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1 # A candidate gene cluster for the bioactive natural product

2 # gyrophoric acid in lichen-forming fungi

3

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13

14 ## Key words

15 Biosynthetic genes, depsides, fungi, genome mining, long-read sequencing, microbial

16 biotechnology, PKS phylogeny, Secondary metabolites, *Umbilicaria*

17

18 ## Abstract

19 Natural products of lichen-forming fungi are structurally diverse and have a variety of

20 medicinal properties. Despite this, they a have limited implementation in industry, because the

21 corresponding genes remain unknown for most of the natural products. Here we implement a

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22 long-read sequencing and bioinformatic approach to identify the biosynthetic gene cluster of
23 the bioactive natural product gyrophoric acid (GA). Using 15 high-quality genomes
24 representing nine GA-producing species of the lichen-forming fungal genus *Umbilicaria*, we
25 identify the most likely GA cluster and investigate cluster gene organization and composition
26 across the nine species. Our results show that GA clusters are promiscuous within
27 *Umbilicaria,* with only three genes that are conserved across species, including the PKS gene.
28 In addition, our results suggest that the same cluster codes for different but structurally similar
29 NPs, i.e., GA, umbilicaric acid and hiascic acid, bringing new evidence that lichen metabolite
30 diversity is also generated through regulatory mechanisms at the molecular level. Ours is the
31 first study to identify the most likely GA cluster, and thus provides essential information to
32 open new avenues for biotechnological approaches to producing and modifying GA and
33 similar lichen-derived compounds. We show that bioinformatics approaches are useful in
34 linking genes and potentially associated natural products. Genome analyses help unlocking
35 the pharmaceutical potential of organisms such as lichens, which are biosynthetically diverse
36 but slow growing, and difficult to cultivate due to their symbiotic nature.

37

38 Importance

39 The implementation of natural products in the pharmaceutical industry relies on the
40 possibility of modifying the natural product (NP) pathway to optimize yields and
41 pharmacological effects. Characterization of genes and pathways underlying natural product
42 biosynthesis is a major bottleneck for the use of natural products in the pharmaceutical
43 industry. Genome mining is a promising and relatively cost- and time-effective approach to
44 exploit unexplored NP resources for drug discovery. In this study, we identify the most likely

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45 gene cluster for the lichen-forming fungal depside gyrophoric acid in nine *Umbilicaria*
46 species. This compound shows cytotoxic and antiproliferative properties against several
47 cancer cell lines, and is also a broad-spectrum antimicrobial agent. We identify the putative
48 GA cluster from nine *Umbilicaria* species. This information paves the way for generating GA
49 analogs with modified properties by selective activation/deactivation of genes.
50

51 Introduction

52 Natural products (NPs) and their derivatives/analogs constitute about 70% of modern
53 medicines (1, 2). NPs alone, however, i.e., unmodified molecules as produced by organisms
54 themselves in nature, constitute only a small portion of this. The vast majority, about 60-65%,
55 are derivatives and analogs of naturally-occurring substances, synthesized through
56 biotechnology or synthetic approaches (2, 3). The use of NPs in the pharmaceutical industry
57 relies on the ability to modify NP pathways in order to optimize yields and pharmacological
58 effects. Culture-dependent approaches to identifying/producing NPs are labor-intensive and
59 time-consuming, and not successful for every organism (4, 5). As a result, the biosynthetic
60 potential of many biosynthetically prolific organisms remains untapped. Information on the
61 genetic background and mechanisms of NP synthesis may thus contribute to fast-track NP-
62 based drug discovery (2, 6).

63 Lichens, symbiotic organisms composed of fungal and photosynthetic partners (green
64 algae or cyanobacteria, or both at the same time) (7–9), are a treasure chest of NPs (10–12).
65 So far, about 1,000 NPs with great structural and functional diversity have been reported from
66 lichen-forming fungi (LFF), and about 300-400 have been screened for bioactivity (11).
67 However, the genetic background of more than 97% of lichen NPs is unknown (13–16).

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68 Lichen compounds have great pharmacological potential, encompassing antimicrobial,
69 antiproliferative, cytotoxic and antioxidant properties (11, 17–20). However, there are various
70 major bottlenecks for using lichen NPs in the pharmaceutical industry, including low yield in
71 nature, slow growth, tedious isolation/culturing methods, and a lack of understanding of their
72 genetic background. Targeted genome mining approaches integrate the latest DNA
73 sequencing technologies with computational advancements and large, publicly-available
74 databases of pre-identified BGCs to characterize genes coding for NPs (1, 21, 22). This
75 approach combines genome mining with the expected genetics of the NP to narrow down the
76 candidate biosynthetic genes.

77 In-silico approaches for linking natural products with their respective biosynthetic
78 gene clusters (BGCs) – genomic clusters of biosynthetic-related genes typically found in
79 fungi (23–25) – are becoming more common in LFF due to the increased availability of
80 genomic resources and databases (1, 21, 22), improvement of detection software and genome
81 mining tools, stabilizing PKS phylogenies, and information gained from recent successes in
82 the heterologous expression of *PKSs* from LFF (13, 14). For instance, the clade “Group I,
83 PKS 16” from Kim et al (13) is associated with the biosynthesis of orsellinic acid derivatives
84 (orcinol depsides and depsidones) such as lecanoric acid (14), grayanic acid (15), physodic
85 acid and olivetoric acid (16), whereas the clade “Group IX, PKS23” from Kim et al (13) is
86 associated with the biosynthesis of methylated orsellinic acid derivatives (β-orcinol depsides
87 and depsidones) such as atranorin. The cluster linked to usnic acid biosynthesis is also fairly
88 well understood (26, 27) and corresponds to “Group VI, PKS8” from Kim et al (11).

89 Here, we combine high-throughput long-read sequencing with a comparative
90 genomics approach to identify the putative cluster(s) linked to the synthesis of gyrophoric
91 acid (GA). GA is an NP produced by several LFF species, with a broad spectrum of

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92 bioactivity (pharmacological properties such as anticancer and antimicrobial activity and
93 industrially-relevant properties such as usage as dyes (19, 28–30)), for which the molecular
94 mechanism and genetics of synthesis remain unknown. Identification of the GA gene cluster
95 would facilitate its production via biotechnology to optimize the yield as well as to generate
96 GA analogs with the desired pharmaceutical effect. For this study, we chose nine species of
97 GA producers belonging to the lichen-forming fungal genus *Umbilicaria* (Table 1). GA is the
98 most characteristic compound of this genus, and is found at high concentrations in all the
99 chosen species (28, 31–33). It is a depside containing three orsellinic acid-type rings joined
100 together by ester bonds (Fig. 1). Apart from GA, several other structurally-related depsides
101 such as umbilicaric acid, lecanoric acid and hiascic acid (Fig. 1) have also been reported from
102 *Umbilicaria,* but these usually constitute a minor fraction (<10%) of the total NPs detected
103 via HPLC (Fig. 1).
104 In the present study, we assembled highly contiguous long-read-based genomes of
105 LFF of the genus *Umbilicaria*, identified the biosynthetic gene clusters of all the species and
106 singled out candidate genes linked to GA biosynthesis.
107

108 ## Materials and methods

109 **Sampling and dataset**

110 We collected samples of the following eight *Umbilicaria* species: *U. deusta*, *U. freyi*, *U.*
111 *grisea*, *U. subpolyphylla*, *U. hispanica*, *U. phaea*, *U. pustulata*, and *U. spodochroa* for
112 genome sequencing (voucher information in Supplementary Table S1). When possible, we
113 sequenced two samples of the same species collected in different climatic zones. This was
114 done to take into account possible intra-specific variation in BGC content as recently shown

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115 in Singh et al. (34). The genome of *U. muhlenbergii* was downloaded from the JGI database.
116 In addition, we sampled *Dermatocarpon miniatum* as a control, as it does not produce
117 depsides/depsidones.
118

119 **DNA extraction, library preparation and genome sequencing**

120 Lichen thalli were thoroughly washed with sterile water, and checked under the
121 stereomicroscope for the presence of possible contamination and other lichen thalli. DNA was
122 extracted from all the samples using a CTAB-based method (35) as presented in (36).
123 SMRTbell libraries were constructed according to the manufacturer's instructions of
124 the SMRTbell Express Prep Kit v. 2.0 following the Low DNA Input Protocol (Pacific
125 Biosciences, Menlo Park, CA). Total input for samples was approximately 170-800 ng.
126 Ligation with T-overhang SMRTbell adapters was performed at 20°C for 1 h or overnight.
127 Following ligation, the libraries were purified with a 0,45 x or 0,8 x AMPure PB bead clean
128 up step. The subsequent size selection step to remove SMRTbell templates <3 kb was
129 performed with 2,2 x of a 40% (v/ v) AMPure PB bead working solution.
130 SMRT sequencing was performed on the Sequel System II with the Sequel II
131 Sequencing Kit 2.0 using the continuous long read (CLR) mode or the circular consensus
132 sequencing (CCS) mode, 30 h movie time with no pre-extension and Software SMRTLINK
133 8.0. Each metagenomic library was sequenced on one SMART cell at the Medical Center
134 Nijmegen (the Netherlands), or at MPI Dresden.
135

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136 **Genome assembly and annotation**

137 The continuous long reads (i.e. CLR reads) from the PacBio Sequel II CLR run were first
138 processed into highly accurate consensus sequences (i.e. HiFi reads) using PacBio tool CCS
139 v5.0.0 with default parameters (https://ccs.how). HiFi reads were then assembled into contigs
140 using the assembler metaFlye v2.7 (37). The resulting contigs were scaffolded with LRScaf
141 v1.1.12 (github.com/shingocat/lrscaf, (38)). The scaffolds were then taxonomically binned to
142 extract Ascomyocta reads with blastx using DIAMOND (--more-sensitive --frameshift 15 –
143 range-culling) on a custom database and following the MEGAN6 Community Edition
144 pipeline (39). All scaffolds assigned to Ascomycota were extracted as to represent the
145 *Umbilicaria* spp. Assembly statistics such as number of contigs, total length and N50 were
146 accessed with Assemblathon v2 (40) (Table 1). The completeness of the received mycobiont
147 bins (i.e. the fungal genomes) was estimated using Benchmarking Universal Single-Copy
148 Orthologs (BUSCO) analysis in BUSCO v4 (41).

149

150 **Identification and Annotations of Biosynthetic Gene Clusters**

151 Functional annotation of genomes, including genes, proteins and BGC prediction
152 (antiSMASH (antibiotics & SM Analysis Shell, v5.0)) was performed with scripts
153 implemented in the funannotate pipeline (42, 43). First, the genomes were masked for
154 repetitive elements, and then the gene prediction was performed using BUSCO2 to train
155 Augustus and self-training GeneMark-ES (41, 44). Functional annotation was done with
156 InterProScan (45), egg-NOG-mapper (46, 47) and BUSCO (41) with ascomycota_db models.
157 Secreted proteins were predicted using SignalP (48) as implemented in the funannotate
158 ‘annotate’ command.

159

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160 **Selecting candidate gene clusters linked to GA biosynthesis**

161 We used the following criteria to select the candidate gene cluster associated with GA
162 synthesis in *Umbilicaria*: 1) it must contain a NR-PKS (as some of the structural features of a
163 NP can be directly inferred from the domain architecture of the *PKS*: *PKSs* without reducing
164 domains (*NR-PKSs*) are linked to non-reduced compounds such as gyrophoric acid, olivetoric
165 acid (16), physodic acid (16) and grayanic acid (15)), 2) it must be present in all the
166 *Umbilicaria* genomes, as all the species have GA as the major secondary metabolite (33), and
167 3) it must be closely related to the *PKSs* involved in the synthesis of orsellinic acid-based
168 compounds (15, 16), because orsellinic acid units constitute the building blocks of GA.
169

170 **Phylogenetic analyses**

171 We extracted the amino acid sequences of all the NR-PKS from the BGCs predicted by the
172 antiSMASH for all the *Umbilicaria* species and *Dermatocarpon miniatum* (Supplementary
173 Table S2). Additionally, the NR-PKS sequences of the following species were downloaded
174 from the previous publications and public databases: *Cladonia borealis, C. grayi*, *C.*
175 *macilenta*, *C. metacorallifera*, *C. rangiferina*, *C. uncialis*, *Pseudevernia furfuracea,*
176 *Stereocaulon alpinum* and *Umbilicaria muhlenbergii*. The final dataset contains amino acid
177 sequences of 229 NR-PKSs from 18 species belonging to four LFF genera. The sequences
178 were aligned using MAFFT as implemented in Geneious v5.4 (49, 50). Gaps were treated as
179 missing data. The maximum likelihood search was performed on the aligned sequences with
180 RAxML-HPC BlackBox v8.1.11 (51) on the Cipres Scientific gateway (52). Phylogenetic
181 trees were visualized using iTOL (53).
182

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183 **BGC clustering and novel BGCs: BiG-SCAPE and CORASON**

184 We used BiG-SCAPE and CORASON (54) to identify the gene cluster networks and infer
185 evolutionary relationships among clusters of interest among different *Umbilicaria* spp. BiG-
186 SCAPE utilizes antiSMASH (42) and MIBiG databases (55) for inferring BGC sequence
187 similarity networks, whereas CORASON employs a phylogenomic approach to infer
188 evolutionary relationships between the clusters. BiG-SCAPE v1.0.1 was run in --auto mode,
189 to identify BGC families using antiSMASH output files (.gbk) as input. Networks were
190 generated using similarity thresholds of 0.25. The most likely GA cluster from all the
191 *Umbilicaria* spp. was examined for conservation and variation among different *Umbilicaria*
192 species using CORASON pipeline. The antiSMASH .gbk files of the corresponding clusters,
193 based on phylogenetic grouping, were used as input. The most-likely GA cluster from *U.*
194 *deusta* was used as reference to fish out the most closely-related clusters from the other
195 *Umbilicaria* spp.

196

197 # Results

198 **Genome sequencing, assembly and annotation**

199 The genome quality stats and assembly reports of all the genomes generated for this study are
200 presented in Table 1.

201

202 **Phylogenetic analysis**

203 To search for PKS genes involved in the synthesis of GA, we performed a phylogenetic
204 analysis by incorporating our sequences into the most comprehensive PKS dataset currently
205 available (Supplementary Table S2) (13, 16). NR-PKSs have been categorized into nine

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206 groups based on protein sequence similarity and PKS domain architecture (13). We identified
207 a total of 110 NR-PKSs that were present in 15 *Umbilicaria* genomes (12 NR-PKSs on
208 average per species). Four NR-PKSs were common to all species: PKS15, PKS16, PKS20 and
209 a novel PKS clade (forming a monophyletic, supported clade to PKS33, Fig. 2). Only one
210 NR-PKS per species formed a supported monophyletic clade with PKS16 (Group I, i.e.,
211 orsellinic acid, depside and depsidone NR-PKSs) (Fig. 2). The most-likely NR-PKS for the
212 depsidone grayanic acid and the depsides olivetoric and physodic acid fall within this PKS
213 clade.

214

215 **Gyrophoric acid cluster**

216 The cluster most likely associated with GA is the cluster containing PKS16 (Fig. 2), as 1) it is
217 present in all *Umbilicaria* spp., 2) it contains an *NR-PKS* and 3) it forms a monophyletic
218 group with the clade "Group I, PKS 16" from Kim et al (11). This cluster contains about 11-
219 15 genes, including the core biosynthetic gene *NR-PKS* and a c*yt P450* (Fig. 3). The other
220 genes code for unidentified proteins. The *U. deusta* PKS16 cluster is presented as an example
221 of GA cluster (Fig. 3). The *PKS* is present in all *Umbilicaria* species investigated and displays
222 high homology across species.

223

224 **BGC clustering: BiG-SCAPE and CORASON**

225 BGC sequence similarity networks group gene clusters at multiple hierarchical levels. This
226 analysis implements a 'glocal' alignment mode that accurately groups both complete and
227 fragmented BGCs. The BGCs forming a supported monophyletic clade to PKS16 (Group I)
228 were then analyzed for conservation across species using CORASON. The CORASON

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229 analysis showed that only three genes on the cluster were shared among the studied
230 *Umbilicaria* species: the core *PKS* and the two genes of unknown function/proteins adjacent
231 to the core gene (Fig. 4).
232

233 Discussion

234 Gyrophoric acid PKS

235 We found only one PKS per species forming a supported monophyletic clade to PKS16
236 (Group I, i.e., orsellinic acid and depside/depsidone PKSs) (Fig. 2). These are the most likely
237 GA PKSs.

238 The BGC associated with the biosynthesis of the following lichen depsides and
239 depsidones have been identified so far: atranorin (13), lecanoric- (14), grayanic- (15),
240 olivetoric- (16) and physodic acid (16). All these studies demonstrate that the PKS alone is
241 capable of synthesizing the backbone depside, whereas modifications such as methylation and
242 oxidation are made by enzymes coded by other genes in the cluster after the release of the
243 depside from the PKS. For instance, the synthesis of atranorin involves at least three genes
244 present within the atranorin cluster, but the core depside is coded only by the PKS (13). The
245 other two genes, a carboxyl methylase (O-methyltransferase) and a *cyt P450*, methylate the
246 carboxyl group and oxidize the methyl group (into -CHO), respectively, to produce the final
247 product atranorin (Fig. 1). As GA does not have side chain modifications (Fig. 1) we propose
248 that the *PKS* alone is involved in GA synthesis.

249 The depside PKSs identified so far code for didepsides, i.e. they contain two phenolic
250 rings joined with an ester bond, for example gyrayanic acid, atranorin, physodic acid and
251 olivetoric acid (13, 15, 16). Ours is the first study to identify the most-likely PKS associated

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252 with a tridepside synthesis, i.e., three phenolic rings joined with two ester bonds. Our study
253 suggests that the *PKSs* coding for a didepside and a tridepside differ only in the length of the
254 sequence of the SAT domain. A tridepside *PKS* contains longer SAT coding sequence than
255 the didepside *PKS*. The number of ACP and PT domains is the same between the two.
256

257 **GA cluster in *Umbilicaria* spp.**

258 The most-likely GA cluster contains about 11-15 genes in different *Umbilicaria* spp.
259 (Fig. 3, 4). Interestingly, only three genes are common to all analyzed species, the *PKS* and
260 two genes of unknown function (with low sequence similarity to known genes) upstream and
261 downstream of the *PKS I* (Fig. 4). This suggests that these three genes form an integral part of
262 the GA cluster, whereas the other genes are facultative among GA producers. Differences
263 among the clusters synthesizing the same compound have been reported before, and have
264 been associated with species-specific BGC regulation or modifications to the depside released
265 by the PKS (26, 56).

266 The most-likely GA cluster also contains a *cyt P450* (Fig. 3, 4), which has been
267 associated with depsidone production or oxidation of an acyl chain (13, 15, 16). However, the
268 location and orientation of the *cyt P450* in the putative *Umbilicaria* GA cluster is different
269 from a typical depsidone cluster (Fig. 3) (15). In the GA cluster, the *cyt P450* is not located
270 next to and has the same orientation as the *PKS,* whereas in a depsidone cluster, *cyt P450* lies
271 next to the *PKS*, in opposite orientation. Such organization is suggestive of genes being
272 regulated and co-expressed by the same promoter (15). This is the case for the depsidone
273 grayanic acid synthesis (in *Cladonia grayi*), which involves the synthesis of the depside
274 intermediate by *PKS* followed by oxidation of the released depside into depsidone (15). The
275 *PKS* and *cyt P450* form the integral part of depsidone synthesis (57) whereas the depside is

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276 coded by the *PKS* alone, with the exception of the side chain modifications (13, 14).
277 Therefore, despite being part of the GA cluster, the *cyt P450* does not seem to be involved in
278 GA synthesis or in the synthesis of umbilicaric- and/or lecanoric acid reported from
279 *Umbilicaria* spp. analyzed in this study. The synthesis of hiascic acid however would require
280 the hydroxylation of a methyl group by cyt P450 enzyme after the depside is released from
281 the PKS (Fig. 1, the OH group in bold in hiascic acid). The lower proportion of hiascic acid as
282 compared to GA could be because the *cyt P450* may not be co-expressed with the *PKS*.
283 Even though the functions of most of the genes identified in the present study are
284 unknown, our study provides novel insights into GA cluster composition and organization
285 across different species (Fig. 4). This information is crucial in order to open the way for future
286 genetic manipulation of the GA biosynthetic pathway that may be aimed at increasing
287 structural diversity and/or yield of the products, as well as in order to generate analogs with
288 novel properties.
289
290 **One cluster, different compounds**
291 Variation in cluster composition reflects the potential to produce diverse NPs. Apart from GA,
292 other depsides related in structure to GA, i.e., lecanoric-, umbilicaric- and hiascic acid (Fig. 1)
293 are often reported in *Umbilicaria* spp. as minor metabolites (31). Interestingly, we found only
294 one orcinol-depside *PKS* in *Umbilicaria* spp (Fig. 2). This strongly indicates that all the
295 *Umbilicaria* depsides are coded by the same PKS cluster. One cluster coding for different,
296 structurally-related compounds has also been reported previously (16, 56, 58). For instance, in
297 the case of the antifungal drug caspofungin acetate, a semisynthetic derivative of the NP
298 pneumocandins from the fungus *Glarea lozoyensis*, selective inactivation of different genes in
299 this biosynthetic gene cluster generates 13 different analogues, some of them with elevated

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300 antifungal activity relative to the original compound and its semisynthetic derivative (59).
301 Similarly, the aspyridone biosynthetic cluster from *Aspergillus nidulans* produces eight
302 different compounds in a heterologous host (58). These studies show that a single PKS cluster
303 is capable of producing different compounds depending upon which genes are co-expressed
304 and on the available starters. In lichens, a single *PKS* has been associated with the synthesis of
305 olivetoric and physodic acid (16) and the same *PKS* has been shown to be involved in the
306 synthesis of lecanoric acid in a heterologous host (14). We propose that the same PKS cluster
307 is most likely involved in the synthesis of GA, umbilicaric- (an additional methyl group, Fig.
308 1), hiascic- (additional hydroxyl group, Fig. 1), and lecanoric acid (didepside with no side
309 chains, Fig. 1) in *Umbilicaria*. It is possible, however, that in nature only GA is synthesized in
310 members of the genus *Umbilicaria*, and the co-occurring minor compound lecanoric acid is a
311 hydrolysis product of GA (57).

312 Interestingly, although umbilicaric acid is reported from some *Umbilicaria* species (*U.*
313 *grisea*, *U. freyi*, *U. mühlenbergii* and *U. subpolyphylla* (31, 61)), O-methyltransferase (OMT)
314 was not identified in the depside-related BGC of any *Umbilicaria* species (Fig. 3). OMT
315 would be required for the methylation of oxygen to produce umbilicaric acid (Fig. 1). Its
316 absence from depside-related BGCs suggests that an external OMT, e.g. from other BGCs,
317 might be involved in the production of umbilicaric acid in *Umbilicaria*. This could explain the
318 lower amounts of umbilicaric acid as compared to GA found in these species (31). In contrast,
319 when the O-methylated compound is the major secondary metabolite, as in the case of
320 grayanic acid and atranorin, OMT is an integral part of the BGC and is co-expressed along
321 with the other crucial genes for grayanic acid production, i.e., the *PKS* and *cyt P450* (13, 15).

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322

323 **Future perspectives**

324 Advances in long-read sequencing and in computational approaches to genome mining not
325 only enable linking biosynthetic genes to NPs but also provide an overview of the entire gene
326 cluster composition and organization. Ours is the first study to identify the most-likely GA
327 cluster, which is essential for opening up avenues for biotechnological approaches to
328 producing and modifying this compound and possibly other lichen compounds. In particular,
329 this information can be applied to generate novel NP analogs with improved pharmacological
330 properties via synthetic biology, biotechnology and combinatorial biosynthesis approaches.
331 This paves the way to an entirely new horizon for utilizing these understudied taxa for
332 pharmacological industry and drug discovery.

333

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336 of didepsides and tridepsides.

337

338 # Figure legends

339 **Figure 1** Chemical structures and nomenclature. Structure of a lichen depside, atranorin, GA
340 and other depsides produced by *Umbilicaria* spp.

341 **Figure 2** NR-PKS phylogeny of lichen-forming fungi. This is a maximum-likelihood tree
342 based on amino acid sequences of NR-PKSs from nine *Umbilicaria* spp., six *Cladonia* spp.,
343 *Dermatocarpon miniatum*, *Stereocaulon alpinum* and *Pseudevernia furfuracea*. Branches in

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344 bold indicate bootstrap support >70%. Green color clades represent the PKSs common to all
345 nine *Umbilicaria* spp. used in this study. PKS groups are based on Kim et al. (13).
346 **Figure 3** Gyrophoric acid cluster from *Umbilicaria deusta* as predicted by antiSMASH.
347 Colored boxes indicate genes. Genes in grey represent genes coding for unknown proteins
348 **Figure 4** CORASON-based PKS phylogeny to elucidate evolutionary relationships and
349 cluster organization of GA cluster in *Umbilicaria* spp. The bar plot below depicts the
350 percentage of *Umbilicaria* species in which a particular gene is present.
351
352 **Table 1:** Genome quality and annotation statistics
353 **Supplementary Tables**
354 1. Voucher information table of the *Umbilicaria* samples collected for this study.
355 2. Dataset used for the phylogenetic analysis, along with the amino acid sequences of the
356 PKS
357

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Table 1 Genome quality and annotation statistics

Species	TBG number	ccs HiFi yield	# scaffolds	N50	Completeness	assembly size (Mb)	# Genes	# Proteins
Umbilicaria freyi	TBG_2329	47.39%	113	2575640	95.7	53.4	10,156	10,065
Umbilicaria freyi	TBG_2330	46.41%	54	2043163	85.9	50	8,848	8,773
Umbilicaria deusta	TBG_2334	47.86%	47	1669916	97.6	41.6	8,949	8,857
Umbilicaria deusta	TBG_2335	43.54%	42	1865302	90.2	37.4	8,194	8,049
Umbilicaria hispanica	TBG_2322	38.71%	130	3125324	96.8	43.4	9,111	9,021
Umbilicaria hispanica	TBG_2337	54.22%	60	4226768	97.3	41.9	8,781	8,696
Umbilicaria pustulata	TBG_2333	33%	26	2620629	97.3	37.7	9,569	9,503
Umbilicaria pustulata	TBG_2345	32.26%	31	2364512	96.8	35.7	8,790	8,740
Umbilicaria spodochroa	TBG_2434	34.20%	139	993216	97.0	40.9	8,791	8,705
Umbilicaria spodochroa	TBG_2435	40.93%	97	1249424	97.1	40.1	8,612	8,507
Umbilicaria subpolyphylla	TBG_2323	41.14%	190	1544375	99.6	58.2	16,993	16,852
Umbilicaria subpolyphylla	TBG_2324	33.68%	42	1514392	97.6	33.7	8,556	8,410
Umbilicaria grisea	TBG_2336	42.54%	40	1822796	96.9	44.43	NA	NA
Dermatocarpon miniatum	TBG_2326	29.36%	28	5077191	98.1	63.5	9,273	9,189
Dermatocarpon miniatum	TBG_2331	26.28%	22	4245366	98.4	49.8	7,938	7,871

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Figure 1

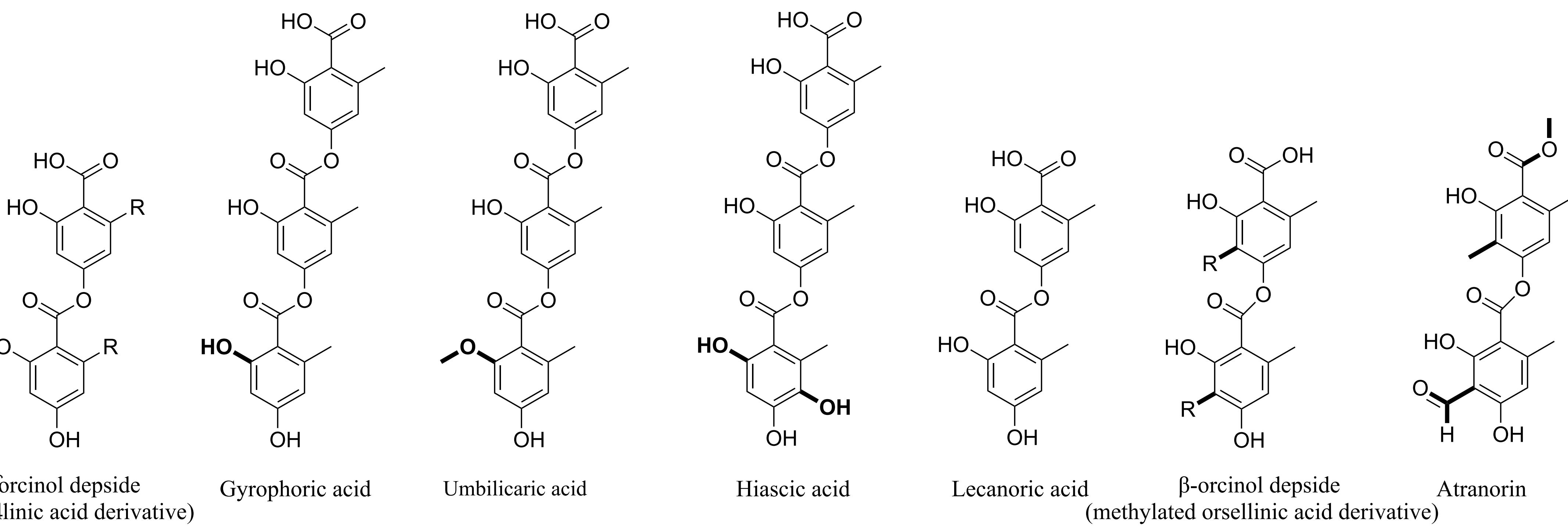

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Figure 2

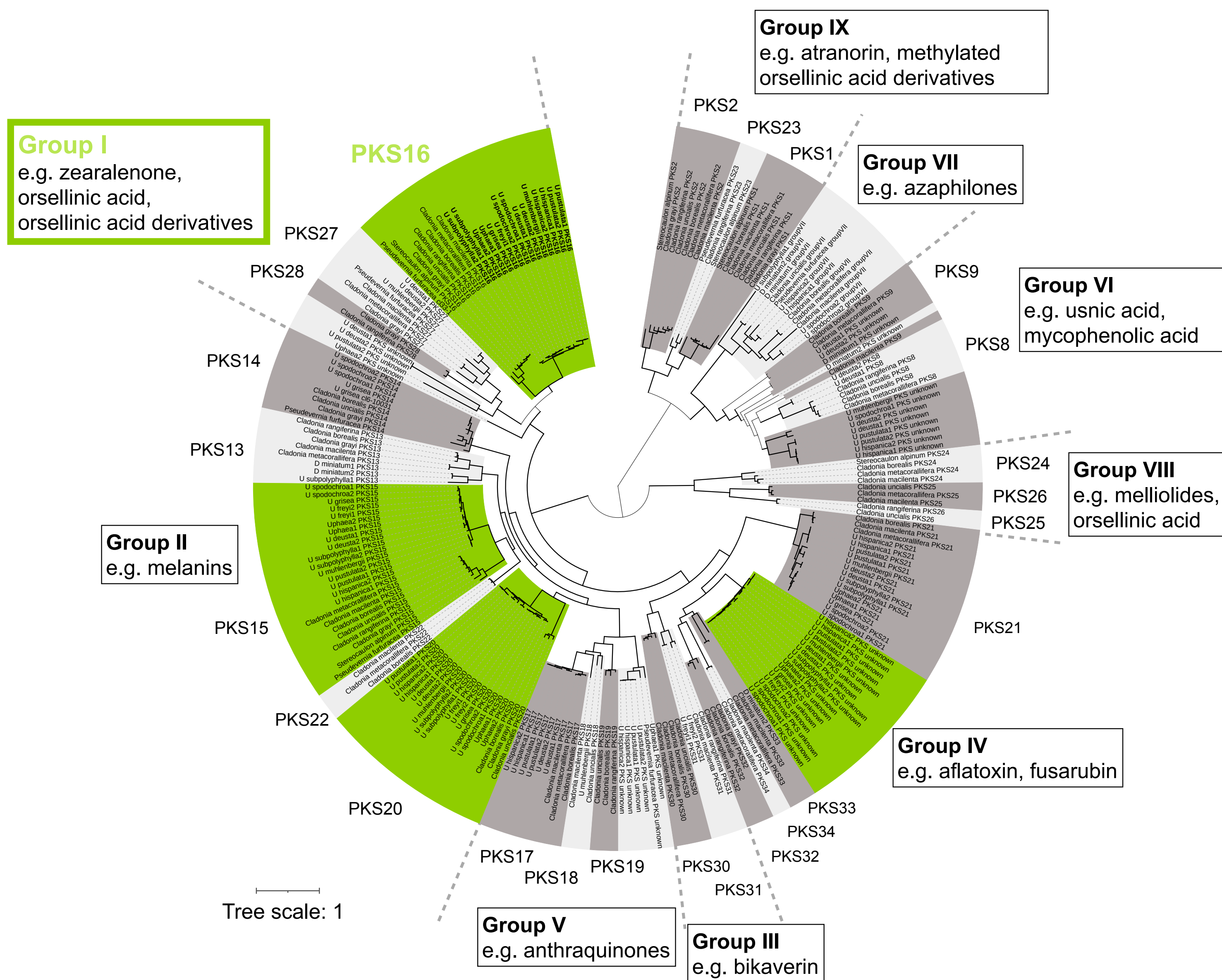

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Figure 3

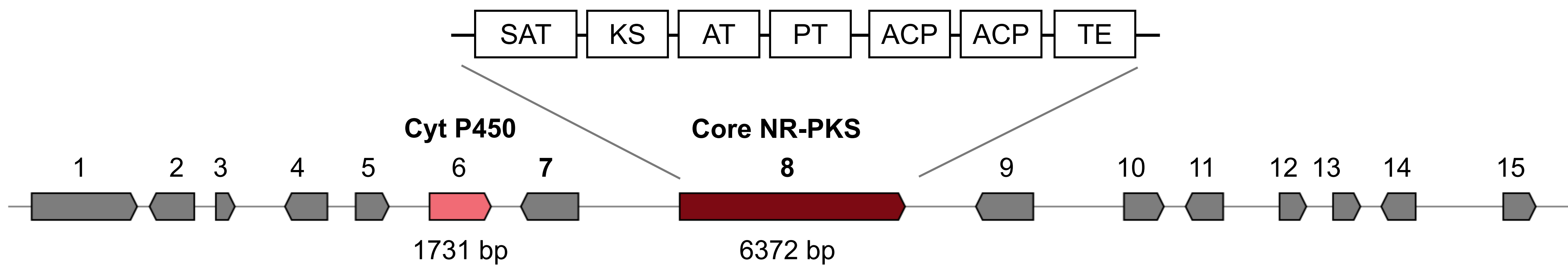

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Figure 4