

1 **Genomic signatures of somatic hybrid vigor due to heterokaryosis in the oomycete pathogen,**  
2 ***Bremia lactucae*.**

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26 Heterokaryosis, oomycete, downy mildew, *Bremia lactucae*, genome sequence, comparative  
27 genomics, annotation, lettuce, virulence phenotype, effector repertoire

28 **Abstract**

29           Lettuce downy mildew caused by *Bremia lactucae* is the most important disease of lettuce  
30 globally. This oomycete pathogen is highly variable and has rapidly overcome resistance genes and  
31 fungicides deployed in attempts to control it. The described high-quality genome assembly of *B.*  
32 *lactucae* provides the foundation for detailed understanding of this economically important  
33 pathogen. The biotrophic nature of *B. lactucae* coupled with high levels of heterozygosity and the  
34 recently expanded repeat content made genome assembly challenging. The combined use of  
35 multiple read types, including synthetic long reads, single molecule sequences, and Hi-C, resulted in  
36 a high-quality, chromosome-scale, consensus assembly of this diploid organism. Phylogenetic  
37 analysis supports polyphyly in the downy mildews consistent with the biotrophic mode of  
38 pathogenesis evolving more than once in the Peronosporaceae. Flow cytometry plus resequencing  
39 of 30 field isolates as well as sexual offspring and asexual derivatives from multinucleate single  
40 sporangia demonstrated a high incidence of heterokaryosis in *B. lactucae*. Heterokaryons have  
41 phenotypic differences and increased fitness compared to homokaryotic derivatives. Consequently,  
42 *B. lactucae* exhibits somatic hybrid vigor and selection should be considered as acting on a  
43 population of nuclei within coenocytic mycelia. This provides evolutionary flexibility to the pathogen  
44 enabling rapid adaptation to different repertoires of host resistance genes and other challenges. The  
45 advantages of asexual persistence of heterokaryons may have been one of the drivers of selection  
46 that resulted in the loss of uninucleate zoospores in multiple downy mildews.

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52 Oomycetes are genetically and biochemically distinct from fungi (1, 2) but have similar  
53 infection strategies and architectures. Oomycetes are successful diverse plant and animal pathogens  
54 with global economic impacts (3-5). These include the downy mildews caused by biotrophic  
55 members of the Peronosporaceae that are challenging to study due to their obligate reliance on  
56 their host. These pathogens are highly variable; plant resistance genes and fungicide treatments are  
57 often rapidly overcome (6-12). Various mechanisms have been proposed for rapid generation of  
58 genetic diversity including hyper-mutability of genomic regions that encode effectors (13), changes  
59 in ploidy (14, 15), and parasexuality (16).

60 Heterokaryosis, the state of having multiple genetically distinct nuclei in a single cell, is an  
61 important life history trait in some true fungi (17, 18). While transient heterokaryosis has been  
62 suggested and detected in oomycetes (10, 15, 19-22), the impacts of heterokaryosis remain poorly  
63 understood and rarely considered. The life cycles of many oomycetes are not conducive to the  
64 propagation of stable heterokaryons because they produce multiple flagellated, mono-nucleic,  
65 motile spores from sporangia (21, 23); heterokaryons are consequently broken every asexual  
66 generation (21). However, some downy mildew species including *Bremia lactucae* (24) do not  
67 produce zoospores and germinate directly from multinucleate sporangia (25-31), transmitting  
68 multiple, possibly genetically distinct nuclei in each asexual generation.

69 *Bremia lactucae* is an obligate biotroph that causes lettuce downy mildew, the most  
70 important disease of lettuce worldwide. Numerous races and population shifts have been  
71 documented in Europe, Australia, Brazil, and California (32-38). Resistance genes are rarely durable  
72 in the field and curative fungicides have become ineffective (9-12). Several mechanisms for variation  
73 have been documented. *B. lactucae* is predominantly heterothallic with two mating types and sexual  
74 reproduction can generate new virulence phenotypes (39). Asexual variation also occurs but is less  
75 well understood. Somatic fusion resulting in either polyploids or heterokaryons has been observed  
76 (10, 20), but it remained unclear if heterokaryosis or polyploidy are significant sources of stable

77 phenotypic variation of *B. lactucae*. Previously, sexual progeny of *B. lactucae* have been generated  
78 to build genetic maps (40, 41), study genetics of (a)virulence and metalaxyl insensitivity (9, 11, 42),  
79 and infer the presence of accessory chromosomes (43). Only limited genomic studies had been  
80 conducted due to the difficulties of studying this biotrophic species (44).

81 This study presents a chromosome-scale genome assembly of *B. lactucae* using multiple  
82 sequencing technologies and assembly approaches. This resource, combined with genome size  
83 estimates generated by flow cytometry, was used to demonstrate the prevalence of heterokaryosis  
84 in multiple *B. lactucae* isolates and the absence of polyploidy. Heterokaryons were shown to be  
85 somatically stable and fitter on non-selective hosts compared to homokaryotic derivatives.  
86 Homokaryotic components differed in (a)virulence phenotypes and conferred viability on selective  
87 hosts. Selection should be considered as acting on a population of nuclei within a coenocytic  
88 mycelium to maximize somatic hybrid vigor.

## 89 **Results and Discussion**

### 90 **Genome Assembly**

91 *Bremia lactucae* isolate SF5 was initially assembled into 885 scaffolds over 1 Kb with a contig  
92 N<sub>50</sub> of 30.6 Kb and a scaffold N<sub>50</sub> of 283.7 Kb. The haploid genome size of this isolate and 38 others  
93 were estimated to be ~152 Mb (+/- 3 Mb) by flow cytometry (Fig. 1a and Supplementary Table 1).  
94 This 115 Mb assembly contained 91 Mb of sequence plus 24 Mb of gaps. Subsequently, 87.9 Mb  
95 (96.5%) of the assembled sequence was placed into 22 scaffolds over 1 Mb using Hi-C; these totaled  
96 112 Mb including gaps. The resultant assembly was highly collinear and comparable to the highly  
97 contiguous v3.0 assembly of *Phytophthora sojae* (45), which cross-validates the high quality of both  
98 assemblies (Fig. 1b). The heterozygosity of isolate SF5 was 1.17% and ranged from 0.77% to 1.29%  
99 for other isolates. These levels ranked high compared to other oomycetes, the majority of which had  
100 less than 1% heterozygosity (Fig. 1c). This level of heterozygosity resulted in some alleles not being

101 collapsed into a consensus sequence, necessitating multiple rounds of condensation to achieve a  
102 close to haploid consensus assembly.

103         The discrepancy between the final assembly size (91 Mb without gaps) and genome size  
104 measured by flow cytometry (152 Mb) is due to collapsed repeats in the assembly. Single-copy k-  
105 mers were present in the predicted proportions in the assembly; most of the homozygous k-mers  
106 and approximately half of the heterozygous k-mers were distributed across the two peaks as  
107 expected (Fig. 1d). BUSCO (46) analysis with the protist database (v9) also revealed 98.3%  
108 completeness similar to other well-assembled oomycetes (Table 1). Therefore, the assembly  
109 contains most of the single-copy portion of the genome. Repeat annotation followed by masking  
110 determined that 63 Mb of the 91 Mb assembled sequence was repetitive (Table 2). The majority of  
111 the annotated repeats were recently diverged long terminal repeat retrotransposons (LTR-RTs).  
112 Annotation identified 6.3 Mb as *Copia* (RLC) and 53.3 Mb as *Gypsy* (RLG) elements (Table 2). The  
113 average coverage of sequences annotated as repeats in the assembly was 2.1-fold higher than that  
114 of the annotated genes. Therefore, the 63-Mb repeat portion of the assembly is present at least  
115 twice in the haploid genome accounting for the 61 Mb difference between the assembly and the  
116 genome size determined by flow cytometry.

117         Divergence of LTR pairs showed that the majority of these repeat elements were recently  
118 expanded (Suppl. Mat. LTRplot), when compared to previously published downy mildews (Fig. 2b).  
119 The density of recently diverged LTRs was similar to that seen for *Phytophthora* spp. (Fig. 2a)  
120 although they were not as frequent. The larger genome assemblies of *S. graminicola* contained the  
121 largest number of annotated LTR-RTs of any downy mildew surveyed (Fig. 2b), although LTR pairs  
122 were more diverged than in *B. lactucae* (Fig. 2a). This suggests that the assemblies of *B. lactucae* and  
123 *Phytophthora* surveyed are of isolates which have undergone a recent expansion of *Copia* and *Gypsy*  
124 elements. Significantly, when LTR-RTs from each species were used to mask the assemblies, *B.*  
125 *lactucae* contained the highest proportion with 74.2% of its contig sequence masked (Fig. 2c).

126 Twenty-six to 46% of contig sequences were masked in most other species studied, except for the  
127 larger genomes of *S. graminicola* (two isolates) and *P. infestans* that had 72.1, 70.7, and 62.6%  
128 masked, respectively (Fig. 2 c). This high frequency of low-divergence repeat sequences in *B.*  
129 *lactucae* combined with its high heterozygosity (Fig. 1c) may have confounded assembly algorithms  
130 and slowed the generation of an accurate assembly as well as prevented the construction of whole  
131 chromosomal molecules. Interestingly, LTR divergence of *Plasmopara viticola*, which is a closer  
132 relative to *B. lactucae* than any *Phytophthora* spp. (Fig. 3; see below), does not have the same recent  
133 expansion of LTRs; this implies that this expansion of LTR-RTs was not ancestral to these species.

#### 134 **Phylogenomics**

135 Phylogenetic analysis of 18 proteins identified with BUSCO supported polyphyly of downy  
136 mildew species within nine of the *Phytophthora* clades analyzed (Fig. 3). *B. lactucae* clustered with  
137 the two *Plasmopara* spp. and was most closely associated with *Phytophthora* clade 1, which includes  
138 *P. infestans* and *P. cactorum*. *B. lactucae* did not cluster with four other downy mildew species,  
139 *Peronospora effusa*, *Pseudoperonospora cubensis*, *Sclerospora graminicola*, and *Hyaloperonospora*  
140 *arabidopsidis*, which clustered closer to *P. agathidicida* in *Phytophthora* clade 5. Therefore, the  
141 biotrophic downy mildews evolved at least twice from hemi-biotrophic *Phytophthora*-like ancestors.  
142 This is consistent with previous, less extensive studies (47-52).

#### 143 **Gene Annotation**

144 *Ab initio* annotation identified 9,781 protein-encoding genes. More than half (5,009) lacked  
145 introns, 1,949 had one intron, 1,063 had two introns, and 1,760 had three or more introns. A  
146 maximum of 20 introns was observed in two genes. The average gene length was 1,679 bp and  
147 ranged from 180 bp to 20.7 Kb. The mean exon length was 664 bp, ranging from 4 bp to 18.3 Kb,  
148 while the mean intron length was 104 bp, ranging from 10 bp to 9.3 Kb. The total gene space was  
149 16.5 Mb, of which 15.2 Mb was exonic and 1.5 Mb was intronic. This is similar to other obligate  
150 biotrophic oomycetes, where the gene space ranges from 13.5 to 25.8 Mb. The hemi-biotrophic *P.*

151 *sojae* has the largest reported gene space within the Peronosporaceae at 37.7 Mb (Supplementary  
152 Table 2).

153 Motif searches revealed the repertoire of candidate effector proteins that could be  
154 important in pathogenesis. Among a total of 161 candidate secreted RxLR effectors, 66 had a  
155 canonical RxLR motif and 95 had degenerate [GHQ]xLR or RxL[GKQ] motifs (44, 53, 54); 64  
156 candidates also encoded a [DE][DE][KR] motif (55) and/or a WY domain (56, 57) (Table 3).  
157 Expression inferred by presence in the transcriptome assembly was detected for 109 of these  
158 candidate RxLR effectors, 35 of which also had an EER motif or WY domain (Table 3). In addition to  
159 the 161 RxLR candidates, 26 predicted secreted proteins and 19 proteins lacking a secretion signal  
160 had one or more WY domains but no detectable RxLR motif. Of these, 19 WY proteins lacking an  
161 identifiable RxLR motif with a signal peptide and 13 without a signal peptide were detected in the  
162 transcriptome (Table 3). Interestingly, an EER or EER-like motif was detected in the first 100 residues  
163 from 29 of the 45 WY proteins that lacked an RxLR motif, 20 of which were predicted to be secreted.  
164 This is consistent with not all effectors requiring an RxLR motif for translocation in to the host cell,  
165 similar to previously reported effectors in animal pathogenic oomycetes (58, 59). Two putative  
166 secreted Crinklers (CRNs) (60, 61) were annotated, one of which also contained an RxLQ and DDR  
167 motif. An additional 74 CRNs lacking a secretion signal were identified, although only six of these  
168 were present in the transcriptome assembly (Table 3). Four of these six had the canonical LFLAK  
169 motif and the other two had a LYLA motif (60, 61). Together, these candidate effectors comprise  
170 1.9% of all genes annotated in *B. lactucae*. Orthologs of all proteins which have previously been  
171 described as inducing a host response were detected in the draft assembly (Supplementary Table 3)  
172 (62-64). An additional 173 proteins (1.8% of all annotated genes) had domains ascribed to putative  
173 pathogenic functions in studies of other species (Supplementary Table 4). This is lower than the  
174 proportion reported for *Phytophthora* spp. (2.6 to 3.6%) and consistent with observations for other  
175 downy mildews where 1.3 to 1.7% of total annotated proteins had putative pathogenicity domains  
176 (47).

177           The majority of genes encoding flagella-associated proteins and calcium-associated domains  
178 were missing from the *B. lactucae* genome. *B. lactucae* has lost 55 of 78 orthogroups that contain  
179 flagellar proteins (Supplementary Fig. 2). One hundred and twelve proteins from *P. infestans* were  
180 present in these orthogroups; 78 of these proteins were absent in *B. lactucae*. This is similar to  
181 assemblies of other non-flagellate downy mildews that had 34 to 48 proteins in these orthogroups  
182 (Supplementary Fig. 2). This is consistent with the loss of zoospore production by *B. lactucae*. There  
183 was also a significant loss of calcium-associated domains, which is also observed in the assemblies of  
184 other non-flagellate downy mildews. *B. lactucae* had no proteins present in 125 of the 177 calcium-  
185 associated orthogroups similar to other non-flagellates, which ranged from 118 to 125. These  
186 orthogroups contained 53 proteins from *B. lactucae* compared to 193 proteins in *P. infestans*. Other  
187 non-flagellate species had 52 to 59 proteins assigned to these orthogroups (Supplementary Fig. 2).  
188 The parallel loss of zoospore production and proteins with calcium-associated domains in both  
189 clades of downy mildews (Fig. 3) is consistent with the involvement of these proteins in  
190 zoosporegenesis (65). Genes encoding carbohydrate binding, transporter, and pathogenicity  
191 associated domains were also under-represented in *B. lactucae* as previously reported for other  
192 downy mildews in both clades (47). This provided further evidence for the convergent loss of genes  
193 encoding these domains during adaptation to biotrophy.

194           The majority of annotated genes had levels of coverage close to the average sequencing  
195 depth (Supplementary Fig. 3), indicating that most genes were each assembled into a single  
196 consensus sequence. A minority of genes had a normalized read depth equal to half the sequencing  
197 coverage, consistent with divergent haplotypes that had assembled as independent sequences. The  
198 BUSCO (46) genes had the same distribution. However, genes encoding candidate effectors had  
199 variable coverage; this could have been due to a disproportionate number of effector haplotypes  
200 being assembled independently and/or a high rate of divergence between haplotypes resulting in  
201 poor mapping rates.



## 202 **Genomic signatures of heterokaryosis**

203           Distinct alternative allele frequency profiles were detected in multiple isolates of *B. lactucae*  
204 (Fig. 4 and Supplementary Fig. 4). Such analysis had previously been used to support polyploidy in *P.*  
205 *infestans* (14, 66). The profiles of thirteen isolates, including the reference isolate SF5, were clearly  
206 unimodal, seven isolates were trimodal, and nine isolates were trimodal (Supplementary Fig. 4). Two  
207 other isolates had profiles that were not clearly bimodal or trimodal (Supplementary Fig. 4). The  
208 symmetrical unimodal distribution of SF5 was consistent with a diploid genome; the other  
209 distributions were not. However, the genome size for all isolates as measured by flow cytometry  
210 varied by less than 3%. In the case of polyploidy, the genome size of triploids and tetraploids would  
211 be 150% and 200% that of the diploid, respectively; therefore, there was no evidence for polyploidy  
212 in *B. lactucae* (Fig. 1 a and Supplementary Table 1).

213           Further evidence against polyploidy was provided by analysis of sexual progeny from the  
214 segregating F<sub>1</sub> population of SF5 (unimodal) x California isolate C82P24 (trimodal; Fig. 4b) (20, 40).  
215 Four progeny isolates sequenced to over 50x all had unimodal allele frequency plots (Supplementary  
216 Fig. 5). Flow cytometry of 16 progeny isolates had the same genome sizes as all other isolates (Fig. 1a  
217 and Supplementary Table 1). The outcross origin of these progeny was confirmed by the presence of  
218 unique combinations of SNPs inherited from each parent. Therefore, these progeny isolates could  
219 not have arisen by apomixis or selfing and all sexual progeny from this unimodal x trimodal cross  
220 were diploid. The origins of the gametes in this cross were determined for 38 progeny isolates that  
221 had been sequenced to sufficient depth. Pairwise SNP-based kinship coefficients revealed two  
222 distinct half-sib families of 29 and 9 individuals (Fig. 5). Therefore, three rather than two nuclei  
223 contributed gametes in this cross. The trimodal alternative allele frequency plot and flow cytometry  
224 of C82P24 are consistent with this isolate being heterokaryotic with two diploid nuclei.

225           To confirm that C82P24 was heterokaryotic rather than a mixture of two isolates, 20 asexual  
226 derivatives were generated from single sporangia. Kinship of these 20 isolates was as high between

227 one another as with the original isolate, indicating they were identical. Furthermore, all asexual  
228 derivatives of C82P24 displayed similar relatedness to all sexual progeny (Fig. 5). Sequencing of 11  
229 asexual derivatives to >50x coverage demonstrated that they retained the trimodal profile,  
230 indicating that two distinct nuclei were present in each derivative (Supplementary Fig. 6) with a  
231 diploid size of 303 +/- 3 Mb as measured by flow cytometry (Supplementary Table 5). Therefore,  
232 C82P24 was heterokaryotic rather than a mixture of isolates.

233 To demonstrate heterokaryosis in another isolate, 10 asexual derivatives were also  
234 generated from isolate C98O622b, which displayed a trimodal alternative allele frequency. In this  
235 case, kinship analysis revealed three distinct groups of derivatives (Fig. 6i). Derivatives A to F had a  
236 high kinship and an identical virulence phenotype to C98O622b (Fig. 6i, ii). Derivatives G to I and  
237 derivative J had lower kinship to C98O622b than derivatives A to F. The lowest kinship was between  
238 derivatives G to I and J (Fig. 6i). Virulence phenotypes varied between but not within groups (Fig. 6ii);  
239 C98O622b and derivatives A to F were virulent on both *Dm4* and *Dm15*; derivatives G to I were  
240 avirulent on *Dm4* and virulent on *Dm15*, while derivative J was conversely virulent on *Dm4* and  
241 avirulent on *Dm15* (Fig. 6ii). The single-spore derivatives of C98O622b were sequenced to >50x  
242 coverage to determine their nuclear composition. Derivatives A to F were trimodal (Fig. 6iii,  
243 Supplementary Fig. 7); all other derivatives were unimodal, which is consistent with the separation  
244 of the heterokaryon into its diploid components (Fig. 6iii). This conclusion was supported by  
245 combining read sets *in silico*. Combining reads of derivatives G-I did not increase their relatedness to  
246 C98O622b, while combining reads of derivatives G, H, or I with those of J resulted in a high kinship to  
247 C98O622b (Fig. 6i) and trimodal profile similar to C98O622b (Fig. 6iii and Supplementary Fig. 8).  
248 Therefore, C98O622b was also heterokaryotic; however, unlike C82P24, C98O622b was unstable and  
249 could be separated into constituent homokaryotic derivatives by sub-culturing from single  
250 sporangia.

251 The trimodal distributions of the derivatives A to F were not identical and could clearly be  
252 split into two configurations. Derivatives B and F were similar to C98O622b, displaying peaks at  
253 approximately 0.25, 0.5, and 0.75 (Fig. 6iii). The other four heterokaryotic derivatives A, C, D, and E  
254 had peaks at approximately 0.33, 0.5, and 0.67 (Fig. 6iii). The nuclear composition of these  
255 heterokaryotic derivatives was investigated by subsampling SNPs identified as unique to each  
256 homokaryotic derivative (G to J). This revealed that in the trimodal distribution of derivatives B and F  
257 (0.25, 0.5, 0.75) SNPs unique to either constituent nucleus were in peaks at 0.25 and 0.75 (Fig. 6iv,  
258 Supplementary Fig. 9), consistent with a balanced 1:1 ratio of constituent nuclei (1:3 read ratio of  
259 SNPs). For derivatives A, C, D, and E (peaks at 0.33, 0.5, 0.67), SNPs unique to constituent nuclei  
260 resembling derivatives G to I were consistently in peaks at approximately 0.17 and 0.83, while SNPs  
261 identified as unique to derivative J were consistently in peaks at 0.33 and 0.67 (Fig. 6iv,  
262 Supplementary Fig. 9), consistent with a 2:1 unbalanced nuclear ratio in favor of nuclei similar to  
263 derivative J. This was further supported by combining reads *in silico*. Combining reads from  
264 derivatives G, H, or I with J in equal proportions resulted in trimodal plots similar to those of  
265 derivatives B and F (peaks at 0.25, 0.5, and 0.75; Supplementary Fig. 8). Combining reads from  
266 derivatives G, H, or I with J in a ratio of 1:2 resulted in frequency profiles like those of derivatives A,  
267 C, D, and E (peaks at 0.33, 0.5, and 0.67; Supplementary Fig. 8). This supports an unequal nuclear  
268 composition in four of the asexual derivatives of C98O622b.

### 269 **Somatic hybrid vigor due to heterokaryosis**

270 To investigate the potential benefits of heterokaryosis, the fitness of asexual derivatives of  
271 C98O622b was assessed on a universally susceptible cultivar and two differential host lines.  
272 Derivatives A and B were selected to represent unbalanced and balanced heterokaryons,  
273 respectively, while derivatives I and J represented the two homokaryons. When grown on the  
274 universally susceptible lettuce cv. Green Towers, the heterokaryotic derivatives grew faster than  
275 either homokaryotic derivative. The balanced heterokaryotic derivative B was significantly fitter than

276 the homokaryotic derivative I (Fig. 7 a). There was no significant difference within heterokaryotic  
277 derivatives or within homokaryotic derivatives when grown on cv. Green Towers. Therefore, the  
278 heterokaryotic isolates were fitter when unchallenged by host resistance genes. However, when a  
279 product of either nucleus of the heterokaryon was detected by a resistance gene (i.e. *Dm4* in  
280 R4T57D or *Dm15* in NumDM15) that differentiates the homokaryotic derivatives (Fig. 6 ii), the  
281 heterokaryotic derivatives were less vigorous than the virulent homokaryotic derivative (Fig. 7 b).  
282 This suggested that it may be possible to break a heterokaryon by repeated subculture on a selective  
283 cultivar, as reported previously (10). When the heterokaryotic derivatives were inoculated onto an F<sub>1</sub>  
284 hybrid of the selective lines expressing both *Dm4* and *Dm15*, neither the heterokaryotic nor  
285 homokaryotic derivatives were able to grow. Therefore, combining multiple resistance genes against  
286 the entire *B. lactucae* population into a single cultivar remains a potentially effective strategy to  
287 provide more durable resistance to the pathogen.

288 Heterokaryosis in *B. lactucae* has phenotypic consequences as well as implications for  
289 interpretation of tests for virulence phenotype. Derivatives G, H, and I are race Bl:5-CA and  
290 derivative J has a novel virulence phenotype. The heterokaryotic field isolate C98O622b is race Bl:6-  
291 CA, indicating that two phenotypically distinct isolates may combine to create a new phenotype  
292 when characterized on individual resistance genes; such somatic hybrids may not be able to  
293 overcome combinations of these resistance genes in a single cultivar. Therefore, reactions of  
294 monogenic differentials are not necessarily a good predictor of virulence when heterokaryons are  
295 tested. The instability of heterokaryosis may enable a successful infection and proliferation of  
296 individual nuclear components. Furthermore, there is no *a priori* reason why coenocytic mycelia are  
297 limited to having only two nuclear types. Multiple rounds of somatic fusion are possible if favored by  
298 selection. Allele frequency plots are consistent with some isolates having more than two nuclei (e.g.  
299 isolate C04O1017; Fig. 4 c). Therefore, heterokaryotic isolates should be considered as exhibiting  
300 somatic hybrid vigor and selection for heterosis in *B. lactucae* as acting on populations of nuclei  
301 within a coenocytic mycelium (Fig. 8) rather than on individual isolates.

## 302 **Heterokaryosis in other oomycetes**

303 Heterokaryosis may be a common phenomenon in other oomycetes that has yet to be  
304 investigated extensively. Flow cytometry revealed heterogeneous nuclear sizes in mycelia of *P.*  
305 *infestans*, although stability over multiple asexual generations was not reported (19). Somatic fusion  
306 may be a route to allopolyploidy; inter-species somatic fusion could result in transient  
307 heterokaryosis before nuclear fusion to form a somatic allopolyploid circumventing gametic  
308 incompatibility. Somatic sporangial fusions have also been reported in a “basal” holocarpic  
309 oomycete (67) demonstrating the possibility of widespread heterokaryosis within the family.  
310 Heterokaryosis may be more prevalent in non-zoospore producing oomycetes. Production of  
311 zoospores with single nuclei during the asexual cycle, exhibited by many oomycetes breaks the  
312 heterokaryotic state each asexual generation (21, 23). However, some downy mildews and  
313 *Phytophthora* spp. germinate directly from multinucleate sporangia, which potentially maintains the  
314 heterokaryotic state, as shown in our data. The increased fitness and phenotypic plasticity of  
315 heterokaryosis could be one of the selective forces favoring the loss of zoospore genesis in multiple  
316 lineages of oomycete pathogens (24, 47).

317 Heterokaryosis should be considered when implementing strategies for deployment of  
318 resistance genes. Cycles of somatic fusion to increase fitness and selection on populations of nuclei  
319 provide potentially great phenotypic plasticity without mutation. This could result in rapid changes  
320 in pathogen populations in response to changes in host genotypes or fungicide use. Comprehensive  
321 knowledge of the prevalence and virulence phenotypes of homokaryotic and heterokaryotic isolates  
322 as well as the population dynamics are necessary to predict the evolutionary potential of a pathogen  
323 population.

324

## 325 **Methods**

## 326 **Isolation, culturing, and DNA extraction**

327 *Bremia lactucae* isolate SF5 has been reported previously (20, 40, 41). Additional  
328 field isolates surveyed in this study were either isolates collected from California/Arizona between  
329 1982 and 2015 or were supplied by Diederik Smilde (Naktuinbouw, The Netherlands). Sexual  
330 progeny of SF5 x C82P24 were generated as described previously (40, 41). Single-spore isolates were  
331 derived from cotyledons that had been sporulating asexually for 1 to 2 days (6 to 7 days post-  
332 infection). A single cotyledon was run over a 0.5% water agar plate until clean of spores. Single  
333 conidia were located under a dissection microscope, pulled off the agar using pipette tips, and  
334 ejected onto fresh, 7-day old cotyledons of cv. Green Towers that had been wetted with a drop of  
335 deionized water. Plates were incubated at 15°C with 12 hour light/dark periods. Successful single-  
336 spore infections were transferred to cv. Green Towers seedlings and maintained thereon. Fitness  
337 was determined by measuring the rate of *B. lactucae* sporulation of four replicates of four isolates  
338 on 20 cotyledons at 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9 days post-inoculation (dpi) on cv. Green Towers. The area under  
339 the curve was calculated for each replicate and significance tested using a two-tailed t-test with  
340 Holm adjustment. Additional fitness tests of heterokaryons were performed on an F<sub>1</sub> hybrid of  
341 NumDm15 and R4T57D, which confer resistance phenotypes Dm15 and Dm4, respectively (68). The  
342 virulence phenotype was determined by inoculation onto the IBEB EU-B standardized differential set  
343 ([http://www.worldseed.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Table-1\\_IBEB.pdf](http://www.worldseed.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Table-1_IBEB.pdf)) and observed for  
344 sporulation at 7, 11, 15, and 21 dpi. Microscopy was performed on ~2-week old seedlings of lettuce  
345 cv. Green Towers, 5 dpi with *B. lactucae* isolate C16C1909 (Fig. 8a) or ~2 week old seedlings of  
346 lettuce cv. Cobham Green homozygous for the AtUBI::dsRED transgene, 7 dpi with *B. lactucae* isolate  
347 C98O622b (Fig. 8b). Fig. 8a was captured with a Leica TCS SP8 STED 3X inverted confocal microscope  
348 using a 40x water immersion objective. Image processing was performed using Huygens Professional  
349 (<https://svi.nl/Huygens-Professional>) and Bitplane Imaris (<http://www.bitplane.com/>). Fig. 8b was  
350 captured using a Zeiss LSM 710 laser scanning confocal microscope using a 40x water immersion  
351 objective. Z stacks were processed and combined into a single image using the ZEN Black software.

352 Spore pellets of all isolates sequenced were obtained by washing sporangia from infected lettuce  
353 cotyledons in sterile water. Spore suspensions were concentrated by centrifugation in 15 mL tubes,  
354 resuspended, transferred to microfuge tubes, pelleted, and stored at -80°C until DNA extraction  
355 following a modified CTAB procedure (69). Quantity and quality of DNA was determined by  
356 spectrometry as well as estimated by TAE gel electrophoresis.

### 357 **Library preparation and sequencing**

358 Paired-end (300 bp fragments) and mate-pair (2-, 5-, 7-, and 9-Kb) libraries were prepared  
359 using Illumina (San Diego, CA), NEB (Ipswich, MA), and Enzymatic (Beverly, MA) reagents following  
360 the manufacturers' protocols. RNAseq libraries were constructed from cotyledons of cv. Cobham  
361 Green infected with isolate SF5 following the protocol by Zhong *et al.* (70), except that the mRNA  
362 was not fragmented and instead the cDNA was sonicated with a Covaris S220 following the  
363 manufacturer's recommendations to achieve 150-bp fragments before end repair. Size selection and  
364 purification were performed after adaptor ligation using 0.8x Agencourt Ampure beads XP (Beckman  
365 Coulter, Brea, CA). Synthetic long reads were generated by Moleculo (now Illumina) from barcoded  
366 libraries. Libraries were sequenced by the DNA Technologies Core at the UC Davis Genome Center  
367 (<http://genomecenter.ucdavis.edu>) on either a Hiseq 2500 or 4000.

368 The random-shear BAC library was constructed by Lucigen Corporation (Middleton, WI); this  
369 provided 10,000 BAC clones with a mean insert size of 100 kb. Sanger sequencing of BAC ends was  
370 performed by the Genome Institute at Washington University (St. Louis, MO) and generated  
371 sequences averaging 700 bp in length. A fosmid library consisting of over eight million clones with a  
372 mean insert size of 40 kb was generated by Lucigen Corporation and end-sequenced on an Illumina  
373 MiSeq. Two SMRTbell™ libraries with mean insert sizes of 3 kb and 10 kb were constructed and  
374 sequenced by Pacific Biosciences. Hi-C libraries were produced by Dovetail Genomics.

### 375 **Flow cytometry**

376 Flow cytometry of select isolates was performed on sporulating cotyledons 7 dpi. For each  
377 measurement, two sporulating cotyledons were mixed with 1 cm<sup>2</sup> of young leaf tissue from *Oryza*  
378 *sativa* cv. Kitaake (2C = 867 Mb), which was sufficiently different from the genome size of *B. lactucae*  
379 (2C and 4C) for use as the internal reference. The *O. sativa* 2C DNA content was determined by  
380 calibrating against nuclei from flower buds of *Arabidopsis thaliana* Col-0, which has a known  
381 absolute DNA content of 2C = 314 Mb (71). Nuclei extraction and staining with propidium iodide was  
382 done using the Cystain PI absolute P kit (Sysmex, Lincolnshire, IL). Flow cytometry was done on a BD  
383 FACScan (Becton Dickinson, East Rutherford, NJ). For each measurement, 10,000 nuclei were  
384 assessed, and each isolate was measured three times. Lettuce nuclei are ~3x larger than rice nuclei  
385 and did not interfere with the measurements. Data was analyzed using FlowJo (Ashland, OR). Total  
386 nuclear DNA content was averaged over all replicates. Means and standard deviations were  
387 calculated from the average nuclear content of each isolate. Haploid genome size was calculated by  
388 halving the mean across all isolates.

### 389 ***De novo* assembly, assessment, and annotation**

390 Multiple assembly approaches were tried using a variety of templates. Ultimately, the  
391 genome of isolate SF5 was assembled using a hybrid approach using several types of sequences  
392 (Supplementary Fig. 10). Moleculo reads were assembled using Celera (72) and further scaffolded  
393 using mate-pair, fosmid-end, BAC-end, and PacBio data utilizing first SSPACE v3.0 (73) followed by  
394 AHA (74). A consensus assembly was obtained by removing the second haplotype using  
395 Haplomerger2 (75). Misjoins were detected and broken using REAPR v1.0.18 in 'aggressive mode'  
396 (76). Mitochondrial sequences were detected by BLASTn v 2.2.28 and removed before final  
397 scaffolding and gap-filling (73, 77). Hi-C scaffolding was performed by Dovetail Genomics using their  
398 Hi-Rise pipeline to infer breaks and joins. One putative effector gene was masked by Ns in the  
399 assembly because it was determined by read coverage to be erroneously duplicated multiple times.



400 The quality of the assembly was assessed in multiple ways. Assembly completeness and  
401 duplication was measured by BUSCO v2, protist ensemble library db9 (46) and KAT v2.4.1 (78).  
402 Nucleotide colinearity between *B. lactucae* and *Phytophthora sojae* was inferred using Promer v3.06  
403 (-l 30) and visualized using Symap v4.2 (79) set with a required minimum of 5 dots. Phylogenetic  
404 analysis was performed on amino acid sequences of single-copy proteins predicted by BUSCO; 18  
405 sequences from *B. lactucae* that were also present in assemblies of all 20 *Phytophthora* spp.,  
406 *Plasmopara* spp., *H. arabidopsidis*, *S. graminicola*, *Pseudoperonospora cubensis*, and *P. effusa* were  
407 aligned independently with MAFFT v7.245 (80), concatenated into single sequences for each  
408 species/isolate, and phylogenetically tested with RAxML v8.0.26, run with 1,000 bootstraps (81).

409 A *de novo* transcriptome assembly was generated by mapping reads with BWA MEM v0.7.12  
410 (82) to a combined reference of the *B. lactucae de novo* assembly and *L. sativa* assembly (83). Reads  
411 that mapped to the *B. lactucae* assembly were assembled with Trinity v2.2.0 (84) and filtered with  
412 BLAST to ensure that the transcripts belonged to *B. lactucae*. Transcripts were translated with  
413 Transdecoder v3.0.0 (85).

414 Primary annotation was performed using MAKER v2.31.8 (86). The RNAseq assembly was  
415 first used to predict proteins from the SF5 genome with no HMMs. These models were then filtered  
416 and used to produce HMMs with SNAP v2006-07-28 (87), which in turn were used with MAKER for  
417 *ab initio* gene model predictions. Additional candidate effectors were predicted through regular  
418 expression string searches (RxLR & EER) and HMMs (WY & CRN) as previously described (47). A  
419 previously published RxLR-EER HMM (88) was also applied, though it failed to define additional  
420 candidate effectors compared to regular expression string searches. These gene models were  
421 filtered and prepared for submission to NCBI using GAG v2.0-rc.1 (89). Transcriptional support for  
422 putative effectors was inferred by  $\geq 95\%$  tBLASTn identity and  $< 1e^{-75}$  e-value scored between the  
423 protein and the transcript. Absence of genes encoding domains linked to zoosporogenesis and  
424 biotrophy was performed as previously described (47). Coverage of gene models was calculated with

425 BEDtools2 v2.25.0 multicov (90), multiplying the result by the read length (101 bp), and dividing by  
426 the length of the gene. Comparative annotation analysis was undertaken by downloading GFF files of  
427 all annotated oomycetes from FungiDB (91) and using GAG (89) to obtain summary statistics of  
428 annotations.

#### 429 **Repeat analysis**

430 Repeat libraries were produced independently from RepeatModeler v1.0.8 (92) and a  
431 LTRharvest v1.5.7 / LTRdigest v1.5.7 (93, 94) pipeline adapted from that previously used on *P.*  
432 *tabacina* and *P. effusa* (47, 95). Briefly, provisional LTRs were identified as being separated by 1 to 40  
433 kb with LTRharvest. LTRdigest was used to identify complete LTR-RTs that were then annotated by  
434 similarity to elements in TREP. Elements containing sequences annotated as genes were removed.  
435 These libraries were combined and run through RepeatMasker v4.0.6 (96). Coverage of each non-  
436 overlapping masked repeat region was calculated with BEDTools2 v2.25.0 multicov (90) using the  
437 coordinates of the repeat elements and the BAM file generated by mapping SF5 reads back to the  
438 assembly with BWA-MEM v0.7.12 (82).

439 Divergence of LTRs for *B. lactucae* and additional oomycete assemblies was calculated in a  
440 similar manner to that previously reported (95). LTRharvest (93) and LTRdigest (94) were run as  
441 above. Internal domains of annotated LTR-RTs were clustered with VMatch, followed by alignment  
442 of 3' and 5' LTRs with Clustal-O (97). Too few internal domains were detected for *P. halstedii* to allow  
443 clustering, so it was excluded from this analysis. Divergence between aligned 3' and 5' LTRs was  
444 calculated with BaseML and PAML (98) and plotted using R base packages (99). Divergence between  
445 LTR pairs calculated for each species are provided (Supplementary Table 6). LTR frequency and  
446 percentage of the genome of each species/isolate masked was plotted with ggplot2 (100)  
447 (Supplementary Table 7). These predictions were not filtered for overlaps with gene annotations as  
448 multiple genomes analyzed do not have publicly available annotations (Supplementary Table 2).

#### 449 **Analyses of additional read sets**

450 Whole-genome sequencing data of additional oomycetes were downloaded from NCBI SRA  
451 (Supplementary Table 8) and converted to fastq files using the SRA-toolkit (101). Heterozygosity was  
452 calculated by generating 21-mer histograms with JELLYFISH v2.2.7 (102) and plotted with  
453 GenomeScope (103). Isolates that did not fit a diploid model were excluded from the analysis.

454 Paired-end reads of all sequenced *B. lactucae* isolates were trimmed and adapter-filtered  
455 using BBMap (104), filtered for reads of a bacterial origin by mapping to a database of all bacteria  
456 genome sequences on NCBI, and mapped to the final reference assembly of SF5 using BWA MEM  
457 v0.7.12 (82). Alternative allele frequency plots were generated as described previously (14, 66) for  
458 all isolates sequenced to over 50x using SAMtools mpileup v0.1.18 (105) with a quality flag of 25 to  
459 perform individual pileups on each BAM file, followed by BCFtools v0.1.19 (106) to convert to  
460 human-readable format. Bash was used to parse the files and generate the frequency of the  
461 alternative allele for every SNP that was covered by >50 reads and had an allele frequency between  
462 0.2 to 0.8. In some instances, this frequency filter was removed to investigate the full spectrum of  
463 peaks. Bar charts were plotted with the R base package (99). Intersections of SNPs common to  
464 heterokaryotic and homokaryotic derivatives were obtained with BEDTools2 v2.25.0 intersect (90).

465 Kinship analysis was performed on progeny and derivatives sequenced to a depth greater  
466 than 10x. Reads were trimmed, filtered, and mapped as above. Multi-sample pileups were obtained  
467 with SAMtools mpileup v0.1.18 (105) and made human readable using BCFtools v0.1.19 (106), and  
468 pairwise kinship was calculated using VCFtools v0.1.14 with the relatedness2 flag (107, 108). The  
469 two-column table output was transformed into a matrix using bash, and conditional formatting was  
470 used to visualize relationships. Raw matrices of these analyses are available (Supplementary Table 9  
471 & 10).

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473

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482 Author contributions:

483 KF performed the assembly, annotation, and inter- and intra-comparative genomics as well  
484 as drafted the manuscript. RJG performed phenotyping of isolates, culturing, generation of the  
485 genetic cross, and DNA and RNA extractions. LB performed flow cytometry and confocal microscopy.  
486 AK performed culturing, DNA extractions, phenotyping of isolates, and obtained asexual single spore  
487 derivatives. KW prepared the qPCR investigation. LZ, KC, and JW performed culturing and DNA  
488 extractions. SR generated the first assembly. CT performed culturing, phenotyping of isolates,  
489 generation of the genetic cross, and DNA extractions. RM supervised and conceptualized the project  
490 and made significant contributions to all drafts. All authors contributed to the final manuscript and  
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492 **Competing interests:** The authors declare no competing interests.

493 **Data availability:** All sequence data are available at NCBI under BioProjects #####.,  
494 #####., #####., and #####.

495 **Code/Software availability:** All software is described and cited in the article. A workflow summary of  
496 the assembly is provided (Supplementary Figure 10a)

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741

742

743 **Figure Legends**

744 **Fig. 1. Genome and assembly features of *B. lactucae*.** a) Estimation of genome size of  
745 heterokaryotic isolate C82P24 by flow cytometry. The nuclei of *B. lactucae* have two peaks calibrated  
746 relative to the reference nuclei of *Oryza sativa* (2C = 867 Mb). Nuclei of isolate C82P24 were  
747 estimated to be 305 Mb (2C) and 599 Mb (4C). Another 38 isolates all have similar sizes  
748 (Supplementary Table 1). b) Extensive collinearity between *B. lactucae* and *P. sojae* displayed as a  
749 SyMap plot. c) Comparison of heterozygosity in 54 isolates of 22 oomycete species (Supplementary  
750 Table 8). d) High quality of *B. lactucae* assembly demonstrated by inclusion of k-mers from paired-  
751 end reads in the assembly. Colors indicate presence of k-mers in the assembly, relative to reads.  
752 Black: the distribution of k-mers present in the read set but absent in the assembly. Red: K-mers  
753 present in the read set and once in the assembly. Purple: K-mers present in the reads set and twice  
754 in the assembly. The first peak depicts heterozygous k-mers and the second peak depicts  
755 homozygous k-mers. A high-quality consensus assembly will contain half the k-mers in the first peak,  
756 the other half of which should be black due to heterozygosity, and all the k-mers in the second peak  
757 should be present only once, which therefore should be red. Very few duplicated k-mers were  
758 detected in the SF5 assembly. K-mers derived from repeat sequences have higher multiplicity and  
759 are not shown.

760 **Fig. 2. Comparative LTR-RT analysis.** a) Comparison of ages of LTR elements in 15 oomycete  
761 assemblies. Distribution of percent divergence of LTR elements is shown for 12 downy mildew (*B.*  
762 *lactucae*, *H. arabidopsidis*, *P. effusa*, *P. tabacina*, *P. viticola*, and *S. graminicola*) and three  
763 *Phytophthora* (*P. infestans*, *P. ramorum*, and *P. sojae*) assemblies. Statistics of these assemblies are  
764 included in Table 1. LTR elements of *B. lactucae* are younger than elements in other downy mildew  
765 assemblies. b) Counts of unique LTR-RTs harvested and annotated from each genome surveyed.  
766 Larger assemblies (Table 1) are observed as having higher counts of LTR-RTs. Bars are ordered by the  
767 percent of the genome masked displayed in panel c. Only partial and no full elements could be found

768 for *P. halstedii*. c) Scatterplot demonstrating the percentage of the assembly sequence that is  
769 masked by annotated LTR-RTs and partial elements. Colors and order are retained from panel b. The  
770 percentage of the assembly masked increases with assembly size. *B. lactucae* is an outlier as it has a  
771 medium assembly size, but the highest masked percentage.

772 **Fig. 3. Polyphyly of downy mildews and paraphyly of *Phytophthora* spp.** Phylogenetic maximum  
773 likelihood tree based on the analysis of 18 BUSCO proteins across 29 Peronosporaceae species  
774 rooted with *Pythium ultimum* as the outgroup. The 20 *Phytophthora* species were selected to  
775 represent the nine published *Phytophthora* clades indicated by the number in brackets. Downy  
776 mildew clades 1 and 2 are shown in red and blue, respectively. Support for nodes is shown as  
777 percent bootstrap values from 1,000 iterations. Scale is the mean number of amino acid  
778 substitutions per site.

779 **Fig. 4. Heterokaryosis in *B. lactucae*.** Example alternative allele frequency plots of SNPs detected in  
780 four field isolates of *B. lactucae*. A) A unimodal distribution with a 1:1 ratio of reads supporting  
781 alternative and reference alleles seen in the homokaryotic SF5 isolate. B) A trimodal distribution  
782 with peaks at 1:1, 1:3, and 3:1 ratios of reads supporting alternate alleles in the heterokaryotic  
783 C82P24 isolate, consistent with two nuclei being present in equal proportions. C) A bimodal  
784 distribution with two peaks at 1:2 and 2:1 ratios of reads supporting alternative alleles observed in  
785 the heterokaryotic isolate C041017, consistent with three nuclei being present in equal proportions.  
786 D) The complex distribution observed in isolate C90D33, consistent with an uneven mixture of  
787 multiple nuclei in a heterokaryotic isolate. Allele distributions of 31 isolates are shown in  
788 Supplementary Fig. 4.

789 **Fig. 5. The presence of two half-sib groups in sexual progeny derived from a cross between a**  
790 **homokaryotic and a heterokaryotic isolate.** Kinship analysis based on SNPs segregating in sexual  
791 progeny generated by crossing SF5 (homokaryotic) with C82P24 (heterokaryotic). The first square  
792 delineates the majority of the offspring as one group of siblings derived from the same two parental

793 nuclei (homokaryon 1, HK1). The second square delineates the remaining offspring as a second  
794 group of siblings derived from a different nucleus in C82P24 (homokaryon2, HK2). Relatedness of  
795 these two groups is consistent with having one parental nucleus in common derived from SF5.  
796 Relatedness of single-spore asexual derivatives of both isolates is also shown. Single-spore  
797 derivatives of C82P24 had a high relatedness to all other C82P24 derivatives and the original isolate.  
798 These derivatives and C82P24 were equidistant to all offspring, indicating that both nuclei in the  
799 heterokaryon contributed to the offspring and that the heterokaryotic C82P24 isolate had not been  
800 separated into homokaryotic components by generating single-spore derivatives.

801 **Fig. 6. Genomic and phenotypic instability of the heterokaryotic isolate C98O622b.** (i) Relatedness  
802 analysis of ten asexual single-spore derivatives of C98O622b placed them into three genomic groups.  
803 One group of derivatives, A to F, were heterokaryotic and highly similar to C98O622b. The other two  
804 groups, derivatives G to I and derivative J, were each homokaryotic, less similar to C98O622b than  
805 the heterokaryotic group was, and even less similar to each other. Combining reads *in silico* of  
806 isolates G to I did not change their relatedness to other isolates; combining reads of any of G to I  
807 with J scored similarly high in relatedness to C98O622b as derivatives A to F. (ii) Phenotypic  
808 differences between heterokaryotic and homokaryotic derivatives of C98O622b compared to the  
809 original isolate. Derivatives A to F were virulent on both *Dm4* and *Dm15*; however, derivatives G to I  
810 were avirulent on *Dm4* and virulent on *Dm15*, while derivative J showed the reverse virulence  
811 phenotype. (iii) Alternative allele frequency plots of four C98O622b derivatives showing that  
812 derivatives A to F are heterokaryotic and G to J are homokaryotic. Alternative allele frequency plots  
813 of the derivatives A, D to G, and I are shown in Supplementary Fig. 7. (iv) Alternative allele frequency  
814 plots of heterokaryotic derivatives based only on SNPs unique to each homokaryotic derivative. In a  
815 balanced heterokaryon such as derivative B, SNPs unique to each homokaryon are observed at  
816 frequencies of 0.25 and 0.75, consistent with the presence of each nucleus in a 1:1 ratio. In an  
817 unbalanced heterokaryon, such as derivative C, SNPs unique to homokaryotic derivatives G, H, and I  
818 are present at frequencies of approximately 0.17 and 0.83, while SNPs unique to derivative J are

819 present at frequencies of 0.33 and 0.66; this is consistent with twice as many nuclei of J as those of  
820 G, H, and I. Similar distributions are observed for derivatives A, D, and E, indicating that they are  
821 unbalanced heterokaryons (Supplementary Figure 8).

822 **Fig. 7. Differences in fitness between heterokaryotic and homokaryotic derivatives of C98O622b.**

823 A) Growth of four single-spore derivatives on the universally susceptible lettuce cv. Green Towers  
824 (n=16). Heterokaryons exhibit higher growth mass per lettuce seedling and DNA quantity collected  
825 per mL of sporangia suspension. Area under the curve measurements demonstrate significantly  
826 faster sporulation of heterokaryon derivative B compared to homokaryon derivative I. B) Growth  
827 curves of heterokaryotic isolates (black lines) versus homokaryotic isolates (red lines) on differential  
828 lettuce lines NunDM15 (*Dm15*) and R4T57D (*Dm4*), demonstrating that viable homokaryons  
829 sporulate faster on selective hosts than heterokaryons (n=10).

830 **Fig. 8. The multinucleate architecture of *B. lactucae*.** Lettuce cotyledons infected with *B. lactucae*

831 stained with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) to render nuclear DNA fluorescent. A) Densely  
832 multinucleate coenocytic mycelium growing between spongy mesophyll cells of a non-transgenic  
833 lettuce cotyledon five days post infection (dpi), prior to sporulation. Two of six multinucleate  
834 haustoria that have invaginated the host plasmalemma are indicated (h). The larger plant nuclei  
835 fluoresce magenta. Autofluorescent chloroplasts are visualized as green. B) Infected lettuce  
836 cotyledon stably expressing DsRED stained seven dpi at the onset of sporulation. The multinucleate  
837 stem of a sporangiophore is visible exiting a stoma. Two multinucleate spores are visible on the  
838 cotyledon surface (arrowed). Small DAPI-stained bacterial cells are also visible.

839

840 Table 1. Comparative statistics of downy mildew genome assemblies and select *Phytophthora* assemblies.

841

Genus	Species	Isolate/label	Scaffold		Contig		Assembly		Gene model count <sup>b</sup>	BUSCO				Reference
			N50 (kb) <sup>a</sup>	Scaffold Count	N50 (kb)	Contig Count	size (Mb)	Gaps (%)		Complete (%)	Duplicated (%)	Fragmented (%)	Missing (%)	
<i>Bremia</i>	<i>lactucae</i>	SF5	<b>6116</b>	122	30	4997	115.9	21.482	9781	98.3	3.4	0.9	0.8	This study
<i>Hyaloperonospora</i>	<i>arabidopsidis</i>	Cala2	24	9283	22	9658	70.3	0.016	n/a	96.6	1.3	3	0.4	n/a
		Emoy2	332	3044	43	10401	78.9	10.224	14321	96.6	4.7	2.6	0.8	(109)
		Noks1	19	12086	18	13094	74.2	0.025	n/a	97	1.3	3	0	n/a
<i>Peronospora</i>	<i>effusa</i>	R13	72	784	48	1472	32.2	0.261	8607	97.8	0.4	0	2.2	(47)
		R14	61	880	52	1275	30.8	0.564	8571	97	0	0.4	2.6	
	<i>tabacina</i>	968-J2	79	4016	11	10799	63.1	27.351	11310	94.9	29.5	3	2.1	(95)
		968-S26	61	3245	15	8552	55.3	19.089	10707	94.9	29.1	3.4	1.7	
<i>Plasmopara</i>	<i>halstedii</i>	Ph8-99-BIA4	<b>1546</b>	3162	16	25359	75.3	11.322	15469	97.4	0	1.7	0.9	(48)
	<i>viticola</i>	INRA-PV221	181	1883	49	3995	74.7	2.83	n/a	95.7	4.7	1.7	2.6	(110)
		JL-7-2	172	2165	14	23193	101.2	16.712	n/a (17014)	84.6	8.1	8.5	6.9	(111)
<i>Pseudoperonospora</i>	<i>cubensis</i>	ASM25260v1	4	35539	4	35539	64.3	0	n/a	92.8	0.9	6.4	0.8	(112)
<i>Phytophthora</i>	<i>infestans</i>	T30-4	<b>1589</b>	4921	44	18288	228.5	16.806	17797	97	3	1.3	1.7	(55)
	<i>ramorum</i>	ASM14973v1	308	2576	48	7589	66.7	18.346	15605	97.4	3	1.7	0.9	(45)
	<i>sojae</i>	Physo3	<b>7609</b>	83	386	863	82.6	3.959	26489	99.5	3.8	0	0.5	(45)

842 <sup>a</sup> Bold numbers indicated scaffold N<sub>50</sub>'s over 1 Mb

843 <sup>b</sup> n/a indicates that annotations could not be found or weren't described. Bracketed numbers indicate reported numbers from paper.

844

845 Table 2. Repeat statistics of the *B. lactuca* assembly.

846

	Number of elements	Total length (bp)	Percentage of contig sequence	
Long terminal repeat elements	63,720	61,227,642	67.3%	847
<i>Copia</i>	5,659	6,314,733	6.9%	848
<i>Gypsy</i>	57,655	53,338,585	58.6%	849
Short interspersed nuclear element	35	15,270	0.02%	850
Long interspersed nuclear repeat	182	471,735	0.52%	851
DNA elements	337	471,455	0.52%	
Unclassified	685	1,050,820	1.15%	852

853

854 Table 3. Counts of annotated effectors in the *B. lactuca* assembly.

855

	Genome	Transcriptome*
RxLR	36	27
[GHQ]xLR	31	20
RxL[GKQ]	30	27
RxLR - EER	22	13
[GHQ]xLR -EER	18	8
RxL[GKQ] -EER	11	4
RxLR-WY	2	1
RxL[GKQ]-WY	2	2
RxLR - EER - WY	6	6
[GHQ]xLR -EER - WY	1	1
SP - WY	26	19
WY	19	13
SP - CRN	2	0
CRN	74	6

\*Presence in transcriptome inferred by tBLASTn

Total proteins with RxLR	66
Total proteins with degenerate RxLR	95
Total proteins with WY domain	56
Total Crinklers	76

856



Figure 1

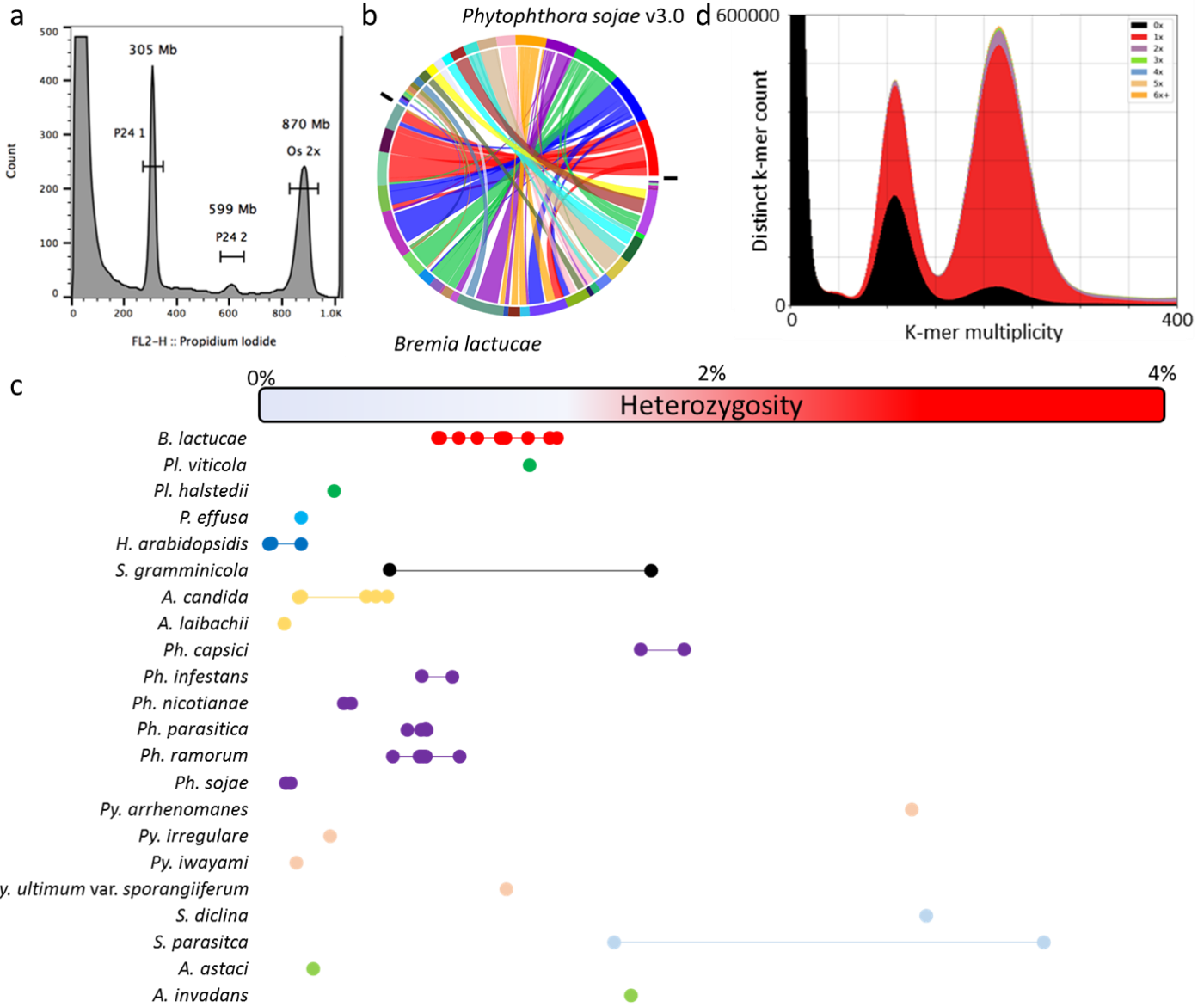


Figure 2

Figure legend  
here.

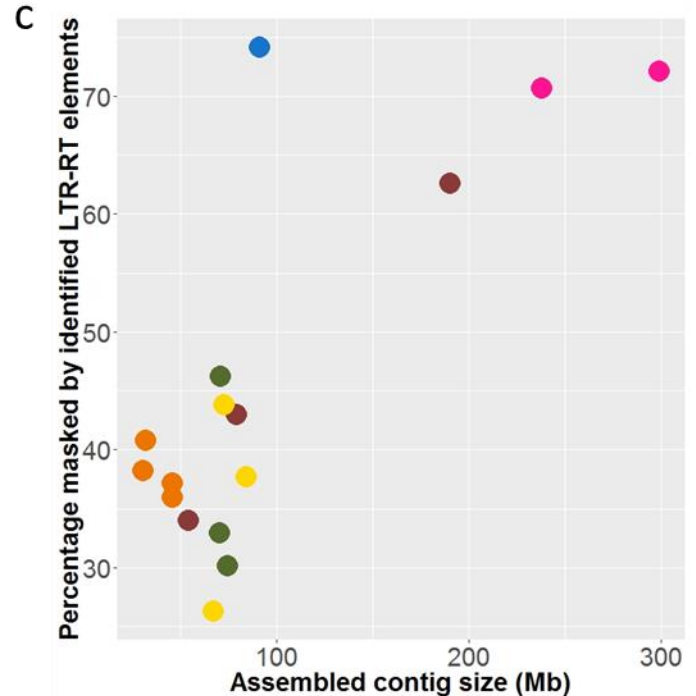
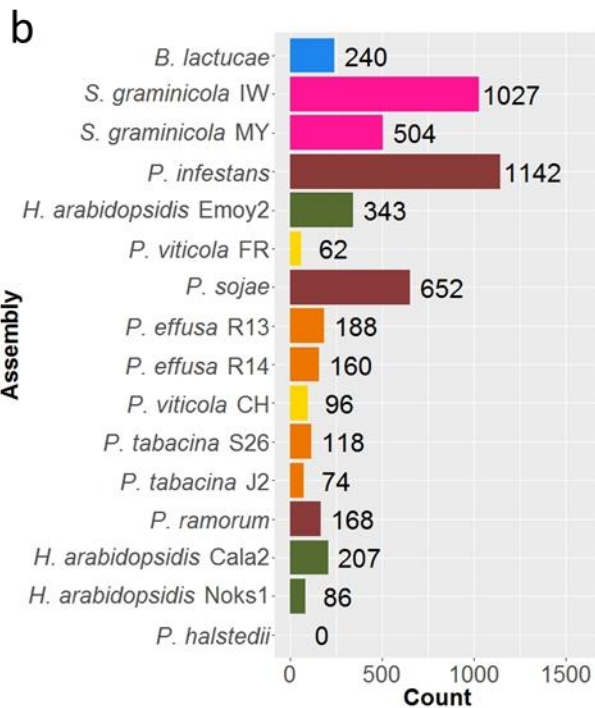
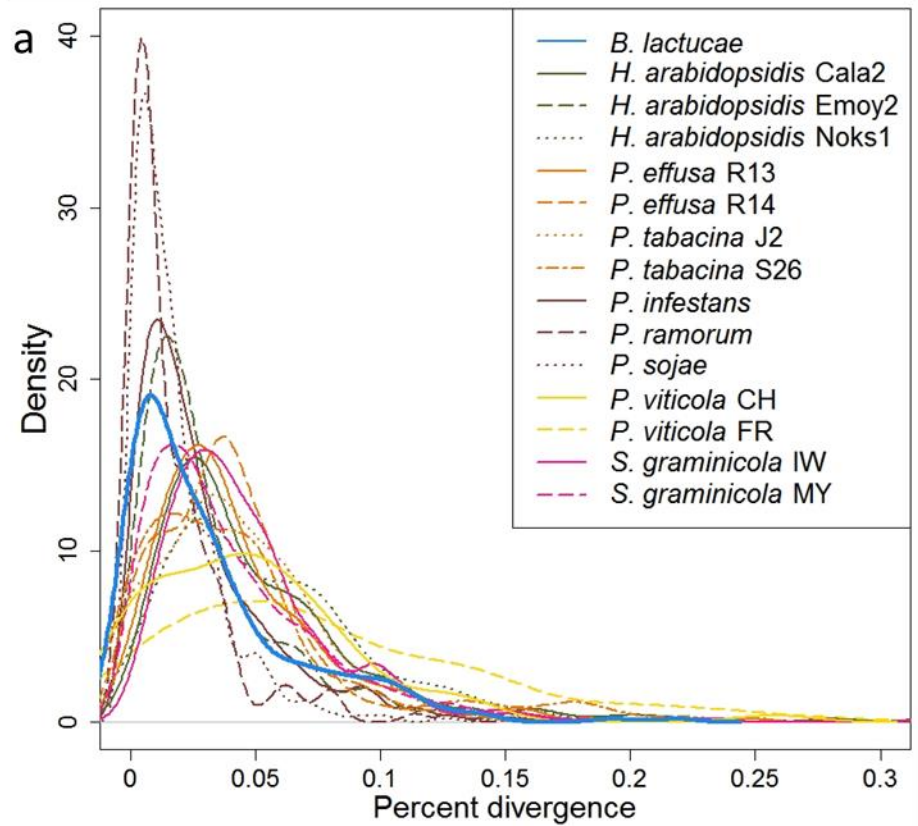


Figure 3

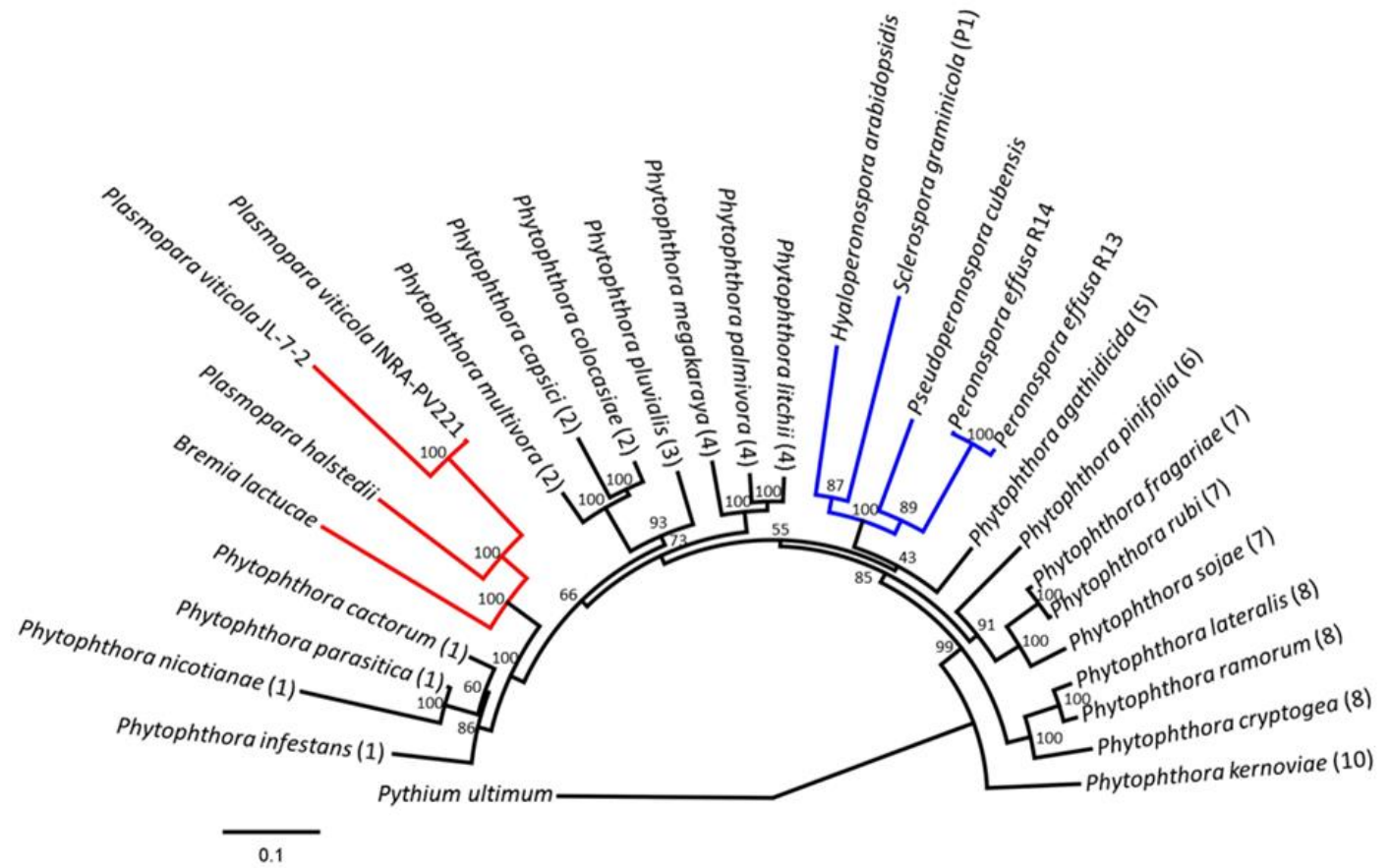


Figure 4

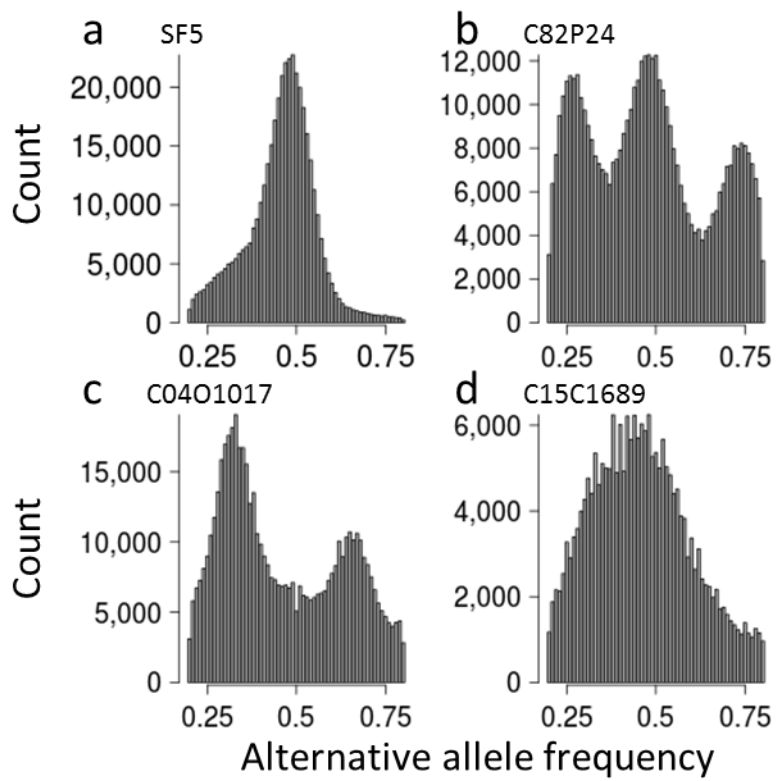


Figure 5

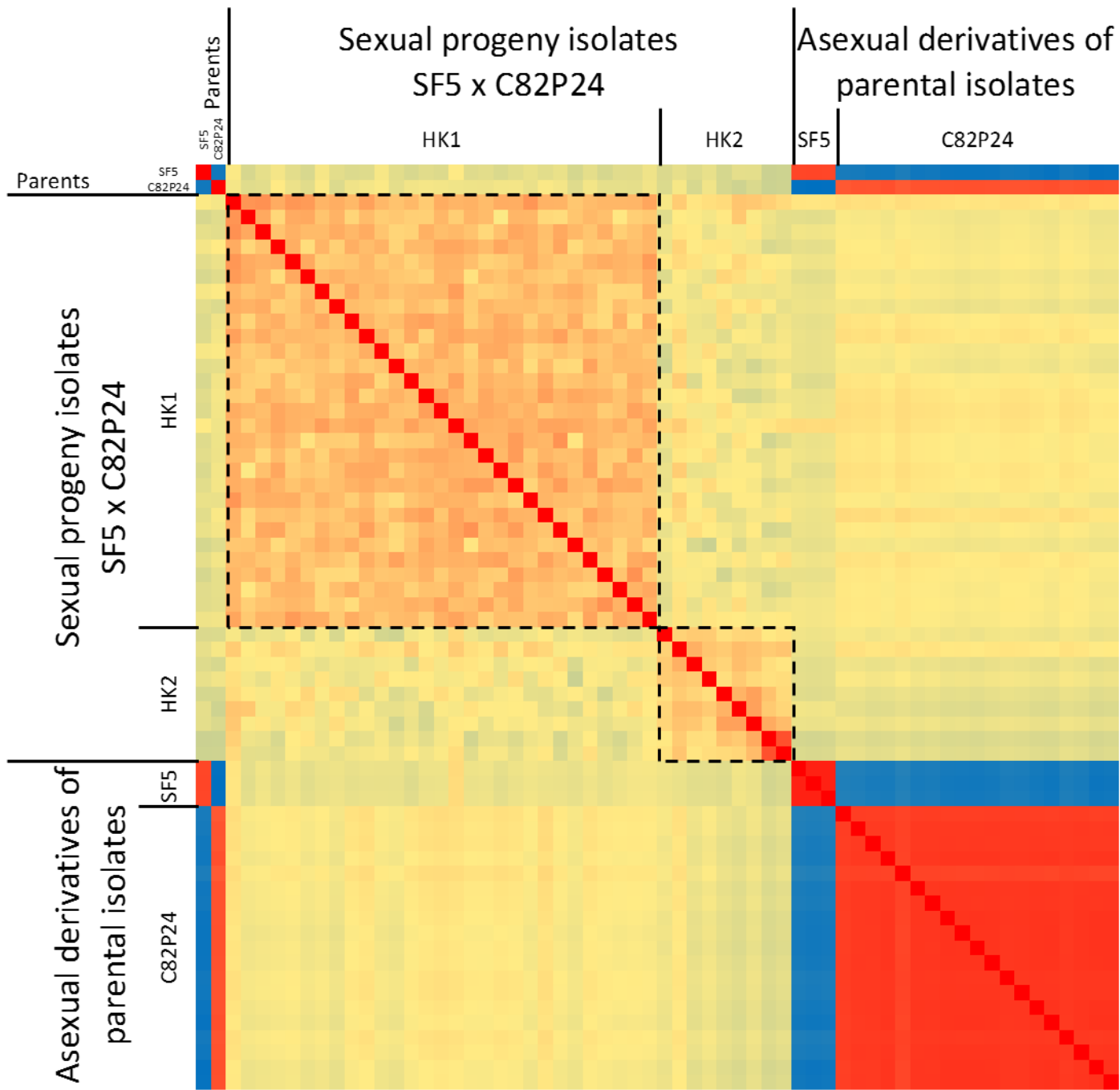


Figure 6

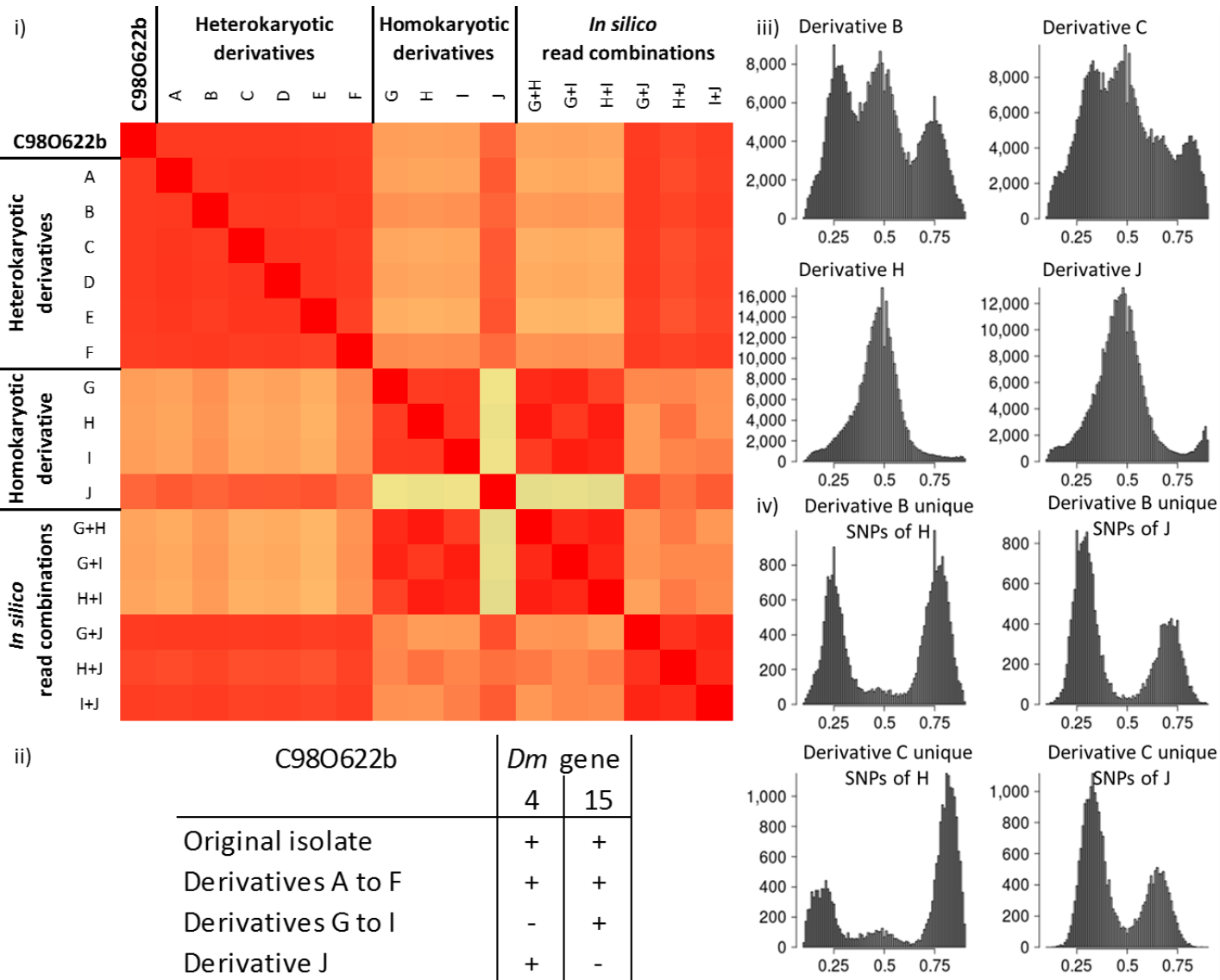


Figure 7

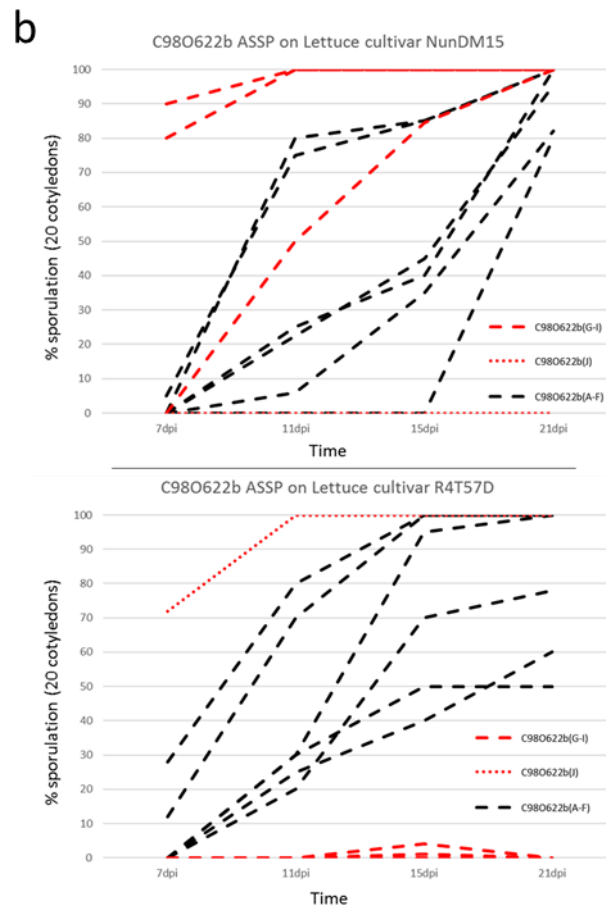
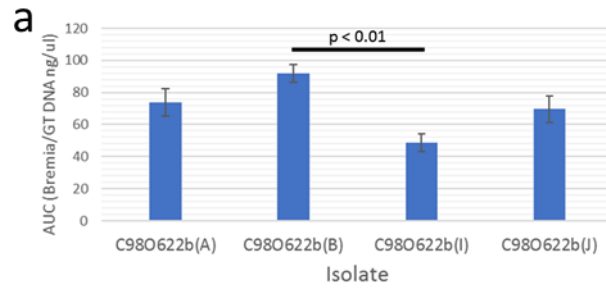


Figure 8

