¹ Evolution analysis and expression divergence of the chitinase gene family

2 against Leptosphaeria maculans and Sclerotinia sclerotiorum infection in

3 Brassica napus

4 Wen Xu¹, Tengsheng Zhou², Bo An², Baojiang Xu³, Genyi Li^{12*}

5 1 Crop Designing Center, Henan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Zhengzhou, 450002, China

6 2 Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2, Canada

7 3 Henan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Zhengzhou, 450002, China

8 Abstract: Blackleg and sclerotinia stem rot caused by Leptosphaeria maculans and Sclerotinia sclerotiorum respectively are two 9 major diseases in rapeseed worldwide, which cause serious yield losses. Chitinases are pathogenesis-related proteins and play 10 important roles in host resistance to various pathogens and abiotic stress responses. However, a systematic investigation of the 11 chitinase gene family and its expression profile against L. maculans and S. sclerotiorum infection in rapeseed remains elusive. The 12 recent release of assembled genome sequence of rapeseed allowed us to perform a genome-wide identification of the chitinase gene 13 family. In this study, 68 chitinase genes were identified in Brassica napus genome. These genes were divided into five different classes and distributed among 15 chromosomes. Evolutionary analysis indicated that the expansion of the chitinase gene family was 14 15 mainly attributed to segmental and tandem duplication. Moreover, the expression profiling of the chitinase gene family was 16 investigated using RNA sequencing (RNA-Seq) and the results revealed that some chitinase genes were both induced while the other 17 members exhibit distinct expression in response to L. maculans and S. sclerotiorum infection. This study presents a comprehensive 18 survey of the chitinase gene family in B. napus and provides valuable information for further understanding the functions of the 19 chitinase gene family.

20 Keywords: Brassica napus; chitinase gene family; expression pattern; Leptosphaeria maculans; Sclerotinia sclerotiorum

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22 **1. Introduction**

23 Plant chitinases (EC 3.2.1.14) are enzymes that hydrolyze the N-acetyl glucosamine polymer chitin, a major component of fungal 24 cell walls and exoskeleton of insects (COLLINGE et al. 1993) and are considered as one group of pathogenesis-related (PR) proteins 25 (LEGRAND et al. 1987), which can be induced in response to the infection of various pathogenic micro-organisms. In the light of 26 classification of glycosyl hydrolases based on amino acid sequence similarities, plant chitinases have been put in glycoside hydrolasis 27 family 18 (GH-18) and 19 (GH-19) (HENRISSAT 1991). According to the CAZy database (http://www.cazy.org/Glycoside-Hydrolases.html) (CANTAREL et al. 2009), plant chitinases have been grouped into five different classes ranging from I to V. Of these, 28 29 classes I, II and IV belong to the GH-19 family whereas the GH-18 family are composed of classes III and V chitinases (HENRISSAT 30 1991). The details of plant chitinase classification are described as follows. Class I chitinases have an N-terminal chitin-binding 31 domain and a GH-19 catalytic domain. Class II chitinases consist of only a catalytic domain with a high level of sequence and structure similarity to class I chitinases but lack the chitin-binding domain and linker regions. Class IV chitinases show high homology 32 33 with class I chitinases but are smaller due to one deletion in the chitin-binding domain and three deletions in the catalytic domain (XU 34 et al. 2016). Both class III and V chitinases have a GH-18 catalytic domain and a consensus sequence DXDXE, but there is no

homology for other amino acids (UMEMOTO *et al.* 2015). GH-18 chitinases are widely distributed in plants, animals, fungi, bacteria
 and viruses whereas GH-19 members almost exclusively exist in higher plants (PASSARINHO and DE VRIES 2002).

37 In higher plants, the expression of chitinase genes is involved in defense against biotic and abiotic stress as well as in growth and 38 developmental processes (COLLINGE et al. 1993; PUNJA and ZHANG 1993). For instance, a class III chitinase gene, Mtchitinase III-3, 39 has been found to be induced upon the infection of fungi Glomus mosseae and Glomus intraradices in cortical root (BONANOMI et al. 40 2001). PSCHI4, a putative extracellular class II chitinase, is up-regulated in pine seedlings infected with the necrotrophic pathogen 41 Fusarium subglutinans f. sp. Pini (DAVIS et al. 2002). In Arabidopsis thaliana, a class IV chitinase gene AtchitIV accumulated very 42 rapidly in leaves after inoculation with Xanthomonas campestris and reached maximum mRNA accumulation after one hour infection 43 (GERHARDT et al. 1997). In addition, several transgenic studies showed that enhanced levels of chitinase genes in transgenic plants can 44 indeed improve resistance against pathogens and reduce the damage caused by fungi and some insect pests (LIN et al. 1995; DING et al. 45 1998; YAMAMOTO et al. 2000; WANG et al. 2005; PRASAD et al. 2013; CHEN et al. 2014). There are several reports of induced expression of plant chitinases when plants were exposed to abiotic stresses such as heavy-metal stress (BEKESIOVA et al. 2008), 46 47 drought (HONG and HWANG 2002; LEE et al. 2008), salt (HONG and HWANG 2002), cold (YEH et al. 2000), heat (KWON et al. 2007), UV light and wounding (BREDERODE et al. 1991). Furthermore, some chitinases are essential in physiological processes like somatic 48 embryo development (DEJONG et al. 1992) and formation of root nodules (OVTSYNA et al. 2000). In conclusion, chitinases play 49 50 important roles in plant defense and plant health.

Rapeseed (Brassica napus) is an important oilseed crop worldwide. This crop is affected by various fungal pathogens, especially 51 52 blackleg caused by Leptosphaeria maculans and sclerotinia stem rot by Sclerotinia sclerotiorum, which are the most destructive 53 rapeseed diseases in Canada, Australia, Europe and many other regions around the world (WEST et al. 2001). Recently, a few studies have been conducted on chitinase genes responding to some pathogens infection in B. napus (RASMUSSEN et al. 1992a; RASMUSSEN et 54 al. 1992b; GRISON et al. 1996; WANG et al. 2005; AHMED et al. 2012). For example, constitutive overexpression of a chimeric 55 56 chitinase gene in rapeseed had been shown to exhibit an increased resistance to three fungal pathogens compared with their 57 nontransgenic parental plants (GRISON et al. 1996). Co-expression of defensin gene Rs-AFP1 from R. sativus and chimeric chitinase 58 gene chit42 from T. atroviride in rapeseed via Agrobacterium-mediated transformation demonstrated enhanced resistance against 59 sclerotinia stem rot disease (ZARINPANJEH et al. 2016). In addition, global studies of transcriptome dynamics of defense responses to L. 60 maculans and S. sclerotiorum in B. napus presented that pathogen responsive genes including chitinases were rapidly induced during early infection (LOWE et al. 2014; HADDADI et al. 2016; JOSHI et al. 2016; WU et al. 2016). However, to date, the chitinase genes in 61 62 rapeseed have not been systematically identified and thus the genetic resistance to L. maculans and S. sclerotiorum has been not vet 63 studied. Recently, the availability of the whole genome sequence and RNA-seq sequencing enable further investigations into chitinase 64 genes and their response to L. maculans and S. sclerotiorum infection on a genome-wide scale (CHALHOUB et al. 2014; WOODHOUSE 65 et al. 2014).

To further extend the understanding of the chitinase gene family, a global analysis, including identification, sequence features, physical location, the evolutionary relationship and expression pattern of the chitinase gene family in response to *L. maculans* and *S. sclerotiorum* infection in *B. napus* using the RNA-seq sequencing data collected in our lab and some transcriptome data from NCBI database was performed. Expression analysis revealed that some chitinase genes were induced by both pathogens while others displayed differential expression pattern in response to *L. maculans* and *S. sclerotiorum* infection, suggesting that they may have distinct roles in different pathogens stress response. Together, our findings will be helpful for further understanding of the functions of the chitinase gene family against different stress in rapeseed.

73 2. Results

74 2.1 Identification and phylogenetic analysis of the chitinase gene family in *B. napus*

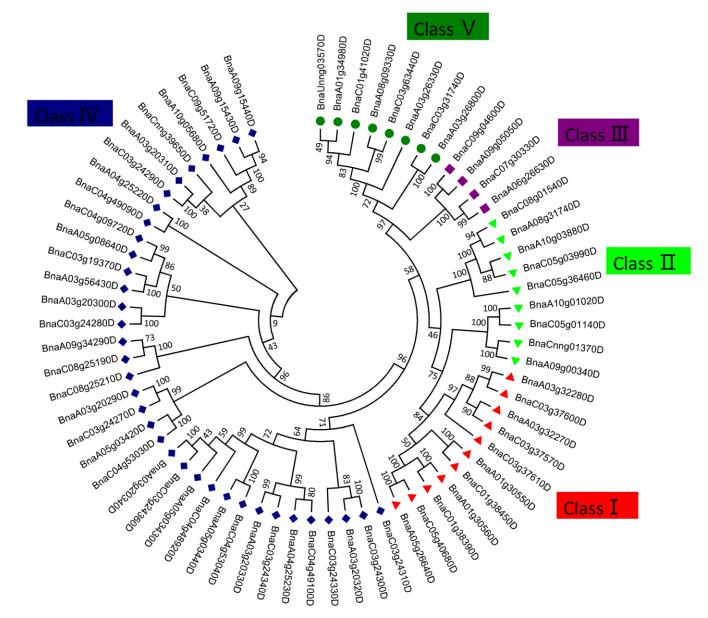
75 The complete genome sequence and gene annotation was used for the genome-wide identification of the chitinase gene family 76 and a total of 68 putative chitinase genes were identified in the *B. napus* genome (Table 1). All these identified proteins have at least 77 one typical "Glyco hydro 19" or "Glyco hydro 18" domain which is responsible for catalyzing the degradation of chitin. Of these, 78 GH-18 family and GH-19 family include 12 and 56 putative chitinase genes, respectively. These chitinase genes in B. napus encode 79 proteins ranging from 130 to 1005 amino acids in length with an average of 294. The average number of exons among these chitinase 80 genes was 3.04, a value that is smaller than the average number of exons among all predicted *B. napus* genes (4.9). BLAST search of these 68 proteins against NCBI non-redundant database showed that the top matched hits were endochitinases, chitinases, chitinase-81 82 like proteins, which further confirm the reliability of the identified chitinase genes. Furthermore, the signal peptides in 54 predicted 83 chitinase sequences were also identified. To examine the evolutionary relationships among the chitinase genes in B. napus, sequence 84 alignment was performed with amino acid sequences (Supplementary Table 1) and an unrooted phylogenetic tree of the 68 chitinase 85 genes using neighbor-joining method was constructed (Figure 1).

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87	Table 1	Chitinase	genes in the	B.napus g	enome and	and their sec	uence characteristics
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Gene	Family	Class	Chr	Start	End	Strand	Protein Length(aa)	Number of Exons	Signal Peptide
BnaA01g30550D	Glyco_hydro_19	Ι	A01	20941303	20942028	+	130	1	YES
BnaA01g30560D	Glyco_hydro_19	Ι	A01	20943578	20945861	+	145	4	YES
BnaA03g32270D	Glyco_hydro_19	Ι	A03	15569491	15570916	-	168	3	NO
BnaA03g32280D	Glyco_hydro_19	Ι	A03	15575380	15578982	-	190	6	YES
BnaA05g26640D	Glyco_hydro_19	Ι	A05	19447511	19449216	+	196	2	YES
BnaC01g38390D	Glyco_hydro_19	Ι	C01	37477744	37480353	-	216	3	YES
BnaC01g38450D	Glyco_hydro_19	Ι	C01	37494610	37495630	-	227	2	NO
BnaC03g37570D	Glyco_hydro_19	Ι	C03	23003071	23005099	-	231	4	YES
BnaC03g37600D	Glyco_hydro_19	Ι	C03	23016407	23018656	-	239	3	YES
BnaC03g37610D	Glyco_hydro_19	Ι	C03	23021408	23025003	-	242	2	YES
BnaC05g40680D	Glyco_hydro_19	Ι	C05	38780461	38782151	+	245	2	YES
BnaA08g31740D	Glyco_hydro_19	II	A08	2107446	2110073	+	245	3	YES
BnaA09g00340D	Glyco_hydro_19	II	A09	146643	148245	-	245	2	YES
BnaA10g01020D	Glyco_hydro_19	II	A10	536566	537828	-	255	2	YES
BnaA10g03880D	Glyco_hydro_19	II	A10	2063411	2066519	-	255	3	YES
BnaC05g01140D	Glyco_hydro_19	II	C05	600283	601194	-	256	2	YES
BnaC05g03990D	Glyco_hydro_19	II	C05	1957654	1959846	-	257	3	YES
BnaC05g36460D	Glyco_hydro_19	II	C05	35739352	35741554	+	261	9	YES
BnaC08g01540D	Glyco_hydro_19	II	C08	1206975	1209667	-	261	3	YES
BnaCnng01370D	Glyco_hydro_19	II	Cnn	1527030	1528502	+	263	2	YES
BnaC07g30330D	Glyco_hydro_18	III	C07	34864788	34866603	+	263	3	YES
BnaC09g04600D	Glyco_hydro_18	III	C09	2638283	2639657	+	263	3	YES
BnaA09g05050D	Glyco_hydro_18	III	A09	2477135	2478513	+	264	3	NO
BnaA06g26630D	Glyco_hydro_18	III	A06	18298306	18300242	-	307	3	YES
BnaA03g20290D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A03	9648039	9649318	-	269	3	YES
BnaA03g20300D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A03	9652001	9653298	-	269	3	YES
BnaA03g20310D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A03	9663327	9664876	-	272	2	YES
BnaA03g20320D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A03	9678956	9680269	-	272	2	YES
BnaA03g20330D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A03	9684457	9685621	-	274	2	YES
BnaA03g20340D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A03	9698939	9700499	-	275	2	YES

Bn	aA03g56430D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A03	711494	712848	+	275	2	YES
Bn	aA04g25220D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A04	18233599	18234851	-	275	2	NO
Bn	aA04g25230D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A04	18235520	18236868	-	279	2	NO
Bn	aA05g03420D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A05	1888936	1890632	-	279	3	YES
Bn	aA05g03430D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A05	1893397	1894609	-	280	2	YES
Bn	aA05g03440D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A05	1904615	1905892	-	280	2	YES
Bn	aA05g08640D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A05	4802795	4804226	+	281	2	YES
Bn	aA09g15430D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A09	8977793	8978880	+	281	2	YES
Bn	aA09g15440D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A09	8979421	8980691	+	281	2	NO
Bn	aA09g34290D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A09	25164422	25167344	+	281	6	YES
Bn	aA10g05680D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	A10	3646850	3650151	-	282	2	YES
Bn	aC03g19370D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C03	10063312	10065182	-	282	2	YES
Bn	aC03g24270D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C03	13607893	13609216	-	282	2	YES
Bn	aC03g24280D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C03	13614270	13615575	-	282	3	YES
Bn	aC03g24290D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C03	13628566	13630189	-	283	2	YES
Bn	aC03g24300D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C03	13641790	13643090	-	284	2	YES
Bn	aC03g24310D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C03	13644193	13644910	-	302	2	YES
Bn	aC03g24330D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C03	13646581	13649085	-	302	2	YES
Bn	aC03g24340D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C03	13654943	13656106	-	302	2	NO
Bn	aC03g24360D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C03	13695822	13697335	-	318	2	YES
Bn	aC04g09720D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C04	7384173	7385277	+	319	5	YES
Bn	aC04g48920D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C04	47325431	47326573	+	320	2	YES
Bn	aC04g49090D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C04	47408585	47409809	-	322	2	NO
Bn	aC04g49100D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C04	47411832	47413177	-	322	2	YES
Bn	aC04g53030D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C04	680771	682319	-	322	3	YES
Bn	aC04g53040D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C04	688006	689125	-	322	2	NO
Bn	aC08g25190D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C08	27018000	27020278	+	323	6	NO
Bn	aC08g25210D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C08	27024727	27025633	+	329	2	NO
Bn	aC09g51720D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	C09	948730	950079	-	334	3	YES
Bn	aCnng39650D	Glyco_hydro_19	IV	Cnn	38235388	38236682	+	342	3	YES
Bn	aC03g63440D	Glyco_hydro_18	V	C03	52860028	52861720	+	346	3	NO
Bn	aA01g34980D	Glyco_hydro_18	V	A01	304675	306686	+	363	3	YES
Bn	aUnng03570D	Glyco_hydro_18	V	Unn	5067935	5068651	-	371	1	NO
Bn	aA03g26800D	Glyco_hydro_18	V	A03	13187584	13189629	+	381	8	YES
	aA03g26330D	Glyco_hydro_18	V	A03	12888937	12890809	+	383	3	YES
Bn	aC03g31740D	Glyco_hydro_18	v	C03	19525415	19530521	+	424	18	YES
Bn	aA08g09330D	Glyco_hydro_18	V	A08	8944530	8946552	-	513	3	YES
Bn	aC01g41020D	Glyco_hydro_18	V	C01	240723	242688	+	1005	5	YES



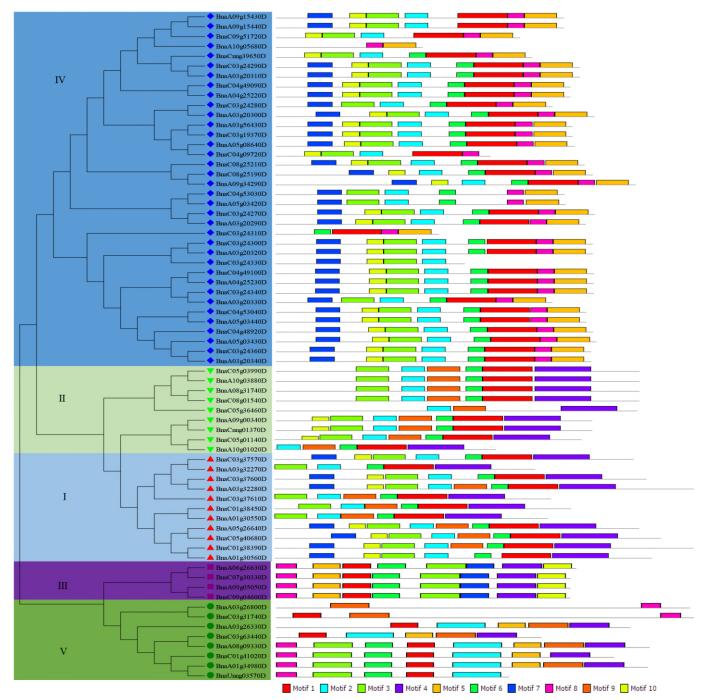
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Figure 1 Phylogenetic tree of the chitinase gene family in *Brassica napus*. The chitinase protein sequences were used to construct
 multiple sequence alignments using MUSCLE program within MEGA 7.0 software. Phylogenetic analysis was performed using
 MEGA 7.0 with the neighbor-joining method with 1,000 bootstrap replications.

93 2.2 Conserved motifs and gene structures of the chitinase gene family in *B. napus*

The above phylogenetic tree highlighted that the 68 chitinase genes could be divided into five well-supported subfamilies, which were consistent with Class I, II, III, IV, and V. As expected, the chitinase genes of Glyco_hydro_19 and Glyco_hydro_18 families were clustered into two relatively distinct branches. Chitinase genes from subfamilies Class III and Class V are in the Glyco_hydro_18 clade, whereas subfamilies Class I, II, and IV that belong to Glyco_hydro_19 clade were clustered together and showed close relationships (Figure 2). According to the phylogenetic tree, chitinases in different subfamilies had various characteristics. Among the five subfamilies, Class IV was found to be the biggest group with 36 members, accounting for almost a half of the chitinase gene family, whereas there were 11, 9, 4, 8 chitinase genes in Class I, II, III, V subfamilies, respectively.

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Figure 2 Phylogenetic relationships and motif compositions of chitinase genes. The phylogenetic tree was created in MEGA7.0 software. Five major phylogenetic groups designated as I to V were marked with different color backgrounds. Schematic representation of the conserved motifs of the chitinase gene family was elucidated by MEME software. Each motif was represented by a colored box numbered in the bottom. The details of individual motif were shown in Supplementary Figure 1 and 2.

107 To gain further insights into the structural diversity and functional evolution of chitinase genes, 10 motifs of all 68 chitinase genes are captured by MEME software and displayed schematically in Figure 2 and Supplementary Figure 1 and 2. As shown in Figure 108 2, most chitinases in the same class shared common motif compositions. Among the GH-19 family, motifs 1,3,4,9 were annotated as 109 glycoside hydrolase catalytic domain and motif 7 was annotated as chitin-binding domain. Each member of chitinases in classes I, II 110 and IV had at least one glycoside hydrolase catalytic domain and motif 4 was only detected in classes I and II. Most chitinase genes 111 112 from subfamilies I and IV also harbored a chitin-binding domain whereas motif 7 did not exist in the subfamily II. In the GH-18 family, except for motif 8 and 9, other 8 motifs were annotated as glycoside hydrolase catalytic domains. Similarly, in the GH-19, at 113 least one glycoside hydrolase catalytic domain was detected in every chitinase gene of class III and V. Interestingly, motif 7 and motif 114

10 are unique in class III whereas motif 2 can be only detected in class V. In addition, we analyzed the coding sequences with 116 corresponding genome sequences of each chitinase genes in *B. napus*. A detailed illustration of the chitinase gene structure was shown 117 in Figure 3. Most chitinase genes contained two or three exons, whereas three chitinase genes (BnaA01g30550D, BnaA0626330D and 118 BnaUnng03570D) had no introns. In general, most chitinase genes in the same class showed similar conserved motifs and exon-intron 119 structures. These findings revealed that motif compositions and gene structures of each class in the chitinase gene family were 120 relatively conserved. The similar features of chitinase genes in the same class may fulfill similar functions and this claim need to be 121 supported by their expression and related data.

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BnaA09g15430D BnaA09g15440D BnaC09g51720D BnaA10g05680D BnaCnng39650D BnaC03g24290D BnaA03g20310D BnaC04g49090D BnaA04g25220D IV BnaC03g24280D BnaA03g20300D BnaA03g56430D BnaC03g19370D BnaA05g08640D BnaC04g09720D BnaC08g25210D BnaC08g25190D BnaA09g34290D BnaC04g53030D BnaA05g03420D BnaC03g24270D BnaA03g20290D BnaC03g24310D BnaC03g24300D BnaA03g20320D BnaC03g24330D BnaC04g49100D BnaA04g25230D BnaC03g24340D BnaA03g20330D BnaC04g53040D BnaA05g03440D BnaC04g48920D BnaA05g03430D BnaC03g24360D BnaA03g20340D BnaC05g03990D BnaA10g03880D BnaA08g31740D BnaC08g01540D BnaC05g36460D Π BnaA09g00340D BnaCnng01370D BnaC05g01140D BnaA10g01020D BnaC03g37570D BnaA03g32270D BnaC03g37600D BnaA03g32280D BnaC03g37610D BnaC01g38450D I BnaA01g30550D BnaA05g26640D BnaC05g40680D BnaC01g38390D BnaA01g30560D BnaA06g26330D BnaC07g30330D III BnaA09g05050D BnaC09g04600D BnaA03g26800D BnaC03g31740D BnaA03g26330D BnaC03g63440D v BnaA08g09330D BnaC01g41020D BnaA01g34980D BnaUnng03570D 3kb 5kb 1kb 2kb 4kb Legend:

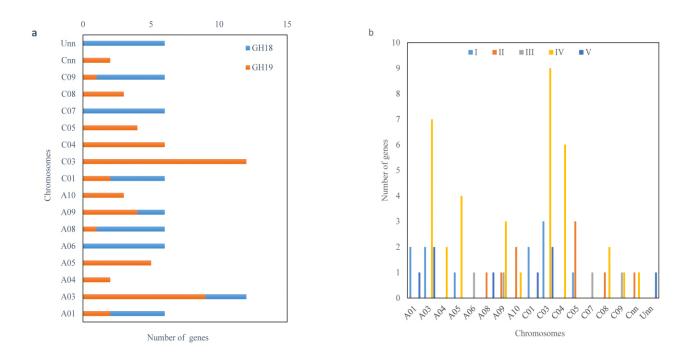
→ Intron

UTR

Figure 3 Exon-intron structures of all chitinase genes in *Brassica napus*. Schematic diagram represents the gene structure of all 68
 chitinase genes identified in this study using Gene Structure Display Server (http://gsds.cbi.pku.edu.cn/). CDS are shown as red boxes;
 introns are indicated by double slashes on the bar; UTR sequences are shown as blue boxes.

127 2.3 Chromosomal distribution and evolution patterns of chitinase genes in *B. napus*

128 The chromosomal distribution of 68 chitinase genes was analyzed based on the available gene annotation and genome sequence assembly. The results revealed that all 68 chitinase genes were distributed among 15 out of 19 chromosomes with the exception of 129 chromosomes A02, A07, C02 and C06 in the B. napus genome (Figure 4a). There were 32 genes mapped in the A genome, and 35 130 131 genes located in the C genome while one gene BnaUnng03570D was not assigned to a chromosome. GH-19 family presented on 13 chromosomes except chromosomes A06 and C07 while GH-18 family were absent from chromosomes A04, A05, A10, C04, C05, 132 C08. The number of chitinase genes varied considerably among different chromosomes and the large numbers of chitinase genes were 133 found on chromosomes A03 and C03, harbouring 11 and 14 genes, respectively (Figure 4a). Furthermore, the classes of the chitinase 134 gene family were distributed in different chromosomes and up to four classes in A03 and C03 chromosomes were identified (Figure 135 4b). 136



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Figure 4 Distribution of the chitinase gene family on *Brassica napus* chromosomes (a) Gene distribution of GH-18 family and
 GH-19 family on *Brassica napus* chromosomes. (b) Distribution of five subfamilies of chitinase genes on *Brassica napus* chromosomes.

To understand the evolution of the chitinase gene family, twenty-six pairs of paralogs were detected in 68 chitinase genes based on criteria for both coverage \geq 70% and identity \geq 70% (Table 2). The phylogenetic relationship analysis of chitinase genes also showed that most pairs of paralogs could be clustered together (Figure 1). For example, the four members in two pairs of paralogs (BnaA09g05050D and BnaC09g04600D, BnaA06g26630D and BnaC07g30330D) in Class III subfamily were clustered into two parts in a single clade. As genome duplication was considered, one member in the A subgenome would correspond to one homologous gene in the C subgenome in *B. napus*. In fact, 50 members of 68 chitinase genes showed such a one-to-one correspondence.

147 Table 2 Table listing the chitinase genesparalog sets among A and C subgenomes of *B. napus* and their orthologs in *A. thaliana*,

148 B.rapa, B.oleracea.

B.napus_C vs	B.napus_A vs A.	B.napus_C vs	B.napus_A vs	_	_
A. thaliana	thaliana	B.oleracea	B.rapa	B.napus_A	B.napus_C
				BnaA03g32270D	BnaC03g37570D
AT2G43610.1	AT2G43610.1	Bo3g036710.1	Bra000314.1	BnaA03g20330D	BnaC03g24340D
AT2G43620.1	AT2G43620.1	Bo3g036730.1	Bra000315.1	BnaA03g20340D	BnaC03g24360D
AT2G43590.1	AT2G43590.1	Bo3g036660.1	Bra000311.1	BnaA03g20310D	BnaC03g24290D
			Bra027940.1	BnaA09g15430D	BnaA09g15440D
			Bra027940.1	BnaA09g15440D	BnaA09g15430D
AT4G01700.1	AT4G01700.1	Bo9g004220.1	Bra036316.1	BnaA09g00340D	BnaCnng01370D
AT4G19810.1	AT4G19810.1	Bo1g021980.1	Bra020951.1	BnaA08g09330D	BnaC03g63440D
AT5G24090.1	AT5G24090.1	Bo9g013820.1	Bra026469.1	BnaA09g05050D	BnaC09g04600D
		Bo3g036670.1	Bra000312.1	BnaA03g20320D	BnaC03g24300D
		Bo3g028270.1	Bra023009.1	BnaA03g56430D	BnaC03g19370D
AT3G12500.1	AT3G12500.1	Bo5g133420.1	Bra034754.1	BnaA05g26640D	BnaC05g40680D
AT2G43580.1	AT2G43580.1	Bo3g036650.1	Bra000311.1	BnaA03g20300D	BnaC03g24280D
	AT2G43590.1	Bo4g194450.1	Bra037699.1	BnaA04g25220D	BnaC04g49090D
		Bo5g003080.1	Bra033318.1	BnaA10g01020D	BnaC05g01140D
		Bo4g020930.1	Bra004773.1	BnaA05g03440D	BnaC04g53040D
		Bo1g139190.1	Bra038727.1	BnaA01g30550D	BnaC01g38450D
AT2G43610.1	AT2G43610.1	Bo4g194460.1	Bra037698.1	BnaA04g25230D	BnaC04g49100D
AT2G43570.1	AT2G43570.1	Bo3g036640.1	Bra000310.1	BnaA03g20290D	BnaC03g24270D
AT5G24090.1	AT5G24090.1	Bo7g097210.1	Bra009731.1	BnaA06g26630D	BnaC07g30330D
AT1G05850.1	AT1G05850.1	Bo8g005830.1	Bra030628.1	BnaA08g31740D	BnaC08g01540D
AT4G19810.1	AT4G19810.1	Bo1g021960.1	Bra013426.1	BnaA01g34980D	BnaC01g41020D
		Bo8g083650.1		BnaA09g34290D	BnaC08g25190D
AT1G05850.1	AT1G05850.1	Bo5g007040.1	Bra015457.1	BnaA10g03880D	BnaC05g03990D
	AT3G12500.1	Bo1g139210.1	Bra038726.1	BnaA01g30560D	BnaC01g38390D
AT2G43570.1		Bo4g020920.1	Bra004771.1	BnaA05g03420D	BnaC04g53030D
AT2G43620.1	AT2G43620.1	Bo3g036730.1	Bra004772.1	BnaA05g03430D	BnaC04g48920D
	AT4G19750.1		Bra000892.1	BnaA03g26330D	
	AT4G01040.1		Bra000939.1	BnaA03g26800D	
			Bra001454.1	BnaA03g32280D	
	AT2G43590.1		Bra005345.1	BnaA05g08640D	
			Bra039597.1	BnaA10g05680D	
AT2G43590.1		Bo3g024590.1			BnaCnng39650D
		Bo9g055720.1			BnaC09g51720D
AT3G54420.1		Bo8g083670.1			BnaC08g25210D
		Bo5g123590.1			BnaC05g36460D
					BnaC04g09720D
		Bo3g064970.1			BnaC03g37610D
					BnaC03g37600D
		Bo3g054420.1			BnaC03g31740D
		Bo3g036700.1			BnaC03g24330D
AT2G43600.1		Bo3g036680.1			BnaC03g24310D
AT4G19810.1		Bo1g021980.1	Bra020951.1		BnaUnng03570D

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150 The distribution of chitinase genes indicated a relatively deep evolutionary origin of these chitinase genes as well as gene 151 duplication. Previous research suggests that the evolution of a plant disease resistance gene family is usually mediated by

recombination, tandem duplication, and segmental duplication (LEISTER 2004). The allotetraploid B. napus is a spontaneous 152 hybridisation of B. rapa (A genome) and B. olearecea (C genome). To understand the origin and duplication patterns of these 153 chitinase genes, putative orthologs of chitinase genes in B. napus were also identified in A. thaliana, B. rapa and B. olearecea (Table 154 2). The results demonstrated that 30 orthologs of 32 chitinase genes in the A subgenome were identified in B. rapa and 32 orthologs of 155 35 chitinase genes in the C subgenome in B. olearecea. The gene BnaUnng03570D had both orthologs (Bo1g021980.1 and 156 157 Bra020951.1) in B. rapa and B. olearecea, respectively, but it had much higher identities with Bo1g021980.1. Furthermore, the order and synteny of chitinase genes BnaA03g20290D, BnaA03g20300D, BnaA03g20310D, BnaA03g20320D, BnaA03g20330D, 158 BnaA03g20340D in chromosome A03 and BnaC03g24270D, BnaC03g24280D, BnaC03g24290D, BnaC03g24300D. 159 160 BnaC03g24340D, BnaC03g24360D in chromosome C03, as well as those genes for both subgenomes of the allopolyploid (the A and 161 C subgenomes in B. napus vs. the A and C genomes in B. rapa and B. olearecea) revealed that there were a few structural rearrangements and genomic collinearity in B. napus with regard to the chitinase gene family evolution and expansion. These findings 162 showed that most chitinase genes (63/68) of allotetraploid B. napus were inherited from their diploid ancestors by recombination or 163 segmental duplication. It is interesting to observe that the best hit of chitinase gene BnaA09g15430D was BnaA09g15440D which 164 were tandem repeats on the A09 chromosome. It was also observed that five chitinase genes in *B. napus* had no orthologs in their 165 diploid ancestors. Of these, three genes (BnaA09g34290D, BnaC04g09720D and BnaC03g37600D) and one paralog of two genes 166 (BnaA03g32270D and BnaC03g37570D) did not have orthologs in A. thaliana, B. rapa and B. olearecea, which might result from 167 incomplete and error-filled genome assemblies and gene annotation errors or gene structure rearrangement in the evolutionary process. 168 Perhaps these five genes might be the new members of the chitinase gene family during the evolution in *B. napus*. 169

170 2.4 Transcriptomic profiles of the chitinase gene family in response to *L. maculans* and *S. sclerotiorum* during early infection in *B. napus*

Blackleg, also known as stem canker caused by L. maculans and sclerotinia stem rot caused by S. sclerotiorum are two major 172 rapeseed diseases in most major rapeseed growing areas. The expression profiling of all chitinase genes in response to L. maculans 173 and S. sclerotiorum infection in resistant and susceptible B. napus accessions were investigated using whole-transcriptome sequencing 174 data to understand the roles of chitinase genes at early stages of infection. The results showed that these two biostresses caused a 175 significant expression induction of some members in the chitinase gene family. The differentially expressed genes (DEGs) of 176 177 chitinases in response to L. maculans were identified. Among all 68 chitinase genes in the genome, 31 and 25 chitinase genes were upregulated in the resistant lines and susceptible lines inoculated with the pathogen compared with their water control, respectively. Of 178 these up-regulated chitinase genes, 24 were overlapped in the resistant lines and susceptible accessions. Combined data of all resistant 179 and susceptible lines revealed that 15 chitinase genes were upregulated and no chitinase gene was dramatically downregulated during 180 the infection of pathogen L. maculans (Figure 5). 181

RvsCK lma	SvsCK lma	RvsS lma	RvsCK scl	SvsCK_scl	RvsS scl		
KvoCK_iiiia	5v5Cix_iiiia	Kv55_IIIa	KVSCK_SU	SVSCK_SCI	1(135_301	BnaA03g32280D	8
						BnaC03g37600D	
						BnaA03g32270D	6
						BnaC03g37570D	-
						BnaC03g37610D	4
						BnaA01g30550D	4
						BnaC01g38450D	
						0	2
						BnaA01g30560D	
						BnaC01g38390D	0
						BnaA05g26640D	0
						BnaC05g40680D	
						BnaA09g00340D	-2
						BnaCnng01370D	-
						BnaA10g01020D	-4
						BnaC05g01140D	
						BnaC08g01540D	
						BnaA08g31740D	
						BnaA10g03880D	
						BnaC05g03990D	
						BnaC05g36460D	
						BnaA06g26630D	
						BnaC07g30330D	
						BnaA09g05050D	
1						BnaC09g04600D	
						BnaUnng03570D	
						BnaA01g34980D	
						BnaA08g09330D	
						BnaC03g63440D	
						BnaA03g26330D	
						BnaA03g26800D	
						BnaC03g31740D	
						BnaC01g41020D	
						BnaA09g15430D	
						BnaA09g15440D	
			-			BnaC09g51720D	
			-				
						BnaA10g05680D	
						BnaCnng39650D	
						BnaA03g20310D	
						BnaC03g24290D	
						BnaA04g25220D	
						BnaC04g49090D	
						BnaC04g09720D	
						BnaA05g08640D	
						BnaA03g56430D	
						BnaC03g19370D	
						BnaA03g20330D	
						BnaC03g24280D	
						BnaA09g34290D	
						BnaC08g25190D	
						BnaC08g25210D	
						BnaA03g20290D	
						BnaC03g24270D	
						BnaA05g03420D	
						BnaC04g53030D	
						BnaA03g20340D	
						BnaC03g24360D	
						BnaA05g03430D	
						BnaC04g48920D	
						BnaA05g03440D	
						BnaC04g53040D	
						BnaA03g20300D	
						BnaC03g24340D	
						BnaA04g25230D	
						BnaC04g49100D	
						BnaC03g24330D	
						Bnadnaaaaaa	
						BnaA03g20320D	
						BnaA03g20320D BnaC03g24300D BnaC03g24310D	

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Figure 5 Expression profiles of chitinase genes in response to *Leptosphaeria maculans* (lma) and *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (scl) infection. Relative fold change in as compared to controlin in resistant and susceptible *B. napus* lines and was used to generate heatmap. R and S were represented as resistant and susceptible lines, respectively. The colored scale for the relative expression levels is shown.

In a previous report, the abundance of transcripts in resistant and susceptible *B. napus* accessions at the 4 day post-inoculation treatments were analyzed to understand the differential defense response to *S. sclerotiorum* (WU *et al.* 2016). Using these data and all 68 chitinase genes identified in this study, 23 and 20 chitinase genes were up-regulated while 6 and 11 members were downregulated in the resistant accession and susceptible accession compared with water control, respectively. Compared with the expression of chitinase genes in response to blackleg pathogen infection, 16 up-regulated and 4 down-regulated chitinase genes were overlapped respectively. Compared with the S accession, the analyses showed that 13 and 7 chitinase genes were the same as those upregulated and downregulated ones against *S. sclerotiorum* attack, respectively.

194 Chitinase genes which were induced after infection with L. maculans and S. sclerotiorum in rapeseed were further classified into 195 three groups (Table 3). In the first group, 10 members of the chitinase gene family had stronger up-regulation in resistant accessions 196 than susceptible counterparts with more than two values of log2. These 10 chitinase genes showed a wide range of upregulation in 197 resistant accession infected by S. sclerotiorum and the differences of the upregulation between resistant and susceptible accessions varied and were less than two in the log2 values. There were 9 chitinase genes showing higher upregulation in the infection of 198 199 resistant accessions with L. maculans with the log2 values of more that three while most of these genes were less upregulated in 200 susceptible accessions. In the infection of S. sclerotiorum, only few chitinase genes in the second group showed upregulated. Eight 201 members of chitinase genes in the third group showed very high levels of upregulation with the log2 values ranging from 4.45-7.96 in the infection of S. sclerotiorum while the differences in both resistant and susceptible accessions were little or even higher in 202 susceptible accessions. The chitinase genes in the third group showed much less variation in the infection of L. maculans and the 203 204 expression of some of these genes were not detected, indicating that these genes did not play a critical role in the defense against L. maculans. The results suggested that the cross-talk under different pathogen attack and redundant functions can be maintained over 205 long evolutionary periods. On the other hand, eight chitinase genes were preferentially induced by L. maculans infection while other 8 206 207 chitinase genes were preferentially increased by S. sclerotiorum infection respectively. The distinctive expression pattern of the chitinase gene family suggested that the functions of different members in the chitinase gene family have diverged during long-term 208 209 evolution and might exhibit different roles against different biotic and abiotic stresses.

Table 3 Fold change (log2) of chitinase gene expression in response to *Leptosphaeria maculans* (lma) and *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (scl) infection in resistant and susceptible *B. napus* lines.

Group	Gene	R/CK_lma	S/CK_lma	R/S_lma	R/CK_scl	S/CK_scl	R/S_scl
	BnaA05g26640D	5.72	1.71	3.9	7.68	7.29	0.39
	BnaC04g53030D	7.99	4.26	3.83	2.6	0.87	0.82
	BnaA03g20300D	7.06	3.76	3.63	4.1	4.19	-0.48
	BnaC03g24290D	5.94	4.03	3.51	2.4	0.81	1.8
7	BnaA05g03420D	6.45	4.33	2.88	1.09	-1.11	1.12
1	BnaC05g40680D	2.05	2.78	2.62	7.1	5.97	0
	BnaA01g34980D	5.64	3.17	2.43	3.08	-0.41	1.78
	BnaCnng39650D	3.29	1.16	2.17	2.1	1.04	1.85
	BnaA04g25220D	5.96	4.2	2.15	2.08	1.85	-0.19
	BnaC03g24280D	2.51	1.36	2.08	2.88	3.21	-0.29
	BnaC04g49090D	4.24	3.64	0.88	0.41	0	0.18
	BnaA05g03430D	3.93	3.21	1.82	0.12	-0.7	0.33
2	BnaC04g49100D	3.69	2.08	0.87	2.13	3.71	-0.87
2	BnaA10g01020D	3.64	1.66	1.3	-0.59	2.65	-2.82
	BnaA03g20290D	3.38	2.61	1.95	-3.54	-4.95	2.49
	BnaC03g19370D	3.16	2.23	0.61	1.25	0.93	0.2

	BnaUnng03570D	3.15	3.2	0.63	3.66	1.97	1.16
	BnaA03g20310D	3.01	2.55	1.74	2.27	1	1.22
	BnaC04g53040D	0	0	0	7.69	7.47	0.29
	BnaC03g37570D	0.01	-0.63	0.34	7.33	7.96	-2.73
	BnaC03g37610D	-0.21	-0.88	0.51	6.78	7.1	-2.75
2	BnaA03g32280D	-2.61	-2.03	-0.74	6.71	7.07	-1.68
3	BnaC03g37600D	-2.3	-0.81	-0.54	6.62	7.26	-1.18
	BnaC04g09720D	0.3	0.75	-0.3	6.51	6.19	-0.84
	BnaA05g08640D	1.97	0.72	-0.25	6.27	5.62	-0.72
	BnaC03g24300D	-0.09	0	0.06	4.5	4.45	-1.5

212 3. Discussion

213 Plants have developed highly sophisticated immune mechanisms to respond to pathogen attack by the induction of expression of a large number of genes encoding pathogenesis-related (PR) proteins, such as chitinases. Chitinases are believed to play important 214 215 roles in plant-pathogen interactions and catalyze the hydrolysis of the β -1-4-linkage in the N-acetyl-D-glucosamine polymer of chitin, 216 which is a major component of many fungal cell walls, but absent in higher plants (LEGRAND et al. 1987; COLLINGE et al. 1993). The 217 chitinase gene family has been widely characterized as excellent candidates to improve plants tolerance to stresses, including drought 218 (HONG and HWANG 2002; LEE et al. 2008), salt (HONG and HWANG 2002), cold (YEH et al. 2000), heat (KWON et al. 2007), UV light, 219 wounding (BREDERODE et al. 1991), fungal pathogens and some insect pests (LIN et al. 1995; DING et al. 1998; YAMAMOTO et al. 220 2000; WANG et al. 2005; PRASAD et al. 2013; CHEN et al. 2014). However, the genome-wide identification and expression pattern of 221 the chitinase gene family in response to L. maculans and S. sclerotiorum infection has not been reported in B. napus.

222 In this study, a total of 68 chitinase genes were identified in *B. napus* genome. Of these, GH-18 family and GH-19 family have 12 and 56 chitinase genes, respectively, which was further supported by analysis of gene structure and conserved motifs (Figure 2, 3). 223 224 GH-18 family was divided into Class III (4 genes) and Class V (8 genes). GH-19 family was composed of Class I (11 genes), Class II 225 (9 genes) and Class IV (36 genes). However, there were 13 and 26 chitinase genes in GH-19 family and GH-18 family in para 226 rubber tree, respectively (MISRA 2015). Class IV had the most members in B. napus whereas Class III posed the most genes of 227 chitinase in Para rubber tree, which may reveal that there is evolutionary divergence of specific classes of chitinases in different 228 species. The chitinase gene family has 24, 32, 35, and 68 members in A. thaliana, B. rapa, B. oleracea, and B. napus, respectively 229 (XU et al. 2007), which suggested that chitinase genes in B. napus had expanded in comparison to its ancestors. Gene duplication 230 events, such as tandem duplication and segmental duplication play important roles in the rapid expansion and evolution of gene families (XU et al. 2012). The AACC genome of B. napus was formed through recent allopolyploidy between the ancestors of B. rapa 231 232 (AA) and B. oleracea (CC) (CHALHOUB et al. 2014). From our analysis, 30 orthologs of 32 chitinase genes in the A genome were identified in B. rapa and 32 orthologs of 35 chitinase genes in the C genome of B. olearecea. Most orthologous gene pairs in B. rapa 233 and B. oleracea are still homeologous pairs in B. napus. Most chitinase genes in B. napus showed a close relationship to their ancestor 234 chitinase genes, which suggested that segmental duplication or polyploidy events contributed to the expansion of the chitinase gene 235 family in B. napus. Only one pair of tandemly duplicated genes (BnaA09g15430D and BnaA09g15440D) was identified. These 236 237 findings suggest that segmental duplication and tandem duplication likely plays an important role in the expansion of the chitinase 238 gene family in B. napus. Moreover, five genes (BnaA09g34290D, BnaC04g09720D, BnaC03g37600D, BnaA03g32270D and BnaC03g37570D) do not have orthologs in A. thaliana, B. rapa and B. olearecea, suggesting that they may be the new members of 239 the chitinase gene family and coevolve with fungi in response to variation in pathogen defenses. 240

Chitinases play a major role in host defense by directly attacking fungal pathogens in *A. thaliana* (GERHARDT *et al.* 1997), rice
(LIN *et al.* 1995), grapevine (YAMAMOTO *et al.* 2000), tobacco (DING *et al.* 1998; CHEN *et al.* 2014; DONG *et al.* 2017), peanut

243 (PRASAD et al. 2013) and pepper (HONG and HWANG 2002). Some chitinase members can be induced by fungal pathogens, such as Cylindrosporium concentricum, Phoma lingam, and S. sclerotiorum. The role of chitinase gene also had been studied in B. napus and 244 overexpression of chitinase genes could increase tolerance in transgenic plants previously (GRISON et al. 1996; ZARINPANJEH et al. 245 246 2016). Transgenic plants of B. napus cv. ZS 758 carrying sporamin and chitinase PjChi-1 genes exhibited increased levels of resistance to S. sclerotiorum and reduced the size of leaf spot in transformants compared to untransformed wild-type plants (LIU et al. 247 248 2011). However, constitutive expression of pea chitinase gene showed little or no enhancement of resistance to L. maculans in transgenic rapeseed compared with non-expressing transgenic lines (WANG et al. 1999). Some chitinases such as pineapple leaf 249 chitinase-A do not have any antifungal activity (TAIRA et al. 2005). Although many studies about the individual member of the 250 251 chitinase gene family have been published, there is little information about analysis of their expression divergence of the chitinase 252 gene family at a genome-wide level in rapeseed, especially under different fugal pathogen stresses. In this study, detailed expression 253 pattern of the chitinase gene family against L. maculans and S. sclerotiorum infection in rapeseed was analyzed using RNA-seq data. 254 The results showed that many chitinase genes could transcriptionally respond to L. maculans and S. sclerotiorum infection in rapeseed (Figure 5), implying possible function of chitinase genes in response to these two fugal pathogens in *B. napus*. The results reveal that 255 256 the resistant accessions differentiate from the susceptible ones in pathogen defense so we hypothesized that the function of different chitinase genes has been diverged against pathogens in resistant and susceptible *B. napus* accessions. Previously, the expression of 257 258 chitinase genes could be induced in response to all kinds of pathogens, such as G. mosseae, F. subglutinans f. sp. Pini, X. campestris, L. maculans and S. sclerotiorum (GERHARDT et al. 1997; BONANOMI et al. 2001; DAVIS et al. 2002; LOWE et al. 2014; WU et al. 259 2016). Next, to identify genes critically responsible for L. maculans and S. sclerotiorum resistance in resistant accessions, we 260 261 compared the L. maculans and S. sclerotiorum responsive chitinase genes in both resistant and susceptible accessions, respectively. Furthermore, we compared the 18 up-regulated chitinase genes on pathogen L. maculans aggression with 18 up-regulated chitinase 262 genes against S. sclerotiorum attack. Interestingly, the upregulation after infection with L. maculans was stronger in resistant 263 accession than in susceptible accessions. In contrast, the upregulation after S. sclerotiorum attack showed higher levels in both 264 resistant and susceptible accessions whereas there was much less differences in in both resistant and susceptible accessions. In 265 266 addition, there were some chitinase members that no expression changes was detected, which may be accounted for that some chitinases showed little or no enhancement of resistance and do not have any antifungal activity (WANG et al. 1999; TAIRA et al. 267 268 2005). The above results indicate that some members of the chitinase gene family have developed as powerful basal defence against various pathogens attack and other individual members of the chitinase gene family have evolved different roles in response to 269 270 different environmental stresses in B. napus.

In summary, our study provides a comprehensive analysis of the chitinase gene family in the rapeseed, including gene identification, sequence features, physical location, evolutionary relationship, and expression patterns of chitinase genes responding to *L. maculans* and *S. sclerotiorum* infection, which could facilitate further dissection of the function of the chitinase gene family in rapeseed.

275 4. Materials and Methods

276 4.1 Identification of chitinase genes in *B. napus*

The v4.1 genome sequences and annotations of *B. napus* were downloaded from the FTP site of the Brassica database (ftp://brassicadb.org/Brassica_napus/)(CHENG *et al.* 2011). To identify chitinase genes in *B. napus*, Glyco_hydro_18 (PF00704) and Glyco_hydro_19 (PF00182) domains were obtained from the Pfam website (http://pfam.xfam.org/). The HMMER software version 3.0 was employed to identify chitinase genes against all known protein sequences (FINN *et al.* 2011). All candidate genes were further submitted to Pfam analysis (http://pfam.xfam.org/) to confirm the presence of one of the above two domains with E-value 0.0001. For annotation, the identified protein sequences were aligned with NCBI nr database using BLAST alignment (E-value cut-off of 1e-5)

(ALTSCHUL *et al.* 1997). The identification of signal peptide was performed in the website (http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/SignalP/)
(PETERSEN *et al.* 2011).

4.2 Phylogenetic tree construction, and sequence analysis

All identified chitinase genes were aligned using the MUSCLE program within MEGA 7.0 software (KUMAR et al. 2016). 286 Subsequently, a neighbor-joining (NJ) method was then applied to construct a phylogeny of chitinase genes with a 1000 bootstrap 287 288 replication. Motifs of chitinase proteins in *B. napus* were investigated statistically using online MEME software (http://memesuite.org/tools/meme), maximum number 289 which set the of motifs at 10. Subsequently, InterProScan 290 (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/interpro/search/sequence-search) was employed to annotate the all identified motifs. In addition, the exon-intron structures of genes were performed with the gene structure display server program (http://gsds.cbi.pku.edu.cn/). 291

4.3 Chromosomal distribution and evolution patterns of chitinase genes

The chromosomal locations of chitinase genes were determined based on annotation data obtained from the *B. napus* database. The orthologous relationships between the chitinase genes in *B. napus* and *A. thaliana*, *B. rapa*, and *B. oleracea* genes were evaluated following the criteria: we used program BLAST to identify putative orthologues between chitinase genes in *B. napus* and one of *A. thaliana*, *B. rapa*, and *B. oleracea* species with both coverage over 70% and identity more than 70%, all chitinase sequences from *B. napus* was searched against all gene sequences from one of *A. thaliana*, *B. rapa*, and *B. oleracea* species. Tandem duplication was characterized as multiple genes of one family located within the same or neighboring intergenic region (LI *et al.* 2014).

299 4.4 Analysis of transcriptome sequencing data

The sequence data responsive to L. maculans infection was deposited in the BioProject Database of the National Center for 300 301 Biotechnology Information under accession number PRJNA378851. Transcriptome data under accession number PRJNA274853 publicly available on the NCBI SRA database were mined and analyzed for expression patterns of the rapeseed chitinase genes in 302 response to S. sclerotiorum infection. Sequencing reads were then aligned to the B. napus reference genome sequence 303 (ftp://brassicadb.org/Brassica_napus/) using TopHat, v2.1.1 (KIM et al. 2013). Mapping data was used to estimate expression values 304 305 for annotated genes using htseq-count tool (ANDERS et al. 2015). Differential gene expression analyses were performed using the R/Bioconductor package, DESeq2 (LOVE et al. 2014). An absolute value of log2 fold change >1.5 and the False Discovery Rate (FDR) 306 < 0.05 was set to declare differentially expressed genes. 307

308 Supplementary Materials

- 309 Supplementary Figure 1 Details of the ten conserved motifs of chitinase GH-18 family as derived by MEME analysis.
- Supplementary Figure 2 Details of the ten conserved motifs of chitinase GH-19 family as derived by MEME analysis.
- 311 Supplementary Table 1 Amino acid sequences of 68 chitinase genes in *B. napus*.
- 312

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318 Author Contributions

- Wen Xu and Genyi Li designed the study. Tengsheng Zhou and Bo An performed the experiments. Wen Xu and Baojiang Xu
- analyzed the data and drafted the manuscript. Genyi Li and Wen Xu finished the manuscript. All of the authors carefully checked and
- approved this version of the manuscript.

322 Conflicts of Interest

323 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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471 Supplementary Figure 1

3-E 1-ĬŊĻŊĄĬŊŦĬĠPĠŴŚĸVŦĠPPAAĹxġŀS Y PVQAYA<u>P</u> JE SNNYSS S GSEFPYTLISSSLFTH LFRFLSplyser NIEDGRPQVILLSSSLFTH LSCAFARFSRRVILLSSAPQVILLSAPQVILLSAPQVILLSAPQVILLSAPQVILLSSAPQVILLSAPVILLSAPQ **EYSGTŢŅIGYDDN**QS VTKVŖYAĶQAGL FSWHYLADAN W OAG SATCAVLGFP YG WLLSNG **SYKTLLSLGGGJGNKSLESSMD**SNRYSBK PDBLNGSALKTELF VQF 3-pit2-1-KARTIGRA SPOSICE REPARENT AND STATES TYKESRKYGGYNLWSKFWDDRNGYSSS

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Supplementary Table 1 Amino acid sequences of 68 chitinase genes in B. napus

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