pef1β* (FP-403) > *pcetA* (FP-405) > *ptktA* (FP-402) with *pef1a* expressing a 10 fold increase in ABF activity per copy number compared to *ptktA*. The *A. vadensis* strains presented

much more variances in copy numbers between the biological duplicates and promoter constructs which goes a long way to explain the noteworthy differences in activity levels measured between transformant duplicates in this study. Taking copy number into account the *A. vadensis* promoter constructs can be written in the order of *pefla* (FP-450) > *poliC* (FP-454) > *prps31* (FP-451) > *pgpdA* (FP-407) > *pgpdA* (FP-452) > *pubi1* (FP-453). Taking the new orders of strength into consideration we can see a different pattern forming than what was portrayed from the measurement of ABF activity alone. *pefla* is now not only performing comparably between both sets of expression study but is also the strongest expressing promoter of both the *A. niger* and *A. vadensis* promoters tested. *pgpdA* from *A. nidulans* also remains consistent as a control between both sets of data but now we see a much closer association in ABF expression per copy number between it and *pgpdA* from *A. vadensis* (FP-452) which are now both lying mid-table in terms of promoter strength.

In summary, we identified six novel constitutive promoters from *A. niger* and a further five from *A. vadensis* and tested them in *A. vadensis* using the *abf* gene from *Fusarium oxysporum* as a reporter for heterologous protein production. Of the promoters tested, 3 from *A. niger* (*pefla*, *ptal* and *ppgkA*) and 3 from *A. vadensis* (*pefla*, *poliC* and *prps31*) all resulted in higher ABF activity than for that of the commonly used *gpdA* promoter from *A. nidulans* signifying their potential for the industrial production of recombinant proteins.

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Supplemental Table 1: Primers used in this study.

Primers [<i>A. niger</i>]	Sequence	Direction*	Amplicon**
An18g04840F An18g04840R	GCGGCCGCATGGCAAAAAAAGACG CCATGGGATGACGGTTGTGAATGAAC	Forward Reverse	1033
An08g06570F An08g06570R	GCGGCCGCCTGGCTTGAAAATTGG CCATGGGATTGCTGTGTCTAGAGAAGG	Forward Reverse	1138
An08g03490F An08g03490R	GCGGCCGCTTCCCAAGCCAAGTAAG CCATGGTGTGAATGTGTGTTGGGGG	Forward Reverse	1017
An07g03850F An07g03850R	GCGGCCGCCACTGTCACAATGCTG CCATGGGGTGGAGGTAGAGAATGAG	Forward Reverse	1021
An16g03330F An16g03330R	GCGGCCGCGTAAAAGAAAGGAACG CCATGGTTTGATGAGATTTGTTTTAAGAGATTG	Forward Reverse	1043
An08g02260F An08g02260R	GCGGCCGCGCTAATATTATTACCAGG CCATGGGATGAACGACGGTTCTAC	Forward Reverse	1117
Primers [<i>A. vadensis</i>]	Sequence	Direction*	Amplicon**
KJ420614F KJ420614R	GGGCGGCCGCAAAAAAAGACGTGG GGCCATGGCCGTTAGCCCATGTCC	Forward Reverse	1125
KJ420615F KJ420615R	GGGCGGCCGCGAAGCGTCAAGCTCC GGCCATGGTACTGTCTGATGTAGC	Forward Reverse	1033
KJ420616F KJ420616R	GGGCGGCCGCGAGAGCCAGAATAATAAG GGCCATGGTTAGATGTGTCTATG	Forward Reverse.	1052
KJ420617F KJ420617R	GGGCGGCCGCATGGAGCCCGCGGATTG GGCCATGGTGATGAAGGTCTGG	Forward Reverse	1038
KJ420618F KJ420618R	GGGCGGCCGCGAGGGACCCACCCGCACG GGCCATGGTGATGGTTTGTGG	Forward Reverse	1007

* Forward primers contain a restriction site of *NotI* and reverse primers contain a restriction site of *NcoI*

** Amplification size upstream of gene

Chapter 5

Overexpression, purification and characterization of homologous α -L-arabinofuranosidase and *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase in *Aspergillus vadensis*

Culleton, H.M., McKie, V.A. and de Vries, R.P. 2014. *Ind. Micro. & Biotech.* **41**: 1697-1708

Abstract

In the recent past, much research has been applied to the development of *Aspergillus*, most notably *A. niger* and *A. oryzae*, as hosts for recombinant protein production. In this study, the potential of another species, *A. vadensis*, was examined. The full length gDNA encoding two plant biomass degrading enzymes i.e. α -L-arabinofuranosidase (*abfB*) (GH54) and *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase (*eglA*) (GH12) from *A. vadensis* were successfully expressed using the *gpdA* promoter from *A. vadensis*. Both enzymes were produced extracellularly in *A. vadensis* as soluble proteins and successfully purified by affinity chromatography. The effect of culture conditions on the expression of *abfB* in *A. vadensis* were examined and optimised to give a yield of 30 mg/L when grown on a complex carbon source such as wheat bran. Characterization of the purified α -L-arabinofuranosidase from *A. vadensis* showed an optimum pH and temperature of pH 3.5 and 60°C which concur with those previously reported for *A. niger* AbfB. Comparative analysis to *A. niger* AbfA demonstrated interesting differences in temperate optima, pH stability and substrate specificities. The *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase from *A. vadensis* exhibited a pH and temperature optimum of pH 4.5 and 50°C respectively. Comparative biochemical analysis to the orthologous EglA from *A. niger* presented similar pH and substrate specificity profiles. However, significant differences in temperature optima and stability were noted.

Introduction

Over the past two decades, *Aspergilli* have become the most widely studied group of filamentous fungi due, in part, to their potential in many industrial applications [3, 4, 7, 11, 30]. *Aspergilli* have adapted to their lifestyle as common soil fungi that are found in many different environments by producing an extensive set of enzyme mixes in order to degrade the broad range of plant polysaccharides which they encounter [8]. Plant cell walls consist mainly of the polysaccharides cellulose, hemicelluloses (xyloglucans, xylan and galacto(gluco)mannan) and pectin which interact with each other as well as the aromatic polymer lignin to form a network of polymers with linkages and hydrogen bonds that give the plant cell wall its rigidity [13]. Fungi such as *Aspergilli* degrade these polysaccharides extracellularly by secreting diverse enzymatic mixtures which release utilizable oligo- and monosaccharides from the polysaccharide that is present [20]. The complete degradation of cellulose for instance, requires the action of at least three enzymes: β -1,4-D-glucosidase, cellobiohydrolase and β -1,4-D-endoglucanase. In contrast, the hydrolysis of xylan requires the combined action of at least nine different enzymes: α -L-arabinofuranosidase, α -1,4-D-galactosidase, α -glucuronidase, acetylxylan esterase, arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase, β -1,4-D-xylosidase, feruloyl esterase, β -1,4-D-galactosidase and β -1,4-D-endoxylanase [9]. The ability to produce such a broad range of enzymes combined with their good fermentation capabilities have resulted in many studies being dedicated to the development of *Aspergillus* as hosts for the industrial production of recombinant proteins [15]. To date, much of this research was performed with *A. niger* and *A. oryzae*, but recently *A. vadensis*, a close relative of *A. niger*, has been suggested as a possibly more favourable alternative due to the low levels of extracellular proteases which it produces and the fact that it does not acidify the culture medium [14]. In this study, the potential of *A. vadensis* as a host for recombinant protein production was examined by cloning and expressing two homologous genes encoding cell wall polysaccharide degrading enzymes i.e. α -L-arabinofuranosidase (*abfB*) (GH54) and endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase (*eglA*) (GH12) in this prospective industrial strain.

α -L-arabinofuranosidases (non-reducing end α -L-arabinofuranosidases; EC 3.2.1.55) act by hydrolysing the terminal non-reducing α -L-1,2-, α -L-1,3-, and α -L-1,5-arabinofuranosyl residues in α -L-arabinosides and can act synergistically with other hemicellulases and pectic enzymes for the complete hydrolysis of xylans and pectins [26]. In recent years α -L-arabinofuranosidases have attracted considerable interest due to their potential in industrial applications such as in oligosaccharide synthesis [34, 35], the pre-treatment of lignocelluloses for bioethanol production [17, 37] and in the chlorination of paper products [19, 25]. To date, α -L-arabinofuranosidases have been isolated from various bacterial and fungal organisms

such as *Streptomyces sp.*[39], *Thermotoga maritima* [27] and *A. niger* [36] and their genes have been cloned and expressed in developed expression systems. *A. niger* itself produces two main extracellular α -L-arabinofuranosidases; α -L-arabinofuranosidase A (AbfA) which is specifically active towards *p*-nitrophenyl- α -L-arabinofuranoside and 1,5- α -L-arabinofuranose oligosaccharides, and α -L-arabinofuranosidase B (AbfB) which has a broader activity range and is active on both these substrates but also has activity towards 1,5- α -L-arabinan, beet and apple arabinan and arabinoxylan [36]. Additional genes encoding putative α -L-arabinofuranosidases were detected in the genome of *A. niger*, but have not been biochemically characterised [8]. In this study, a homologous α -L-arabinofuranosidase B encoding gene (*abfB*) from glycosyl hydrolase family 54 (GH54) was cloned and expressed in *A. vadensis* to examine the potential of this expression system. This α -L-arabinofuranosidase B (AvAbfB) was then characterized and compared to the commercially available and biochemically different α -L-arabinofuranosidase A from *A. niger* (AnAbfA) (Megazyme; Cat. No. E-AFASE) from glycosyl hydrolase family 51 (GH51).

Endoglucanases (*endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanases, EC 3.2.1.4) are a group of enzymes which combined with cellobiohydrolases (EC 3.2.1.91) and β -glucosidases (EC 3.2.1.21) are responsible for the effective degradation of cellulose into glucose. Cellulose exists as highly ordered linear polymers of β -1,4-linked D-glucose residues which are bundled together in microfibrils via hydrogen bonds [18]. It is believed that endoglucanases act by initiating random attacks at multiple sites in the non-crystalline regions of the cellulose fibre [33]. This in turn, opens up sites for subsequent attack by cellobiohydrolases, which cleave cellulose chains at the ends and release cellobiose. These oligosaccharides are then further degraded into D-glucose molecules by the action of β -glucosidases and exoglucanases [9, 33]. Among the most efficient producers of cellulolytic enzymes, in particular *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase, is the filamentous fungus *A. niger* which has gained it significant interest especially in the food, textile and pharmaceutical industries [13]. Genes encoding endoglucanases from *A. niger*, such as *eglA*, *eglB* and *eglC*, have been cloned and characterized, with *EglA* demonstrating the highest activity towards β -glucan compared to *EglB* and *EglC* [21, 40]. Thus, for this study the *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase A encoding gene (*eglA*) from glycosyl hydrolase family 12 (GH12) was cloned and expressed in *A. vadensis* and the activity of the corresponding enzyme (AvEglA) was compared to the commercially available orthologous enzyme, AnEglA from *A. niger* (Megazyme; Cat. No. E-CELAN), which was also previously expressed through *Pichia* and described by Quay *et.al.* (2011) [33].

Materials and Methods

Strains, media and culture conditions

Escherichia coli XL1-Blue chemically competent strain (Fisher Scientific) was used as a host for recombinant DNA manipulation. Gene constructs were obtained by PCR from the gDNA of *Aspergillus vadensis* CBS 137441. *Aspergillus vadensis* CBS 113365 (*pyrG*⁻) was used as the parental strain for transformation.

Aspergillus minimal medium (MM) and complete medium (CM) were described previously [14]. Agar was added at 2% (w/v) for solid medium. Pre-cultures for protoplast formation were grown overnight at 30°C in 200 mL MM supplemented with 0.5% (w/v) yeast extract, 0.2% (w/v) casamino acids, 2% (w/v) glucose and 1.22 mg/mL (final) uridine after inoculating with 5 x 10⁶ spores/mL. For the analysis and characterization of enzyme activities, 400 mL liquid cultures (2.5 L baffled flasks) of MM + 1% (w/v) wheat bran (for production of AvAbfB) or 2% (w/v) sucrose (for production of AvEglA) + 0.1% (w/v) TWEEN[®] 80 were inoculated with 1 x 10⁶ spores/mL (final) and incubated at 35°C in an orbital shaker at 250 rpm.

Molecular biology methods

Standard methods were used for DNA manipulations, subcloning, DNA digestion reactions and DNA isolations [38].

PCR and expression vectors

Genes were amplified from the then partially sequenced *A. vadensis* genome (Culleton and de Vries, unpublished data) with primers including 5' *Nco*I and 3' *Af*III restriction sites necessary for the cloning of the α -L-arabinofuranosidase encoding *abfB* gene (1500 bp) and 5' *Sph*I and 3' *Af*III restriction sites necessary for the *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase encoding *eglA* gene (836 bp). The nucleotide sequences of the primers utilised (incorporating the restriction sites indicated) are as follows: *abfB* 5' end oligonucleotide 5'-GGCCATGGTCTCCCGCCGAAACC-3' and *abfB* 3' oligonucleotide 3'-GGCTTAAGCGAAGAAAACGCCGTCTC-5'. *eglA* 5' end oligonucleotide 5'-GGGCATGCAGCTCGCAGTGACAC-3' and *eglA* 3' oligonucleotide 3'-GGCTTAAGGTTGACTAGCGGTCC-5'. PCR reactions were carried out using KOD DNA Polymerase (Merck Biosciences) and conditions supplied. PCR products were inserted into pCR2.1 TOPO vector (Invitrogen) following instructions provided and plasmids were verified by sequencing.

The pGPDGFP expression vector was used to make the new expression constructs in this study. As described by Lagopodi *et al.* (2002) [24], the pGPDGFP vector is composed of the *gfp* gene under the control of the *gpdA* promoter from *A. nidulans* [31] and terminated with the *trpC* terminator [28]. A new expression vector was built based on the pGPDGFP vector where *pgpdA* from *A. nidulans* was replaced with

pgpdA from *A. vadensis* [10] using restriction enzymes *NotI/NcoI*. Due to the presence of an internal *HindIII* within *pgpdA* from *A. vadensis*, the *HindIII* site at the 3' end of the *gfp* gene was replaced with *AflIII* and a 6 X Histidine tag and stop codon were added to assist in the downstream purification of the enzymes once expressed. Due to the presence of an *NcoI* site within the gene sequence of *AvegIA*, an additional *SphI* site was added alongside the *NcoI* site at 3' end of promoter to facilitate the cloning on of this gene. The *gfp* gene was then replaced with the new gene candidate from *A. vadensis* using restriction enzymes *NcoI/AflIII* for *AvabfB* and *SphI/AflIII* for *AvegIA* (Fig. 1).

Transformation of *A. vadensis*

The formation of protoplasts by *Aspergillus* strains was based on the protocols by Peraza *et al.* (2003) [29] and de Bekker *et al.* (2009) [12]. Strains were grown for 16 hrs, after which time the mycelia were gently harvested by filtration over a Büchner funnel with nylon gauze. After washing with 0.9% NaCl (w/v), 2.5 g (wet weight) mycelium was resuspended in 20 mL stabilization buffer (0.2 M phosphate buffer (pH 6.0), 0.8 M sorbitol). Lytic enzymes were added to the following final concentrations; 5 mg/mL lysing enzymes from *Trichoderma harzianum* (Sigma; Cat. No. L1412), 460 units/mL β -glucuronidase from *Helix pomatia* (Sigma; Cat. No. G0751) and 0.15 units/mL chitinase from *Streptomyces griseus* (Sigma; Cat. No. C6137). The mixture was incubated in an orbital shaker at 37°C for 1 to 2 hrs with gentle shaking (120 rpm). Protoplasts were separated from the mycelium by filtering over glass wool. The protoplasts were recovered by centrifugation in a swing-out rotor (10 min; ~ 800 rcf) and were washed twice with STC (1.33 M sorbitol, 50 mM CaCl₂ and 10 mM Tris/HCl, pH 7.5). Transformation was performed as described by Kusters-van Someren *et al.* (1991) [22], with 2×10^6 protoplasts, 0.5 μ g of pGW635 (carrying the *A. niger pyrG* gene for selection) and 20 μ g of the different expression vectors (carrying the studied genes under the control of the *pgpdA* from *A. vadensis*).

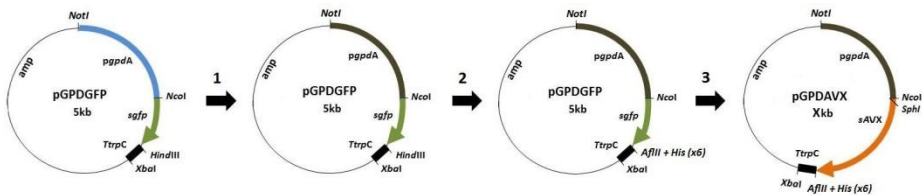


Figure 1: Construction of the new expression plasmid. (1) Replacement of glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase promoter (*pgpdA*) from *A. nidulans* with *pgpdA* from *A. vadensis*. (2) Replacement of *HindIII* site at 3' end of gene construct with *AflIII* and addition of 6 x His-tag. (3) Insertion of *SphI* site alongside *NcoI* site and *A. vadensis* genes (*sAVX*) in place of green fluorescence protein gene (*sgfp*).

*Overexpression, purification and characterization of homologous α -L-arabinofuranosidase and endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase in *Aspergillus vadensis**

Screening of transformants and selection of expression strains

To test the resulting transformants for *abfB* expression, a fluorimetric ABF screen based on the conversion of the fluorogenic substrate 4-methylumbelliferyl- α -L-arabinopyranoside (0.02 mg/mL (final) in MM + 2% (w/v) sucrose + 2% (w/v) agar) when 1000 spores (2 μ L) from each transformant were grown at 30°C for 2 days and viewed under UV light. To test for *eglA* expression, resulting transformants were grown on agar plates containing high purity dyed and crosslinked insoluble AZCL-Barley beta-Glucan (Megazyme; Cat. No. I-AZBGL) (0.1% (w/v) in MM + 2% (w/v) sucrose + 2% (w/v) agar) when 1000 spores (2 μ L) from each transformant were grown at 30°C for 2 days. In both screens, CBS 137441 was grown as a negative control.

Production and purification of recombinant enzymes

400 ml liquid cultures were inoculated with 1×10^6 spores/mL (final) and grown in 2.5L baffled flasks at 35°C, 250 rpm with production levels being monitored daily by SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). SDS-PAGE was done using a 12% polyacrylamide gel containing 0.1% (w/v) SDS and protein bands were detected by Coomassie Blue staining [23]. Cultures were grown for the time indicated in Results, after which time the mycelium was removed by filtration over a Büchner funnel with nylon gauze. Culture filtrates were purified by His-tag affinity chromatography, equilibrated with buffer (10mM imidazole, 10 mM HEPES and 500 mM NaCl, pH 7.5) and eluted with a stepwise gradient in same buffer containing 10 mM to 500mM imidazole. Eluent from the column was monitored for levels of protein concentration by testing 10 μ L of sample in 150 μ L of Bio-Rad protein assay dye reagent (Bio-Rad; Cat. No. 500-0006). 15 μ L samples of culture filtrates (C.F.) and column fractions were viewed by SDS-PAGE (as above) and fractions containing purified protein were pooled and precipitated with 50% ammonium sulphate. Enzyme fractions were then concentrated by centrifugation and the enzyme pellet was re-suspended in 3.2 M ammonium sulphate solution for characterization.

Enzyme activity measurement

For the initial measurement of the *A. vadensis* α -arabinofuranosidase B (AvAbfB) and *A. niger* α -arabinofuranosidase A (AnAbfA) activities, serial dilutions of the purified enzymes were carried out in 100 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.0 including BSA (1 mg/mL). 0.2 mL of diluted enzyme were added to 0.2 mL of 10 mM *p*-nitrophenyl α -L-arabinofuranoside (pH 4.0) and incubated at 40 °C for 10 min. The reaction was stopped with the addition of 3 mL of 2 % (w/v) tri-sodium orthophosphate, pH 12.0 and the absorbance was measured at 400 nm. Activities were expressed as Units/mg where one unit is defined as 1 micromole of *p*-nitrophenol liberated per minute per milligram of enzyme.

For the initial measurement of the *A. vadensis* endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase A (AvEglA) and the orthologous *A. niger* endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase A (AnEglA) activities, serial dilutions of the purified enzymes were performed in 100 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.5 including BSA (1 mg/mL). Nelson-Somogyi reducing sugar assays were performed by the addition of 0.2 mL of diluted enzyme to 0.2 mL of 10 mg/mL Barley β -glucan (Megazyme; Cat. No. P-BGBM) (pH 4.5) and incubated at 40°C for 10 min. The reaction was stopped by the addition of 0.5 mL of Stopping Solution (25 mL of Solution A (2.5% (w/v) sodium carbonate anhydrous, 2.5% (w/v) potassium sodium tartrate and 20% (w/v) sodium sulphate), to which 1 mL of Solution B (3% (w/v) copper sulphate pentahydrate) was added). Enzyme reactions were then boiled for 20 min and allowed to cool to room temperature for 5 min before the addition of 3.0 mL of a 1:5 dilution of Solution C (5% (w/v) ammonium molybdate, 4.2% (v/v) concentrated sulphuric acid and 0.6% (w/v) sodium arsenate heptahydrate).

pH optima assays were conducted in duplicate measurements using the optimum enzyme dilution as determined from the initial activity assays and using the following pH buffers covering from pH 1.0 to pH 9.0 including BSA (1 mg/mL); potassium chloride (pH 1.0 and pH 2.0), glycine (pH 2.0, pH 2.5, pH 3.0), citrate phosphate (pH 3.0, pH 3.5, pH 4.0, pH 4.5, pH 5.0, pH 5.5, pH 6.0, pH 6.5 and pH 7.0) and sodium phosphate (pH 6.0, pH 7.0, pH 8.0 and pH 9.0). The remaining assay conditions were consistent with the assay conditions used for the measurement of initial activity. For pH stability assays an initial 10-fold dilution of the enzyme was carried out in the buffers outlined above (pH 1.0 – pH 9.0) including BSA (1 mg/mL) and incubated at 4°C for 48 hrs. Activity assays were then conducted in duplicate measurements using the optimum enzyme concentration and pH as determined by previous assays with the enzyme activity at the optimum pH set at 100%.

For temperature stability assays an initial 10-fold dilution of the enzyme in optimum pH buffer was performed and aliquots incubated at the following temperatures for 15 min; 25°C, 30°C, 40°C, 50°C, 60°C, 70°C, 80°C, 90°C and 100°C. Following incubation, the enzyme was further diluted in optimum pH buffer to an optimum concentration and assayed in duplicate as described above. Temperature optima assays were performed in duplicate measurements using optimum enzyme concentration and pH as determined in previous assays and at temperatures that the enzyme proved stable.

A. vadensis α -arabinofuranosidase B (AvAbfB) and *A. niger* α -arabinofuranosidase A (AnAbfA) substrate specificity assays were performed using the following polysaccharide substrates at a final concentration of 5 mg/mL; wheat flour arabinoxyylan (Megazyme; Cat. No. P-WAXYL), sugar beet arabinan (Megazyme; Cat. No. P-ARAB) and debranched sugar beet arabinan (Megazyme; Cat. No. P-DBAR). Activities were determined under optimum conditions using Nelson-Somogyi reducing

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sugar assays as described above. To test *A. vadensis* (AvEglA) and *A. niger* (AnEglA) endoglucanase A for substrate specificity, the following polysaccharide substrates and *p*-nitrophenol substrates were used at final concentrations of 5 mg/mL and 5 mM, respectively; carboxymethyl cellulose 4M (Megazyme; Cat. No. P-CMC4M), galactomannan (Megazyme; Cat. No. P-GALML), glucomannan (Megazyme; Cat. No. P-GLCML), pachyman (Megazyme; Cat. No. P-CMPAC), soluble starch (Sigma; Cat. No. S9765), xyloglucan (Megazyme; Cat. No. P-XYGLN), *p*-nitrophenol α -D-glucopyranoside, *p*-nitrophenol β -D-glucopyranoside and *p*-nitrophenol β -D-xylopyranoside. Assays were performed under optimum pH and temperature conditions as determined in previous assays and using methods as described above.

Results

Development of expression strains

The selected genes were PCR amplified from *A. vadensis* gDNA, inserted into pCR2.1 TOPO vector (Invitrogen) and sequenced using the Sanger method at LGC Genomics. Sequencing results confirmed that the correct gene regions were amplified. Identification and comparison of the corresponding α -L-arabinofuranosidase B protein (499 amino acids) and endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase A protein (239 amino acids) from *A. vadensis* with other characterized protein sequences was performed using the BLAST program at NCBI. The AvAbfB protein sequence has 99% identity to *Aspergillus kawachii* IFO 4308 (Q8NK89.1), *Aspergillus awamori* (Q9C4B1.1) and *Aspergillus niger* AbfB (XP_001396769.1). On the basis of the similarities to these other α -L-arabinofuranosidases, *A. vadensis* *abfB* was assigned to GH54 (CAZY-<http://www.cazy.org>) [5]. The AvEglA protein sequence showed high identity (96%) to *A. niger* CBS 513.88 (XP_001400902.1) and 95% to *Aspergillus usamii* (AEL12376.1), thus providing basis for its inclusion into the GH12 family.

For expression and characterization of the selected genes, the corresponding fragments were cloned behind the *gpdA* promoter from *A. vadensis* [10]. The resulting expression vectors containing the gene sequence were then transformed into *A. vadensis* CBS113365. To test the resulting transformants for *abfB* expression, a fluorimetric screen based on the conversion of the fluorogenic substrate 4-methylumbelliferyl- α -L-arabinopyranoside was applied to select the strongest expressing transformants (Fig. 2A) i.e. transformant no. 7 (*abfB_t7*). To test for *egIA* expression, resulting transformants were grown on agar plates containing high purity dyed and crosslinked insoluble AZCL-Barley beta-Glucan (Megazyme; Cat. No. I-AZBGL), from which the strongest expressing clones were selected based on ability to hydrolyse the AZCL-Barley beta-Glucan substrate (Fig. 2B) i.e. transformant no. 9 (*egIA_t9*).

Effect of culture conditions on the production of α -arabinofuranosidase (AbfB)

A. vadensis abfB_t7 was cultivated under several different conditions for investigation of α -arabinofuranosidase production. Glucose, mannose and sucrose were used as simple carbon sources for comparison purposes, with sucrose giving optimum *abfB* expression with yields of ~ 7 mg/L. The addition of 0.1% (w/v) TWEEN[®] 80 to media doubled these yields to ~ 15 mg/L. Growth temperatures from 25°C - 37°C were examined with *A. vadensis abfB_t7* favouring higher incubation temperatures i.e. 35°C - 37°C, for the expression of recombinant α -arabinofuranosidase. The use of a complex carbon source such as wheat bran (Odlums) under optimum conditions increased native and recombinant protein production alike, giving a purified AvAbfB yield of 30 mg/L.

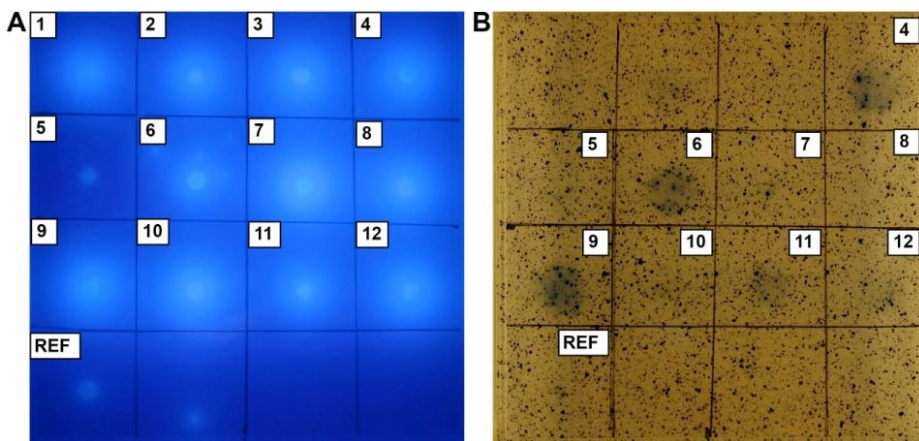


Figure 2: Substrate plate screens to select the strongest AbfB producers (A) and EglA producers (B). Fluorimetric ABF screen based on the conversion of the fluorogenic substrate 4-methylumbelliferyl- α -L-arabinopyranoside (0.02 mg/mL (final)) when 1000 spores (2 μ L) from each transformant were grown at 30°C for 2 days and viewed under UV light. EGL screen based on the ability to hydrolyse the dye particles of the crosslinked and insoluble AZCL-Barley beta-Glucan (I-AZBGL, Megazyme) (0.1% (w/v)) when 1000 spores (2 μ L) from each transformant were grown at 30°C for 2 days. CBS 137441 was grown as a negative control. In this study colony no. 7 (*abfB_t7*) was shown to give the strongest fluorescence and colony no. 9 (*egla_t9*) was shown to give the greatest amount of dye release and hence both were chosen for liquid expression studies.

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α -arabinofuranosidase (AbfB) production and characterization

Liquid cultures were inoculated with 1×10^6 spores/mL (final) from chosen transformants, grown at 35°C and 250 rpm and expression levels were monitored on a daily basis by SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). Optimum AvAbfB production was observed after 3 days incubation and the enzyme was purified from these culture filtrates using His-tag affinity chromatography. 15 μ L samples of culture filtrates (C.F.) and column fractions were viewed by SDS-PAGE (Figure 3A) with purified protein visible in the eluent fractions containing 50 mM, 100 mM and 500 mM imidazole. These were pooled and precipitated with 50% ammonium sulphate. Enzyme fractions were then concentrated and quantified giving a total yield of 30 mg/L purified protein (Table 1A).

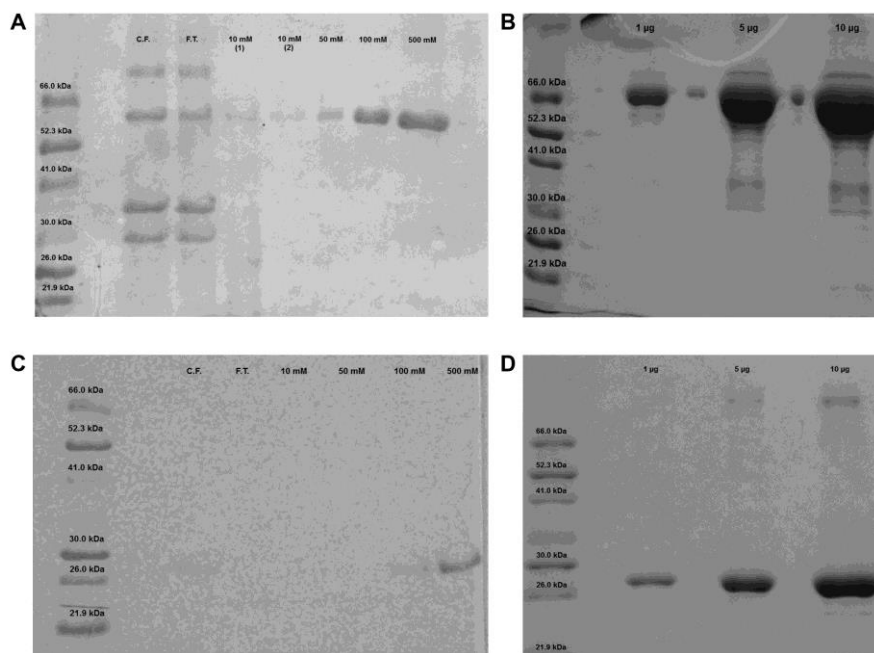


Figure 3: SDS-PAGE analysis and purification of *A. vadensis* α -L-arabinofuranosidase B (AvAbfB) (A) compared to increasing amounts i.e. 1 μ g, 5 μ g and 10 μ g, of industrially purified α -L-arabinofuranosidase A from *A. niger* (AnAbfA) (B) and endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase (AvEglA) (C) compared to increasing amounts i.e. 1 μ g, 5 μ g and 10 μ g, of industrially purified and orthologous *A. niger* EglA (D). Low molecular weight (LMW) ladder produced in house. Culture filtrates (C.F.) were purified by affinity chromatography, equilibrated with buffer (10mM imidazole, 10 mM HEPES and 500 mM NaCl, pH 7.5) and eluted with a stepwise gradient in same buffer containing 10 mM to 500mM imidazole. Flow through (F.T.) contained proteins which had no specific binding capacity to the resin.

The enzymatic properties of the recombinant α -arabinofuranosidase B from *A. vadensis* (AvAbfB) compared to that of the commercially available and industrially purified α -arabinofuranosidase A from *A. niger* (AnAbfA) were examined. The optimal pH for both enzymes was pH 3.5 (activity measured at pH 3.5 equalled that at pH 4.0 for AnAbfA) with both retaining $\geq 90\%$ activity at pH 3.0 and pH 4.0 (Figure 4A). AvAbfB demonstrated greater pH stability than AnAbfA, with $\geq 92\%$ of AvAbfB activity remaining at all pH's tested i.e. pH 1.0 – pH 9.0, compared to AnAbfA which resulted in 0% activity at pH 1.0, even with immediate testing after 1 hr incubation at this pH (Figure 4B).

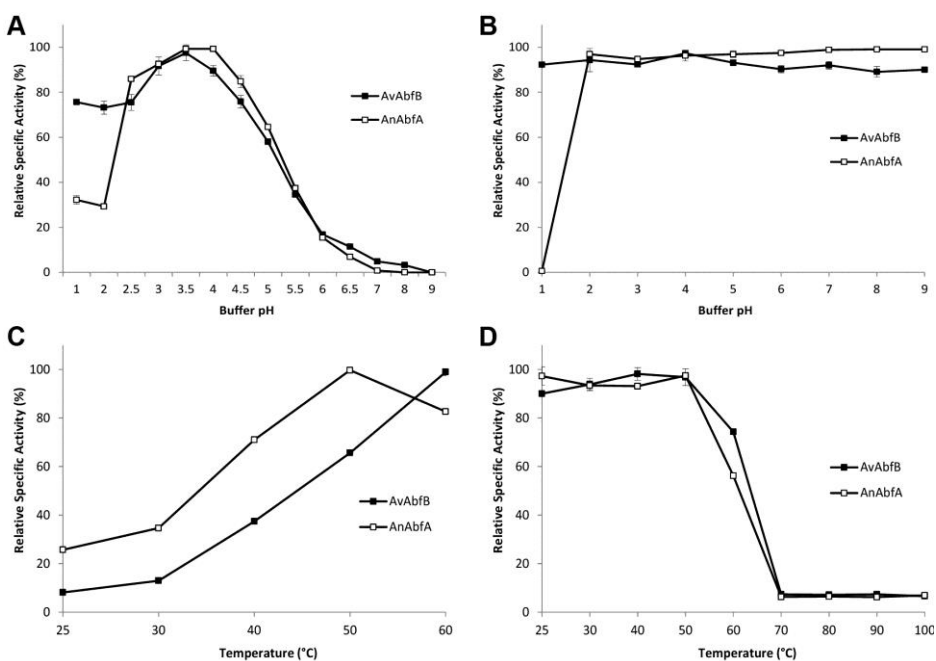


Figure 4: Biochemical properties of purified recombinant α -arabinofuranosidase from *A. vadensis* (AvAbfB) compared to those of commercially available α -arabinofuranosidase A from *A. niger* (AnAbfA). Values expressed as relative specific activity (%) of maximum activity obtained for that assay. In the case of pH optima and stability, average values were taken where there was an overlap in pH with the use of different buffers. Error bars calculated on standard deviations between technical duplicates. (A) pH optima of AvAbfB and AnAbfA; (B) pH stability of AvAbfB and AnAbfA; (C) Temperature optima of AvAbfB and AnAbfA; (D) Temperature stability of AvAbfB and AnAbfA.

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AvAbfB was also more stable at higher temperatures than AnAbfA, with 100% of activity being preserved for both enzymes up to 50°C but with 77% of AvAbfB activity being maintained after a 15 min incubation at 60°C compared to just 58% in the case of AnAbfA (Figure 4D). The temperature optima for these enzymes therefore differed with AvAbfB giving maximum activity at 60°C and AnAbfA having an optimum of 50°C (Figure 4C). Specific activities for both enzymes in 100mM citrate phosphate buffer pH 3.5 at 40°C were 44 U/mg for AvAbfB and 127 U/mg for AnAbfA. These values increased to 100 U/mg for AvAbfB and 221 U/mg for AnAbfA when assayed under optimum pH and at 50°C.

Additional enzyme activities were also measured for both enzymes on wheat flour arabinoxylan, sugar beet arabinan and debranched sugar beet arabinan relative to the specific activities obtained on *p*-nitrophenyl α -L-arabinofuranoside at 40°C (Table 2). In these experiments AvAbfB demonstrated greater activity on all three tested polysaccharides than AnAbfA.

endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase (EglA) production and characterization

Liquid cultures were inoculated with 1×10^6 spores/mL from chosen transformants, grown at 35°C and 250 rpm and expression levels were monitored on a daily basis by SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). Optimum AvEglA production was observed after 4 days incubation and resulting culture filtrates were purified by

Table 1: Purification of α -L-arabinofuranosidase (AbfB) and endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase (EglA) from *Aspergillus vadensis*. Specific activities calculated at 40°C / 50°C under optimum conditions for each enzyme as outlined in Material and Methods.

A) Purification of α-L-arabinofuranosidase (AbfB)				
	Purification-Fold	Concentration (mg/mL)	Specific Yield (mg/L)	Specific Activity (U/mg) 40°C / 50°C
Crude (1500 mL)	-	-	-	-
Purified (20 mL)	75	2.27	30	44 / 100
B) Purification of endo-1,4-β-D-glucanase (EglA)				
	Purification-Fold	Concentration (mg/mL)	Specific Yield (mg/L)	Specific Activity (U/mg) 40°C / 50°C
Crude (370 mL)	-	-	-	-
Purified (10 mL)	37	0.92	25	204 / 280

His-tag affinity chromatography. 15 μ L samples of culture filtrates (C.F.) and column fractions were viewed by SDS-PAGE (Figure 3B) with the 100 mM and 500 mM fractions containing purified protein. These were pooled and precipitated with 50% ammonium sulphate. Enzyme fractions were then concentrated and quantified giving a total yield of 25 mg/L purified protein (Table 1B).

The enzymatic properties of the recombinant *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase from *A. vadensis* (AvEglA) were compared to the commercially available and industrially purified orthologous *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase from *A. niger* (AnEglA). The optimal pH for both enzymes peaked at pH 4.5 with AvEglA demonstrating a narrower optima curve than AnEglA, losing 55% / 40% relative activity at pH 4.0 / pH 5.0 respectively compared to AnEglA which lost 25% / 6% activity at same (Fig. 5A). Both enzymes showed comparable stability at all pH's tested i.e. stable at pH 1.0 – pH 9.0 after 48 hrs incubation at this pH (Fig. 5B).

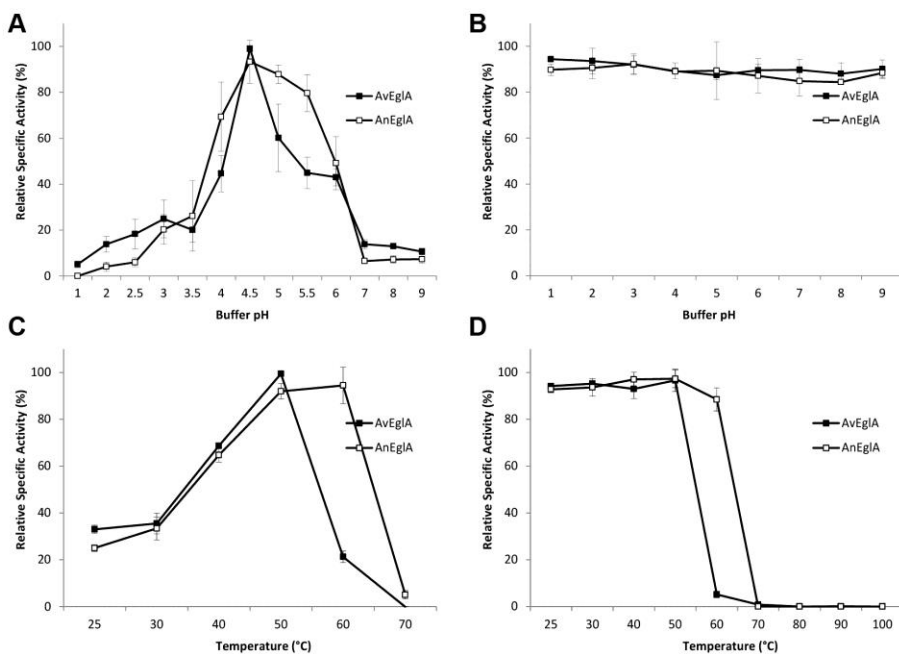


Figure 5: Biochemical properties of purified recombinant endoglucanase from *A. vadensis* (AvEglA) compared to those of commercially available *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase from *A. niger* (AnEglA). Values expressed as relative specific activity (%) of maximum activity obtained for that assay. In the case of pH optima and stability, average values were taken where there was an overlap in pH with the use of different buffers. Error bars calculated on standard deviations between technical duplicates. (A) pH optima of AvEglA and AnEglA; (B) pH stability of AvEglA and AnEglA; (C) Temperature optima of AvEglA and AnEglA; (D) Temperature stability of AvEglA and AnEglA activity.

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The temperature optimum of AvEglA was 50°C, while AnEglA gave a broader optimum curve i.e. between 50°C and 60°C but which favoured the higher temperature of 60°C (50°C giving ~2.5% less relative specific activity compared to 60°C). AnEglA also demonstrating a greater stability profile in maintaining 91% relative activity at 60°C compared to AvEglA where activity at this temperature measured only 5% of that obtained at 50°C (Fig. 5D and 5C).

Specific activities for both enzymes in 100 mM sodium acetate buffer pH 4.5 at 40°C were 204 U/mg for AvEglA and 179 U/mg for AnEglA. These values increased to 280 U/mg for AvEglA and 230 U/mg for AnEglA when assayed under optimum pH at 50°C. No activity was detected for either enzyme on galactomannan, glucomannan, pachyman, soluble starch, xyloglucan, *p*-nitrophenol α -D-glucopyranoside, *p*-nitrophenol β -D-glucopyranoside and *p*-nitrophenol β -D-xylopyranoside. A lower activity on cellulose was observed for AvEglA than for AnEglA relative to the specific activities obtained on Barley β -glucan at 40°C (Table 2).

Table 2: Relative activities of the purified α -arabinofuranosidase and endo-glucanase against different substrates. All polysaccharide substrates and *p*-nitrophenol substrates were tested at 40°C and at concentrations of 5 mg/mL (w/v final) and 5 mM (final) respectively, under conditions as described in Materials and Methods.

Substrate	Relative activity (%)	
	<i>A. vadensis</i> AbfB	<i>A. niger</i> AbfA
<i>p</i> -nitrophenol α -L-arabinofuranoside	100.0	100.0
Wheat flour arabinoxylan	1.5	1.4
Sugar beet arabinan	19.2	5.9
Debranched sugar beet arabinan	3.2	1.0
Substrate	<i>A. vadensis</i> EglA	<i>A. niger</i> EglA
Barley β -Glucan	100.0	100.0
Cellulose	24.0	65.0
Galactomannan	0.0	0.0
Glucomannan	0.2	0.2
Pachyman	0.0	0.0
Soluble Starch	0.0	0.0
Xyloglucan	0.0	0.0
<i>p</i> -nitrophenol α -D-glucopyranoside	0.0	0.0
<i>p</i> -nitrophenol β -D-glucopyranoside	0.0	0.0
<i>p</i> -nitrophenol β -D-xylopyranoside	0.0	0.0

Discussion

Over the past 25 years, much research has been devoted to the development of *Aspergillus* as a host for homologous and heterologous protein production. Not only does *Aspergillus* growth excel under fermentation conditions with an exceptional capacity of secreting high levels of homologous product but their potential in plant polysaccharide degradation and the extensive set of enzyme mixes which they secrete for this purpose is also well recognized [9]. To date, much of this research has been focused on *A. niger* and *A. oryzae*, while the capacity of *A. vadensis*, a close relative of *A. niger*, has remained largely unexplored. In this study, the potential of *A. vadensis* as a host for recombinant protein production was examined by cloning and over-expressing two homologous genes encoding plant biomass degrading enzymes i.e. α -L-arabinofuranosidase (*abfB*) and *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase (*eglA*).

As shown in Figure 3A the *A. vadensis* α -L-arabinofuranosidase B (AvAbfB) protein was purified at a molecular weight of \sim 53 kDa, which corresponds to the calculated predicted mass of 52.5 kDa, based on the obtained amino acid sequence information and to that of the previously recorded 51.0 kDa for the orthologous AbfB enzyme in *A. niger* [16]. Earlier studies reported that the α -L-arabinofuranosidases from various *Aspergillus* species had a molecular weight of about 30 to 118 kDa, depending on the level of *N*- and *O*-glycosylation sites [2]. This appears to be the case for α -L-arabinofuranosidase A (AnAbfA) which has a molecular weight of \sim 62 kDa and is visualised as a single major band on SDS-electrophoresis (Figure 3B) as is described on the product's data sheet (http://secure.megazyme.com/Alpha-L-Arabinofuranosidase_A_niger). The biochemical properties of *A. vadensis* α -L-arabinofuranosidase B (AvAbfB) were examined and found to match those of the previously identified orthologous AbfB from *A. niger* with a pH and temperature optimum of pH 3.5 and 60°C but interestingly, is stable at pH's as low as pH 1.0, which other α -L-arabinofuranosidases from *A. niger* were not [2]. Comparative biochemical analysis with *A. niger* α -L-arabinofuranosidase A (AnAbfA) demonstrated that AnAbfA had more specific activity towards *p*-nitrophenyl α -L-arabinofuranoside but \sim 3 times less than AvAbfB on both the branched and debranched sugar beet arabinan. Sugar beet arabinan consists of a 1,5- α -linked backbone to which 1,3- α -linked (and possibly some 1,2- α -linked) L-arabinofuranosyl residues are attached. In previous studies, AbfA from *A. niger* was reported to be incapable of splitting 1,3- α -L - or 1,2- α -L linked arabinose substituents or arabinose from longer 1,5- α -L-linked arabinose residues whereas AbfB can [36].

Figure 3C shows the purification of *A. vadensis* *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase (AvEglA) at a molecular weight of 26 kDa which too, is in keeping with the calculated predicted mass of 27.72 kDa, based on the obtained amino acid sequence information and with that previously obtained for the purification of the orthologous protein from *A. niger*

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[33]. This is confirmed with *A. niger* endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase (AnEglA) being visualised at a molecular weight of ~27 kDa and as a single band on SDS-electrophoresis (Figure 3D), as is described on the products data sheet (http://secure.megazyme.com/Cellulase_endo-1-4-Beta-D-glucanase_A._niger). The biochemical characteristics of *A. vadensis* endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase (AvEglA) are similar to those previously identified in the orthologous enzyme from *A. niger* [33]. Comparative biochemical analysis of AvEglA to the orthologous endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase from *A. niger* (AnEglA) showed similar characteristics, both giving equivalent pH optima (pH 4.5) and pH stability (pH 1 – pH 9) profiles. Interestingly, a notable difference was displayed for temperature optima and stability however, with AvEglA having a temperature optimum of 50°C, compared to AnEglA which gave a broader optimum curve between 50°C and 60°C but which favoured the higher temperature of 60°C. AnEglA also demonstrating a greater stability profile in maintaining 91% relative activity at 60°C compared to AvEglA where activity at this temperature measured only 5% of that obtained at 50°C. Both AvEglA and AnEglA demonstrated little to no activity on the additional substrates tested, with the exception of cellulose, where AnEglA demonstrated ~ 3 times greater activity against this substrate than AvEglA. Cellulose is a polymer of 1,4- β -linked D-glucosyl residues which both endo-1,4- β -D-glucanases should be able to degrade with similar efficiency. Sequence alignments for both EglA orthologs studied show a 5% difference at the amino acid level (Supplemental Figure 1B) which may lead to slight variations in the kinetic properties of the corresponding enzymes. Although both enzymes are visually pure by SDS comparison (Figures 3C and 3D), differences in production hosts, glycosylation patterns and purification methods may contribute to the variations recorded.

This study has demonstrated the potential of *A. vadensis* as a host for recombinant protein expression. Not only does *A. vadensis* not acidify the culture medium but it also produces very low levels of extracellular proteases and so facilitates many downstream processes. To date, the use of His-tag affinity chromatography in fungal systems has not been either efficient or practical in fungal systems due to the difficulties experienced with degradation of the Histidine residues by extracellular proteases. Purification of recombinant enzymes from *A. vadensis* through His-tag affinity chromatography have worked well thus far, suggesting its potential as a versatile host in the fundamental research of proteins and for industrial enzyme production. With an initial expression yield of ~ 30 mg/L, *A. vadensis* shows positive signs of becoming an industrially significant contender but considerable improvements will be required to rival the secretion abilities of commercial production strains such as *A. niger* and *T. reesei*. Strategies for improving recombinant protein production in fungi, including the use of strong promoters and effective secretion signals or gene

fusions to genes associated with well-expressed and secreted proteins have been implemented successfully to other systems in the past [32, 41]. Successes have also been obtained using a bioprocessing approach of optimizing fungal morphology, mycelia immobilization and culture conditions [1, 6]. It should be noted however, that the *A. vadensis* strain used in these experiments is near wild type and has not undergone the extensive strain improvement strategies that have resulted in the commercial *A. niger* and *T. reesei* strains that secrete much higher levels of enzyme, suggesting room for improvement.

The results of this study demonstrate significant variations in biochemical characteristics in the different α -arabinofuranosidases, AnAbfA and AvAbfB but also in the orthologous *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanases (EglA) when produced from *A. niger* and *A. vadensis*, despite these organisms being taxonomically very close. Despite AnAbfA (GH51) and AvAbfB (GH54) having just 22% identity at an amino acid level (Supplemental Figure 1A) and being assigned to different CAZy families, the biochemical differences observed between these two enzymes are not significantly greater than that observed in the orthologous EglA comparison which have 95% identity. In particular, the difference in temperature optima and stability for these orthologous enzymes is noteworthy and would directly impact the applications of these enzymes. Screening of orthologs from related fungi may therefore be worthwhile for many industrial applications and suggests that it is not always necessary to go to distantly related species or enzyme classifications to get significant changes in biochemical properties. Detailed structural comparison of these orthologous enzymes may reveal insight into the molecular basis of this difference in stability and is worth pursuing in follow-up studies.

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Overexpression, purification and characterization of homologous α -L-arabinofuranosidase and endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase in Aspergillus vadensis

Supplemental Figure 1A: Protein Sequence Alignment for *A. vadensis* α -L-arabinofuranosidase B (AvAbfB) and *A. niger* α -arabinofuranosidase A (AnAbfA).

A.

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AvAbfB      MFSRRNLLALGLAATVSAGPCDIYEAGDTPCVAAHSTTRALYSFSGALYQLQRGSDDTT
AnAbfA      MFSSTL-VSLAV--SWLAGQALAIELTV-SKTGGNSSSPLLYG----VMFEDINNSGDGG
***      :*: : ** . *      ....*: : ** . : : : . * *

AvAbfB      TTISPLTAGGVA-DASAQDTFCANTTCLITIYDQ-----SGNGNHLTQAP---PGGF DG
AnAbfA      IHGQVLRNNGFQGGDPGLTAYS AVGN--VTISQDTANPLSSAITSTLKVAVFPGATGYVG
. *      * . * . :*: . :** *      * . . * . *      * : *

AvAbfB      PDTDGYDNLASAIGAPVTLNGQKAYGVF MSPG--TG YRNNEATGTATGDEAEGMYAVL DG
AnAbfA      FANEGYDGV PV-----LGTDYDNY--FYMKG DYSGTVNLR LV-----GNSSGIIYADHNI
. :*** :      . . * * * :* * . .      * : : : ** :

AvAbfB      THYNDACCFDYGNAETSSTDTGAGHMEAIYLNSTTWGYGAGDG-----PWIMVDME-
AnAbfA      TVASTSSNFTYETSFSSSVS-----SDAHNVWQLRFDASKVAGSSLNFGLVQLFP
* . : . * * : : . ** : :      . . *      .      : : * :

AvAbfB      ---NNLFSGADEGYNSGDP S I S Y S F V T A-----AVKGGAD
AnAbfA      PTYNSRYNLRDDVASFLADIKPSFLRFPGGNNLEGATPSDRWKWNETIGPVVDRPFGREG
* . : * :      * . * . ** :      *

AvAbfB      KWAIRGGNAASGLSTYYS----GARPDYSGYNPMSKEGAILLGIGGDNSNGAQGT FYE
AnAbfA      DWTYPNTDAL--GLDEYLQWCE DM E P L L A V W S G L S L G G I V S G S-----ALDPYVD
. * :      : * . * .      . * : : : * * . * :      * : :

AvAbfB      GVM T S G Y P S D D T E N S V Q E N I V A A K Y V V G S L V S G P S F T S G E V V S L R V T P G Y T T R Y I A H T D
AnAbfA      D I-----L N E-----L E Q Y V L G S A D T-----T Y G S L R A K N G R T E P W D V K Y L E V G N
:      * .      : ** : * :      * * : : . * : : * : :

AvAbfB      T-TVNTQVDDDSSTL-----KEEASWTVV T G L A N S Q C F S F E S V D T P G S Y I R H Y----
AnAbfA      E D N L N S G C G T Y A N R F T L I Y D A V H A A Y P N L T I V A S T T D T S C L P S T I P D G V I T D I H H Y L T P D
. * :      . **      . * : : . : : * :      * : * : *

AvAbfB      N F E L L N A N D G T K Q F H E D A T--F C P Q A A L N G E G T S L R S W S Y P T R Y F-----
AnAbfA      E F I D L F D E---W D N W S R D W P I L V G E Y A S T T G N D G S T T Y W S Y M Q G S C S E A V Y M I G M E R N S D
: * * : :      . : . * .      * : . * : * * *

AvAbfB      -----R H Y D N V L Y A A S N G G V Q T F D S K T S F N N D V S F E I E T A F S S-----
AnAbfA      I V K M A S F A P L L E H F D M A E W S P D L F G L D S--S P D S V T G S T S Y Y V Q K M F S T N R G S T V L P V N T
. * : * . : : . * : : * * . . * : : . * :

AvAbfB      -----
AnAbfA      T A D F D P L Y W V A S V S D E G T Y Y V K L A N Y G S S Q N V T V N I E G T T S Q L Q M L S G G E T V S N Y P H D

AvAbfB      -----
AnAbfA      V S I T T Q S S T V S G S G S F T V D M P A W A V A V L A V S

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22% amino acid sequence identity.

Supplemental Figure 1B: Protein Sequence Alignment for *A. vadensis* endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase A (AvEglA) and *A. niger* endo-1,4- β -D-glucanase A (AnEglA).

B.

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AvEglA      MKLAVTLSMLAATAMGQTMCSQYDSASSPPYSVNQNLWGEYQGTGSQCVCYVDKLSSSGAS
AnEglA      MKLPVSLAMLAATAMGQTMCSQYDSASSPPYSVNQNLWGEYQGTGSQCVCYVDKLSSSGAS
***. :.*:*****

AvEglA      WHTKWTWSGGEGTVKSYSNSGLTFDKKLVSDVSSIPTSVEWKQDNTNVNADVAYDLFTAA
AnEglA      WHTEWTSWGGEGTVKSYSNSGVTFNKKLVSDVSSIPTSVEWKQDNTNVNADVAYDLFTAA
***.*****:*.*****

AvEglA      NVDHATSSGDYELMIWLARYGYIQPIGKQIATATVGGKSWEVWYGTSIQAGAEQRTYSFV
AnEglA      NVDHATSSGDYELMIWLARYGNIQPIGKQIATATVGGKSWEVWYGSTIQAGAEQRTYSFV
*****:*****

AvEglA      SESPINSYSGDINAFFSYLTQNQGFPASSQYLINLQFGTEPFTGGPATFTVDNWTASVN
AnEglA      SESPINSYSGDINAFFSYLTQNQGFPASSQYLINLQFGTEAFTGGPATFTVDNWTASVN
*****.*****

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95% amino acid sequence identity.

Chapter 6

An evolutionary screen to increase inulinase production in *Aspergillus oryzae*

Culleton, H.M., Majoor, E., McKie, V.A. and de Vries, R.P. 2014. In preparation.

Abstract

Inulin is found widely distributed in nature as a storage polysaccharide and consists of a linear polymer of β -1,2-linked D-fructose molecules which can be hydrolyzed by *endo*-/*exo*-inulinases and fructofuranosidase (invertase) to give D-fructose and fructooligosaccharides. Fructose and fructooligosaccharides have gained considerable interest recently as important ingredients in the food and pharmaceutical industry due to their high sweetening capacity combined with their many functional and nutritional properties. Conventional methods of fructose production have proven to be both costly and inefficient with attention now being directed towards the use of microbial inulinases as a more promising approach for obtaining optimum D-fructose yields. In this study we aimed to improve the inulin degradation potential of *Aspergillus oryzae* through the upregulation of *exo*-inulinase production using an evolutionary screening method. As an organism with no predicted *endo*-inulinase function, improved inulin degradation would be largely dependent on the overproduction of this enzyme. Subsequent generation growth of *Aspergillus oryzae* (Rib40) on inulin for 9 weeks successfully resulted in *exo*-inulinase overproducing mutants.

Introduction

Inulin is widely distributed in nature as a storage carbohydrate in the roots and tubers of several plants such as dandelion, chicory, dahlia, Jerusalem artichoke and burdock [15]. It contains a linear polymer of β -1,2-linked D-fructose, connected to a terminal sucrose residue [11] and can be hydrolyzed by inulinases (*endo-* / *exo-*) [5] and fructofuranosidase (invertase) [17], resulting mainly in the formation of D-fructose and fructooligosaccharides. Fructose is the sweetest, naturally occurring sugar compound identified to date and consequently is emerging fast as an important ingredient in the food and pharmaceutical industry. Fructose is a more favourable alternative sweetener to sucrose due to its higher sweetening capacity, low viscosity and beneficial effects associated with diabetic patients and iron absorption in children [12]. Furthermore, fructooligosaccharides have many positive functional and nutritional properties i.e. reduced caloric value, stimulation of intestinal bifidobacteria and as a source of dietary fibre in food preparations [9, 14]. Conventional methods of fructose production involving the enzymatic degradation of starch followed by the conversion of D-glucose to D-fructose using glucose isomerase yields only ~42% D-fructose, with the remaining end-products consisting of glucose (~50%) and oligosaccharides (~8%) [14]. Other techniques, such as ion exchange chromatography, have been developed for fortification of fructose but all add to the production cost [18]. The use of microbial inulinases has therefore been proposed as a more favourable and promising approach for obtaining optimum D-fructose yields.

In a recent study, the plant polysaccharide degrading potential was compared for three different *Aspergillus* species i.e. *A. nidulans*, *A. niger* and *A. oryzae* [2]. Comparison of the CAZy (Carbohydrate-Active enzyme database (CAZy-<http://www.cazy.org>) [8]) content of the genomes of these fungi demonstrated significant differences, with the number of genes related to particular polysaccharide degradation varying substantially between the three species. *A. niger* has the highest number of inulin-related genes in its genome with 5 open reading frames (ORF's), compared to *A. nidulans* and *A. oryzae*, which have 2 ORF's and 4 ORF's respectively. Growth profiles for these species on inulin, compared on the Fungal Growth Database website (www.fung-growth.org), showed a correlation with genome content, with growth of *A. niger* exceeding that of both *A. nidulans* and *A. oryzae* on this carbon source. While such poor growth could be expected for *A. nidulans*, the genome of which had less than half the number of ORF's of *A. niger*, the results were somewhat surprising for *A. oryzae*. Further analysis into the function predictions of these ORF's showed that of the three species, *A. niger* was the only one to contain an *endo*-inulinase within its genome, thus enhancing its ability for efficient inulin degradation. Based on this information, *A. nidulans* and *A. oryzae* would be required to over-produce *exo*-inulinase in order to utilise this substrate efficiently, thus resulting in

an increased yield of D-fructose. This suggests that these *Aspergilli*, although closely related, have a unique biological approach towards the enzymatic degradation of the same substrate and presents the question if this approach could be optimised through prolonged cultivation on inulin rather than by genetic manipulation.

The use of this type of evolutionary screen has been very effective in obtaining (industrial) microorganisms with improved phenotypes, such as an expanded substrate range, increased stress tolerance and efficient substrate utilisation [10, 13]. In this study we have looked at an evolutionary approach to develop a strain with increased *exo*-inulinase activity. We have taken the filamentous fungi, *A. oryzae* and *A. nidulans* and generationally grown them on inulin for 9 weeks to obtain *exo*-inulinase overproducing mutants.

Materials and Methods

Strains, media and culture conditions

Aspergillus nidulans (FGSCA4) and *Aspergillus oryzae* (Rib40) were used in this study. Both strains were taken from glycerol stocks stored at -45°C and grown on MEA (Malt Extract Agar) prior to the evolution experiments. All plates were grown at 30°C.

Aspergillus minimal medium (MM) was described previously [4]. Agar was added at 2% (w/v) for solid medium. For the evolution experiments, MM solid agar was supplemented with 1% (w/v) inulin (dahlia tubers) (Sigma; Cat. No. I3754). For the analysis and characterization of enzyme activities, 400 mL liquid cultures (2.5 L baffled flasks) of MM + 1% (w/v) inulin (dahlia tubers) (Sigma; Cat. No. I3754) / inulin (chicory) (Sigma: Cat. No. I2255) were inoculated with 1×10^6 spores/mL (final) and incubated at 30°C in an orbital shaker at 250 rpm for 4 days.

Preparation of evolution strains

From the initial regeneration on MEA agar, spores from *A. nidulans* and *A. oryzae* strains were harvested in 10 ml ACES (*N*-(2-Acetamido)-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid) buffer (0.2% (w/v) ACES + 0.02% (w/v) TWEEN[®] 80, pH 6.0) and 200 µL was used to inoculate the evolution specific agar (MM + 1% (w/v) inulin) in triplicate for each strain. All plates were incubated at 30°C. After one week, growth was examined and 100-200 µL of spores was used to inoculate new inulin plates. This process was repeated for a period of 9 weeks after which time the strains were purified on inulin by diluted plating and selecting the best growing colony. The purified strains were stored in 30% (w/v) glycerol at -80°C.

Enzyme profile comparison by SDS-PAGE

400 ml liquid cultures were inoculated with 1×10^6 spores/mL (final) and were grown in 2.5 L baffled flasks at 30°C and 250 rpm for 4 days. Following incubation, the mycelia were removed from the culture filtrate by filtration over a Büchner funnel with nylon gauze. SDS-PAGE was done using a 12% polyacrylamide gel containing 0.1% (w/v) SDS with 15 µL culture filtrate samples being loaded for each expression strain. Protein bands were detected by Coomassie Blue staining [7].

Enzyme activity measurements

For the measurement of enzyme activities from the *A. oryzae* generation strains, an initial 1:10 dilution of the culture filtrates was carried out in 100 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.5 including BSA (1 mg/mL). Para-nitrophenol (*p*NP) assays were used for the measurement of α -/ β -galactosidase and α -/ β -glucosidase activities. Initial α -/ β -galactosidase assays were performed in duplicate by the addition of 0.2 mL of diluted enzyme to 0.2 mL of 10 mM *p*-nitrophenyl α -D-galactopyranoside (pH 4.5) / β -D-galactopyranoside (pH 4.5) respectively and incubated at 40 °C for 60 min. Similarly, for the initial measurement of α -/ β -glucosidase activities, 0.2 mL of diluted enzyme was added in duplicate to 0.2 mL of 10 mM *p*-nitrophenyl α -D-glucopyranoside (pH 4.5) / β -D-glucopyranoside (pH 4.5) respectively and incubated at 40 °C for 60 min. The reactions were stopped with the addition of 3 mL of 2 % (w/v) tri-sodium orthophosphate, pH 12.0 and the absorbance was measured at 400 nm. Activities were expressed as Units/ml where one unit is defined as 1 micromole of *p*-nitrophenol liberated per minute per millilitre of culture filtrate. Depending on results obtained, further time-points were conducted to ensure that activity rates were linear.

Nelson-Somogyi reducing sugar assays were used for the measurement of *exo*-inulinase activities. Two different substrates were used in these experiments for comparison purposes; High MW (Molecular Weight) Inulin (Raftiline; HP Inulin) and Kestose (Megazyme; Cat. No. O-KTR). Initial *exo*-inulinase assays were performed in duplicate by the addition of 0.2 mL of diluted enzyme to 0.2 mL of 20 mg/mL (final) Inulin (pH 4.5) / 5 mg/mL (final) Kestose (pH 4.5) respectively and incubated at 40°C for 60 min. The reactions were stopped by the addition of 0.5 mL of Stopping Solution (25 mL of Solution A (2.5% (w/v) sodium carbonate anhydrous, 2.5% (w/v) potassium sodium tartrate and 20% (w/v) sodium sulphate), to which 1 mL of Solution B (3% (w/v) copper sulphate pentahydrate) was added). Enzyme reactions were then boiled for 20 min and allowed to cool to room temperature for 5 min before the addition of 3.0 mL of a 1:5 dilution of Solution C (5% (w/v) ammonium molybdate, 4.2% (v/v) concentrated sulphuric acid and 0.6% (w/v) sodium arsenate heptahydrate). Depending on results obtained, further time-points were conducted to ensure that activity rates were linear.

Results and Discussion

Development of evolution strains

Aspergillus nidulans (FGSCA4) and *Aspergillus oryzae* (Rib40) were grown on inulin for 9 weeks with weekly re-inoculation over which time the growth rate of *A. oryzae* increased (data not shown). This effect was not seen for *A. nidulans*, indicating that the basal levels of enzymes required to degrade this carbon source had not increased to the same degree as they had in *A. oryzae*.

To further demonstrate this hypothesis, the *exo*-inulinase activity levels for both strains at the beginning and end of the generation experiment were tested. *A. oryzae* week 1 (*Ao1.1*) and 9 (*Ao9.1*) and *A. nidulans* week 1 (*An1.1*) and 9 (*An9.1*) generation strains were chosen, with the same biological clone being used for both time points to give an accurate comparison. Strains were grown in media containing inulin from dahlia tubers and incubated at 30°C for 4 days. Initial *exo*-inulinase activity levels for both generations of each strain were compared, with *Ao9.1* giving higher than double the activity levels (~125 mU/min/mL) of that obtained for *Ao1.1* (~60 mU/min/mL). The activity levels measured for *An1.1* and *An9.1* remained unchanged and consistent with that obtained for *Ao1.1*, providing a strong correlation with the growth profiles.

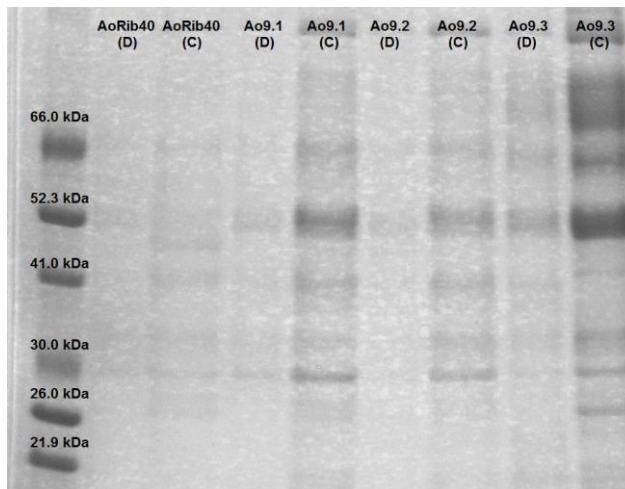


Figure 1: SDS-PAGE analysis of *A. oryzae* (Rib40) and week 9 evolved biological triplicate strains (*Ao9.1*, *Ao9.2* and *Ao9.3*) when grown on MM + 1% inulin (dahlia tubers (D)/chicory (C)) at 30°C, 250 rpm for 4 days. Low molecular weight (LMW) ladder produced in house.

Extracellular enzyme profile and activity comparison

Based on the results obtained from the initial enzyme activity measurements, the extracellular activities in the *A. oryzae* mutant strains were examined in more detail. *A. oryzae* (Rib40) and the biological triplicates generated from week 9 (*Ao9.1*, *Ao9.2* and *Ao9.3*) were chosen for this study, with *A. oryzae* (Rib40) acting as a control and indicative of the basal levels of enzyme activities expected when *A. oryzae* wild type (WT) is grown on inulin as a carbon source. Inulin from both dahlia tubers and chicory were examined to determine whether the precise structure of the inulin affects the enzyme mixtures produced by the mutants.

After 4 days of growth, the extracellular enzyme profiles generated for each strain were visualised by SDS-PAGE (Fig. 1). The *A. oryzae* mutant strains all demonstrated a clear increase in enzyme production levels when grown on inulin compared to the wild type (Rib40) with notable differences also being present between the three mutants. This again, was in correlation with the growth profiles of these strains with *Ao9.3* generating more dense mycelia and a more concentrated enzyme profile in inulin rich liquid cultures than the other strains. Further evaluation of the enzyme profiles showed an intense band at approximately 52 kDa (Fig. 1), which likely corresponds to the extracellular *exo*-inulinase (InuE), for which the calculated molecular mass in *A. oryzae* Rib40 (AO090701000400) is ~55 kDa. The other visible protein bands are consequently expected to be multiple fructofuranosidases (invertases) i.e. AO090020000640, AO090701000038 and AO090103000043, the molecular weights which are ~64 kDa, 69 kDa and 121 kDa respectively [2]. Interestingly, higher enzyme levels were generated on inulin from chicory than from dahlia tubers, the latter being the source of inulin used for the generation studies. Previous studies using analytical HPLC to determine the chain lengths of both these commercial preparations of inulin showed that inulin from dahlia contains a higher molecular weight range which in turn has been known to affect solubility [6]. This indicates that while the basic structure of both carbon sources are identical and require the same enzyme actions for degradation, the inulin from chicory may be more easily utilised by the fungal cell.

In combination with the visual profiles of extracellular enzyme production during growth on inulin, the levels of *exo*-inulinase activity were measured in duplicate and compared for the different strains. The activities of α - and β -galactosidase and α - and β -glucosidase were also measured in duplicate as a control and indicative of the basal level of change in production of un-associated enzyme activities. In correlation to what was discovered with the enzyme profiles, the overall levels of all enzyme activities were higher for the *A. oryzae* mutant strains than for the wild type (Fig. 2). This was especially the case for *Ao9.3*, which gave a 4 and 9 fold increase in *exo*-inulinase activity on inulin and kestose, respectively. Kestose contains more terminal ends than

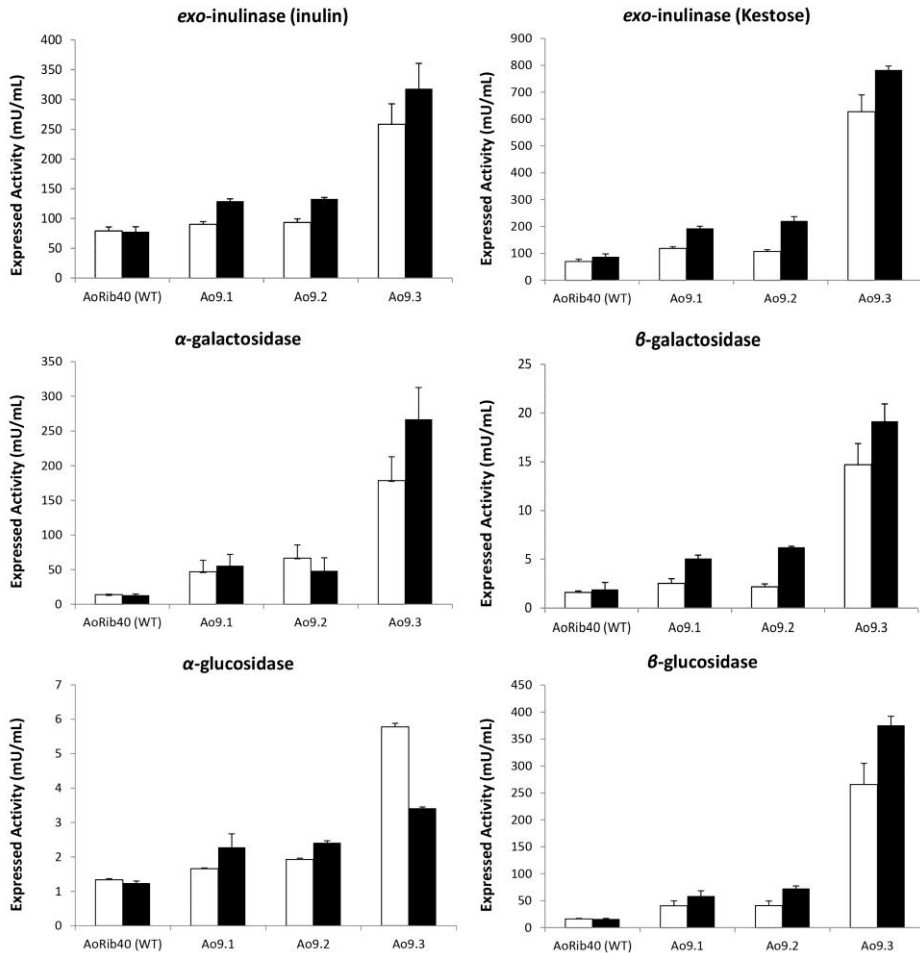


Figure 2: Measured activity values obtained from Day 4 culture filtrate samples from the indicated week 9 *A. oryzae* generation strains. AoRib40 was used as a control and indicative of the basal levels of activities generated when *A. oryzae* wild type (WT) is grown on inulin as a carbon source. Error bars calculated on standard deviations between technical duplicates. All polysaccharide substrates and *p*-nitrophenol substrates were tested at 40°C, pH 4.5 under conditions as described in Materials and Methods. White = Dahlia inulin, Black = chicory inulin.

inulin, thus confirming the *exo*-acting properties of the enzyme being over-produced. An average of a 12 fold increase in activities for the control enzymes was also noted indicating that the evolution screening not only increased the levels of the required enzyme activities i.e. *exo*-inulinase, but also the overall growth rate and secretion levels of these strains when grown on inulin. This could indicate that instead of a specific *exo*-inulinase increase in the mutants, enzyme secretion as whole has been improved in these strains.

Another hypothesis involves the up-regulation of genes associated with AmyR in response to the complete degradation of inulin to fructose and glucose. AmyR controls genes involved in starch degradation but it has been noted in *A. niger* that it also regulates genes encoding *beta*-glucosidases and *alpha*- and *beta*-galactosidases [16]. While starch and maltose are the most common inducers of this regulator, glucose also induces AmyR activation in *A. niger* and *A. oryzae* [1, 16]. If, like in *A. niger*, AmyR is also responsible for the regulation of these otherwise un-associated genes in *A. oryzae*, the complete degradation of inulin may then also cause an increase in the associated enzyme activities. In *A. niger* fructose is a relatively weak repressing carbon source [3], while glucose at higher concentrations can cause significant repression of many genes encoding poly- and oligosaccharide degrading enzymes. Degradation of inulin would only result in very low glucose levels that may result in AmyR activation.

The mutants were maintained for several generations on MEA and then tested again on inulin without losing their improved properties, signifying that the changes were genetically stable and not dependent on a continuous selection. Future studies will analyse the nature of the mutations in more detail.

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Chapter 7

Summary and general discussion

Plant biomass is the most abundant and usable carbon source for most fungal species on the planet. Primarily consisting of plant cell walls, it contains two main groups of polysaccharides; plant cell wall polysaccharides (cellulose, hemicelluloses [xyloglucans, xylan, galacto(gluo)mannan] and pectin) and storage polysaccharides (e.g. starch and inulin). Plant cell wall polysaccharides interact with each other as well as the aromatic polymer, lignin, to form a network of linkages and hydrogen bonds that give the plant cell wall its rigidity. Fungi degrade these polysaccharides extracellularly by secreting enzymes which release oligo- and monosaccharides which can then be utilized by the fungal cell [15]. Fungi have optimized this process by producing diverse enzymatic mixtures, specific to the polysaccharides which they encounter. The fine-tuned production of such diverse enzyme sets is controlled through a set of transcriptional regulators, of which there is predicted to be between 400-600 in *Aspergillus* alone, that either activate (e.g. AmyR, XlnR, AraR, InuR, GalR/GalX, RhaR, ManR, ClbR) or repress (CreA) the expression of the genes encoding plant biomass degrading enzymes [25].

Aspergilli have become one of the most widely studied group of filamentous fungi due to their potential in plant biomass degradation and in many industrial applications [4, 5, 9, 13, 35]. As common soil fungi, found in many different environments, *Aspergilli*, are capable of producing an extensive set of enzyme mixes and degrade a very broad range of polysaccharides [10]. Much research over the past two decades has been applied to the development of *Aspergillus*, most notably *A. niger* and *A. oryzae*, as hosts for recombinant protein production. Their natural ability to grow at high rates and to high biomass densities and their exceptional capacity to secrete high levels of homologous product are well recognized [10, 14]. While significant progress has been made in the hyper-production of heterologous proteins, yields have not yet reached the levels obtained for homologous proteins [12]. This may in part be caused by the acidification of the media due to the production of organic acids in the case of *A. niger*, different native protein glycosylation patterns or by the presence of high levels of secreted proteases which effectively degrade heterologous proteins [41]. Regardless of the broad use of other fungal systems e.g. cellulase production in *Penicillium* sp. [1, 8] and *Trichoderma reesei* [18, 27] and development of new industrial fungal enzyme producers, such as *Myceliophthora thermophila* [40, 44], *Aspergillus* has remained of major interest for applied research. This is reflected by the number of species with a published genome sequence [3, 22, 30, 32-34, 39, 46]; <http://genome.jgi-psf.org/programs/fungi/genome-releases.jsf>, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject>] and the recent initiation of a project to sequence every species of the genus, as well as comparative studies of these genomes addressing plant biomass degradation [10], **Chapter 2**].

Plant biomass degradation in *Aspergillus*

Plant polysaccharide degradation by fungi has been a topic of study for many decades due to its relevance for many industrial applications, such as paper & pulp [9], food [35], feed [5], beverages, textiles [4] and detergents. More recently, the increasing interest in biomass-based fuels and chemicals has accelerated research into fungal decomposition of plant biomass. The availability of an increasing number of fungal genome sequences has encouraged genome mining of many species to identify new and/or better enzymes than those produced by established enzyme producers, such as *A. niger* and *T. reesei* [11]. By comparison, less attention has been given to the diverse strategies i.e. both enzyme-encoding genes and regulatory systems [16], employed by fungi themselves to efficiently degrade plant biomass.

In **Chapter 2**, eight *Aspergillus* species were compared with respect to their genomic ability to degrade plant cell wall biomass. While all tested *Aspergilli* had a similar potential to degrade plant biomass, results showed that even in closely related species, their strategies differed markedly. The variation in CAZy content of the genome of these species was relatively small, likely due to their close phylogenetic relationships and their similar habitats. Hierarchical clustering of the plant polysaccharide degrading enzymes of these species demonstrated that species with the most similar CAZy content in their genome were also taxonomically close. In contrast to this correlation, a high level of variation was detected in the enzymes produced by the tested species, especially during growth on sugar beet pulp. Sugar beet pulp contains mainly cellulose and pectin and therefore unsurprisingly, pectinases and cellulases were found to be the main enzymes produced on this substrate. The noted differences in pectinolytic gene content between the species could partially be explained by pH preference of the associated enzymes i.e. *A. niger*, which strongly acidifies the culture medium [34], has an evolutionary preference to pectin hydrolase production (acidic pH optima) over pectin lyases (neutral to alkali pH optima). This genomic pH preference to pectin degradation was also found to be prevalent in the thermophilic fungi *Myceliophthora thermophila* and *Thielavia terrestris*, where *T. terrestris*, which has 3.5 times more pectin hydrolases than lyases in its genome, was found to grow best on pectin at an acidic pH, while *M. thermophila*, which has 3.5 times more lyases than hydrolases in its genome, was found to favour a neutral to alkaline pH for growth on pectin [6]. However, as *A. niger* was the only species in this study to strongly acidify the medium, the variability associated with enzyme production for the remaining species was more likely be due to regulatory differences at the transcriptional level, suggesting that specific regulator function and/or range of target genes could be unique to different *Aspergillus* species. Recent research by Meijer *et. al.* (2011) suggests that this variability and uniqueness between different *Aspergillus* species is indeed accurate. In a study that compared growth and

extracellular enzyme profiles of wild type *A. niger* isolates from different biotopes all over the world and type strains of other black Aspergilli, it was found that irrespective of the environment and carbon source that a particular strain was conditioned to, adaptation to the natural environment does not occur at the genetic level for *A. niger* and its ability to utilise various carbon sources remains consistent across the isolates of this species. In contrast, interspecies variation with respect to carbon source utilisation was significant, especially on D-galactose where *A. brasiliensis* was unique in its ability to grow on this substrate suggesting a distinct difference in sugar transport mechanisms [42] or metabolism.

The unique phenotype of *A. vadensis* compared to other black Aspergilli

A. vadensis, a recently identified member of the black Aspergilli and a close relative of *A. niger*, has been suggested as being beneficial for recombinant protein production as it does not acidify the culture medium and produces very low levels of extracellular proteases [17]. In recent studies, Punt *et al.* (2008) identified the PrtT regulatory protein, a homologue of which was found to be present in many *Aspergillus* species and which was shown to govern expression of many secreted protease genes, including the major alkaline protease *alpA* and neutral protease *Np1* in *A. oryzae* and the aspergillopepsin encoding gene *pepA* in *A. niger*. In addition, a gene cluster related to starch degradation, including the *amyR* regulatory gene, is present directly upstream of the *prtT* locus, separated by only two genes (*agdA/aglU* and *amyA*), both of which are target genes of AmyR in *A. niger* [37].

In **Chapter 3**, the molecular and phenotypical differences between *A. vadensis* and six other species of black Aspergilli i.e. *A. niger*, *A. acidus*, *A. aculeatus*, *A. carbonarius*, *A. brasiliensis* and *A. tubingensis* were examined. Growth profiles showed significant and unique differences between *A. vadensis* and the other black Aspergilli with no growth being observed for *A. vadensis* on maltose or starch. The unusual growth profile for *A. vadensis* when grown on these carbon sources could be explained by a mutation/deletion within the *amyR* regulatory gene. Growth on casein however, was comparably poor for all the black Aspergilli, with the exception of *A. niger*, indicating that this more common protease deficiency may be accounted for at a transcriptional level. Genome analysis, however, demonstrated that the *prtT* and *amyR* regulatory loci and also the *agdA/aglU* and *amyA* genes were well conserved among all the black Aspergilli, including *A. vadensis*. Combined with gene expression data indicating very poor levels of expression for both *prtT* and *amyR*, along with the associated *amyA* gene, the aberrant phenotype of *A. vadensis* is likely caused by the low expression of *prtT* and *amyR* regulators or their associated genes and not a mutation or deletion of the structural part of these genes as was originally concluded,

thus reinforcing the unique abilities and adaptations of individual and often closely related *Aspergillus* species in the efficient degradation of plant biomass.

Optimisation of recombinant enzyme production in *A. vadensis*

Despite the common use of several *Aspergillus* species, most notably *A. niger* and *A. oryzae* for the industrial production of proteins [19], the yields for heterologous protein production still remain low. This is in part, due to different native protein glycosylation patterns and the presence of high levels of secreted proteases which effectively degrade many heterologous proteins [41]. Genetic strategies, including the development of highly inducible or strong constitutively active promoters, have been shown to lead to an increase in the levels of recombinant protein production.

In **Chapter 4**, six novel constitutive promoters from *A. niger* (*pefla*, *ptktA*, *peflβ*, *ptall*, *pcetA* and *ppgkA*) and a further five from *A. vadensis* (*pefla*, *prps31*, *pgpdA*, *pubil* and *poliC*) were tested in *A. vadensis* using a gene encoding a secreted arabinofuranosidase from *Fusarium oxysporum* as a reporter for heterologous protein production. When comparing just the ABF expression levels obtained under the control of the different promoters, it was found that 9 out of the 11 promoters tested resulted in higher ABF activity levels than those observed under the control of the widely characterized *gpdA* promoter from *A. nidulans* [20, 21, 28, 29]. However, as multiple insertions of up to and greater than 10 copies are common in *Aspergillus* and are found to affect recombinant protein production, both positively [43] and negatively [24], it was necessary to determine the copy number of expression vectors transformed into the individual strains in order to gain a complete understanding of the actual strength of the tested promoter constructs. Interestingly, the order of promoter strength altered notably with 3 of the promoters from *A. niger* (*pefla* > *ptal* > *ppgkA*) and 3 from *A. vadensis* (*pefla* > *poliC* > *prps31*) then resulting in higher ABF activity than the *gpdA* promoter from *A. nidulans*.

The over-production of target genes by different promoters in *Aspergillus* is also receiving attention in other studies. Only recently, Li *et.al.* (2014) published research accounting the over-expression of β-glucuronidase (GUS) (*uidA*) when fused to the promoter region encoding the β-glucosidase II gene (*bgIII*), with reported GUS specific activity of 189 U/mg. Interestingly however, when fused with a smaller segment of this promoter region, much higher GUS specific activity of 448 U/mg was reported [26]. This method of utilising sections of promoter regions is not a new one however with Minetoki *et. al.* (1998) describing a similar method whereby multiple copies of the conserved sequence region III in the promoter regions of the amylase-encoding genes (*amyB*, *glaA* and *agdA*) of *A. oryzae* were introduced into the *agdA* promoter, resulting in both a significant increase in promoter activity at the transcriptional level and in expression of the *agdA* target gene [31].

In **Chapter 5**, the full length gDNA encoding two plant biomass degrading enzymes i.e. α -L-arabinofuranosidase (*abfB*) (GH54) and *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase (*eglA*) (GH12) from *A. vadensis* were successfully expressed using the *gpdA* promoter from *A. vadensis*. Both enzymes were produced extracellularly in *A. vadensis* as soluble proteins and successfully purified by affinity chromatography, giving a maximum yield of 30 mg/L for AbfB and 25 mg/L for EglA. It should be noted that the *A. vadensis* strain used in these experiments was near wild type and had not undergone the extensive strain improvement strategies that have resulted in the commercial *A. niger* and *T. reesei* strains that secrete much higher levels of enzyme, suggesting room for improvement. With an initial expression yield of \sim 30 mg/L, *A. vadensis* shows positive signs of becoming an industrially significant contender but considerable improvements will be required to rival the secretion abilities of commercial production strains such as *A. niger*, *A. oryzae* and *T. reesei*. Strategies for improving recombinant protein production in fungi, including the use of strong promoters and effective secretion signals or gene fusions to genes associated with well-expressed and secreted proteins have been implemented successfully to other systems in the past [36, 45]. Other methods, such as UV-mediated mutagenesis have been successfully applied to *Aspergillus* strains to generate ultra-high producing mutants [23]. Successes have also been obtained using a bioprocessing approach of optimizing fungal morphology, mycelia immobilization and culture conditions [2, 7].

To date, the use of His-tag affinity chromatography in fungal systems has not been practical due, in part to the difficulties experienced with degradation of the target protein and/or Histidine residues by extracellular proteases [41], especially as was found to be the case with *A. niger* (unpublished data). Purification of recombinant enzymes from *A. vadensis* through His-tag affinity chromatography have worked well thus far (**Chapter 5**; a further eight *A. vadensis* proteins were also produced and purified in this way (unpublished data)), suggesting its potential as a versatile host in the fundamental research of proteins as well as for industrial enzyme production.

AbfB from *A. vadensis* shared characteristics with the previously reported *A. niger* AbfB [38]. However, comparative analysis of EglA from *A. vadensis* to the orthologous EglA from *A. niger* demonstrated significant variations in biochemical characteristics, despite these organisms being taxonomically very close. In particular, the difference in temperature optima and stability for these orthologous enzymes is noteworthy and would directly impact the applications of these enzymes. Screening of orthologs from related fungi may therefore be worthwhile for many industrial applications and suggests that it is not always necessary to go to distantly related species or enzyme classifications to get significant changes in biochemical properties.

Optimisation of native enzyme production in *Aspergillus*

Inulin is found widely distributed in nature as a storage polysaccharide and consists of a linear polymer of β -1,2-linked D-fructose molecules which can be hydrolyzed by *endo*-/*exo*-inulinases and fructofuranosidase (invertase) to give D-fructose and fructooligosaccharides. Fructose and fructooligosaccharides have gained considerable interest recently as important ingredients in the food and pharmaceutical industry due to their high sweetening capacity combined with their many functional and nutritional properties. Conventional methods of fructose production have proven to be both costly and inefficient with attention now being directed towards the use of microbial inulinases as a more promising approach for obtaining optimum D-fructose yields.

In **Chapter 6** an evolutionary screening method was used to improve the inulin degradation potential of *Aspergillus oryzae* through the upregulation of *exo*-inulinase. As an organism with no predicted *endo*-inulinase function, improved inulin degradation would be largely dependent on the overproduction of this enzyme. Subsequent generation growth of *Aspergillus oryzae* (Rib40) on inulin for 9 weeks successfully resulted in *exo*-inulinase overproducing mutants. This study demonstrates the genomic flexibility of fungi and their potential for improved enzyme production. The approach used to improve *exo*-inulinase production can be applied for many other enzymes and is mainly dependent on the design of a good screen to push the strains in the right direction. The result that the evolved strains are genetically stable demonstrates that the improvements are genetic rather than pleiotropic. The approach introduced in this study is therefore an attractive alternative to GMO methods, in particular with respect to use in food applications.

Conclusion

The aim of this PhD project was to examine and optimise the plant polysaccharide degradation abilities of *Aspergillus*. It revealed the highly diverse enzymatic strategies for the degradation of plant biomass used by closely related fungi that appeared to have equal efficiency. This demonstrated that it is not always necessary to go to distantly related species or enzyme classifications to get significant changes in biochemical properties between the enzymes produced by these fungi. Therefore, the screening of orthologs from related fungi and/or the identification of enzyme sets employed by different fungi can be used to design better and combined commercial enzyme cocktails for many industrial applications, such as the bio-fuel industry.

While much research has been applied to the development of *Aspergillus* as hosts for recombinant protein production, selecting the most efficient strategy for the construction of a particular expression strain remains a complex task. Factors such as control mechanisms (transcription and regulation) and functional properties (post-translational modifications and toxicity) of the target gene are required before expression strain aspects, such as constitutive vs. inducible promoters, effective secretion signals, carrier proteins and host strain physiology can be considered. In this thesis, the development of a strong constitutive promoter for expression of homologous (α -L-arabinofuranosidase and *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase from *A. vadensis*) and heterologous (α -arabinofuranosidase from *Fusarium oxysporum*) proteins on a simple carbon source such as sucrose is defined. The potential of protease deficient hosts, such as *A. vadensis*, is examined and emphasized with successful and efficient production and purification of recombinant enzymes facilitating many downstream processes in industrial enzyme production. Finally, the over-production of native fungal enzymes through generation screening methods offer an alternative to genetic approaches for the optimisation of the plant biomass degrading potential of fungi, such as *Aspergillus*.

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Nederlandse samenvatting

Planten biomassa is de meest abundante en bruikbare koolstof bron voor de meeste schimmels op aarde. Schimmels breken de polysacchariden in dit substraat af door enzymen uit te scheiden die mono- en oligosacchariden vrijmaken. Deze worden vervolgens opgenomen en gebruikt door de schimmel cel. *Aspergilli* zijn schimmels die in veel verschillende biotopen voorkomen en zij produceren een uitgebreide set enzymen die een breed scala aan polysacchariden kunnen afbreken. In de afgelopen twee decennia is veel onderzoek verricht om *Aspergillus* te ontwikkelen als een gastheer voor de productie van recombinante enzymen. Meer recent is dit onderzoek, in het bijzonder gericht op de afbraak van planten biomassa, in een versnelling gekomen door de sterk toenemende behoefte aan brandstof en chemicaliën gemaakt uit planten biomassa.

In **hoofdstuk 2** zijn acht *Aspergillus* species vergeleken met betrekking tot hun genomisch potentieel voor afbraak van planten biomassa. Ondanks dat dit potentieel vergelijkbaar was in de species, de resultaten lieten zien dat zelfs nauw verwante species hiervoor sterk verschillende strategieën gebruiken. De variatie in de CAZy genen in de genomen was relatief klein en hiërarchische clustering hiervan volgde de taxonomische relaties van de species. In tegenstelling hiermee werd een hoge variatie geobserveerd in de enzymen die door de species geproduceerd werden. The verschillen met betrekking tot pectinolytische genen in de genomen konden deels verklaard worden door de pH voorkeur van de gerelateerde enzymen. Echter, de verschillen werden vooral toegewezen aan regulatoire verschillen, wat suggereert dat de functie van een regulator of de set van genen die deze controleert verschilt in de species.

In **hoofdstuk 3** werden de moleculaire en fysiologische eigenschappen van *Aspergillus vadensis* in vergelijking met andere zwarte *Aspergilli* bestudeerd. *A. vadensis*, een recentelijk geïdentificeerde species van de zwarte *Aspergilli*, is een interessante kandidaat als producent van heterologe eiwitten, aangezien deze species het medium niet verzuurd en zeer lage niveaus van extracellulaire proteases heeft. Met uitzondering van de groei op maltose en zetmeel werden geen significante groeiverschillen gevonden met alle andere species. Groei op het eiwit caseïne was slecht voor alle species met uitzondering van *Aspergillus niger*. Genoom analyse toonde aan dat de *pvtT* en *amyR* regulatoire genen, alsmede de *agdA/aglU* en *amyA* genen, geconserveerd waren in alle zwarte *Aspergilli*. Op basis van expressie data werd duidelijk dat het fenotype van *A. vadensis* op maltose, zetmeel en eiwit hoogstwaarschijnlijk veroorzaakt is door lage expressie van de regulator genen *amyR* en *pvtT*. Dit onderstreept de unieke aanpassingen in nauw verwante *Aspergillus* species met betrekking tot efficiënte afbraak van planten biomassa.

In **hoofdstuk 4** zijn zes nieuwe constitutieve promotoren van *A. niger* (*pefla*, *pkta*, *peflβ*, *ptal1*, *pcetA* and *ppgkA*) en vijf van *A. vadensis* (*pefla*, *prps31*, *pgpdA*, *pubi1* and *poliC*) getest voor enzym productie in *A. vadensis* waarbij een gen coderend voor een gesecreteerd arabinofuranosidase van *Fusarium oxysporum* als reporter is gebruikt. Op basis van ABF activiteit bleek dat 9 van de 11 promotoren betere productie gaven in vergelijking met de veel gebruikte *gpdA* promoter van *Aspergillus nidulans*. Analyse van het copy-nummer van de transformanten had een significant effect op de bepaalde sterkte van de promotoren, waarbij slechts drie promotoren van *A. niger* (*pefla* > *ptal* > *ppgkA*) en drie van *A. vadensis* (*pefla* > *poliC* > *prps31*) tot hogere ABF activiteit leiden dan *gpdA* van *A. nidulans*.

In **hoofdstuk 5** is de succesvolle expressie van genen coderend voor α -L-arabinofuranosidase (*abfB*, GH54) en *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase (*eglA*, GH12) beschreven. Beide enzymen werden extracellulair als oplosbare eiwitten geproduceerd en succesvol gezuiverd via affiniteit chromatografie, met een opbrengst van 30 mg/L voor AbfB en 25 mg/L voor EglA. AbfB was functioneel vergelijkbaar met de eerder beschreven AbfB van *A. niger*. Echter, vergelijking van *A. vadensis* en *A. niger* EglA toonde significante verschillen aan in hun biochemische eigenschappen, ondanks de nauwe verwantschap van deze twee species. Verschillen werden vooral gevonden in temperatuur optima en stabiliteit wat direct relevant is voor de toepassing van deze enzymen. Dit suggereert dat de vergelijking van orthologen uit verwante schimmels tot relevante data kan leiden voor industriële applicaties en dat het niet altijd nodig is om naar onverwante species te gaan voor enzymen met afwijkende eigenschappen.

In **hoofdstuk 6** is een evolutionaire screening methode gebruikt om het inuline afbraak potentieel van *A. oryzae* door de verhoging van *exo*-inulinase activiteit. Aangezien dit organisme geen *endo*-inulinases lijkt te produceren, zou verbeterde afbraak van inuline vooral afhankelijk zijn van overproductie van *exo*-inulinase. Groei van *Aspergillus oryzae* (RIB40) via herhaaldelijke aanenten op inuline gedurende 9 weken resulteerde in *exo*-inulinase overproducerende mutanten. Deze studie toont de genomische flexibiliteit van schimmels aan en het potentieel hiervan voor verbeterde enzym productie. Aangezien de geëvolueerde stammen stabiel zijn is het waarschijnlijk dat de oorzaak van de verhoogde productie genetisch is en niet pleiotropisch. Dit laat zien dat de aanpak van deze studie een aantrekkelijk alternatief is voor GMO methoden, vooral met betrekking tot gebruik in levensmiddelen toepassingen.

Curriculum Vitae

Helena Marie Culleton was born on April the 3rd, 1986 in Wexford, Ireland. She followed her second education in St. Mary's College, Arklow and graduated in 2004 with an honours Leaving Certificate. In September of the same year she began her study in Genetics and Cell Biology at Dublin City University where she did her first internship in molecular biology at Megazyme International Ireland in Bray, Co. Wicklow under the supervision of Dr. R.M. Lloyd and Dr. S.J. Charnock. As part of her final year, she did her second internship in the National Institute for Cellular Biotechnology (NICB), Dublin under the supervision of Prof. C.E. Loscher. Helena obtained her honours BSc degree in 2008. In June of the same year she began employment as a Molecular Biologist/Biochemist with Megazyme International Ireland and began her PhD in Fungal Physiology in conjunction with Utrecht University, The Netherlands and CBS-KNAW Fungal Biodiversity Centre, The Netherlands under the supervision of Prof. Dr. ir. R.P. de Vries and Dr. V.A. McKie.

List of Publications

Culleton, H.M., McKie, V.A. and de Vries, R.P. 2013. Physiological and molecular aspects of degradation of plant polysaccharides by fungi: What have we learned from *Aspergillus*? *Biotechnology Journal*. **8**: 884-894.

Culleton, H.M., Bouzid. O., McKie, V.A. and de Vries, R.P. 2014. New promoters to improve heterologous protein production in *Aspergillus vadensis*. *Curr. Biotechnol.* **3**: 1-8.

Culleton, H.M., McKie, V.A. and de Vries, R.P. 2014. Overexpression, purification and characterization of homologous α -L-arabinofuranosidase and *endo*-1,4- β -D-glucanase in *Aspergillus vadensis*. *Ind. Micro. & Biotech.* **41**: 1697-1708.

Abstracts and Presentations

Bouزيد, O., **Culleton, H.M.**, McKie, V.A., Mc Cleary, B.V. and de Vries, R.P. – The 9th International *Aspergillus* meeting (ASPERFEST9). March 29-30, 2012, Marburg, Germany. (Poster presentation).

Benoit, I., **Culleton, H.M.**, Wiebenga, A., Coutinho, P.M., Brouwer, C.P.J.M., McKie, V.A., McCleary, B.V., Henrissat, B. and de Vries, R.P. – The 11th European Conference on Fungal Genetics (ECFG11). March 30-April 2, 2012, Marburg, Germany. (Poster presentation).

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