

1 **Patterns of conservation and diversification in the fungal polarization network**

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18

19 **Data Deposition**

20 Sequence alignments used are available upon request.

21

22

23 **Abstract**

24 The combined actions of proteins in networks underlie all fundamental cellular functions.
25 Deeper insights into the dynamics of network composition across species and their functional
26 consequences are crucial to fully understand protein network evolution. Large-scale
27 comparative studies with high phylogenetic resolution are now feasible through the recent rise
28 in available genomic datasets of both model *and* non-model species. Here we focus on the
29 polarity network, which is universally essential for cell proliferation and studied in great
30 detail in the model organism, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. We examine 34 proteins, directly
31 related to cell polarization, across 200 fungal strains/species to determine evolution of the
32 composition of the network and patterns of conservation and diversification.

33 We observe strong protein conservation for a group of 16 core proteins: 95% of all
34 strains/species possess at least 75% of these proteins, albeit in varying compositions. We find
35 high levels of variation in prevalence and sequence identity in the remaining 18 proteins,
36 resulting in distinct lineage-specific compositions of the network in the majority of
37 strains/species. We test if the observed diversification in network composition correlates with
38 potential underlying factors and find that lineage, lifestyle, and genetic distance co-vary with
39 network size. Yeast, filamentous and basal unicellular fungi form distinctive groups based on
40 these analyses, with substantial differences to their polarization network. Our study shows
41 that evolution of the fungal polarization network is highly dynamic, even between closely
42 related species, and that functional conservation is achieved by varying structural
43 conservation of the fungal polarization proteins.

44

45 **Keywords**

46 Protein network evolution; Cell polarity; Protein network; Evolution, Fungi; Adaptation.

47

48 **Introduction**

49 All cells are maintained through fundamental cellular functions, such as respiration,
50 biosynthesis, homeostasis and reproduction, that are crucial to the cell's overall existence.
51 These complex functions are carried out by the combined action of proteins in protein
52 networks with distinct cellular tasks (Papin et al. 2005; Pawson & Nash 2003). Through
53 evolution of protein networks, by means of e.g., amino acid mutations, network
54 expansion/reduction, and interaction effects, diversity is generated that can ultimately lead to
55 the evolution of new functions (see Gladieux et al. 2014 for a list of reviews). Protein
56 networks can evolve by changes in network composition, changes in levels of protein
57 conservation and divergence and changes in expression levels, each with potential functional
58 consequences (Schüler & Bornberg-Bauer 2010; Voordeckers et al. 2015). Comparative
59 genomics and/or interaction studies of protein networks, such as the citric-acid cycle (Huynen
60 et al. 1999), mitotic checkpoint (Vleugel et al. 2012), and the mitogen-activated protein
61 kinase pathway (Mody et al. 2009) illustrate such patterns. Most of these studies have
62 examined overall protein network evolution by means of cross kingdom comparisons,
63 covering ~20 divergent species. Although such approaches are insightful for testing if
64 proteins are commonly found in distant clades of the tree of life, patterns such as parallel
65 evolution are difficult to disentangle because of the lack of phylogenetic resolution.
66 Examining (the factors promoting) protein network evolution in more species, especially at
67 phylogenetic dense levels, is essential to gain deeper insights into the dynamics of protein
68 network evolution.

69 What factors promote protein (network) evolution? Numerous factors have been
70 presented that influence the evolution of individual proteins (see Pál et al. 2006; Zhang &
71 Yang 2015). To simplify, these factors can be divided into two broad categories: sources of
72 genetic variation, those relating to regional genomic properties, such as variation in mutation

73 or recombination rate; and selection on genetic variation, factors dependent on specific
74 protein properties, such as the proportion and distribution of sites that are involved in a
75 specific functions, protein structure, expression level, and competition or adaptation (Pál et al.
76 2006). Although there are clear examples to illustrate these individual factors, the factors
77 often do not act independently, making it hard to identify the relative importance of each
78 factor. In yeast, for instance, the functional importance of a protein influences the rate of
79 protein evolution (Wall et al. 2005; Drummond 2005; Hirsh & Fraser 2001), non-essential
80 genes evolve on average faster than essential genes (Wall et al. 2005), and loci with more
81 protein-protein interactions evolve on average slower (Jordan et al. 2003). Various studies
82 have shown that expression rates have the most prominent effect on the rate of protein
83 evolution (Wall et al. 2005; Drummond 2005).

84 Although selection acts on the outcome of fundamental cellular processes, specifically
85 the phenotype, there are substantial differences in characteristics of proteins within a single
86 network. As a consequence, selection can act differently on different proteins in the same
87 network. For instance, proteins within a network can vary in the number and type of
88 interactions, the position within the network (e.g., central versus peripheral), and the overall
89 number of incorporated proteins in the network. Assessing the potential role of these factors,
90 especially with multi-species comparisons, is crucial for understanding protein network
91 evolution. Early comparative genomics studies, such as by Huynen *et al.* (Huynen et al.
92 1999), indicate that protein networks, even those involved in fundamental biological
93 processes such as energy release by means of the citric-acid cycle, are characterized by
94 variation in the composition and presence of specific proteins. Protein networks can change
95 compositions by losing proteins or including novel proteins brought forward, for example
96 through duplication events through neo- or subfunctionalization (Evlampiev & Isambert
97 2008; 2007). They can compensate for loss of proteins and new functions can evolve (Schüler

98 & Bornberg-Bauer 2010). By inferring the evolutionary dynamics of protein networks,
99 various patterns have emerged. Proteins with many interactions in the network ('hub'
100 proteins) evolve slower than average (Fraser et al. 2002; Kim et al. 2006), especially when
101 they use multiple binding interfaces (Kim et al. 2006). Interacting proteins evolve at similar
102 rates (Fraser et al. 2002). Overall, protein networks are characterized by conservation in
103 topology and function, but also by substantial levels of divergence in network constitution
104 among species (Liang et al. 2006; Vleugel et al. 2012). Protein networks are thus affected by
105 a combination of factors, including positive selection, selection on protein function or
106 structure and drift (Pál et al. 2006).

107 In this paper, we examine a fundamental protein network with the aim to elucidate its
108 evolution and to identify the factors that contribute to it. We focus on polarity establishment,
109 a process essential for proliferation in basically all unicellular and multicellular organisms.
110 Polarity establishment, or the asymmetrical distribution of cellular components, has been
111 described in great detail in the budding yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Chang & Peter 2003;
112 Martin & Arkowitz 2014; Madhani 2007). To polarize, cells need to break up the symmetrical
113 distribution of cellular content and self-organize in a polarized way. The small GTPase,
114 Cdc42, is a central key protein in this process (Etienne-Manneville 2004; Park & Bi 2007;
115 Johnson 1999). The asymmetrical distribution of so-called polarization proteins, recruited by
116 Cdc42, determines the site of local growth, or budding in the case of the budding yeast *S.*
117 *cerevisiae*, which is essential for proper cell division and mating.

118 Cdc42 is a highly conserved protein throughout eukaryotes at both the sequence and
119 functional level (Johnson 1999; Martin 2015) and its activity is regulated through well-
120 documented feedback mechanisms (Martin 2015; Goryachev & Pokhilko 2008; Irazoqui et al.
121 2003; Wedlich-Soldner et al. 2003). The proteins that directly interact with Cdc42 can be
122 divided into five groups: the GTPase activating proteins (GAPs), that hydrolyze GTP to GDP

123 and change Cdc42 to its inactive state; the guanine nucleotide exchange factors (GEFs), that
124 catalyze the exchange of GDP for a new GTP molecule which activates Cdc42; the GDP
125 dissociation inhibitors that extract Cdc42 from the membrane (Rdi1 is the only GDP
126 dissociation inhibitor in budding yeast (Richman et al. 2004)); proteins involved in regulatory
127 mechanisms, such as positive feedback (e.g., the scaffold protein Bem1 (Butty et al. 2002));
128 and a wide range of Cdc42 effector proteins which are activated by the active GTP bound
129 state of Cdc42 (Figure 1A). Examples of Cdc42 effector proteins are the p21-associated
130 kinases (PAK) Ste20, Cla4 and Skm1 (Johnson 1999), and the GTPase Interactive
131 Components Gic1 and Gic2 (Brown et al. 1997). These proteins co-localize with Cdc42
132 during polarity establishment and form a protein complex by recruiting other proteins that are
133 needed for proper actin and microtubule polarization (Johnson 1999; Brown et al. 1997; Drees
134 et al. 2001). Various factors that could influence protein network evolution, such as the
135 number of genetic and/or physical interactions and expression levels, have been determined
136 for the proteins in this network in budding yeast (see Figure 1B). We therefore investigate the
137 protein network evolution of polarization establishment among the ecologically and
138 genetically highly diverse clade: the Fungi (Galagan et al. 2005; Ebersberger et al. 2012;
139 Mueller & Schmit 2007).

140 The eukaryote kingdom of fungi is estimated >760 million years old (Lucking et al.
141 2009) and consists of up to 5.1 million estimated extant species (O'Brien et al. 2005). It
142 includes an abundance of species with ecological, agricultural, medical and scientific
143 relevance. Lifestyles can be restricted to a unicellular lifestyle, either yeast-like or non-yeast
144 as observed in the basal clade of Microsporidia, or multicellular (i.e., filamentous species), or
145 can consist of different stages, switching between two or more lifestyles (i.e., di-, trimorphic
146 species). The wealth of different ecologies together with the available genomic and
147 phenotypic resources and tools, such as the *Saccharomyces* Genome Database

148 (www.yeastgenome.org), make fungi an excellent tool for comparative studies between
149 ecologically highly diverse, but also relatively closely related species. A vast increase of
150 available fungal genomic datasets, especially fueled by initiatives such as the Fungal Genome
151 Initiative (Rhind et al. 2011), the FungiDB (Stajich et al. 2011) and the 1K fungal genomes
152 project (<http://1000.fungalgenomes.org/home/>; see also Sharma 2016), took place in the last
153 five years prior to this study and provides the desirable scale of data to reach high
154 phylogenetic resolution.

155 Although the processes of cell polarity and morphogenesis have been studied
156 extensively in *S. cerevisiae* (Bi & Park 2012; Chant 1999; Pruyne & Bretscher 2000; Pruyne
157 et al. 2004; Park & Bi 2007; Drees et al. 2001; Chang & Peter 2003; Martin & Arkowitz
158 2014; Madhani 2007), it is unknown to what extent the network's topology is conserved
159 across the fungal phylogeny, mainly because only a small number of divergent species has
160 been examined, which are characterized by variation in both network composition and
161 phenotypes (Diepeveen et al.). Due to its fundamental function in cell proliferation, the
162 polarization protein network is hypothesized to be a conserved system (Chang & Peter 2003;
163 Pruyne et al. 2004). In fact, several members of the polarization protein network, such as
164 Cdc42, Cdc24 and Sec15, are found to be essential in *S. cerevisiae* (Liu et al. 2015).
165 Interestingly, previously we showed that, under laboratory settings, the polarization network
166 in *S. cerevisiae* is able to adapt to genetic perturbations to one of the core proteins: Bem1,
167 which regulates Cdc42 (Laan et al. 2015). It is unknown to what extent this represents
168 adaption under natural conditions. Thus, there is some information available on the
169 conservation and evolvability (i.e., the ability of a species to evolve adaptive diversity) of a
170 small number of individual polarization proteins, but a larger screen to quantify the
171 evolutionary conservation across large phylogenetic distances is currently lacking.

172 Here we take advantage of the (newly) available tools and data in order to untangle
173 patterns of protein network evolution with high phylogenetic resolution within a single, but
174 phenotypically diverse kingdom. We aim to elucidate lineage-specific, independently
175 recurrent and/or conserved patterns of protein network composition, and levels of protein
176 conservation (i.e., both the presence of the protein in a species and sequence conservation)
177 and divergence of 34 polarization loci among 200 closely related fungal species. We aim to
178 elucidate factors involved in evolution of this particular and fundamental protein network.

179 **Material and Methods**

180 *Focal (non-)polarization protein list and selected strains and species*

181 We selected 34 polarization proteins (see Supplementary File 1, Figure 1) based on described
182 physical or genetic interaction with the small GTPase, Cdc42, a key regulator of polarization
183 (Etienne-Manneville 2004; Park & Bi 2007) and/or described functions of the protein in the
184 polarization network on the Saccharomyces Genome Database (SGD; www.yeastgenome.org;
185 June 2015; Cherry et al. 2011). For each of these proteins we downloaded the amino acid
186 sequences from the SGD for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and used these sequences as reference
187 or input query in the subsequent analyses (described below).

188 We obtained the full proteomes of 407 available fungal strains and species from
189 Ensembl Fungi release 27 (June 2015; Supplementary File 1; Kersey et al. 2016) and created
190 an initial proteome database (PDB) with the BLAST command line applications (version
191 2.2.31; Neumann et al. 2014). The proteome of *S. cerevisiae* (strain ATCC 204508/S288c)
192 was downloaded from UniProt (www.uniprot.org). To perform the phylogenetic and
193 reciprocal BLAST search analyses in an effective manner, we discarded strains and species
194 with low quality proteomic data. We ran in-house scripts to determine the ‘optimum’ number
195 of species that shared an ‘optimum’ number of communal proteins. In short, we calculated the
196 number of shared proteins across the range of the 407 initial strains and species. We selected
197 an ‘optimum’ of 200 strains and species (Supplementary File 1) for which we constructed the
198 final PDB based on their proteomes as described above. The 200 strains and species had 86
199 proteins in common (Supplementary File 1). Note that these 86 proteins do not include any of
200 the 34 polarization proteins. These protein sequences were used for the phylogenetic tree
201 construction. We also constructed a *S. cerevisiae* (S288c) specific PDB for the reciprocal
202 BLAST analysis.

203

204 *Phylogenetic tree construction*

205 We retrieved the amino acid sequence of the 86 shared proteins (combined length of
206 49484 aa in *S. cerevisiae*) for the 200 strains and species. Alignments were made for each of
207 the 86 proteins individually with Clustal Omega 1.2 (Sievers et al. 2011). The total length of
208 the full alignment was 158856 aa. We performed phylogenetic inference on a single
209 concatenated data file by means of the approximately maximum likelihood method as
210 implemented in FastTree (version 2.1.8; Price et al. 2009) with the JTT model of amino acid
211 evolution (Jones et al. 1992). The tree is mid-point rooted. The tree was visualized and edited
212 in FigTree v1.4.2 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/figtree/>). We checked the obtained support
213 values and only reported them in the phylogeny, when they are < 0.9.

214

215 *Polarization protein conservation matrix*

216 We screened the final PDB (see above) for the presence of the 34 focal polarization
217 proteins through Reciprocal BLAST searches. We used the *S. cerevisiae* (strain ATCC
218 204508/S288c) amino acid sequence as input query. This was done to overcome
219 computational limitations with orthology prediction between the 200 species. Other tools,
220 such as DIAMOND (Buchfink et al. 2014) may ameliorate computational problems, but will
221 result in a loss of sensitivity which is required when examining such specific protein
222 networks. We performed local BLASTP searches without e-value constraints to be able to
223 find hits, even in highly diverged species. We took the associated protein sequence of all
224 obtained hits and performed local BLASTP searches again now against the *S. cerevisiae*-
225 specific PDB, again without e-value constraints. We selected the hit with the best e-value in
226 the initial BLAST search and called the hit a ‘true match’ only if the same protein ID was
227 retrieved as the original *S. cerevisiae* query. If there was no match in protein ID between hit
228 and query, then we called it a ‘no match’. For the ‘true matches’ we corrected the similarity

229 scores (i.e., the number of positive-scoring matches) of the best BLAST hit to the query
230 protein length of *S. cerevisiae*, thereby obtaining the fraction of similarity per hit. For the ‘no-
231 matches’ we assigned a similarity score of 0. We generated a matrix of similarity scores by
232 combining all the obtained scores and organizing them according to the species order as
233 observed in our constructed phylogeny for each protein. These steps were performed with in-
234 house python scripts. The generated data matrix was displayed as gray-scale matrix in R
235 version 3.1.2 (R Core Team 2014).

236 We constructed a separate protein matrix for the group of 36 strains/species with high
237 genome quality (i.e., for which the number of chromosomes is known and the number of
238 scaffolds (roughly) equals the number of chromosomes; Supplementary File 1). For these
239 species high quality genomes are available and therefore, overall genome quality should not
240 affect our obtained results by means of incomplete genome sequences, and thus the possibility
241 of absent protein sequences.

242 To determine if there was a group of proteins systematically present in a high number
243 of species, we plotted the overall prevalence (%) across the 200 strains/species for each
244 protein. We also plotted the overall prevalence of the two main fungal lineages
245 Basidiomycota and Ascomycota separately in order to make sure that the proteins were
246 present in high prevalence in both major clades. We used a 70% cut-off value in both clades
247 as criteria for high prevalence and call the proteins that meet these criteria the conserved core
248 of polarization proteins. We based this cut-off value on the observation that there is a gap in
249 prevalence between 45% and 70% for the full dataset of 200 strains/species, dividing proteins
250 into two groups. We also plotted the difference in prevalence between the Ascomycota and
251 the Basidiomycota, to depict proteins that are particularly prevalent in either group.

252

253 *Statistical analyses*

254 We tested for a potential correlation between our obtained pattern of matches (i.e., the total
255 number of ‘true matches’ per strain/species) and genome quality for which we used two
256 assembly statistics. We obtained the number of contigs and N50 of contigs (i.e., length of
257 contigs constituting 50% of the bases in the assembly), the number of scaffolds and the
258 associated N50 for each of the genomes of the 200 selected strains/species from the European
259 Nucleotide Archive (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena>; Leinonen et al. 2010). Data was tested for
260 normality with D’Agostino & Pearson omnibus normality tests as implemented in GraphPad
261 Prism version 5.0 for Mac OS X (GraphPad Software, La Jolla California USA,
262 www.graphpad.com). Correlations were tested with a spearman’s rank correlations as
263 implemented in GraphPad Prism.

264 We also tested if genome quality affected our obtained results of the full protein
265 matrix by directly comparing the observed number of proteins per species clade-wise for four
266 major lineages to the ones of the same lineages in the reduced matrix of 36 species. We used
267 the Microsporidia, Saccharomycotina and Pezizomycotina lineages because these clades are
268 also represented by at least 4 individuals in the reduced matrix. We divided the
269 Saccharomycotina clade into two subclades because we observed distinctive lineage-specific
270 patterns, such as gains/losses and distinctions in similarity scores, dividing them in two
271 clades. Saccharomycotina clade 1 represents the Saccharomycetaceae family and the
272 Saccharomycotina clade 2 includes the Debaryomycetaceae, Pichiaceae and
273 Phaffomycetaceae families. Data was tested for normality with D’Agostino & Pearson
274 omnibus normality tests as implemented in GraphPad Prism. We performed a Kruskal-Wallis
275 test comparing the medians of the two matrices per defined lineage.

276 To test hypotheses about the cause(s) of differences observed in prevalence between
277 the core and non-core proteins, we tested if these groups of proteins differed in number of
278 genetic interactions, number of physical interactions and overall abundance of the proteins, as

279 indicative for gene expression level. Data for the number of interactions of the 34 proteins
280 with other members in the network in *S. cerevisiae* were obtained from SGD. We gathered
281 information about protein abundance (molecules/cells) in *S. cerevisiae* from Kulak *et al.*
282 (Kulak et al. 2014). Data was tested for normality with D'Agostino & Pearson omnibus
283 normality tests as implemented in GraphPad Prism. We also included the prevalence in the
284 analyses. We performed, a Kruskal-Wallis test (for interactions) and a Mann Whitney tests
285 (for prevalence and protein abundance) with GraphPad Prism.

286

287 *Multiple Factor Analysis*

288 Because we expected multiple continuous and categorical variables to potentially co-vary and
289 correlate with the observed number of proteins, we performed Multiple Factor Analysis
290 (MFA) on a dataset of the 200 strains/species. We included the following variables: proteins
291 (i.e., the total numbers of proteins as observed in the full protein matrix), genome quality (i.e.,
292 the number of Contigs and N50 of Contigs), Lineage (i.e., the main retrieved phylogenetic
293 clades: Microsporidia, Cryptomycota, Wallemiomycetes, Pucciniomycotina,
294 Ustilaginomycotina, Agaricomycotina, Taphrinomycotina, Saccharomycotina (clades 1 and 2,
295 as defined above), Pezizomycotina), genetic distance (in respect to the reference *S.*
296 *cerevisiae*), and lifestyle (i.e., unicellular, yeast, filamentous, dimorphic yeast-filamentous,
297 dimorphic yeast-pseudohyphal, and trimorphic). We calculated the genetic distance between
298 the examined strains/species and the reference. We used the concatenated amino acid
299 sequences of the 86 proteins from the phylogenetic analyses (158854 aa; see above) and
300 calculated the genetic distance by using the JTT model of amino acid evolution in MEGA 7:
301 Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis version 7.0 for bigger datasets (Kumar et al.
302 2016). We obtained the lifestyle information from the Fungal Databases of the CBS-KNAW
303 Fungal Biodiversity Centre (<http://www.cbs.knaw.nl/>) and literature (Nagy et al. 2014;

304 Bastidas & Heitman 2009; Gauthier 2015). We performed the MFA with the FactoMineR R
305 package version 1.33 (Lê et al. 2008) package in R version 3.3.2 (R Core Team 2014) under
306 Rcmdr version 2.3-2 (Fox & Bouchet-Valat; Fox 2005; 2016). We used 3 quantitative groups:
307 genetic distance, genome quality (i.e., 2 variables) and proteins, and two qualitative groups;
308 lifestyle and lineage. Continuous variables were scaled and standard settings were used. We
309 first checked the eigenvalues for the first ten dimensions to determine the appropriate number
310 of dimensions to consider. In particular we checked for a drop in decline in variance (i.e.,
311 broken stick method; Jackson 1993). Length and directions of continuous variables were
312 plotted onto the first two dimensions and were visually checked. Partial axes for the first
313 three dimensions were visually checked. The five groups were plotted onto the first two
314 dimensions. We plotted individuals onto the first two dimensions and color-coded them
315 according to lineage.
316

317 **Results**

318 *Phylogeny of 200 fungal strains/species is highly supported*

319 In order to examine protein network evolution of fungal polarity establishment, we first
320 estimated the phylogenetic relationship for our focal species. We inferred the phylogeny by
321 means of the approximately maximum likelihood method on 86 homologous non-polarization
322 proteins that these 200 strains/species have in common (see methods for details; total
323 alignment length: 158,856 amino acids (aa; Figure 2)). Our phylogenetic tree is well-resolved
324 and highly-supported and includes four main monophyletic phyla: the club fungi and relatives
325 (Basidiomycota); sac fungi (Ascomycota); and the two basal phyla Cryptomycota and
326 Microsporidia. Within the Basidiomycota, we found 100% support for the monophyletic
327 subphyla Ustilaginomycotina, Pucciniomycotina, Agaricomycotina and Wallemiomycetes.
328 Our observation of a basal position of the Wallemiomycetes species is in accordance with
329 previous findings (Matheny et al. 2006; Zalar et al. 2005; Hibbett et al. 2007), although its
330 exact position within the Basidiomycota phylum, and in relation to the Agaricomycotina in
331 specific, has been varying (Matheny et al. 2006; Padamsee et al. 2012). Within the
332 Ascomycota, we found full support for the monophyly of the Taphrinomycotina,
333 Saccharomycotina and the Pezizomycotina, consistent with previous findings (Hibbett et al.
334 2007; Schoch et al. 2009). A discussion on relationships of deeper braches and clades is,
335 however, beyond the scope of this work, although we observed almost exclusively high
336 support values (i.e., >0.9) for the deeper branches and many relationships agree with
337 previously published work (e.g., Saccharomycotina lineage; Shen et al. 2016).

338

339 *Genome incompleteness has little impact on the protein matrix*

340 We constructed a protein matrix consisting of the 34 polarization proteins and 200
341 strains/species based on our reciprocal BLAST approach (see methods for details). This way

342 we can both determine the presence of a protein in the examined strains/species and, when
343 present, the level of sequence similarity in respect to *S. cerevisiae*.

344 Our approach resulted in a detailed protein matrix indicating the presence, level of
345 divergence in respect to *S. cerevisiae*, and absence of the 34 polarization proteins in the
346 examined strains/species (Figure 2). To determine if the quality of the genomic resources had
347 an effect on the obtained results, we tested if there was a correlation between the total number
348 of contigs, the N50 of contigs (i.e., length of contigs constituting 50% of the bases in the
349 assembly) and the total number of proteins we obtained per strain/species. We observed that
350 the quality of the 200 selected strains/species' genomic resources was highly variable
351 (Supplementary File 1). Contig N50 range from 6 kb - 9 Mb. Genomic resources with short
352 N50 may suffer from missing data such as missing exons and/or gaps (English et al. 2012),
353 which could include, or result in, missing loci. A recent survey of >200 fungal genomes
354 indicates that potentially only 40% reach the set cut-off for representative completeness
355 (Cisse & Stajich). We found weak but significant correlations between the total number of
356 obtained proteins per species and the number of contigs (Spearman rho = -0.29, P-value < 1.0
357 x 10⁻⁴), and the contig N50 (R = 0.32, P-value < 1.0 x 10⁻⁴; Figure 3). Thus, we potentially
358 have cases of false negatives, or mismatches, in our protein matrix. In order to examine this
359 pattern in more detail and to diminish the potential effect of missing proteins on our
360 reciprocal BLAST analysis, we selected 36 strains/species with the most complete genomes
361 (i.e., the number of scaffolds roughly equals the number of chromosomes) and constructed a
362 reduced matrix (Figure 4). We then compared the overall number of observed proteins in the
363 full matrix with the reduced matrix for all members of four lineages: Microsporidia, two
364 Saccharomycotina clades, and the Pezizomycotina (Supplementary File 2). We did not
365 observe significant differences in the number of proteins between the complete matrix and the
366 reduced matrix (P-value > 0.05 for Microsporidia, Saccharomycotina I, Saccharomycotina II,

367 Pezizomycotina), indicating that the potential effect of missing data in our full matrix is, if
368 any, minimal. Next, we examine the reduced matrix for patterns of protein conservation and
369 divergence and compare them to the original matrix in order to test their generality.

370

371 *The polarization protein network is dynamic and has a conserved core*

372 To examine the fungal polarization network for patterns of protein network evolution, we
373 screened the protein matrices for variation in protein prevalence (i.e., the overall number of
374 species a protein is present in), levels of protein divergence and the repertoire of proteins (i.e.,
375 the composition of polarization network per species). We observed variation in the
376 polarization network at different levels and magnitudes. We observed great variation at the
377 level of amino acid similarity between different proteins, across different strains/species and
378 between different lineages (Figure 4, Figure 2). For instance, Cdc42 is present with high
379 levels of similarity in all species except in the Microsporidia, where it is not present in any of
380 the examined species. Cla4, Ste20 and Cdc24 are found throughout the phylogeny as well, but
381 their similarity scores vary greatly across species. These patterns were observed both in full
382 and reduced matrices.

383 Next we examined the variability of the composition of the polarization protein
384 repertoire between strains/species. We assessed the overall number of different protein
385 combinations and the total number of unique repertoires across the reduced matrix (36
386 strains/species) and the full matrix (200 strains/species). We observed nearly identical
387 fractions for the total number of different protein repertoires for the two matrices (i.e., 28/36
388 and 155/200). This indicates that the composition of repertoire is highly variable, with many
389 different observed combinations of proteins. For both matrices the overall fraction of unique
390 repertoires (i.e., protein repertoires observed in a single species) was also very similar, 0.64
391 (reduced matrix) and 0.67 (full matrix). We thus find that the majority of species are

392 characterized by a unique set of polarization proteins not found in other species. Interestingly,
393 we observed several specific combinations multiple times. For instance, we observed the
394 same pattern for all 7 Microsporidia species (Iqg1 and Ubi4). We observed most cases of
395 repeated repertoires in the species-rich and well-covered lineages Pezizomycotina (113
396 species in the full matrix) and Saccharomycotina lineages (20 species in the reduced matrix)
397 (Supplementary File 3). These combinations include prevalent and functionally diverse
398 proteins such as Rdi1, Bem1/2/3, Bni1, Axl2, Cla4, Ste20, Sec3/4/15, and Msb1/3.

399 To examine the overall prevalence of each protein across the 200 strains/species in
400 more detail, we screened the full matrix (Figure 5). We observed 23 proteins that were present
401 in $\geq 70\%$ of all examined species (e.g., Iqg1), seven proteins are more commonly found in the
402 Basidiomycota (e.g., Bem2), and four proteins restricted to the Ascomycota (e.g., the paralogs
403 Msb3, Gic1 and Gic2). Most proteins are highest prevalent in the Ascomycota (Figure 5 top
404 panel). We observed a perceived threshold at $\sim 60\%$ prevalence for proteins across all species
405 examined that clearly divided the dataset (Figure 5). We found 11 proteins that are present in
406 less than 45% of the 200 strains/species, while the other 23 proteins are present in at least
407 70%. We used this 70% mark as cut-off value to determine conserved proteins (i.e., based on
408 prevalence) in both Ascomycota and Basidiomycota, individually. Using this, we excluded
409 those proteins that are more or less Ascomycota-specific, such as Nrp1. We observed the
410 following 16 proteins in high prevalence in both Ascomycota and Basidiomycota: Cla4, Axl2,
411 Rho3, Boi2, Ste20, Sec4, Bni1, Bem3, Spa2, Cdc24, Sec15, Ubi4, Bem1, Cdc42, Rdi1 and
412 Iqg1. We called these proteins the conserved core of polarization across fungi. We found this
413 full repertoire of core proteins in 66 out of 200 strains/species and $>95\%$ of all strains/species
414 had a protein network consisting of 12 or more core proteins (Supplementary File 3).

415

416 *Core proteins have higher protein abundance but not more interactions.*

417 As we observed a group of proteins at high prevalence across clades, we tested if there is a
418 correlation between this conserved core of proteins and factors known to influence protein
419 (network) evolution, such as number of protein-protein interactions and expression levels. We
420 thus tested the following hypothesis: core proteins are conserved because they are either
421 functionally important and/or because they are present in high quantity.

422 Core proteins had higher prevalence than non-core proteins (Figure 6A). We found no
423 significant difference in the number of either genetic or physical interactions (based on
424 observations in *S. cerevisiae*) between the core proteins and the non-core proteins (Figure
425 6B). We did find a barely significant difference in protein abundance (as measured as
426 molecules per cell in *S. cerevisiae*; Kulak et al. 2014) between the core proteins and non-core
427 proteins ($p=0.03$; Figure 6B). Core proteins have higher protein abundance than non-core
428 proteins.

429

430 *Lineage, lifestyle and genetic distance co-vary with protein network size*

431 In order to characterize the 200 strains/species by different factors that could influence protein
432 network evolution and in specific could correlate with the observed patterns of differences in
433 overall number of polarization proteins, we performed Multiple Factor Analysis. We
434 considered the following factors: size of protein repertoire (i.e., the total number of proteins
435 we detected with the Reciprocal BLAST search per strain/species), lifestyle, lineage, genome
436 quality (i.e., the number of contigs and the N50) and genetic distance to the reference *S.*
437 *cerevisiae*, based on 86 shared proteins.

438 To determine the adequate number of dimensions to screen, we used the broken stick
439 method (Jackson 1993). We found a drop in variance after the third dimension
440 (Supplementary File 4), therefore we only considered the first three dimensions. Dimension 1
441 is constructed based on four groups: lineage (contribution is 27.44%), lifestyle (24.72%),

442 genetic distance (23.39%) and proteins (23.23%). Dimension 2 and 3 are both based on
443 lineage (44.16%; 50.61%) and lifestyle (43.87%; 46.31%). Together these three dimensions
444 accounted for 40.70% of the variance in the data. Dimension 1 explained 20.28%, dimension
445 2 12.37% and dimension 3 8.06% (Figure 7D). We did not find a substantial (>0.5)
446 contribution of genome quality, indicating that the number of contigs and/or N50 of contigs
447 did not explain the variation in the protein repertoire and other examined factors.
448 Supplementary File 4B shows that lifestyle and lineage vary together and that they vary
449 together with protein repertoire and genetic distance. Supplementary Files 4C & 4D indicate
450 that protein repertoire and genetic distance only correlate with dimension 1, while lineage and
451 lifestyle also correlate with dimensions 2 and 3.

452 We plotted the 200 strains/species onto the first two dimensions to visually examine if
453 they cluster to specific patterns based on e.g., morphology or descent (Figure 7A). As four
454 factors mainly contributed to the axes, various patterns were observed. Overall, prevalence
455 (proteins) declined horizontally (from left to right), with an increase in genetic distance.
456 Lineage and lifestyle contributed to both axes, and a clear distinction could be made between
457 three main clouds of individuals according to their morphology: the top left corner represents
458 the yeast-like fungi, the top right corner represents the unicellular non-yeast-like fungi, and
459 the lower center represents the filamentous fungi. The yeast-like fungi mainly constituted out
460 of the yeast and dimorphic (Y/P) lifestyles, while the lineages that mostly consist of the
461 filamentous lifestyle were found in the bottom center cloud (Figure 7C). We observed a split
462 in the Ustilaginomycotina species, as two species are yeast-like and two species are
463 filamentous. Interestingly, the Ascomycotan and mostly filamentous Pezizomycotina
464 clustered together with the Basidiomycotan individuals in the filamentous group. This
465 observation is not in line with the phylogenetic relationships between these clades, but it does
466 indicate that variation in the factor lifestyle is more similar for the Pezizomycotina and the

467 Basidiomycotan species, as opposed to the Pezizomycotina and other Ascomycotan species.
468 We observed similar patterns when we examined these factors individually versus the protein
469 repertoire (Figure 7E-G). Our results suggest that the Basidiomycota and the filamentous
470 Ascomycotan species have a smaller repertoire than the yeast-like Ascomycota, and that the
471 two basal lineages have an even smaller repertoire (Figure 7E). Lastly, we did observe a
472 pattern of decreasing number of polarization proteins with greater genetic distance to our
473 reference *S. cerevisiae* (Figure 7G).

474 **Discussion**

475 Here we assess evolution of the fungal polarization network at high phylogenetic resolution to
476 examine patterns of lineage-specific, independently recurrent and/or conserved patterns of
477 protein network composition along with levels of protein divergence. We observe that the
478 fungal polarization protein network is characterized by both strong protein conservation *and*
479 variation in protein prevalence and sequence similarity. Our results indicate that while certain
480 proteins are nearly always needed potentially for specific functions (i.e., functional
481 conservation), various other functional steps seem to be fulfilled by a variable repertoire,
482 indicating flexibility in the network composition. Below, we discuss these observations in
483 context of protein network dynamics, functionality of the protein network, and potential
484 causal factors of protein network evolution.

485

486 *The fungal polarization network is highly variable at lineage-specific levels*

487 It is clear that protein network evolution has a variety of outcomes, such as network
488 expansion/reductions, interaction effects and protein divergence (Schüler & Bornberg-Bauer
489 2010; Voordeckers et al. 2015), brought forward by e.g., gen(om)e duplication, selection on
490 protein function or structure and drift (Pál et al. 2006). We found that most proteins of the
491 polarization network have high levels of divergence in amino acid sequence across fungi and
492 that the specific build up of the protein repertoire per strains/species is highly variable. We
493 find both variation at large phylogenetic distances, such as between subphyla, and between
494 strains/species of the same clade. This indicates that, although the polarization network is
495 involved in fundamental cellular functions across organisms, the network, as we know that in
496 *S. cerevisiae*, is not a conserved entity. Work based on the first available fungal genomes
497 reveal remarkable levels of divergence (Galagan et al. 2005), with even less than 50%
498 similarity in amino acid sequence in comparisons of Ascomycotan species (Dean et al. 2005).

499 Screening these genomes for networks reveal that especially regulatory pathways are
500 recurrently characterized by substantial levels of variation, in that elements can be gained or
501 lost over time (Tanay et al. 2005; Muñoz et al. 2016; Tuch et al. 2008; Habib et al. 2012). Our
502 work provides further support for the eminent finding that proteomes and networks constantly
503 change (Coulombe-Huntington & Xia 2017), not only in Ascomycota as previously shown,
504 but also in Basidiomycota and basal lineages as Cryptomycota and Microsporidia.

505 The substantial levels of variation that we observed in the polarization network could
506 be caused by the remarkable differences in how fungal species polarize and grow (e.g.,
507 isotropic, (a)symmetric). In fact, we do find a clear clustering of yeast-like fungi, non-yeast
508 like unicellular fungi and filamentous fungi in our MFA plot. While budding yeast polarizes
509 in a switch-like way, filamentous species are characterized by continuous hyphal growth and
510 thus need a constant state of polarity. Differences at the protein levels between species with
511 differences in polarization/growth mode have also been described. The Rho GTPase Rac1 has
512 partly overlapping functions with Cdc42 in regulating polarization in a variety of filamentous
513 species (Banuett et al. 2008), but not in *S. cerevisiae*. We believe that the observed levels of
514 variation have a strong functional component.

515 To what extent does this high variability of the protein network affect functionality?
516 As functional studies are not available for the majority of examined species, we made use of
517 the functional classification of proteins of *S. cerevisiae* (see Figure 1). We found that over
518 90% of examined strains/species have at least one protein present from all nine defined
519 functional groups. This could imply that the overall functional pathway of polarity
520 establishment, by means of the regulation of Cdc42, is similar across the fungal tree.
521 Exceptions to this overall pattern of consensus are observed throughout the tree (e.g.,
522 Microsporidia, *Penicillium rubens*, *Suillus luteus*, *Serpula lacrymans*, lacking e.g., Cdc42

523 effectors and/or GEF proteins). Further functional exploration of protein networks in
524 additional non-model species is needed to determine the level of orthology of these networks.

525

526 *Variation in polarization network; from stark reductions to lineage-specific additions*

527 We found high levels of lineage-specific patterns, of which various patterns coinciding with
528 monophyletic clades. For instance, Msb3 and Axl2 are individually lost in various
529 Pezizomycotina clades (Figure 2). The protein matrix also showed very similar patterns for
530 the four Taphrinomycotina species, which are quite dissimilar from the other Ascomycota
531 clades. These species have very distinct ecologies, as they are the only fission yeast species.
532 We do observe further cases of lineage-specific patterns in clades with distinct ecologies.

533 We found that nearly all examined polarization proteins were absent in the
534 Microsporidia (Figure 2), including most of the conserved core. The only proteins that we
535 observed are Iqg1 and Ubi4. Interestingly, we did not observe this pattern in the other basal
536 phylum, the Cryptomycota. We believe that our observation is a true lineage-specific loss in
537 the Microsporidia, as the majority of the polarization proteins (29 out of 34 proteins) are
538 found in non-fungal eukaryotes, such as animals, amoeba and/or plants (see Supplementary
539 File 5). The genomes of the parasitic Microsporidia are known to be highly condensed and
540 lack other essential proteins, such as MAP kinases and proteins involved in stress response
541 (Miranda-Saavedra et al. 2007; Peyretailade et al. 2011; Vivarès et al. 2002). This strong
542 reduction in the proteome is hypothesized as an adaptation to their parasitic life style. It is
543 currently not understood which proteins play a role in polarized cell growth in this genus.

544 In contrast to the strong reduction in the Microsporidia, we observed lineage-specific
545 gain of polarization proteins in the budding yeast species Saccharomycetaceae. Bem4, Gic1
546 and Gic2 are all restricted to this clade (Figure 2). Various causes can be involved. Genome-
547 wide comparisons across the eukaryote tree have identified an increase in proteins domains in

548 the lineage towards the Ascomycota (Zmasek & Godzik 2011). Furthermore, a whole genome
549 duplication occurred in the *Saccharomyces* lineage after the divergence from the
550 *Kluyveromyces* lineage, and has resulted in many duplicated genes (i.e., paralogs) and
551 instances of accelerated evolution (Kellis et al. 2004; Wolfe & Shields 1997). Our results
552 indicate that different processes have resulted in a myriad of lineage-specific patterns across
553 the fungal tree.

554

555 *The conserved core of polarization; functional versus structural conservation*

556 We observe a group of sixteen core proteins that are recurrently present in the vast majority of
557 examined species (Figure 5). Interestingly, the 16 core proteins cover all functional groups
558 from Cdc42 regulators and effectors to proteins involved in cytokinesis and exocytosis
559 (Figure 1). Even though this group consists of the most prevalent polarization proteins, it does
560 not represent the absolute minimal system needed for polarization. In fact, the majority of
561 species does not have the full set of core proteins (i.e., the complete core is present in 66 out
562 of the 200 strains/species), which can be seen as another indicator of high uniqueness of
563 structural constitution of the polarization network across fungi. Different strains/species might
564 achieve functional conservation of the core functions of the network by having different
565 combinations of core proteins. In fact, we observed 12 or more core proteins (i.e., 75%) in
566 191 strains/species (i.e., 95,5%). These results suggest that functional conservation of the
567 polarization network is high, but that structural conservation, in the sense of network
568 composition, of the individual proteins varies across the fungal strains/species.

569 Various protein characteristics have been elucidated that are (in part) responsible for
570 protein network conservation, such as position within the network, whether the proteins are
571 essential and the number of interactions (Liu et al. 2015; Giaever et al. 2002). We observed
572 high proportions of essential proteins (6 out of 7 essential proteins are core proteins) and short

573 single domain proteins (5 out of 10) for the core proteins (Figure 2). Selection is thought to be
574 strong on these classes of proteins, because of their crucial functions and long protein
575 domains (Pál et al. 2006; Buljan & Bateman 2009). These functional characteristics are based
576 on studies in *S. cerevisiae* and could be less relevant in other species. We did not find
577 significant differences in the number of genetic and physical interactions between the
578 conserved core proteins and the non-core proteins. Interestingly, Cdc42, Bem1, Cdc24 and
579 Cla4 were among the conserved core and have the most interactions with the other proteins.
580 These proteins also take central parts in the polarization network, as key regulator (Cdc42;
581 Etienne-Manneville 2004; Park & Bi 2007; Johnson 1999), scaffolding for protein complex
582 (Cdc24 and Bem1; Butty et al. 2002), and signal transducing (Cla4; Johnson 1999). At the
583 same time, we do find a low number of physical and genetic interactions for the core proteins,
584 Rdi1, Axl2, Rho3. Our results indicate that factors like if a protein is essential and the number
585 of interactions, only partially explain the conservation of core proteins. We did find a
586 significant effect of protein abundance on the conservation of core proteins. This observation
587 supports the hypothesis that conserved proteins are generally more expressed in a cell, as
588 discussed previously (Wall et al. 2005; Drummond 2005).

589

590 *Link to causal factors for variation in the polarization protein network*

591 Here we aim to uncover potential causal factors influencing protein network evolution, in the
592 sense of network size. Our MFA results show that the factors lifestyles, lineage and genetic
593 distance co-vary with the size of the protein repertoire. These results indicate that the
594 evolutionary background, adaptation to specific lifestyles (i.e., yeast-like, unicellular and
595 filamentous) and evolutionary time, and thus an indirect measure of genetic drift, of a given
596 species influence their polarization repertoire size. The examined factors do not explain all
597 variation observed in the data, as 59% is undefined, indicative of missing causal factors. The

598 discovery of, and interplay of, causal factors of adaptation and differentiation between species
599 has gained much and long-term attention in the literature (Kimura 1967; Haldane 1927; Orr
600 2005; Masel 2011; Futuyma 2009). The long-lasting history of population genetics has shown
601 that genetic variation, and thus sequence similarity and ultimately presence/absence of
602 proteins, is caused by the interplay of mutation, natural selection, drift and gene flow, with
603 descent and thus the heritable characteristics as the starting conditions. It is clear that not all
604 these potential causal factors are incorporated in our study, mainly due to the scale of our
605 study and the unavailability of the particular data for our focal species. Even though our
606 analysis does not examine all factors that are likely to have played a role during the protein
607 network evolution, we identified several factors that are, in part, responsible for the complex
608 and highly dynamic polarization protein network evolution of fungi. Further expansion of
609 experimental datasets and development of reliable large-scale comparative tools, should aid a
610 better assessment of empirical data in light of the available theoretical models to study the full
611 scope of real life protein network evolution.

612
613 Our study characterizes the fungal polarization protein network as highly dynamic
614 across species, and we identify gene expression level, lineage, lifestyle and genetic drift, as
615 factors correlating with the observed patterns of variation and adaptation. Our results provide
616 further evidence that protein networks are often characterized by shared (ancient) conserved
617 components as well as taxa-specific components that are variable between even closely
618 related species. Our work sheds new light on the level and intensity of protein network
619 evolution across broad and deep phylogenetic levels.

620 **Acknowledgements**

621 We want to thank the members of the Laan Lab for providing critical feedback during earlier
622 phases of this project. Thanks to W.K.G. Daalman for advice on the statistical analyses. We
623 would like to express our gratitude to the participants of the Gordon Research Conference on
624 Cellular & Molecular Fungal Biology 2016 for constructive feedback on this project. Special
625 thanks to Q. A. Justman, P. J. Boyton and E. M. Hyland for providing valuable comments on
626 earlier drafts of this manuscript and to S.W.M. Pelders for assisting with writing python code.
627 This work was supported by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research
628 (NWO/OCW), as part of the Frontiers of Nanoscience program.

629

630 **Competing interests**

631 The authors declare to have no competing interests.

632

633 **Supplementary Files**

634 Supplementary File 1. Proteins, Strains & Species information

635 Supplementary File 2. Protein Matrix Comparison 200 versus 36sp

636 Comparison of number of observed proteins between the full dataset of 200
637 strains/species and the 36 selected species with highest genome quality. Depicted are
638 scatterplots for the following four lineages: Microsporidia (far left, squares),
639 Saccharomycotina 1 representing the Saccharomycetaceae family (center left, circles),
640 Saccharomycotina 2 representing e.g., the Debaryomycetaceae family (center right,
641 triangles), Pezizomycotina (far right, diamonds). For each lineage a scatterplot of the
642 full dataset (200 strains/species; right scatterplots) and the reduced dataset is depicted
643 (36 species; left scatterplots). Lineages are color-coded as in Figure 4A. Medians
644 (shown as grey lines) do not differ between the two datasets for all four lineages.

- 645 Supplementary File 3. Repeated Combinations Proteins
- 646 Supplementary File 4. MFA analysis
- 647 (A) Broken stick method. (B) Groups. (C) Correlation map of variables. (D) Partial
- 648 axes.
- 649 Supplementary File 5. Eukaryote outgroups
- 650

651 **Figure Legends**

652 Fig. 1. The central part of budding yeast's polarization protein network. (A) Polarity
653 establishment and subsequent budding takes place at one side of the budding yeast cell
654 (cartoon). Insert: schematic overview of the 34 selected proteins and their functional
655 groupings based on SGD; <http://www.yeastgenome.org/>, (Drees et al. 2001; Chang &
656 Peter 2003; Martin & Arkowitz 2014; Madhani 2007). Cdc42 cycles between an
657 active membrane-bound state (GTP) and an inactive cytosolic state (GDP). Depicted
658 are the Cdc42 regulators and effectors, the Bem1/Cdc42 protein complex and several
659 downstream steps. Nrp1 has a presumed function in polarity establishment (see Laan
660 et al. 2015), Ubi4 has a described epistatic interaction with Cdc42 (BioGRID;
661 thebiogrid.org). (B) Matrix of the genetic (in red) and physical (in black) interactions
662 between the 34 selected polarization proteins based on SGD protein data. Proteins are
663 color coded with the functional groupings from the (A) panel. Protein Abundance
664 following Kulak et al. 2014 is displayed in the most right panel. Note that for Gic1
665 and Ubi4 no expression data was available.

666 Fig. 2. Phylogenetic relationships between the 200 fungal strains/species and the protein
667 matrix for the 34 selected polarization proteins. The phylogeny is based on 86 protein
668 sequences (158856 aa) and we used the approximately maximum likelihood method
669 and the JTT model of amino acid evolution. Support values are almost exclusively
670 above 0.9, except when shown on the tree (12 instances). The tree includes the phyla:
671 Microsporidia (in orange), Cryptomycota (in yellow), Basidiomycota (in blue) and the
672 Ascomycota (in purple). Subphyla are shades of the same phylum color. Phylogenetic
673 relationships greatly follow known relationships (Matheny et al. 2006; Zalar et al.
674 2005; Hibbett et al. 2007; Schoch et al. 2009; Shen et al. 2016). The protein matrix
675 displays the similarity scores of the reciprocal BLAST search. White fields represent

676 no match of the query protein in the respective PDB; black field represent a match
677 with 100% similarity score; grey fields represent a match with <100% similarity score.
678 Proteins are ordered and color coded following Figure 1A. Essential proteins (in *S.*
679 *cerevisiae*), paralogs and short single domain proteins are labeled with green, pink and
680 yellow bullets at the bottom of the matrix. Various recurrent and lineage-specific
681 patterns, as discussed in the main text, are highlighted by red outlines. Genome quality
682 as in number of contigs is shown in the most right column, followed by the life styles
683 of the fungal species (cartoons: yeast-like (orange), non-yeast-like unicellular (green),
684 pseudohyphal (light brown), filamentous (dark brown)).

685 Fig. 3. Correlation between genome quality and number of retrieved proteins. The top
686 panel (Count) shows the distribution of strains/species for the number of retrieved
687 proteins. The center panel shows a statistically significant positive correlation between
688 the N50 of contigs of the genome and the number of retrieved proteins. One data point
689 ($x=11, y=9.5 \times 10^6$) was omitted from the plot for clarity of the plot. The bottom panel
690 shows statistically significant negative correlation between the number of contigs in
691 the genome and the number of retrieved proteins. One data point ($x=12, y=25607$) was
692 omitted from the plot for clarity of the plot.

693 Fig. 4. Protein matrix of the 36 species with highest genome quality. The matrix displays
694 the similarity scores of the reciprocal BLAST search for species of the Microsporidia
695 (in orange), Basidiomycota (in blue) and the Ascomycota (in purple). The cladogram
696 on the left represents the phylogenetic relationship between strains/strains based on
697 Figure 2 (note: the branch lengths are fixed and do not represent amino acid
698 substitutions). Proteins are ordered and color coded following Figure 1A. Essential
699 proteins (in *S. cerevisiae*), paralogs and short single domain proteins are labeled with

700 green, pink and yellow bullets at the bottom of the matrix. The life styles of the
701 species are depicted on the right column.

702 Fig. 5. Polarization proteins prevalence. Prevalence of the 34 polarization proteins for all
703 examined fungal species (black circles), the Basidiomycota species (blue circles) and
704 the Ascomycota species (purple circles). Proteins are ordered based on their overall
705 prevalence in all examined strains/species. The 70% criterion is marked by a
706 horizontal red dotted line. Shading in the bottom part reflects grouping of proteins
707 with < 70% prevalence in all strains/species (light grey; left), proteins with prevalence
708 > 70%, but prevalence in the Basidiomycota is not in all cases >70% (grey; center),
709 proteins with >70% prevalence in all examined groups (i.e., core proteins; dark grey;
710 right). Core proteins in the middle group are marked by an asterisk (*). Difference in
711 prevalence between the Ascomycota and Basidiomycota is presented in the top panel
712 (pink diamonds).

713 Fig. 6. Comparison between the core and non-core proteins. (A) Significant difference in
714 the observed prevalence of the core and non-core proteins (P-value < 0.0001). (B)
715 Number of genetic interactions (in red) and physical interactions (in black) between
716 the 34 examined polarization proteins. No difference was observed between the core
717 and non-core proteins in the number of genetic or physical interactions. Data was
718 obtained from SGD protein data. (C) Significant difference in protein abundance
719 between the two groups. Core proteins have higher protein abundance (P-value =
720 0.03). Note that data for Gic1 (non-core) and Ubi4 (core) was unavailable. Core
721 proteins are depicted as circles, while non-core proteins are depicted as squares. Grey
722 lines depict medians.

723 Fig. 7. Multiple Factor Analysis and correlations. (A) Multiple Factor Analysis of the
724 number of polarization proteins, lineage, lifestyle, genomic quality and genetic

725 distance. The 200 strains/species are plotted and color-coded according to their
726 phylogenetic lineage as in Figure 2. Dimension 1 explains 20.28% of the observed
727 variation and the following four factors constitute to its construction (in order of
728 importance): lineage, lifestyle, genetic distance, number of observed proteins.
729 Dimension 2 explains 12.37% of the variation in the data and is based on the variables
730 lineage and lifestyle. Main areas occupied by specific lineages are labeled accordingly
731 for clarity. A clear distinction can be made between yeast-like fungi (left top corner),
732 filamentous fungi (center lower part) and unicellular non-yeast like fungi (right top
733 corner). (B) Cartoon depicting the topology of the major clades. Note that the two
734 Saccharomycotina lineages are shown together. The length of branches do not
735 represent observed branch lengths. See Figure 2 for full phylogeny. (C) The
736 distribution of lifestyles (in percentages) for the ten different phylogenetic lineages.
737 The number of strains/species per lineages is given. Lifestyles are color-coded as in
738 legend at the bottom right of the figure. The 200 strains/species are classified as
739 unicellular, yeast, filamentous, dimorphic (either yeast/filamentous or
740 yeast/pseudohyphal) and trimorphic following Figure 2. (D) Pie plot depicting the
741 percentage of variation explained by the three main dimensions. The three dimensions
742 account for 41% of the observed variation, leaving 59% undefined. (E) The number of
743 observed proteins in ten different phylogenetic lineages. Groups are color-coded per
744 lineage as in Figure 2. Medians are given as grey lines. (F) The number observed
745 proteins in the different lifestyles. Grey lines represent medians. (G) The number of
746 observed proteins plotted versus the genetic distance (in respect to *S. cerevisiae*).
747 Strains/species are color-coded according to their lifestyle morphology.
748

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