Distinct Trajectories of Massive Recent Gene Gains and Losses in Populations of a Microbial Eukaryotic Pathogen

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Abstract

Differences in gene content are a significant source of variability within species and have an impact on phenotypic traits. However, little is known about the mechanisms responsible for the most recent gene gains and losses. We screened the genomes of 123 worldwide isolates of the major pathogen of wheat *Zymoseptoria tritici* for robust evidence of gene copy number variation. Based on orthology relationships in three closely related fungi, we identified 599 gene gains and 1,024 gene losses that have not yet reached fixation within the focal species. Our analyses of gene gains and losses segregating in populations showed that gene copy number variation arose preferentially in subtelomeres and in proximity to transposable elements. Recently lost genes were enriched in virulence factors and secondary metabolite gene clusters. In contrast, recently gained genes encoded mostly secreted protein lacking a conserved domain. We analyzed the frequency spectrum at loci segregating a gene presence–absence polymorphism in four worldwide populations. Recent gene losses showed a significant excess in low-frequency variants compared with genome-wide single nucleotide polymorphism, which is indicative of strong negative selection against gene losses. Recent gene gains were either under weak negative selection or neutral. We found evidence for strong divergent selection among populations at individual loci segregating a gene presence–absence polymorphism. Hence, gene gains and losses likely contributed to local adaptation. Our study shows that microbial eukaryotes harbor extensive copy number variation within populations and that functional differences among recently gained and lost genes led to distinct evolutionary trajectories.

Key words: copy number variation, evolutionary genomics, fungi.

Introduction

Differences in gene content are an extensive source of polymorphism within species that can have significant phenotypic effects (Henrichsen et al. 2009; Conrad et al. 2010). Gene gains after duplication or horizontal transfer generate significant evolutionary novelty (Ohno 1970; Lynch and Conery 2003). Large-scale gene losses following whole genome duplication events make extensive contributions to differentiation among species (Blomme et al. 2006; Wolf and Koonin 2013). Differences in gene content is also an important source of adaptive differentiation within species (Redon et al. 2006; Pezer et al. 2015; Cheeseman et al. 2016). Gene gains and losses preferentially occur in specific chromosomal locations and tend to affect genes with specific functions (Blomme et al. 2006; Albalat and Cañestro 2016). However, little is known about the mechanisms leading to gene gains and losses segregating within population and how selection acts upon gene content changes.

Gene deletions are under negative selection due to deleterious effects of loss-of-function (Conrad et al. 2006; Emerson et al. 2008; Sudmant et al. 2015). However, the degree of gene dispensability (i.e., the impact on fitness) can vary substantially among genes (Ohno 1985) and gene losses may also be adaptive (Olson 1999; Morris et al. 2012). Most gene gains originate through duplications and are assumed to be initially selectively neutral and later fixed by genetic drift, although positive selection can also lead to the fixation of a duplicated gene (Innan and Kondrashov 2010; Cardoso-Moreira et al. 2016). Adaptive gene gains through horizontal transfer can be under strong selection and spread among multiple species (Ropars et al. 2015). Adaptive gene gains and losses were well-described in pathogens of plants. In plants, the immune system triggers defense responses after detection of specific pathogen proteins, generally identified as effectors (Jones and Dangl 2006). For pathogens, the loss of genes encoding such detected proteins can be highly beneficial (Stukenbrock and McDonald 2009; Presti et al. 2015; Hartmann et al. 2017). Gene gains through expansions of specific gene families or horizontal gene transfers can contribute to host specialization and virulence on new hosts (Friesen et al. 2006; Ohm et al.

2012). The ability of pathogens to rapidly surmount host resistance and adapt to new hosts is directly linked to major economic losses in agriculture (Fisher et al. 2016). The strong selection that potentially acts on individual gene presence-absence polymorphisms makes plant pathogens excellent models to investigate the evolutionary trajectory of gene gains and losses. In addition, many plant pathogens have haploid genomes, which exposes gene gains and losses more directly to selection (Stukenbrock and Croll 2014).

Fungal plant pathogen genomes are often compartmentalized into rapidly evolving, repeat-rich and conserved, gene-rich compartments. Repeat-rich and rapidly evolving compartments often segregate presence–absence polymorphism within the species (Croll and McDonald 2012; Dong et al. 2015). Until now, analyses of within-species gene content focused on a small number of genomes or targeted specific gene categories (Yoshida et al. 2009; Syme et al. 2013; Plissonneau et al. 2016). To understand the mechanisms responsible for gene gains and losses within species, an extensive set of genomes from multiple populations needs to be analyzed. *Zymoseptoria tritici* is the major pathogen of wheat (Fones and Gurr 2015) with significant variation in gene content among strains. Genomic analyses showed that hundreds of genes can be lacking in individual strains compared with other strains of the species (McDonald et al. 2016; Plissonneau et al. 2016). A chromosomal rearrangement led to a major adaptation by deleting a gene that encoded for a protein recognized by the host (Hartmann et al. 2017). Hence, *Z. tritici* is an excellent model to investigate the evolutionary trajectories of recent gene gains and losses. In addition, the pathogen undergoes high rates of sexual reproduction (Croll et al. 2015) exposing recent gene gains and losses individually to selection. The genome of *Z. tritici* was assembled from telomere-to-telomere (Goodwin et al. 2011) and a comparative genomics framework of three closely related species (Grandaubert et al. 2015) enables precise characterizations of individual gene gains and losses.

In this study, we analyzed recent gene gains and losses across the genome in four worldwide *Z. tritici* populations. For this, we used whole genome sequences of 123 isolates to identify high-confidence gene presence–absence variations. We used orthology among three closely related species to assign each presence-absence gene polymorphism to either a recent gain or a loss event. We analyzed how recent gene gains and losses were differentially affected by chromosomal location, expression level, and gene function. Finally, we analyzed signatures of selection acting on recent gene gains and losses.

Results

Identification of Recent Gene Gains and Losses in *Z. tritici* Populations

We analyzed genome-wide recent gene gains and losses in four *Z. tritici* populations sampled from wheat fields across the geographic range of the pathogen. We used Illumina sequencing data generated for 130 haploid *Z. tritici* isolates (8–29× mean coverage; supplementary table S1, Supplementary Material online). First, we detected presence–absence

polymorphisms of entire genes against the reference genome using mapped read depth. We excluded seven isolates from further analyses, because we found evidence of partial or complete chromosomal aneuploidy. We manually curated presence–absence polymorphisms of genes encoding small secreted proteins. Genes encoding small secreted proteins are often located in proximity to regions enriched in repeats and complex sequence rearrangements that are error-prone for deletion calls (Presti et al. 2015). We used both comparative genomics analyses and direct amplification of loci (polymerase chain reaction [PCR]) to validate gene presence–absence polymorphism calls. As the genomes of two isolates are available as telomere-to-telomere assemblies (Plissonneau et al. 2016), we used the complete genomes to validate gene presence–absence polymorphism calls. For each gene predicted to be deleted in isolate ST99CH_3D7, we performed a blast search in the complete genome sequence of the same isolate. Our analyses showed that 237 out of 251 genes predicted to be deleted were indeed absent from the ST99CH_3D7 genome. Hence, 14 (3.5%) gene deletion calls were erroneous. We performed also PCR amplification assays on 95 isolates to validate gene deletion calls in 14 different genes including six genes encoding small secreted proteins. The assay confirmed 100% of the 317 tested gene deletion calls (see supplementary text S1, Supplementary Material online, for details).

We identified a total of 37,644 presence–absence polymorphism events affecting 1,623 distinct genes in the genome (14.6% of all genes on chromosomes shared among all isolates). Then, we classified gene presence–absence polymorphism events as recent gene losses or gains in *Z. tritici* populations based on gene homology information in closely related species. Grandaubert et al. (2015) identified a set of core *Zymoseptoria* genes, that is, genes having an ortholog in at least one of the closely related species (*Z. pseudotritici*, *Z. ardabiliae*, and *Z. brevis*). We defined incomplete (i.e., recent) gene losses as any presence–absence polymorphism affecting a core *Zymoseptoria* gene. Conversely, we referred to incomplete (i.e., recent) gene gains as any presence–absence polymorphism event affecting a *Z. tritici* orphan gene (genes lacking an ortholog in any of the three other species). In the 123 *Z. tritici* isolates, we found that 1,024 genes were affected by incomplete losses (i.e., 10.4% of *Zymoseptoria* core genes) and 599 genes were affected by incomplete gains (i.e., 49.1% of *Z. tritici* orphan genes; fig. 1A). Incomplete gene gain events were segregating at higher frequency than incomplete gene loss events in the 123 isolates. The median frequency of the gene absence allele at gene loss loci was 3.3%, whereas the median frequency of the gene absence allele at gene gain loci was 16.3% among the 123 isolates (fig. 1B; supplementary tables S2 and S3, Supplementary Material online). Incomplete gene losses and gene gains were found on all 13 core chromosomes (chromosomes found in all members of the species; fig. 1C). We found that the proportions of genes affected by incomplete loss events and incomplete gain events were significantly higher in subtelomeric regions, defined here as regions within 300 kb of the telomeres, compared with the chromosome genome-wide average (Pearson's chi-squared test; incomplete losses
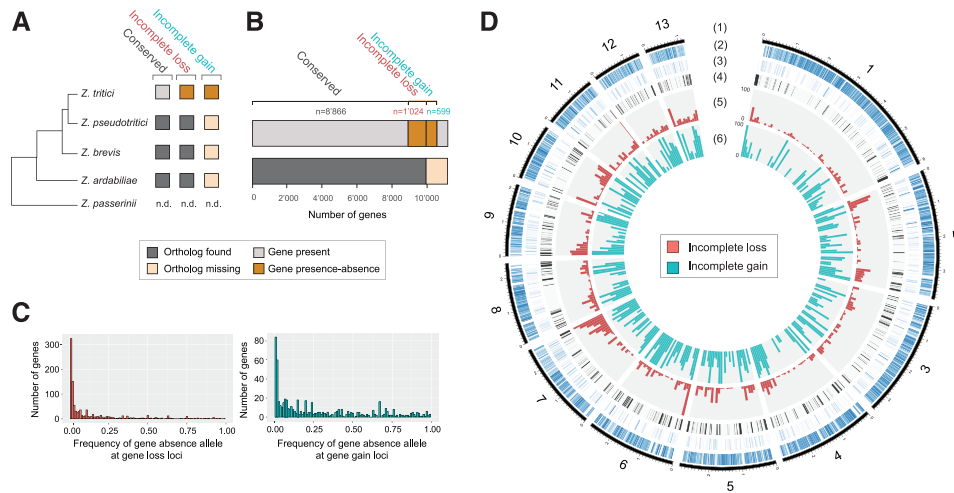
FIG. 1. Characterization of incomplete gene gains and losses among 123 completely sequenced *Zymoseptoria tritici* isolates. (A) Schematic tree representing the phylogenetic relationships between *Z. tritici* and four most closely related species. Evidence for orthologs was used to infer whether a segregating gene presence–absence polymorphism segregating in *Z. tritici* was due to a recent (incomplete) gain or recent (incomplete) loss. n.d., not determined. (B) Number of genes for each category of *Z. tritici* genes as shown in (A). (C) Frequency of the gene absence allele at incomplete gene gain and loss loci among 123 isolates. (D) Genome-wide distribution of incomplete gene gains and losses. (1) Chromosomes of the reference genome and position in Mb. (2) Percentage of genes that have an ortholog in other *Zymoseptoria* species shown in 10-kb nonoverlapping windows (gradient shows differences from 0% to 100%). (3) Percentage of genes with no orthologs in other *Zymoseptoria* species (orphans) shown in 10-kb nonoverlapping windows (gradient shows differences from 0% to 100%). (4) Content in transposable element sequences in 10-kb nonoverlapping windows (gradient shows differences from 0% to 50%). (5) Proportion of genes affected by incomplete losses in 100-kb nonoverlapping windows. (6) Proportion of genes showing an incomplete gain in 100-kb nonoverlapping windows.

$P < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$; incomplete gains $P = 9.6 \times 10^{-10}$; supplementary fig. S1, Supplementary Material online).

Gene Functions Differentially Affected by Losses and Gains

We investigated the gene functions affected by incomplete gains and losses. Genes affected by incomplete losses and gains were both significantly shorter than conserved genes (i.e., genes not affected by any loss or gain event; Kruskal–Wallis test, $P < 0.05$ adjusted for multiple comparisons; fig. 2A). We found that genes affected by incomplete gains were significantly shorter than genes affected by incomplete losses ($P < 0.05$; fig. 2A). Furthermore, we found that genes affected by incomplete gains and losses were significantly closer to transposable elements (TEs) than conserved genes ($P < 0.05$; fig. 2B). We found no significant difference between genes affected by gains and losses in regards to distance to TEs ($P > 0.05$; fig. 2B). A total of 74 out of 91 genes encoding protein domains associated with TEs, such as reverse transcriptase, transposase, or integrase domains, were affected by an incomplete gain ($n = 53$) or loss ($n = 21$).

We analyzed transcriptomic data to identify gene expression differences. For this, we used RNA-seq data previously collected over the entire infection time course on wheat (Rudd et al. 2015). We found that genes affected by incomplete losses and gains were significantly less expressed than conserved genes (Kruskal–Wallis test, $P < 0.05$ multiple comparisons corrected; fig. 2C). Furthermore, genes affected by incomplete losses and gains were significantly less upregulated during infection ($P < 0.05$; fig. 2D). Nonetheless, we found 66 and 166 genes affected by incomplete gains and losses, respectively, that

were highly upregulated during wheat infection (maximum reads per kilobase of transcript per million mapped reads, RPKM, differences >100). Genes affected by incomplete gains were significantly less expressed and less upregulated than genes affected by incomplete losses ($P < 0.05$).

The majority of the genes affected by incomplete losses (51.8%) or incomplete gains (79.8%) encoded proteins lacking a conserved protein family domain. For genes with a predicted function, we performed a gene ontology (GO) enrichment analysis. We tested whether some GO terms were overrepresented or underrepresented compared with the genomic background (supplementary tables S4 and S5, Supplementary Material online). GO terms for DNA integration and for proteolysis were significantly overrepresented both among genes affected by incomplete losses or gains. Among genes affected by incomplete gains, we found GO terms related to recombination processes to be overrepresented, whereas among genes affected by incomplete losses overrepresented GO terms were related to metabolism (e.g., oxidation–reduction, amide transport, pigment metabolism). The encoded proteins included peptidases, oxidoreductases, hydrolases, and methyltransferases. Genes encoding proteins with extracellular functions and association to membranes were overrepresented among genes affected by incomplete losses. GO terms for cellular processes (e.g., cellular metabolic process, gene expression, translation, RNA processing, cell communication) were significantly underrepresented among genes affected by incomplete losses and gains. Similarly, RNA and sugar binding activity as well as proteins localized in intracellular compartments were underrepresented among gene functions affected by incomplete losses and gains.
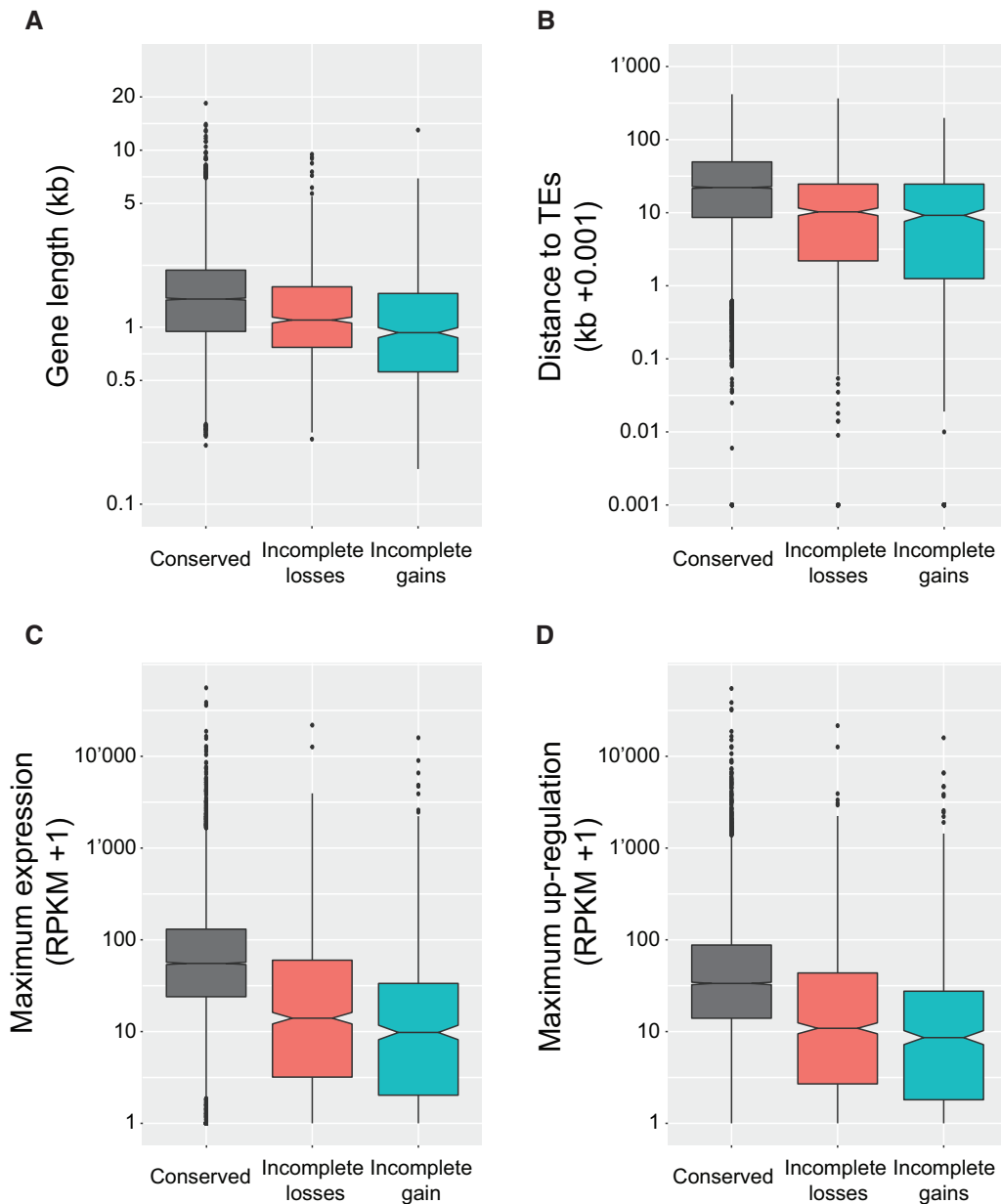
FIG. 2. Differences in length, genomic location, and expression level of conserved genes, genes affected by an incomplete loss and genes showing an incomplete gain. (*A*) Gene length (kb). (*B*) Distance to closest transposable element (TE). (*C*) Maximum gene expression level during infection of a wheat host. RPKM, reads per kilobase of exon per million mapped reads. (*D*) Upregulation during wheat infection. Upregulation was assessed as the maximum absolute difference in RPKM values over five time points during infection.

Incomplete Losses and Gains of Pathogenicity Genes and Secondary Metabolite Gene Clusters

Genes gains or losses can confer significant adaptive value to colonize a host (de Jonge et al. 2011; Presti et al. 2015). We analyzed three categories of pathogenicity-related genes for evidence of incomplete gene gains and losses (fig. 3): secondary metabolite gene clusters, genes encoding cell wall degrading enzymes and small secreted proteins. Genes encoding cell wall degrading enzymes play a role in the degradation of plant cell walls and nutrient acquisition (Esquerré-Tugayé et al. 2000; de Jonge et al. 2011). Genes encoding cell wall degrading enzymes ($n = 47$) were affected by incomplete losses at a lower proportion (6.5%) than genes encoding proteins with a conserved domain (7.0%) and genes encoding secreted

proteins (13.1%). No gene encoding cell wall degrading enzymes was recently gained.

Genes encoding small secreted proteins may be recognized by the host immune system (Rep 2005). Small secreted proteins were defined as secreted proteins of ≤ 300 amino acids and containing $\geq 5\%$ cysteine residues following commonly used definitions of small secreted proteins in plant pathogenic fungi (do Amaral et al. 2012; Sperschneider et al. 2015). We identified a total of 135 genes encoding small secreted proteins and were affected by incomplete loss more frequently (24.2%) than the average for all secreted proteins (13.1%) and the genome-wide average (10.3%). Conversely, genes encoding small secreted proteins were affected by incomplete gains less frequently (23%) than the average for all
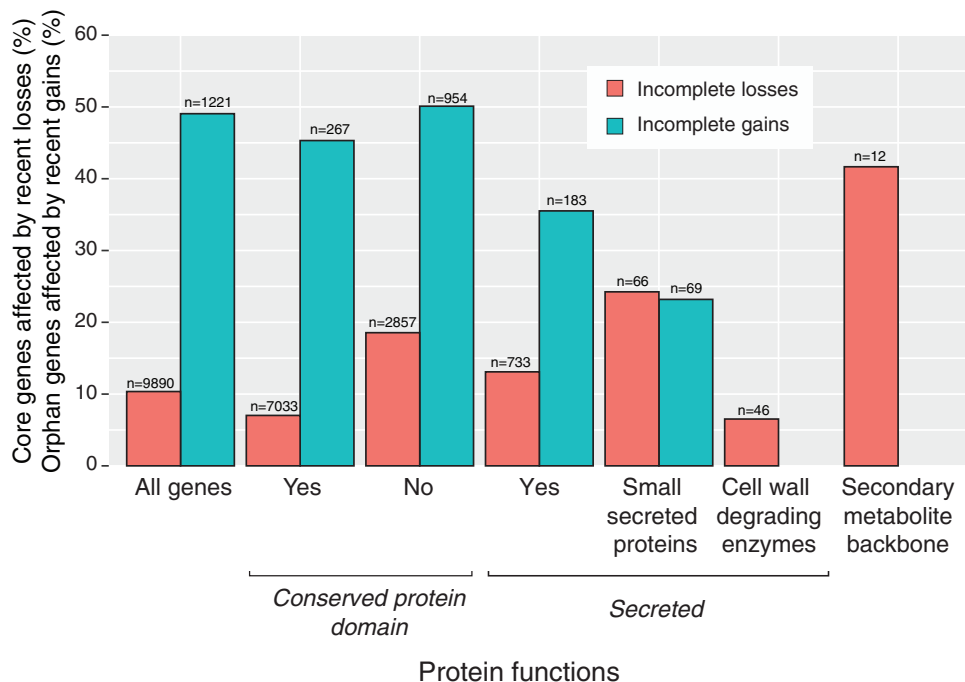
Fig. 3. Frequencies of incomplete gains and losses among different gene categories. The barplot shows the percentage of genes that were missing in at least one isolate. For incomplete gene losses, the percentage was calculated based on the total number of genes that have an ortholog among the closely related *Zymoseptoria* species, genes encoding secreted proteins or small secreted proteins, cell wall degrading enzymes or backbones of secondary metabolite gene clusters. For incomplete gene gains, the percentage was calculated based on the total number of genes that lack any ortholog (i.e., orphan gene).

secreted proteins (35.5%) and the genome-wide average (49%). Among genes encoding small secreted proteins, we found 16 genes affected by incomplete losses and 16 additional genes affected by incomplete gains. However, the proportion of genes encoding secreted proteins affected by incomplete gains was almost three times as high as the proportion affected by incomplete losses (35.5% vs. 13.1%). Presence–absence variation affected a total of 32 out of 135 genes encoding small secreted proteins (i.e., 23.7%; supplementary fig. S2, Supplementary Material online).

Genes encoding secondary metabolite gene clusters are involved in the biosynthesis of pigments (e.g., melanin) and toxins (e.g., antimicrobials, mycotoxins, and phytotoxins) contributing to fungal pathogenicity, nutrient acquisition, and ecological adaptation (Howlett 2006; Stergiopoulos et al. 2013). In general, each gene cluster is defined by a backbone gene (Brakhage 2013). We focused our analysis on secondary metabolite gene clusters with backbone genes encoding either a polyketide synthase (PKS) or a nonribosomal peptide synthetase (NRPS). The genome of *Z. tritici* contained nine PKS gene clusters, two NRPS gene clusters, and one PKS–NRPS hybrid gene cluster (Ohm et al. 2012). We considered that a secondary metabolite gene cluster was affected by a significant deletion if at least the backbone gene was deleted. Remarkably, the percentage of incomplete losses in backbone genes of secondary metabolite gene clusters was the highest of any analyzed gene category, as we found that 5 out of 12 PKS or NRPS genes (41.7%) were lost in at least one isolate (41.7%; fig. 3). Gene losses affected gene clusters either almost entirely

(e.g., PKS9 gene cluster; fig. 4A) or only partially (e.g., NRPS4 or PKS10 gene cluster; supplementary fig. S3, Supplementary Material online). None of the investigated secondary metabolite gene clusters was recently gained. We analyzed the recent loss of the PKS9 gene cluster in more detail (fig. 4B). The PKS9 gene cluster is expressed *in planta* (Rudd et al. 2015; Palma-Guerrero et al. 2017). We analyzed the chromosomal sequence of a genome which lacked *PKS9*. We found that isolate ST99CH_3D1 retained the two PKS9 cluster genes encoding a transporter and a cytochrome *c* heme lyase. Furthermore, the isolate retained a gene encoding an additional ATP-binding cassette transporter immediately adjacent to the cluster. Next, we identified homologs of the same genes in genomes of three closely related species, *Z. ardabiliae* (n = 4), *Z. brevis* (n = 1), and *Z. pseudotritici* (n = 5). In all *Z. ardabiliae* and *Z. pseudotritici* genomes, the gene order within the cluster was conserved. In *Z. brevis*, we identified orthologs of all cluster genes, however the cluster was not assembled as a single scaffold. These results strongly suggest that the PKS9 gene cluster was gained in the ancestor of *Z. brevis* and *Z. tritici*. The absence of the cluster in *Z. pseudotritici* may be due to a secondary loss. Alternatively, the PKS9 gene cluster may never have reached fixation in any of the species and the lack of evidence in *Z. pseudotritici* may be a sampling artifact.

Population Structure and Selection Signatures on Gene Losses and Gene Gains

Zymoseptoria tritici isolates used in this study were collected in four worldwide locations (fig. 5A). We analyzed the
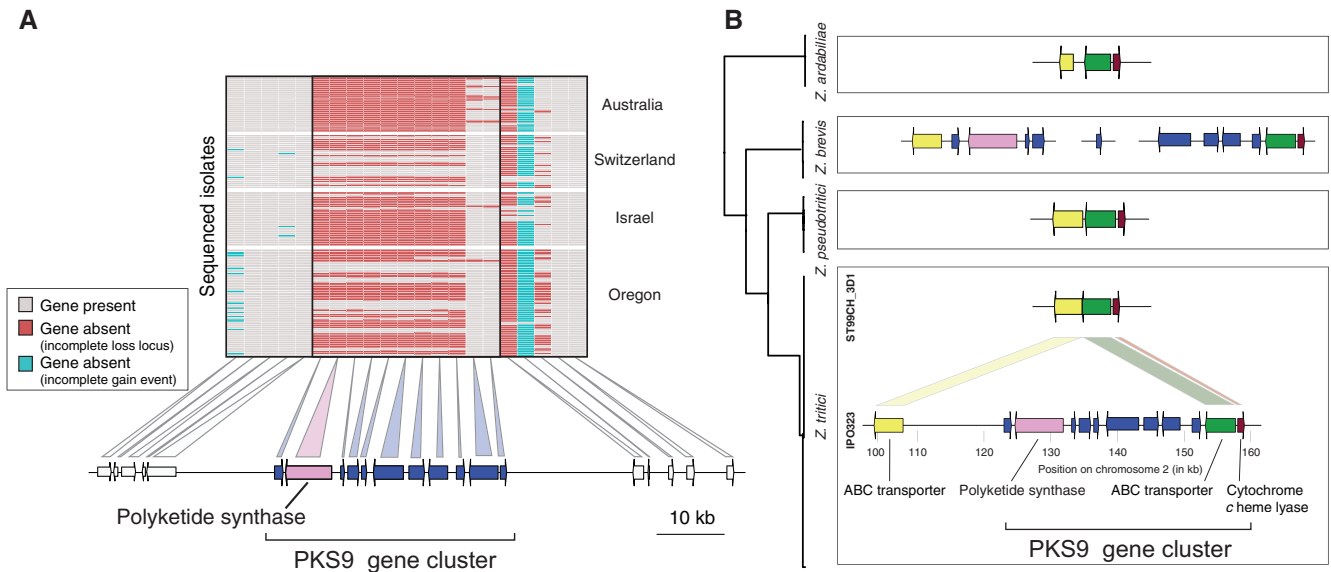
FIG. 4. Evolution of the polyketide synthase (PKS) 9 gene cluster in *Zymoseptoria tritici* and the sister species *Z. pseudotritici*, *Z. brevis*, and *Z. ardabiliae*. (*A*) Gene presence–absence polymorphism affecting the PKS9 gene cluster among the 123 *Z. tritici* isolates grouped by population. The physical position of each gene is shown below. (*B*) Comparative genomics analyses of the PKS9 gene cluster in *Z. tritici* and the three closest known sister species *Z. pseudotritici*, *Z. brevis*, and *Z. ardabiliae*. On the left is a schematic tree representing the phylogenetic relationships between *Z. tritici* and three sister species. In *Z. tritici*, two segregating variants of the PKS9 gene cluster were found. Isolate ST99CH_3D1 is lacking nearly all genes of the PKS9 cluster compared with the IPO323 reference genome. Analyses of the homologous regions in five *Z. pseudotritici* and four *Z. ardabiliae* genomes showed that the gene cluster was missing with the exception of two genes encoding an ABC transporter and a cytochrome *c* heme lyase, respectively. In *Z. brevis*, all genes of the PKS9 cluster were present, however orthologs were split on three different genome assembly scaffolds.

population structure of presence-absence polymorphism generated by incomplete gains and losses using principal component analyses (fig. 5*B*). The first two principal components clearly clustered the isolates by geographic origin. This clustering recapitulates the population structure identified at single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs).

To test whether selection acted on gene gain and loss polymorphisms, we contrasted the allele frequency spectrum of incomplete gene gains and losses with derived allele frequencies at synonymous SNPs (fig. 5*C*). We performed comparisons of allele frequency spectra in each population separately. In all four populations, we found a strong excess of low-frequency variants (frequency $\leq$ 10%) and a reduction of high-frequency variants (frequency $\geq$ 70%) for incomplete gene losses compared with synonymous SNPs (Pearson's chi-squared tests in Australia: $\chi^2 = 335.99$, $P < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$; Switzerland: $\chi^2 = 183.38$, $P < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$; Israel: $\chi^2 = 130.79$, $P < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$; and Oregon: $\chi^2 = 314.84$, $P < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$). This pattern suggests that gene losses were under negative selection in all populations. The allele frequency spectra of incomplete gene gains differed among populations. We found an excess of low-frequency variants (frequency $\leq$ 10%) for incomplete gene gains compared with synonymous SNPs in the Australian and Oregon populations, suggesting that incomplete gene gains were also under negative selection in these populations. However, the excess of rare variants of incomplete gene gains compared with synonymous SNPs was significantly lower than the one observed for incomplete gene losses (Pearson's chi-squared tests in Australia: $\chi^2 = 90.32$, $P = 1.28 \times 10^{-9}$ and Oregon: $\chi^2 = 82.58$,

$P = 3.82 \times 10^{-4}$). In contrast, in the Swiss and Israel populations, the frequency spectrum of incomplete gene gains largely matched the spectrum of synonymous SNP allele frequencies for low-frequency variants (frequency $\leq$ 10%). In these two populations, we also observed a slight excess of intermediate frequency variants (60% $\leq$ frequency $\leq$ 70%) for incomplete gene gains compared with synonymous SNP allele frequencies (Pearson's chi-squared tests in Switzerland: $\chi^2 = 79.944$, $P = 1.16 \times 10^{-7}$ and Israel: $\chi^2 = 40.988$, $P = 8.27 \times 10^{-3}$). This excess could be indicative of balancing selection maintaining an allele at intermediate frequency. To investigate the differences observed between populations, we computed population size (N_e) estimates based on genome-wide SNPs (supplementary table S6, Supplementary Material online). The analyses showed that each of the four field populations had large effective population sizes.

The majority of recent gene gains and losses were shared by at least two populations, although a significant proportion of events were population-specific (supplementary fig. S4, Supplementary Material online). We used V_{ST} to compute the differentiation in allele frequencies at gene gain and loss loci between pairs of the three most closely related populations (Israel, Oregon, and Switzerland). We compared the distribution of V_{ST} to the distribution of F_{ST} values of synonymous SNPs (fig. 6*B*). The Australian population was excluded in this analysis due to the high mean SNP F_{ST} against the other populations (mean $F_{ST} = 0.28$). In all three pairwise comparisons, we found that incomplete gene gains had a strong excess of high V_{ST} (>0.3) compared with synonymous SNPs and incomplete gene losses. Conversely, incomplete
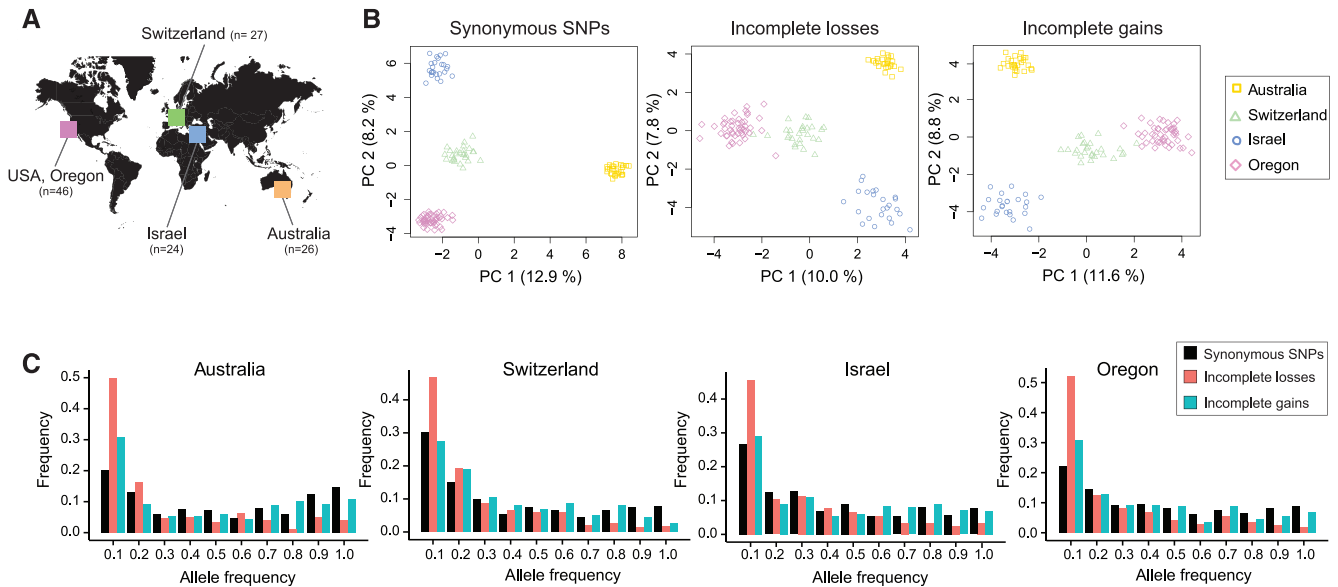
FIG. 5. Population structure and allele frequency spectra of incomplete gene gains and losses. (A) Sampling locations of the 123 *Zymoseptoria tritici* isolates. (B) Principal component analysis of the population structure found at loci segregating incomplete gene losses, incomplete gene gains and a set of 1,457 genome-wide synonymous single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). The percentage of variance explained by each principal component is shown in parentheses. (C) Allele frequency spectra of incomplete gene gains and losses within populations. The allele frequency spectra were contrasted with the allele frequency spectrum of the derived allele at synonymous SNPs ($n = 237{,}185$).

gene loss V_{ST} values largely followed the SNP F_{ST} values in all pairwise comparisons. There was a slight excess of extreme V_{ST} values ($V_{ST} > 0.8$) for incomplete gene losses compared with F_{ST} values at SNPs. Incomplete gene gains showed higher population differentiation than incomplete gene losses.

Highly differentiated gene gain and loss allele frequencies is indicative of local adaptation. We focused on V_{ST} outliers to identify genes with excessive variation in incomplete loss and gain frequencies among populations (fig. 6A; supplementary tables S7 and S8, Supplementary Material online). We identified a total of 52 genes with highly differentiated incomplete losses frequencies. This set of genes included six genes encoding secreted proteins and genes belonging to the NRPS4 and PKS10 gene clusters (supplementary fig. S3, Supplementary Material online). Furthermore, we identified a total of 66 recently gained genes with highly differentiated allele frequencies. We found seven genes encoding secreted proteins. Three out of these were encoding small secreted proteins (genes 2_00001, 3_00158, and 8_00609). The loss of gene 8_00609 was previously found to be driven by host specialization (Hartmann et al. 2017). The gene 2_00001 (showing excess differentiation in two pairwise comparisons) is highly upregulated during infection (Rudd et al. 2015).

Discussion

We identified extensive standing genetic variation in populations of a fungal pathogen due to recent gene gains and losses. Genes affected by recent gains and losses encoded for functions in fungal virulence and ecological adaptation. Several recent gene gains and losses segregating in the species are likely linked to host specialization and under divergent selection among populations. We found generally strong selection against recent gene losses and varying strengths of selection

against recent gene gains showing that these categories of gene presence-absence polymorphisms are on distinct evolutionary trajectories in populations.

High Intraspecific Gene Content Variation through Gene Gain and Loss in Compact Fungal Genomes

Variation in gene content is common within species and was found in all kingdoms of life (Schrider and Hahn 2010; Żmieńko et al. 2013). We found that gene gains and losses segregating in *Z. tritici* populations affected a total of 1,623 genes (14.6%). Our results were consistent with previous analyses of *Z. tritici* sampled in Australia (McDonald et al. 2016). Similarly, a comparison of two completely assembled *Z. tritici* genomes showed that each isolate was lacking several hundred of genes of the other isolate (Plissonneau et al. 2016). Intraspecific variation in gene content was also found in other fungi including the human fungal pathogen *Cryptococcus gattii* (Steenwyk et al. 2016) and among the compact genomes of the budding yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Strope et al. 2015). Although fungal genomes are often compact and haploid, the levels of intraspecific gene content variation in fungi are comparable to the levels of gene content variation reported in plants and mammals (Żmieńko et al. 2013; Zarrei et al. 2015).

The well-studied evolutionary history of *Z. tritici* and multiple closely related species that diverged within <18,500-years provides a powerful comparative genomics framework (Stukenbrock et al. 2007; Stukenbrock, Quaedvlieg, et al. 2012; Grandaubert et al. 2015). A large number of well-defined orthologs allows to distinguish whether a gene presence-absence polymorphism was due to a recent gene gain or gene loss. We defined a recent gene gain as a segregating gene presence-absence polymorphism within *Z. tritici* for which
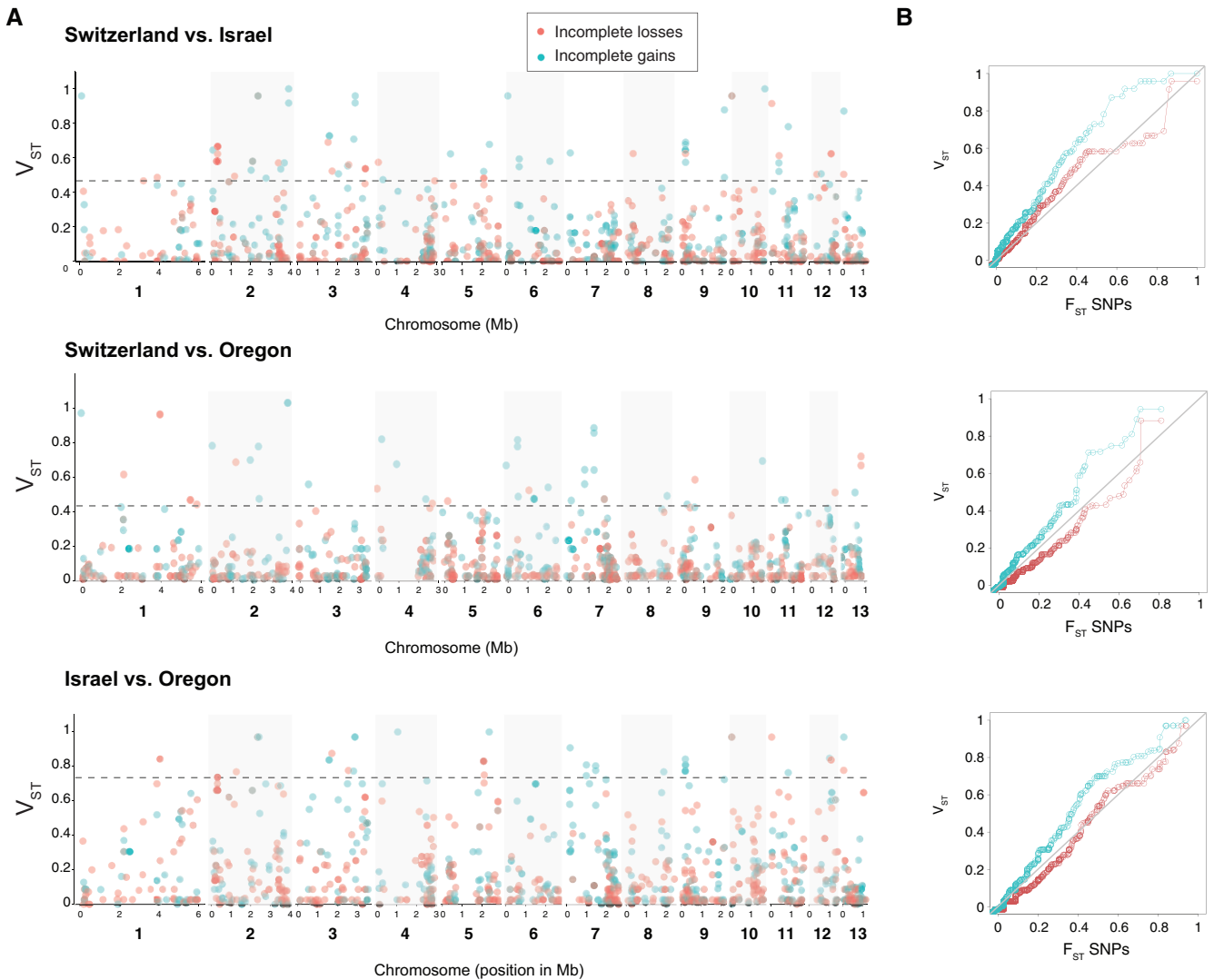
FIG. 6. Pairwise comparisons of population differentiation of incomplete gene gain and loss frequencies. (A) Distribution of V_{ST} values of presence/absence polymorphism at gene gain and loss loci. The dashed line shows the 97.5th percentile of the distribution of corresponding pairwise F_{ST} value for genome-wide synonymous SNPs ($n = 1,457$). (B) Quantile–quantile plots comparing the distribution of V_{ST} for incomplete gene gains and losses and the distribution of F_{ST} for the genome-wide synonymous SNPs. Points should follow the diagonal line if distribution of F_{ST} and V_{ST} were equal.

no ortholog exists among any of the closely related species, that is, presence-absence polymorphism of a *Z. tritici* orphan gene. The most parsimonious explanation for such polymorphism is that the gene gain has not yet reached fixation within the species. Alternatively, the gene may have already reached fixation in the recent past and the polymorphism is evidence for a secondary gene loss. However, both scenarios imply that the gene constitutes an evolutionary novelty since the last speciation (~10,500 years BP). A gene gain may erroneously be identified if closely related species experienced independent losses of the same gene. As we analyzed multiple genomes from each of three related species of *Z. tritici*, the identified orphan genes were unlikely to be the product of gene losses in related species.

A species may gain an orphan gene following a gene duplication event if one gene copy diverges extensively and acquires a new function (Tautz and Domazet-Lošo 2011). Alternatively, genes may evolve de novo from noncoding

DNA. This mechanism relies on the spontaneous evolution of an open reading frame (ORF) and gain of *cis*-regulatory elements (McLysaght and Guerzoni 2015). De novo genes are characterized by generally low expression levels and may have short lifespans in populations due to genetic drift (Carvunis et al. 2012; Palmieri et al. 2014). Some of the genes recently gained in *Z. tritici* shared characteristics with de novo genes including short coding sequences and low transcription levels. Alternatively, horizontal gene transfer can be a source of orphan genes in species. Orphan genes acquired from bacteria or plants led to major gains of function in plant pathogens (de Jonge et al. 2012; Ropars et al. 2015).

Both the proximity to telomeres and to repetitive elements increased the likelihood of segregating gene gain and loss polymorphisms in populations. These trends were consistent with nonallelic homologous recombination (NAHR) and retrotransposition caused by transposable elements that

can cause major gene losses (Hastings et al. 2009; Carvalho and Lupski 2016). Indeed, subtelomeric regions in *Z. tritici* are rich in recombination hotspots and transposable elements (Goodwin et al. 2011; Croll et al. 2015). Recombination hotspots are the primary target for NAHR events. Furthermore, retrotransposition of transposable elements may also cause rearrangements as excision induces the repair of double-strand breaks (Kazazian and Goodier 2002).

Gene Dispensability and Host–Pathogen Coevolution

We found that genes encoding functions in basic cellular processes were significantly less affected by gene gains and losses than other gene categories. This result is consistent with strong selection acting against loss of essential functions in a haploid organism (Cheeseman et al. 2016). In contrast, we found an enrichment in functions associated with membrane-bound, secretion, and nutrition-specific metabolic pathways among genes affected by incomplete gains and losses. Functions associated with secretion and nutrition are playing a major role in the interaction of pathogens with the host and environment (Monod et al. 2002; Presti et al. 2015). Recent gene losses were also frequent in gene categories with a role in fungal virulence. Functional redundancy and environment-specific dispensability (i.e., a gene function is essential only in specific environmental conditions) are two major factors thought to lead to gene dispensability (Albalat and Cañestro 2016). This is consistent with our data showing high rates of recent gain and loss events in genes involved in the interaction with the host and the environment. For plant pathogens, both hosts and the environment are highly heterogeneous over space and time.

We found strong differences in the proportions of recent gene gains and losses in three gene categories involved in host interactions. Genes encoding cell wall degrading enzymes were largely retained and constituted a clear exception to the high levels of gene dispensability for secretion and nutrition functions. This is consistent with evidence of pervasive purifying selection acting on genes encoding cell wall degrading enzymes in *Z. tritici* and closely related species (Brunner et al. 2013). Genes encoding small secreted proteins (a protein category frequently involved in virulence expression on the host) showed both high levels of recent gene gains and losses. This shows that this gene category is rapidly evolving and has high levels of dispensability. Recent gene losses were remarkably frequent in gene clusters responsible for secondary metabolite production. The evolution of the PKS9 cluster showed that entire secondary metabolite gene clusters can be readily gained and lost, as we found evidence that the cluster was recently acquired in an ancestor to *Z. tritici* and readily lost in *Z. pseudotritici* and *Z. tritici*. The highly uneven rates of recent gene gains and losses among different gene categories strongly suggests that both mechanistic factors of replication fidelity and selection for novel functions play an important role in the evolution of gene content in a species.

Evidence for Selection Driving Gene Gains and Losses in Populations

We tested for selection on gene gains and losses at two separate levels: the level of differentiation among populations at gene presence–absence frequencies among populations and deviations from neutral expectations of gene presence–absence frequencies within populations. The former analysis is designed to investigate evidence of local adaptation driven by gene gains and losses and the latter analysis tests for the overall impact of selection on gene gains and losses across the genome. We found that gene gain and loss loci showed an excess in high fixation indices compared with differentiation levels at neutral markers. Although high fixation indices at individual loci may be caused by very restricted gene flow, overall there is evidence for divergent selection acting on recent gene gains and losses.

For example, divergent selection among populations was found for the recently gained gene *8_00609* encoding a small secreted protein. The presence-absence polymorphism at this gene was previously shown to underlie host specialization on a specific wheat variety (Hartmann et al. 2017). The encoded protein is likely detected by the host immune system and, hence, isolates lacking the gene were able to evade detection during infection. Two additional, recently gained genes encoding small secreted proteins (*2_00001, 3_00158*) showed highly differentiated gene presence-absence frequencies among populations. Recently gene gained genes that have not yet reached fixation in the species, hence, likely play an important role in the interaction with the host and adaptation of the pathogen in different environments.

We found evidence for divergent selection on recent gene losses in PKS and NRPS secondary metabolite gene clusters. The function of secondary metabolite gene clusters in *Z. tritici* is largely unknown; however, secondary metabolites play important roles in pathogenicity and ecological interactions in many pathogens (Howlett 2006; Stergiopoulos et al. 2013). Gene clusters, in particular the backbone genes, are highly conserved among fungi and frequently subject to horizontal gene transfers (Wisecaver and Rokas 2015). Our study shows that recently lost gene clusters can be under divergent selection within a species. This may be due to differences in environmental conditions disfavoring the production of specific metabolites. The evidence for divergent selection for recently lost gene clusters shows how population genetic process can explain variation in gene cluster content among closely related species.

Distinct Evolutionary Trajectory of Gene Losses and Gene Gains in Populations

The distinct mechanisms by which gene gains and gene losses are generated and how recently gained genes are functionally distinct from recently lost genes strongly suggests that selection should act differently upon each category of gene presence-absence polymorphism. Selection against deleterious copy number variation (CNV) should be particularly strong in a haploid organism such as *Z. tritici* because deletions cannot be shielded from selection in the hemizygous state. We

found indeed that incomplete gene losses showed strong signatures of negative selection, whereas the incomplete gene gains showed either weak or no signature of negative selection. Differences in the strength of selection against gene gains could be explained by differences in effective population size. However, we found no strong association between signatures of selection and population sizes. Both gene gain and loss polymorphisms recapitulated the levels of population differentiation at neutral markers. Incomplete gene gains were more stratified among populations than incomplete gene losses. This may be caused both by stronger divergent selection on gene gains and universally negative selection against gene losses among populations. Differences in selection pressure acting on gene deletions and duplications were found in populations of humans (Sudmant et al. 2015), fruit flies (Emerson et al. 2008; Cardoso-Moreira et al. 2016) and malaria parasites (Cheeseman et al. 2016). Deletions were generally more deleterious than duplications as the latter are likely to initially be selectively neutral. Our study showed that recent gene gains were on similar evolutionary trajectories within the species than gene duplications in a number of different taxa.

Positive selection on individual gene duplications or horizontally transferred genes can be an important driver to fix CNV within species (Innan and Kondrashov 2010; Ropars et al. 2015; Cardoso-Moreira et al. 2016). We showed that a subset of the genes gained de novo in Z. tritici experienced similarly strong positive selection to adapt either to the host or to the environmental conditions. The large panmictic populations maintained a large number of recent gene gains and losses at high frequency serving as a reservoir for rapid adaptive evolution.

Materials and Methods

Fungal Isolate Collection and Illumina Whole-Genome Sequencing
A total of 130 field isolates of Z. tritici were included in this study. The isolates originated from four different geographical locations including Australia, Israel, Switzerland and USA (Oregon). Each population comprised 22–50 isolates and were sampled between 1990 and 2001. Sampling years and sampling locations of these four populations were described previously (Zhan et al. 2005). Isolates were stored for long-term use in silica and saved at −80 °C after sampling. No clonal genotypes were found among these isolates in previous genetic diversity analyses (Linde et al. 2002). We used the whole-genome Illumina sequencing data of 106 isolates that were deposited on the NCBI Short Read Archive under the BioProject ID numbers PRJNA178194 and PRJNA327615 (Torriani et al. 2011; Croll et al. 2013; Hartmann et al. 2017). We generated raw sequencing data for 24 additional isolates. As for the previously available data sets, we extracted high-quality genomic DNA from liquid cultures and performed 100-bp paired-end sequencing with an insert size of ca. 500 bp on the Illumina HiSeq2000 platform. The generated raw sequencing data was deposited on the NCBI Short Read

Archive under the BioProject ID PRJNA327615 (supplementary table S1, Supplementary Material online).

Read Mapping
Raw Illumina reads were screened for adapter contamination and trimmed for sequencing quality using Trimmomatic v0.32 (Bolger et al. 2014). The following settings were used: illuminaclip = TruSeq3-PE.fa:2:30:10, leading = 10, trailing = 10, slidingwindow = 5:10, minlen = 50. Then, sequence data from all isolates was aligned to the gapless, telomere-to-teleomere assembly of the reference genoms isolate IPO323 (Goodwin et al. 2011) accessed from EnsemblFungi (Flicek et al. 2014). The short read aligner Bowtie 2 version 2.2.3 (Langmead et al. 2009) was used for read alignment with the following settings: –very-sensitive-local –phred33 -X 1000. Reads were marked as PCR duplicates using the MarkDuplicates module of Picard tools version 1.118 (http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard). The genome-wide coverage of the 130 sequenced isolates was calculated as the number of mapped reads multiplied by average read length and divided by the genome size.

CNV Calling
We used CNVnator (Abyzov et al. 2011) to perform a statistical analysis of short read coverage along the 13 core chromosomes in order to predict CNV events in the 130 sequenced isolates compared with the reference genome. For each isolate, we assessed CNV events in bins of 100 bp as recommended. We retained CNV calls according to the following filtering criteria: length >500 bp, $P < 0.05$, and q0 < 0.5. Additionally, we filtered CNV calls for the normalized average read depth signal. We kept only deletions with normalized average read depth of <0.4 and duplications with normalized average read depth of >1.6. After CNV calling and filtration for quality, the complete data set comprised 81,550 deletions and 5,600 duplications.

Full or Partial Chromosomal Duplications
Seven isolates (a12_3B_11, a15_3B_10, AUS_1E4, ST99CH_3C4, ISY_Ar_5a, a15_2a_14, a15_2a_15) showed evidence for full or partial chromosomal duplications based on chromosome-wide analyses of predicted gene CNV events (data not shown). We calculated the per-chromosome read depth for these seven isolates using the bedtools "genomecov" command (Quinlan and Hall 2010). Suspected chromosomal duplications had a per-chromosome read depth $>1.5×$ of the genome-wide coverage, which strongly suggested that these chromosomes were partially or entirely duplicated. As partial or full chromosomal duplications were likely caused by different mechanisms than individual gene duplications, we excluded the affected isolates from further analyses and retained 123 isolates.

Identification of Genes Affected by Presence–Absence Polymorphism
To identify genes affected by presence–absence polymorphism, we focused our analyses on genes affected by deletions compared with the reference genome. For this, we calculated

the percentage of overlap between deletion events and genes using the bedtools "intersect" command (Quinlan and Hall 2010). We retrieved high-quality gene models predicted for the IPO323 genome using deep transcriptomics data (Grandaubert et al. 2015). A gene was considered as affected by a presence–absence polymorphism event if the deletion event was overlapping >90% of the gene. For the genes that were affected by multiple deletions, we calculated the percentage overlap based on the sum of all deletion events affecting the gene. The genes that were affected by both a deletion and a duplication event were excluded from further analyses. We validated gene presence–absence polymorphism calls using complete genome assemblies and direct amplifications of target loci (see supplementary Materials and Methods in Supplementary Material online).

Validation of Gene Presence–Absence Polymorphism Using Comparative Genomics

We compared genomic sequences of the two completely assembled genomes available for the species. The genomes included the reference genome isolate IPO323 (Goodwin et al. 2011) and a full assembly of the Swiss ST99CH_3D7 isolate (Plissonneau et al. 2016). We used blastn to screen IPO323 transcripts sequences against the ST99CH_3D7 genome assembly (Camacho et al. 2009). For each IPO323 transcript, we retained the best hit in ST99CH_3D7 based bitscores. We identified an IPO323 transcript sequence to be missing in ST99CH_3D7 if either of the following conditions were met: 1) the bitscore was inferior to 100, 2) the percent identity of the IPO323 transcript and the best ST99CH_3D7 hit was <90%, 3) the length of all blast hits in ST99CH_3D7 was <10% of the IPO323 transcript length used as a query, and 4) evidence of gene disruption such as exon loss was retrieved from blast analysis.

Manual Inspection of Gene Presence–Absence Polymorphism Events

Genes encoding small secreted proteins (SSPs) in plant pathogenic fungi are often located in proximity to regions enriched in transposable elements (TEs) and complex sequence rearrangements (de Jonge et al. 2011; Dong et al. 2015). The identification of CNV events is likely more error-prone in such regions (Teo et al. 2012). Therefore, we performed manual curation of presence–absence polymorphism events affecting genes encoding SSPs. For isolates predicted to lack particular genes encoding SSPs, we visualized the read mapping to the reference genome and presence–absence polymorphism event calls using the IGV genome browser (Robinson et al. 2011; Thorvaldsdóttir et al. 2013). We inspected the consistency of read coverage and prediction of deletion events. Furthermore, we collected independent evidence for the presence or absence of specific genes encoding SSPs using blast searches against de novo assemblies of each isolate. For this, we performed assemblies of the Illumina read data of each isolate using SPAdes 3.6.0 (Bankevich et al. 2012). We used BayesHammer read correction prior to assembly. The de novo assembly was performed with a k-mer range of "21,29,37,45,53,61,79,87" and the assembly was

polished using MismatchCorrector. De novo assemblies for each of the isolates were used for BLAST searches using the blastn command of the ncbi-blast-2.2.30+ software (Camacho et al. 2009). We kept only presence–absence polymorphism events affecting genes encoding SSPs that were supported both by IGV visualization and BLAST searches. We excluded 192 out of 824 presence–absence polymorphism events of genes encoding SSPs.

Validation of Gene Presence–Absence Polymorphisms by PCR Assay

We validated a subset of gene presence–absence polymorphism calls in 95 randomly selected isolates using PCR assays. We selected 14 genes affected by CNV events belonging to the cell wall degrading enzymes, secondary metabolite gene clusters, and SSP gene categories. We aimed to have a balanced representation of gene presence–absence polymorphisms segregating at low, intermediate, and high frequencies in the populations. For each locus, we selected PCR amplicons of ca. 500 bp in a conserved region of the gene or in the immediate flanking sequences. To identify conserved regions, we used consensus sequences obtained from de novo assemblies of each isolate. Primers were designed using Primer 3.0 (Rozen and Skaletsky 2000; supplementary table S9, Supplementary Material online). For PCR reactions, we used a similar protocol as described in (Croll et al. 2013). PCR reactions were conducted in a 20-μl volume containing 5–10 ng genomic DNA, 0.5 mM each of forward and backward primers, 0.25 mM dNTP, 0.6 U Taq polymerase (DreamTaq, Thermo Fisher, Inc.), PCR buffer. PCR products were amplified for 33–35 cycles. The resulting amplicons were examined on 1% agarose gels. Each PCR reaction contained a primer pair of a microsatellite locus as a positive control to ascertain amplification (Goodwin et al. 2007).

Identification of Incomplete Gene Losses and Gene Gains

For each gene affected by presence–absence polymorphism, we defined whether the polymorphism was due to an incomplete gene loss event or an incomplete gene gain based on orthology data from three closely related species from the Zymoseptoria genus (Grandaubert et al. 2015). Grandaubert et al. identified a total of 9,890 genes that have an ortholog in at least one genome of Z. pseudotritici ($n = 5$), Z. brevis ($n = 1$), or Z. ardabiliae ($n = 4$). These orthologs were called Zymoseptoria core genes. A total of 1,221 that had no ortholog in any of the analyzed genomes (Grandaubert et al. 2015) were called Z. tritici orphan genes. We defined incomplete (i.e., recent) gene losses as any presence–absence polymorphism affecting a core Zymoseptoria genes and we defined an incomplete (i.e., recent) gene gain any presence–absence polymorphism affecting a Z. tritici orphan gene. Genome-wide gene losses and gains event distributions were visualized using the R package {ggplot2} (Wickham 2009) and Circos version 0.67-7 (Krzywinski et al. 2009). Pearson's chi-squared and multiple comparison tests after Kruskal–Wallis were performed using the open source software R.

Gene Ontology Analysis and Functional Annotation

We functionally annotated the gene models for the 11,111 genes described on the core chromosomes previously (Grandaubert et al. 2015). For this, we used InterProScan v.5.16-55.0 (Jones et al. 2014) to assign protein sequence motifs to PFAM and GO terms based on hidden Markov models. Protein sequences were additionally screened for evidence of a secretion signal, transmembrane, cytoplasmic, and extracellular domains using a combination of SignalP v.4.1 (Petersen et al. 2011), Phobius v.1.01 (Käll et al. 2007), and TMHMM v.2.0 (Krogh et al. 2001). Locations of transposable elements were annotated previously (Grandaubert et al. 2015).

Identification of Orthologs of Secondary Metabolite Gene Clusters in *Zymoseptoria* Species

To identify homologs of genes found in secondary metabolite gene clusters, we performed BLAST analyses using blastn version 2.2.31+ (Camacho et al. 2009). The genomes of five *Z. pseudotritici*, four *Z. ardabiliae* isolates, one *Z. brevis*, and one *Z. passerinii* isolates were downloaded from NCBI under the accession numbers PRJNA63035, PRJNA277173, PRJNA63037, PRJNA63039, PRJNA46489, PRJNA63043, PRJNA277174, PRJNA63045, PRJNA63047, PRJNA63049, and PRJNA274679 (Stukenbrock et al. 2011).

SNPs Calling Procedure

SNPs calling was performed as described previously (Croll et al. 2013; Hartmann et al. 2017). In summary, the HaplotypeCaller tool of the Genome Analysis Toolkit (GATK) version 3.3-0 was used (McKenna et al. 2010). To further validate the identified SNPs, we used the independent SNP caller Freebayes v.0.9 (Garrison and Marth 2012) and filtered for quality and genotyping rate (>90%). We excluded SNPs located on accessory chromosomes, tri-allelic SNPs, and finally retained a total of 1,375,999 SNPs. To identify ancestral alleles at SNPs, we analyzed whole-genome sequencing data of the two closest known sister species of *Z. tritici*. We used raw Illumina reads of four *Z. pseudotritici* isolates (STIR04_2.2.1, STIR04_3.11.1, STIR04_5.3, STIR04_5.9.1) and four *Z. ardabiliae* isolates (STIR04_1.1.1, STIR04_1.1.2, STIR04_3.13.1, STIR04_3.3.2) (Stukenbrock et al. 2007; Stukenbrock, Christiansen, et al. 2012). We retained SNPs that had a genotyping rate >50% and were monomorphic within the respective sister species. Then, we assigned ancestral alleles for any *Z. tritici* SNP if an allele was shared and retained in both sister species. We were able to assign ancestral alleles for 584,327 SNPs. We annotated and predicted the effect of SNPs using SnpEff 4.3i (Cingolani, Platts, et al. 2012). We selected the 237,185 synonymous SNPs using SnpSift (Cingolani, Patel, et al. 2012). We generated a randomly chosen subset of synonymous SNPs at equal distance (20 kb) across the genome (1,457 bi-allelic SNPs). This subset of SNPs was assumed to be largely in linkage equilibrium given previous estimates of linkage equilibrium decay in *Z. tritici* populations (Croll et al. 2015).

Population Genomics Analyses

To estimate population differentiation of allele frequencies at genes affected by incomplete loss and gain, we calculated the variant fixation index V_{ST} (Redon et al. 2006). V_{ST} is a variant of the F_{ST} index (Wright 1951; Nei 1973) and is frequently used to identify differentiated CNV between populations (Redon et al. 2006; Pezer et al. 2015; Steenwyk et al. 2016). For each pairwise population comparison, V_{ST} was calculated as $V_{ST} = (V_T - V_S)/V_T$, where V_T is the total variance in copy numbers between the two populations and V_S is the average of the variance within each single population, weighted for its sample size. Additionally, we calculated pairwise F_{ST} values for the genome-wide 1,457 synonymous SNPs (Wright 1951; Nei 1973). We used the R package {hierfstat} (Goudet 2005) that implements Yang's algorithm (Yang 1998). We used V_{ST} outlier detection scans to identify loci with highly differentiated loss or gain frequencies between populations. The 97.5th percentile of the distribution of F_{ST} for SNPs was used as a threshold for outlier detection in each pairwise comparison. To estimate the effective population size (N_e), we used 1,457 synonymous SNPs that were equally spaced to avoid linkage disequilibrium due to physical proximity. N_e estimates were calculated using the linkage disequilibrium approach (Waples and Do 2008) implemented in NeEstimator v2.01 (Do et al. 2014). Allele frequency spectra of incomplete gene losses and incomplete gene gains against allele frequency spectra of synonymous SNPs were compared using Pearson's chi-squared tests on contingency tables of derived SNP allele and gene absence allele counts. Statistical tests were computed in each population separately using the open source software R.

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