

# **Phosphoproteome profiles of the phytopathogenic fungi [i]Alternaria brassicicola[/i] and [i]Botrytis cinerea[/i] during exponential growth in axenic cultures**

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## **Dataset Brief**

## **Phosphoproteome profiles of the phytopathogenic fungi** *Alternaria*

*brassicicola* **and** *Botrytis cinerea* **during exponential growth in** 

## **axenic cultures**

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- Key-words: gray mold, black spot, fungal disease, post-translational modifications, protein
- phosphorylation, signal-transduction

#### *Abstract*

 This study describes the gel-free phosphoproteomic analysis the phytopathogenic fungi *Alternaria brassicicola* and *Botrytis cinerea* grown *in vitro* under non-limiting conditions. Using a combination of strong cation exchange and immobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC) prior to LC-MS, we identified over 1350 phosphopeptides per fungus representing over 800 phosphoproteins. The preferred phosphorylation sites were found on serine (>80%) and threonine (>15%), whereas phosphorylated tyrosine residues were found at less than 1% in *A. brassicicola* and at a slightly higher ratio in *B. cinerea* (1.5%). Biological processes represented principally among the phoshoproteins were those involved in response and transduction of *stimuli* as well as in regulation of cellular and metabolic processes. Most known elements of signal transduction were found in the datasets of both fungi. This study also revealed unexpected phosphorylation sites in histidine-kinases, a category overrepresented in filamentous ascomycetes compared to yeast.

The data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange database with identifier PXD000817.

 The phytopathogenic fungi *Botrytis cinerea* (Bc) and *Alternaria brassicicola* (Ab) belong to two distantly related taxa (*i.e*., Leotiomycetes and Dothideomycetes) within the Ascomycetes. They provoke, respectively, gray mold on over 200 dicotyledonous plant hosts and black spot on major *Brassica* crop species. These fungi are ubiquitous and use similar necrotrophic strategies to interact with their host plants.

 The genome sequences of both fungal species are available [1, 2] and genomic tools to investigate infectious strategies are being developed and used including transcriptomics, proteomics, yeast-one-hybrid and others [3-5]. One bottleneck of proteomic studies is the identification of post-translational modifications that are involved in the regulation of protein-activity. Especially phosphorylation and dephosphorylation are commonly used regulatory  events involved in signal-transduction particularly important for pathogenicity, development and adaptation to changing environmental conditions including fungicides [reviewed in 6]. Only few papers report on global identification of phosphoproteins in non-model fungi [7, 8], whereas numerous studies describe the development of phosphoproteomics in several yeast species [reviewed in 9, 10], but also in plants [11]. In this work we established a gel-free phosphoproteomics protocol for the above cited fungi grown under non-limiting *in vitro* conditions leading to a first set of roughly 1350 phosphopeptides per fungus representing over 800 phosphoproteins each.

## *Characterization of the* Ab *and* Bc *phosphoproteomes*

Spores of the *B. cinerea* reference strain B05.10 were inoculated at  $2x10^5$  spores mL<sup>-1</sup> in 60 liquid YSS medium (2 g L<sup>-1</sup> KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 1.5 g L<sup>-1</sup> K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 1 g L<sup>-1</sup> (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> x 7H<sub>2</sub>O, 2 g L<sup>-1</sup> 61 veast extract,  $10 \text{ g L}^{-1}$  D-glucose). Spores of *A. brassicicola* strain Abra43 were inoculated at  $2x10^5$  spores mL<sup>-1</sup> in PDB (potato dextrose broth) medium. Four independent cultures of 150 mL were grown for 22 h at 23°C in the dark on a rotary shaker at 150 rpm. The mycelium was harvested by filtration and immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen prior to freeze-drying. To simplify the lecture of this paper data derived from *B. cinerea* will be referred to as Bc and those from *Alternaria brassicicola* as Ab in the forthcoming sections.

 Total extraction of proteins was performed on 100 mg of mycelium using phenol according to a protocol adapted from [12]. Pellets of proteins were suspended in 6 M urea, 2 M thio-urea, 2% (w/v) CHAPS, 30 mM Tris-HCl pH8.8. Protein content was determined using the 2D Quant-kit (GE Healthcare, Velizy-Villacoublay, France) with BSA as standard. For each biological replicate, 2 mg of proteins were reduced with 10 mM DTT and alkylated

with 40 mM iodoacetamide.

 Protein digestion was performed with modified trypsin (Promega, Madison, WI, USA) at an 75 enzyme/substrate ratio of 1:33 (w/w) by overnight incubation at 37 °C, and stopped by adding 76 1% formic acid  $(v/v)$ .

 Prior to the enrichment of phosphopeptides using immobilized metal ion affinity chromatography (IMAC) as described in [13], peptides were labeled using stable isotope as described by Boersema et al. [14] and separated in 10 fractions using strong cation exchange chromatography (SCX) (Zorbax 300, 5 µm, 2.1 mm id, 150 mm length).

 Each enriched phosphopeptide fraction was separated on a Nano 2DLC-Ultra system (Eksigent) using a C18 column and analyzed on line with a LTQ XL ion trap (Thermo Electron, Courtaboeuf, France) using a nano-electrospray interface. Peptide ions were analyzed using Xcalibur 2.07 with the following data-dependent acquisition steps: (1) full MS scan in enhanced scan rate mode (mass-to-charge ratio (m/z) 350 to 1400, profil mode), (2) 86 MS/MS on the two highest ions detected in full scan (qz =  $0.25$ , activation time = 30 ms, and 87 collision energy =  $35\%$ , centroid mode), (3) MS3 was performed when neutral loss of H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> was detected in the MS2 spectra. Dynamic exclusion was set to 45 sec.

 Identification of proteins and phosphorylation sites were performed using X!Tandem Cyclone (http://www.thegpm.org/TANDEM/2010.12.01). Enzymatic cleavage was described to be due to trypsin digestion with one possible miss cleavage. Cys carboxyamidomethylation was set as static modifications while Met oxidation and phosphorylation of tyrosine, serine and threonine residues were set as variable modifications. Precursor mass and fragment mass tolerance were 2.0 and 0.5 Da, respectively. Identifications were performed using the *Botrytis cinerea* genome databases (Broad Institute of Harvard at MIT, http://www.broadinstitute.org, 16448 entries, INRA URGI http://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/Species/Botrytis, 16360 entries) and the *Alternaria brassicicola* genome database (2010, DOE Joint Genome Institute, http://genome.jgi-psf.org/Altbr1/Altbr1.home.html, 10685 entries) completed with a

 homemade contaminant database. Identified proteins were filtered and grouped using the X!Tandem pipeline v3.3.0 (http://pappso.inra.fr/bioinfo/xtandempipeline/). Data filtering was achieved according to a peptide E value < 0.01. The false discovery rate (FDR) was estimated < 1% for both analyses (reverse database strategy). The assignment of phosphorylation sites 103 in MS<sup>2</sup> and MS<sup>3</sup> spectra were scored (Document S2) using the Olsen-Mann algorithm [15] implemented in PhosCalc [16]. 82% of the phosphosites proposed by X!Tandem matched with the first Phoscalc hit or with the second Phoscalc hit when the difference between the first and second score was <10. Phosphorylation site assignment was confirmed by manual inspection of the raw data for all phosphopeptides from proteins involved in signal transduction (Tables 1 and 2).

 Identified proteins, phosphopeptides and their corresponding spectra were deposited online using PROTICdb database [17] at the following URL: http://moulon.inra.fr/protic/necrophos using the following login: "necrophos" and password (required during the review process only): "review". The data have also been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium database (http://www.proteomexchange.org) via the PRIDE partner repository [18] with the dataset identifier PXD000817 and DOI 10.6019/PXD000817 at the following URL: http://tinyurl.com/oorc5n9, username: reviewer90580@ebi.ac.uk and password: tkRgUihL.

 This experimental procedure lead to the identification of 1361 (Bc) and 1379 (Ab) phosphopeptides representing 818 (Bc) and 820 (Ab) phosphoproteins respectively (Document S1). Among the 1439 detected phosphosites (p-sites) in the Bc extracts, 82.7% were phosphoserine, 15.8% phosphothreonine, and 1.5% phosphotyrosine. The ratio found 120 among the 1442 Ab phosphosites was slightly but significantly different (Chi<sup>2</sup>-test p-value) 0.0037, df=2) with 80.4% serine, 18.7% threonine and only 0.9% tyrosine residues phosphorylated. The experimental procedure did not allow the identification of the acid labile phosphorylation of histidine or aspartate residues, because the buffers used for IMAC and

 SCX chromatography were at pH3. Specific experimental conditions would have been necessary to identify these phosphorylation events. Most proteins contained a single phosphosite.

*Gene-ontologies in the phosphoproteomes*

 We then applied the gene-ontology annotations developed for both fungi in their respective genome projects to the phosphoproteomic data in order to identify the biological processes affected by protein phosphorylation. Statistical analyses conducted on the GOEAST web- server [http://omicslab.genetics.ac.cn/GOEAST/; 19] highlighted those GO categories over- represented among the phosphoproteome in comparison to the genome content (Document S3). Fig. 1 shows the categories of biological processes (A) and molecular functions (B) enriched in both phosphoproteomes according to the GOEAST-analysis. As expected regulation of signaling, of cellular processes, response to stimuli and cell communication figure among these, but also metabolic processes and in *B. cinerea*, the category of developmental processes seems enriched in phosphoproteins.

 Regarding the molecular functions identified in our screen, those dealing with nucleoside- or nucleotide binding build common categories for both fungi. The comparison of the enriched GO-categories between both fungi (Multi-GOEAST), pinpoints to a specific enrichment in the categories of oxidoreductase and protein kinase regulatory activity in *A. brassicicola.*.

*Signal-transduction proteins*

 We then selectively screened for signal-transduction proteins. Tables 1 and 2 summarize the hits for both fungi. Briefly, the principal protein kinases were found among the phosphoproteins in both fungi, such as the cAMP dependent protein kinases PKA (catalytic 148 and regulatory sub-units respectively), the  $Ca^{2+}/c$ almoduline dependent protein kinases, the

 mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPKs) Hog1-like and Slt2-like as well as the corresponding MAPK-kinases. The third MAPK (Fus-like) and its kinase were identified only in the *B. cinerea* data set. As additional ST proteins, we identified regulators of G-proteins and small GTPases, but also protein phosphatases. As mentioned above, we did not expect histidine-kinases (HKs) in our data sets with the exception of potentially phosphorylated serine, threonine or tyrosine residues in conserved signaling domains (e.g. PAS, GAF) typical for some classes of HKs [20]. Intriguingly, we found three and two phosphorylated HKs in *A. brassicicola* and *B. cinerea* respectively, of the classes V, VIII, XI (Ab), I and III (Bc) respectively. AB08544.1 (class V) had five phosphorylated residues (serine and tyrosine), AB05093.1 (class VIII) two and the other HKs one phospho-site respectively. None of these residues affected conserved domains, and we were unable to identify common sequence motifs between the phosphorylation sites (data not shown). It will therefore be challenging to characterize the role of these phosphorylations in HK functions. A good candidate would be the class III HK Bos1 of *B. cinerea* whose involvement in adaptation to hyper-osmotic conditions and to some fungicides is known. The same issue with the other HKs seems more difficult as their functions are still unknown.

#### *Concluding remarks*

 This work is, to our knowledge, the first description of a phosphoproteomic dataset of two important necrotrophic ascomycetes based on a gel-free analysis protocol that was proven to work in different organisms [8, 11, 21]. With 1638 phosphoproteins identified in both fungi, this data covers 7.7 % of the 10.688 predicted Ab proteins and 7.8 % of the predicted 10.427 Bc B05.10 proteins [22], a starting point for the functional analysis of protein- phosphorylation sites. With this limited data sets, we found some interesting features, such as previously unknown phosphorylation sites in histidine-kinases.

 Additional growth conditions shall now be tested to identify i/ additional phosphoproteins and phosphosites in order to complete the Bc and Ab phosphoproteome datasets, and ii/ to compare phosphoproteomic profiles between growth conditions using dimethylformamide labeling and quantitative phosphoproteome comparisons. In particular, this type of approach may be applied to study the impact of external stress conditions on complex protein phosphorylation profiles.

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### **Legends to figures**

- Fig. 1: GO categories (A, biological processes, B, molecular functions) enriched in the *B.*
- *cinerea* and *A. brassicicola* phosphoproteomic datasets according to a GOEAST analysis [19]
- performed on the Ab and Bc datasets (phosphoproteomes *vs.* genomic data). The y-scale



Supplemental Data

- Document S1: Phosphopeptides and protein IDs identified from *A. brassicicola* and *B.*
- *cinerea* mycelia.
- Document S2: PhosCalc phosphorylation score of MS2 and MS3.
- Document S3: Statistics of GO-annotations in the phosphoproteomic data.

**Table 1: Signal transduction proteins identified among the** *A. brassicicola* **phosphoproteins.** The annotations were selected from the genome data (http://genome.jgi-psf.org/Altbr1/Altbr1.home.html, [2]) and names of genes indicated if known.





(pS): Phosphorylated site, (p)S: Peptide found monophosphorylated at different sites, (s),(y), or (t) undistinguishable site 

## **Table 2: Signal transduction proteins identified among the** *B. cinerea* **phosphoproteins.** The annotations are according to the genome data [1] and names of genes indicated if known.





(pS): Phosphorylated site, (p)S: Peptide found monophosphorylated at different sites, (s),(y), or (t) undistinguishable site



