

ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY

HEX: A heterologous expression platform for the discovery of fungal natural products

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For decades, fungi have been a source of U.S. Food and Drug Administration–approved natural products such as penicillin, cyclosporine, and the statins. Recent breakthroughs in DNA sequencing suggest that millions of fungal species exist on Earth, with each genome encoding pathways capable of generating as many as dozens of natural products. However, the majority of encoded molecules are difficult or impossible to access because the organisms are uncultivable or the genes are transcriptionally silent. To overcome this bottleneck in natural product discovery, we developed the HEX (Heterologous EXpression) synthetic biology platform for rapid, scalable expression of fungal biosynthetic genes and their encoded metabolites in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. We applied this platform to 41 fungal biosynthetic gene clusters from diverse fungal species from around the world, 22 of which produced detectable compounds. These included novel compounds with unexpected biosynthetic origins, particularly from poorly studied species. This result establishes the HEX platform for rapid discovery of natural products from any fungal species, even those that are uncultivable, and opens the door to discovery of the next generation of natural products.

INTRODUCTION

Natural products are indispensable to modern medicine, with 73% of antibiotics, 49% of anticancer compounds, and 32% of all new drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration between 1980 and 2012 being natural products or derivatives thereof (1). Fungi are prolific producers of therapeutically relevant natural products (2, 3), having yielded penicillin, the first widely used antibiotic; cyclosporine, the immunosuppressant that enabled widespread organ transplantation; and lovastatin, the progenitor of the statin class of cholesterol-lowering drugs. In all of these examples, compounds were isolated from laboratory cultures of single fungal isolates. Recent advances in genome sequencing have revealed that more than 5 million fungal species likely exist on Earth (4), with each species encoding as many as 80 natural product biosynthetic pathways (5, 6). However, despite the increased ease of DNA sequencing, fungal cultivation remains a bottleneck: only a fraction of the fungi in any given environmental sample have been cultured under laboratory conditions (7). Even within cultured species, the majority of biosynthetic gene clusters (BGCs) present in the genome are either transcriptionally silent or expressed at very low levels (8). The identification and expression of these BGCs thus present a major opportunity for the discovery of novel natural products.

Previous approaches for surveying transcriptionally silent, or cryptic, fungal BGCs for the production of novel compounds have included BGC activation within the native host through promoter or transcription factor manipulation (9–11), CRISPR-based genome editing (12), and epigenetic activation (13–15). These approaches, however, are limited to those BGCs whose native hosts are both culturable and genetically tractable. For cryptic BGCs within the genomes of several aspergilli, heterologous expression by cloning of large intact contigs into *Aspergillus nidulans* has yielded several new natural products (16).

Heterologous expression by complete BGC refactoring is an approach that is agnostic to the native host of a BGC, permitting access to cryptic BGCs from potentially any organism (17–19). We present HEX, an improved, scalable approach to heterologous expression of cryptic fungal BGCs (Fig. 1). HEX includes a set of bioinformatic tools to identify and prioritize BGCs in genome data; genetic tools to refactor BGCs for expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*; *S. cerevisiae* background strains with improved growth and expression phenotypes; and synthetic biology tools to assemble and express synthetic DNA in the heterologous host (Figs. 2 to 4). Strains expressing BGCs were analyzed via untargeted metabolomics (20); if the compound appeared novel, select full structures were solved using liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry (LC-MS) and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR).

Previous reports of complete pathway refactoring for expression in fungal hosts have demonstrated the utility of this approach but have been limited to the study of a single cluster (21–25). Here, we applied HEX to the expression of 41 cryptic fungal BGCs, 22 (54%) of which resulted in compounds not natively present in yeast (Figs. 5 and 6, Table 1, and Supplementary Text). The 41 BGCs were derived from diverse fungal species and include genes encoding either a membrane-bound, UbiA-like terpene cyclase (UTCs) (26) or a polyketide synthase (PKS) enzyme at their core. Two interesting biosynthetic insights were revealed from this study. First, UTCs represent a general class of biosynthetic enzymes present in a variety of both ascomycete and basidiomycete genomes. Second, a divergent form of PKSs identified in some basidiomycetes has the unusual property of incorporating amino acids in the absence of any nonribosomal peptide synthetase (NRPS) enzymes.

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Such a large-scale study of cryptic fungal natural products has not been possible until now and was enabled through recent breakthroughs in DNA sequencing and DNA synthesis, combined with the breakthroughs in the heterologous host developed here in the HEx platform. These results reveal that the unstudied fungal sequences accumulating in genome databases can be functionally characterized in a scalable way with HEx, enabling the production of novel molecules that have never been observed in nature and paving the way for discovery of the next generation of natural products throughout the fungal kingdom.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characterization of genetic parts

HEx is enabled by a new panel of yeast promoters that we selected and characterized to satisfy two distinct design criteria. First, the expression of BGC genes should be regulatable and coordinated. Second, each promoter sequence should be sufficiently unique so as to be compatible with homologous recombination-based DNA assembly techniques. Small panels of promoters with fewer than four members that meet these criteria have been previously reported (27–30) but were insufficient for the expression of our chosen BGCs, which range from 3 to 14 genes in size.

Previous studies have demonstrated the utility of the yeast *ADH2* promoter (P_{ADH2}) for the heterologous expression of a variety of biosynthetic genes (31–33). P_{ADH2} , which is repressed by glucose, is inactive during fermentative growth, with activation occurring only after diauxic shift. Thus, P_{ADH2} is auto-inducible (34) in media containing glucose and other fermentable carbon sources that are converted to nonfermentable carbon sources.

To allow for the assembly and coordinated, auto-inducible expression of entire BGCs on a small number of plasmids, we identified and characterized a panel of sequence-divergent promoters functionally similar to P_{ADH2} . First, we identified 48 genes within a published *S. cerevisiae* transcriptome data set (35) that appeared coregulated with *ADH2* in that their transcripts were weakly expressed in mid-log phase fermentative growth, but were highly abundant during respiration (table S2). We then constructed single-copy chromosomal integrations of the corresponding promoters driving expression of a green fluorescent protein (GFP) gene and measured fluorescence. Four promoters (P_{ADH2} ,

P_{MLS1} , P_{PCK1} , and P_{ICL2}) demonstrated the desired delayed induction phenotype with expression levels after 24 hours being similar to or greater than P_{TDH3} or P_{FBA1} , two commonly used strong constitutive promoters (Fig. 2A) (36, 37). We also identified 23 promoters that were coregulated with P_{ADH2} , but whose degree of induction was slightly or significantly lower, thus providing opportunities for lower levels of coordinated gene expression (Fig. 2A, fig. S1, A to C, and table S2). Among these 20 promoters, no two have greater than 29% identity, demonstrating that these sequences are sufficiently unique to allow assembly using homology-based approaches. In addition, we characterized the promoters of the closest *ADH2* homolog in each of five close relatives of *S. cerevisiae*, the sensu stricto *Saccharomyces* species (fig. S1, D to F). Three of these promoters (from *Saccharomyces paradoxus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, and *Saccharomyces kudriavzevii*) were functionally equivalent to the *S. cerevisiae* homolog (Fig. 2A), bringing the number of P_{ADH2} -like promoters to 30, with 7 having strengths at least equal to strong constitutive promoters. We refer to these P_{ADH2} -like promoters as the HEx promoters.

To study the utility of these promoters for BGC engineering, we chose to engineer versions of four BGCs on 2- μ m plasmids, with expression of each gene driven by either a strong HEx promoter or a strong constitutive promoter. Two of these clusters, DHZ and IDT, were controls, selected as they are known to function in yeast and are the producers of the polyketide 7',8'-dehydrozearelenol (DHZ; **1**) and an indole diterpene (IDT; **2**), respectively. In addition, we selected two uncharacterized BGCs containing a UbiA-type sesquiterpene cyclase (UTC; Fig. 2B, TC1 and TC3). Analysis of the control clusters demonstrated that production of compound **1** was detectable only when expression was driven by the HEx promoters and undetectable with constitutive promoters. Titers of **2** were 4.5-fold higher with HEx promoters than with constitutive expression. For the uncharacterized UTC-containing clusters, combined titers for the oxygenated sesquiterpenoids (table S5) produced by both clusters were significantly greater (20-fold for TC1, 100-fold for TC3) when refactored with P_{ADH2} -like sequences versus strong constitutive promoters. These results establish the broad utility of P_{ADH2} -like, delayed-induction HEx promoters as tools for the coordinated expression of multiple heterologous proteins in yeast.

Improved host strains

HEx promoters are active only under aerobic respiration, which necessitates their use in yeast host strains with functional mitochondria. We chose to use the well-characterized S288c-derived strains BY4741 and BY4742 (table S4) (38) as our starting point for host optimization. These and related strains have been used in previous heterologous expression studies in yeast with great success (17, 39) despite known mitochondrial genome stability defects present in all strains in the S288c lineage, as indicated by increased petite frequencies (40, 41). Because the alleles associated with mitochondrial genome instability have been characterized (40), we facilitated heterologous expression of fungal BGCs in yeast by generating strains in which these deficiencies, as well as vestigial defects in sporulation efficiency present in S288c-derived strains, were repaired.

These defects were repaired in an improved strain background named DHY (Fig. 3A). Alleles absent from all S288c-derived strains that lead to increased mitochondrial stability [*SAL1 CAT5(91M) MIP1(661T) HAP1*] (40, 41) and high sporulation [*MKT1(30G) RME1(INS-308A) TAO3(1493Q)*] were introduced (42). These alterations increased sporulation from 2 to 62% after 2 days while decreasing petite frequency from 52 to 2.5%. In addition, we deleted the *PEP4* and *PRB1* vacuolar protease

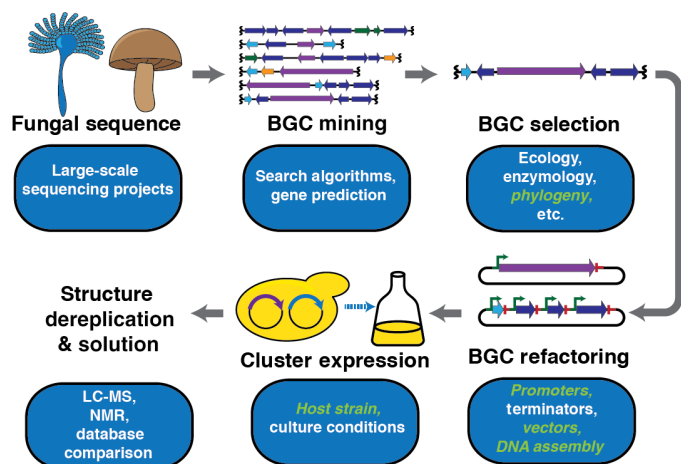


Fig. 1. Standard workflow for heterologous expression. Aspects in green italics are addressed in this study.

encoding genes as in BJ5464, a strain with demonstrated improvements in heterologous protein production (43). We generated a panel of strains, both prototrophic and auxotrophic, of both mating types ($MATa$ and $MAT\alpha$) with these nine beneficial changes. For BGC expression, we also integrated several genes for essential posttranslational modification enzymes. *npgA*, a holo-acyl carrier protein (ACP) synthase from *A. nidulans* has demonstrated flexibility for generation of a variety of holo-carrier proteins for both PKS-containing (39) and NRPS-containing (44) systems expressed in *S. cerevisiae*. In addition, because cytochrome P450s are ubiquitous in fungal BGCs, ATEG_05064, a cytochrome P450 reductase *Aspergillus terreus*, has been engineered into our strain background. The full panel of strains used in this study is listed in table S4.

The engineered DHY background exhibits improved respiratory growth as compared to both BY4741 and BJ5464 (Fig. 3B). GFP expression driven by P_{ADH2} (Fig. 3C) and P_{PCK1} (Fig. 3D) also showed marked

improvement in DHY. Not only was the mean expression significantly increased, but also a population of nonfluorescent cells prevalent in the BY4741 culture was undetectable in the DHY-derived strain, likely a result of the improved mitochondrial function during expression-inducing respiratory growth conditions.

Compared to commonly used laboratory strains, the improved genetic tractability, growth, and expression characteristics of the DHY background make it an ideal host strain for the HEx platform and for heterologous protein expression more generally.

High-throughput DNA assembly

Heterologous expression of microbial BGCs necessitates a high-throughput, low-cost means of assembling large, multigene constructs expressing cryptic BGCs. Yeast homologous recombination represents such an approach and has been previously applied to the refactoring of large BGCs for expression in model bacterial hosts using intact DNA

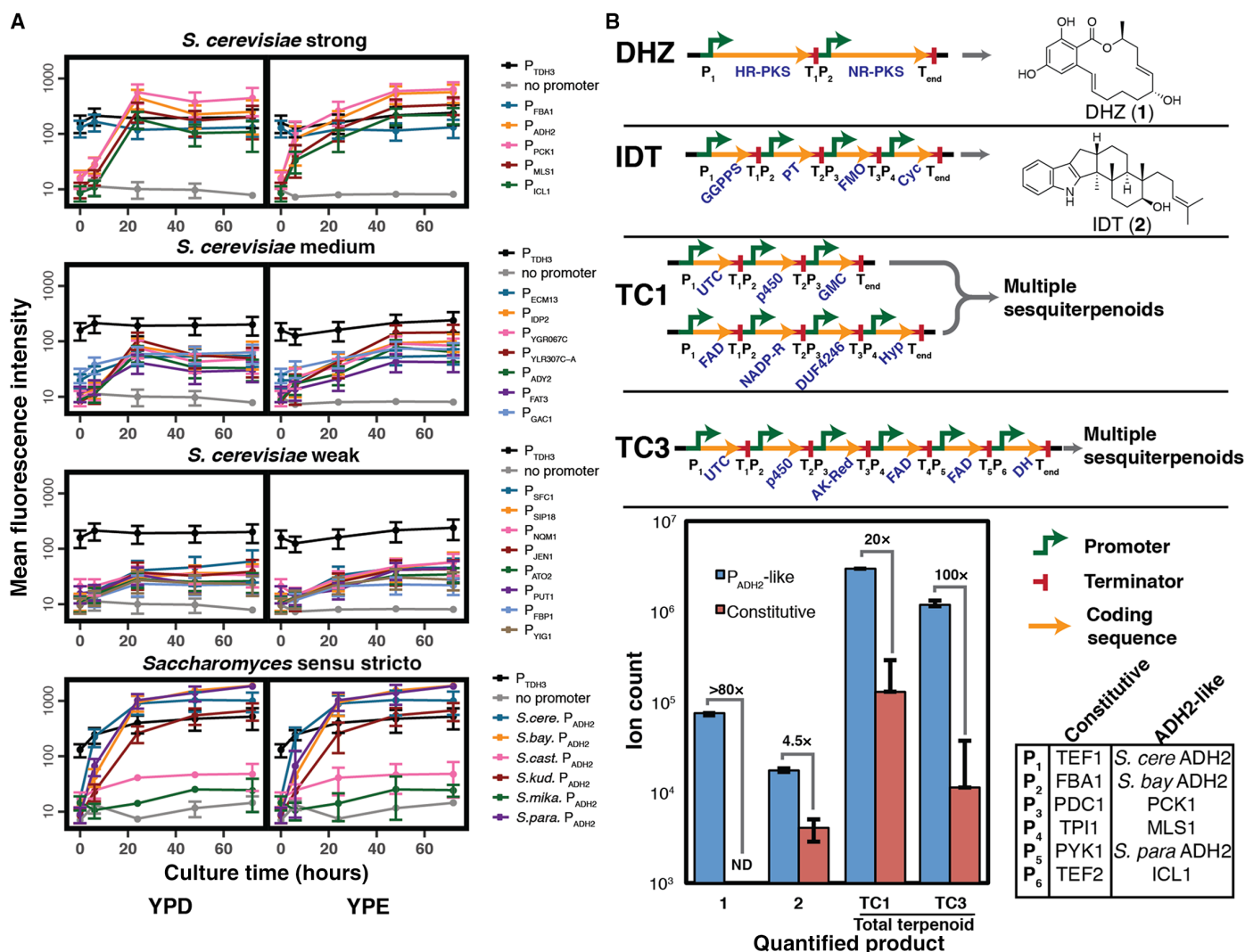


Fig. 2. Tools developed for the HEx platform. (A) eGFP expression from a series of P_{ADH2} -like promoters in cultures grown under both fermentative (YPD) and respiratory (YPE) conditions. All fluorescence intensities are reported as the mean of three biological replicates. Error bars represent 1 SD ($n = 3$). (B) Four fungal BGCs, two controls and two previously uncharacterized systems, each produce improved titers when heterologously expressed using P_{ADH2} -like promoters as compared to strong constitutive promoters. ND, not detected. Error bars represent 1 SD ($n = 3$). Quantitation for TC1 and TC3 was based on the sum of the integrations of extracted ion counts corresponding to the oxidized sesquiterpenoids outlined in table S4.

from native-producing strains or environmental samples (45–49). In the absence of this native DNA to be used as a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) template, BGC sequence must be sourced from commercial vendors. At present, commercial providers of synthetic DNA supply gene-sized fragments at a relatively low cost, but do not offer cost-effective solutions for the larger DNAs required for studying BGCs, which are often >20 kb. In addition, synthesis of AT-rich yeast regulatory sequences, especially promoters, has proven challenging for commercial providers. We therefore purchased synthetic DNA encoding the protein-coding regions of BGC genes and developed an improved means to assemble these genes into large multigene cassettes including promoters, terminators, and expression vectors.

The strategy utilized here to design parts for cluster refactoring and assembly by yeast homologous recombination (YHR) is illustrated in Fig. 4A. DNAs for adjacent fragments were designed with 50 base pairs (bp) of overlapping sequence. In cases where a gene was small enough to be ordered as a single DNA fragment, overlapping sequence to both the flanking promoter and terminator was added, whereas with genes that were split into multiple DNA fragments, overlapping sequences were added to adjacent sequences. All clusters were refactored by building plasmids of seven or fewer genes each. Each gene within a plasmid was flanked by promoters and terminators used in the order defined in table S6. Placing overlapping sequences exclusively on the coding sequence fragments allowed for the same standard parts (promoters, terminators, and linearized vectors) to be generated in bulk and used in all assemblies (table S7). For assemblies involving three or more genes, an auxotrophic marker was placed between the second terminator and the third promoter with no marker present on the vector. By

applying the constraint of the auxotrophic marker and origin of replication being on separate fragments, assembly of incorrect plasmids was significantly reduced.

Most previous YHR-based assembly techniques relied on passage of vectors through *Escherichia coli* to generate large amounts of DNA (50). We developed a protocol for the purification of plasmid DNA directly from yeast clones, wherein the majority of contaminating yeast genomic DNA was removed by exonuclease treatment. This procedure enabled high-throughput DNA sequencing libraries to be prepared directly from yeast colonies, simplifying the process of verifying that target plasmids were correctly assembled. Unmapped sequencing reads in exonuclease-treated samples mapped primarily to the native 2- μ m plasmid present in the majority of laboratory yeast strains (*cir*⁺ strains). This hypothesis was confirmed by demonstrating that sequencing plasmid DNA out of Y800 (51), a strain lacking this plasmid (*cir*⁰), led to greater than 75% of reads mapping to the desired plasmid (Fig. 4B).

The HEX process is a simplified workflow with increased throughput and decreased cost relative to other YHR techniques. We found that assemblies of up to 14 unique DNA fragments can routinely be achieved with high efficiency (Fig. 4C). Overall, we have applied HEX to assemble 41 gene clusters and sequence >1000 yeast clones.

Expression of cryptic BGCs

To apply the HEX platform on a large scale, we chose to examine two classes of fungal BGCs: those encoding a PKS and those encoding a UTC as their core enzyme. Phylogenetic analysis has suggested that much chemical diversity remains to be discovered in fungal PKSs, with the possible existence of entirely unstudied classes (52). UTCs represent a newly discovered class of membrane-bound terpene cyclases, homologous to UbiA prenyltransferases, discovered during the recent elucidation of the biosynthesis of fumagillin (26).

We developed a computational pipeline to prioritize PKS- and UTC-containing BGCs for expression with HEX. We studied all 581 sequenced fungal genomes publicly available in the GenBank database of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI; as of July 2015). We analyzed each genome for BGCs using antiSMASH2 (53), identifying 3512 BGCs harboring an iterative type 1 PKS and 326 BGCs harboring a UTC homolog. We generated phylogenetic trees of each of these enzyme types, identified characterized homologs from the MIBiG (Minimum Information about a Biosynthetic Gene cluster) database (54), and selected BGCs from clades having few characterized members (Figs. 5 and 6). These BGCs were found in the genomes of both ascomycetes and basidiomycetes. Basidiomycetes have historically been more difficult than ascomycetes to culture with fewer tools for genetic manipulation available (55). As a result, BGCs from basidiomycetes are understudied, with only two PKS-containing clusters deposited in MIBiG as of writing, suggesting that these organisms represent a reservoir of understudied BGCs. All coding sequences were ordered as a series of fused exons with no codon optimization unless required for DNA synthesis (on average, approximately one change per 5000 bp). The start codons, stop codons, and intron/exon boundaries were exactly as deposited in GenBank (table S8).

To explore novel fungal PKSs, we began with the hypothesis that novel PKS sequence would lead to novel compounds. To select unusual PKS BGCs, we performed phylogenetic analysis of the ketosynthase sequences of all 3512 PKS sequences found in the 581 sequenced fungal genomes (Fig. 5 and fig. S7). We first identified sequences that existed in clades where few or no characterized BGCs were found. To further narrow the list to BGCs likely to produce a compound, we

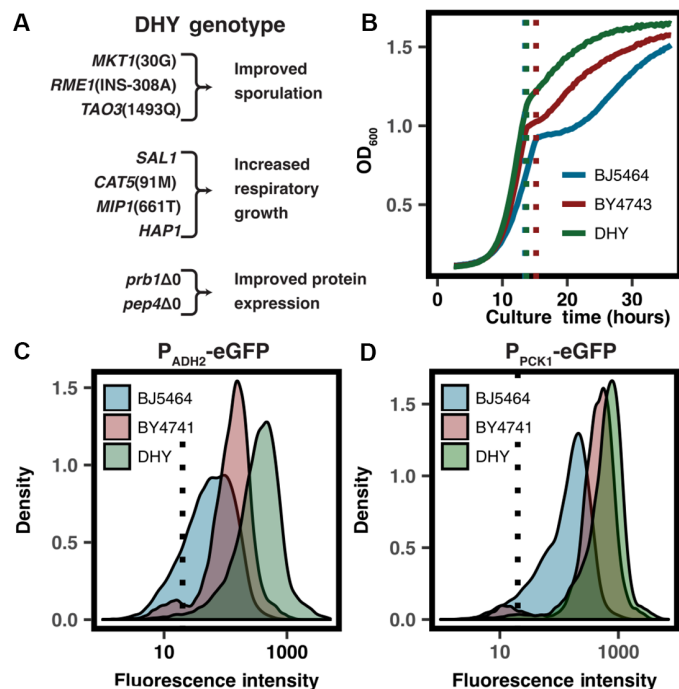


Fig. 3. Description and characterization of DHY strains. (A) Annotated genotype of the DHY yeast background. (B) DHY-derived yeast strain JHY702 shows improved growth, particularly after diauxic shift. Growth curves are representative of six biological replicates. Density plots for fluorescence intensity in multiple backgrounds show significantly improved eGFP expression when driven by both (C) P_{ADH2} and (D) P_{PCK1}. Density plots represent the fluorescence intensity of 10⁴ individual cells.

selected those whose genetic structure was conserved across three or more species and contained an *in-cis* or proximal *in trans* protein capable of releasing the polyketide from the carrier protein of the PKS (fig. S4). From the BGCs that met these criteria, we selected 28, containing between 3 and 11 genes, for characterization with HEx. Seven of these were derived from basidiomycete-specific clades (Fig. 5), whereas the remaining 21 were found in the genomes of ascomycetes.

Of the seven basidiomycete BGCs chosen, three (PKS16, PKS17, and PKS28) produced natural products. The production of 7 and 8 from PKS16, both of which are novel *N*-, *S*-bis-acylated amino acids, is unprecedented, because they incorporate an amino acid, but the cluster contains no NRPS gene (Fig. 5 and fig. S4). Similarly, PKS17 produces compound 6, a leucine *O*-methyl ester with an additional polyketide chain amidated to the amino ester. PKS28 produced a pair of compounds that were not structurally characterized but, on the basis of high-resolution mass spectral data, are likely to contain at least one nitrogen atom. To our knowledge, these are the first examples of fungal BGCs producing polyketide-amino acid hybrid compounds in the absence of NRPS-encoding genes.

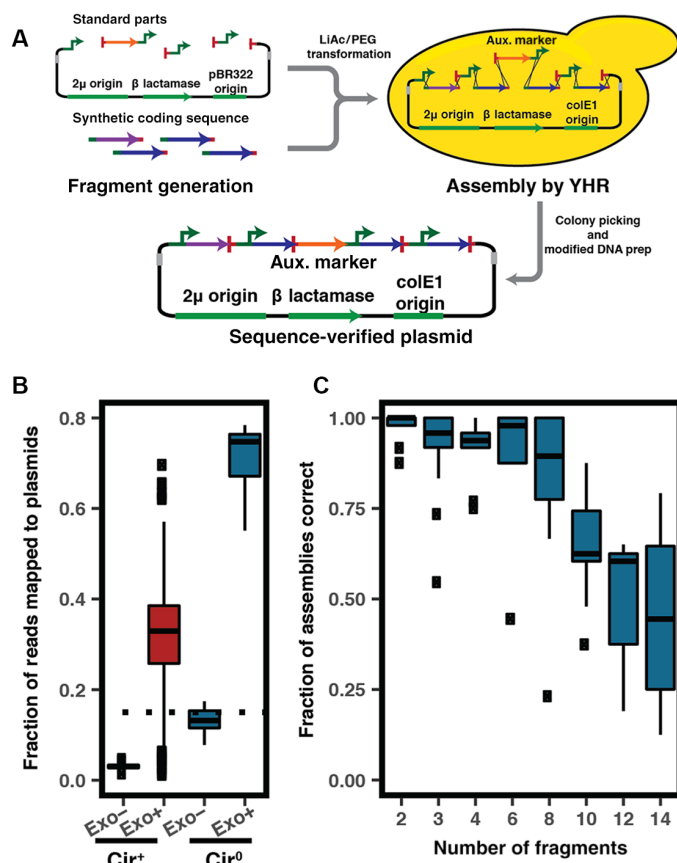


Fig. 4. DNA assembly by yeast homologous recombination. (A) DNA assembly from commercially synthesized fragments and genetic parts using yeast homologous recombination. (B) Modified yeast plasmid preparation (exo+) leads to increased number of sequencing reads mapping to plasmid DNA. Dotted line marks the efficiency threshold to allow sequencing of 192 samples on a single MiSeq run. (C) Efficient assembly of up to 14 unique DNA parts can be achieved using the protocol outlined here. Data based on 78 unique assemblies.

Of the 21 ascomycete-derived PKS clusters, 13 produced compounds. The most notable was the PKS1 cluster, which only contained a PKS, a hydrolase, and the genes for three tailoring enzymes: a cytochrome P450 monooxygenase, a flavin-dependent monooxygenase, and a short-chain reductase (table S9). This cluster produced 9 and 10 as major products (Fig. 5) along with a variety of oligoesters. Compound 9, an asymmetric macrotriolide, results from the condensation of two triketides with a single diketide and closely resembles the macrophelide family of fungal natural products, compounds with antimicrobial activity (56) whose BGCs have yet to be elucidated.

In addition to these novel compounds, two clusters produced known compounds and novel derivatives thereof. PKS15 produced orsellinic acid (3) as the major product, along with several other higher-molecular weight compounds. PKS23 produced 4 and 5 as major products, along with several additional putative products of higher mass. Compounds 4 and 5 are both precursors of phenalenone, a compound whose BGC was elucidated after the selection of PKS23 for the expression in this study (57). Together, these results demonstrate the power of the HEx platform to produce both novel and previously known compounds using unstudied BGCs derived from uncultivated fungi.

To study fungal UTCs, we constructed a phylogenetic tree based on the UbiA-type sesquiterpene cyclase Fma-TC from the fumagillin biosynthetic pathway (Fig. 6) (52). The cytochrome P450 monooxygenase Fma-P450 from the fumagillin pathway is a powerful enzyme catalyzing the 8e oxidation of bergamotene to generate a highly oxygenated product (9). We selected 13 UTC-containing BGCs spanning the entirety of the cladogram in Fig. 6, where a cytochrome P450 monooxygenase gene was proximal to the UTC gene (fig. S5A). Screening of strains expressing these clusters by LC/high-resolution mass spectrometry revealed novel spectral features consistent with oxidized sesquiterpenoids produced by five clusters (Fig. 4). The structures of the major compounds produced by TC1 (compounds 14, 15, and 16) and TC3 (compounds 11, 12, and 13) were elucidated by NMR (tables S16 to S21). Unique among these clusters is TC9 from the basidiomycete *Schizophyllum commune*, where the UTC alone produces a series of sesquiterpenoids that, when placed in the context of the full cluster, are further oxidized by the two adjacent cytochrome P450 monooxygenases. These results demonstrate not only a series of structurally novel sesquiterpenoids but also that the membrane-bound UTCs represent a general class of terpene cyclase encoded in genomes of diverse fungi.

Including both PKS and UTC BGCs, we found that 19 of the 41 clusters studied did not produce detectable compounds. We hypothesized that gene annotation errors introduced by incorrect intron prediction was likely to be a common failure mode in the expression of cryptic fungal BGCs and therefore sought to rescue the production by improved intron annotation. Manual inspection of one UTC (TC5) that had yielded no products suggested an incorrect intron prediction at the 5' terminus of the gene (fig. S5B). Correction of this intron led to a C-terminal protein sequence that aligned well with known functional UTCs. When tested in the HEx pipeline, the version with the corrected intron produced oxidized sesquiterpenoids (Fig. 6), confirming that incorrect intron prediction can be a failure mode in approaches that rely on publicly available gene annotations. These results illustrate the importance of careful gene curation and the need for improved eukaryotic gene prediction, particularly with sequences from taxa with few studied members. We anticipate this being particularly important for BGCs derived from basidiomycetes because introns are more common in this phylum than in filamentous ascomycetes (58).

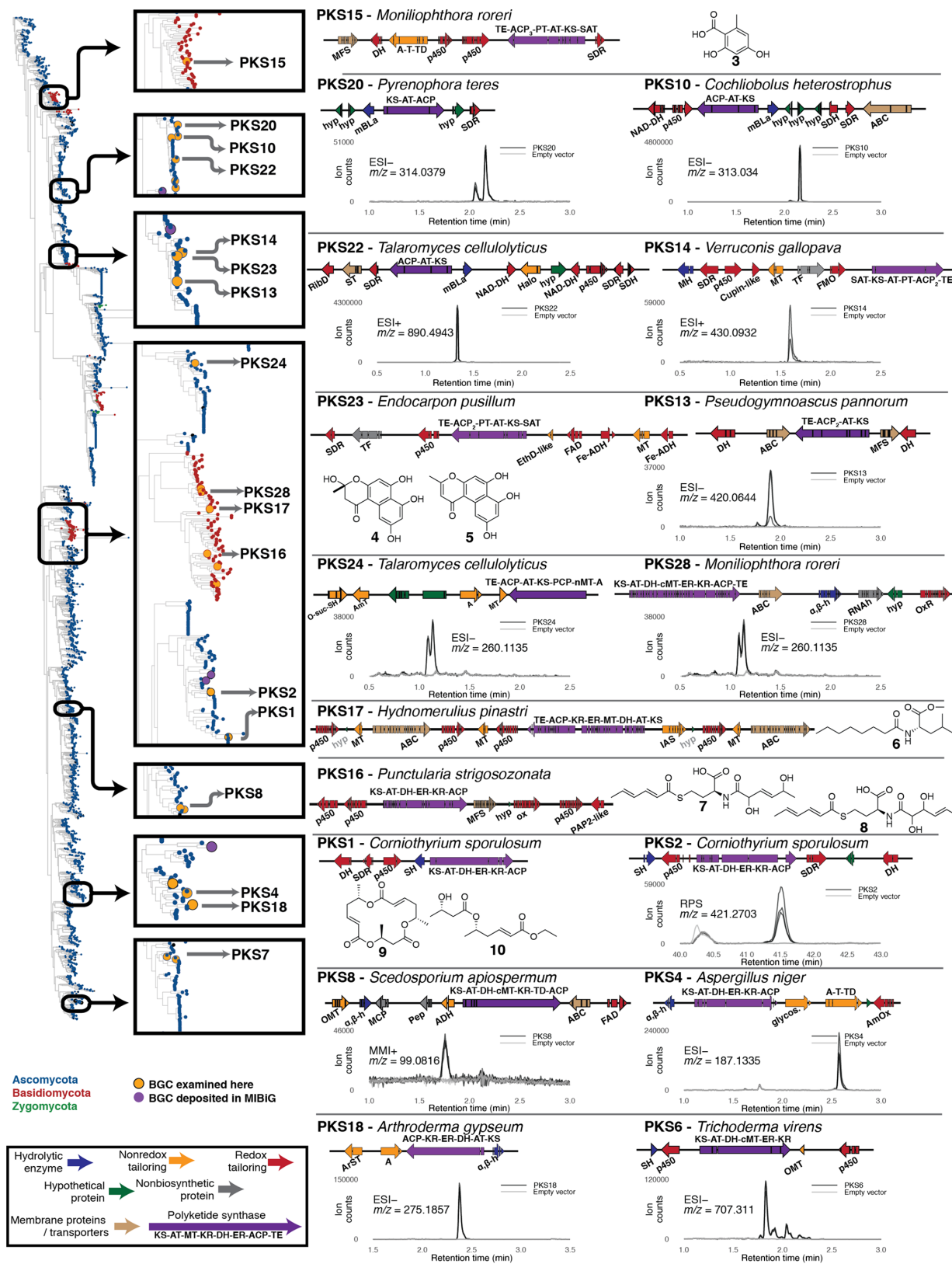


Fig. 5. PKS BGCs examined for this study. All putative gene function abbreviations are listed in table S9. Cladogram was constructed as described in Materials and Methods. All plots are the chromatograms of the specified extracted ion in three biological replicates each of both the strain expressing the BGC and an empty vector control strain. Chromatograms are data collected with electrospray ionization in either positive (ESI+), negative (ESI-), or rapid polarity switching (RPS) mode or with multimode ionization in positive mode (MMI). Expression strains are outlined in table S10, and EICs of novel products are shown in the figs. S7 to S23.

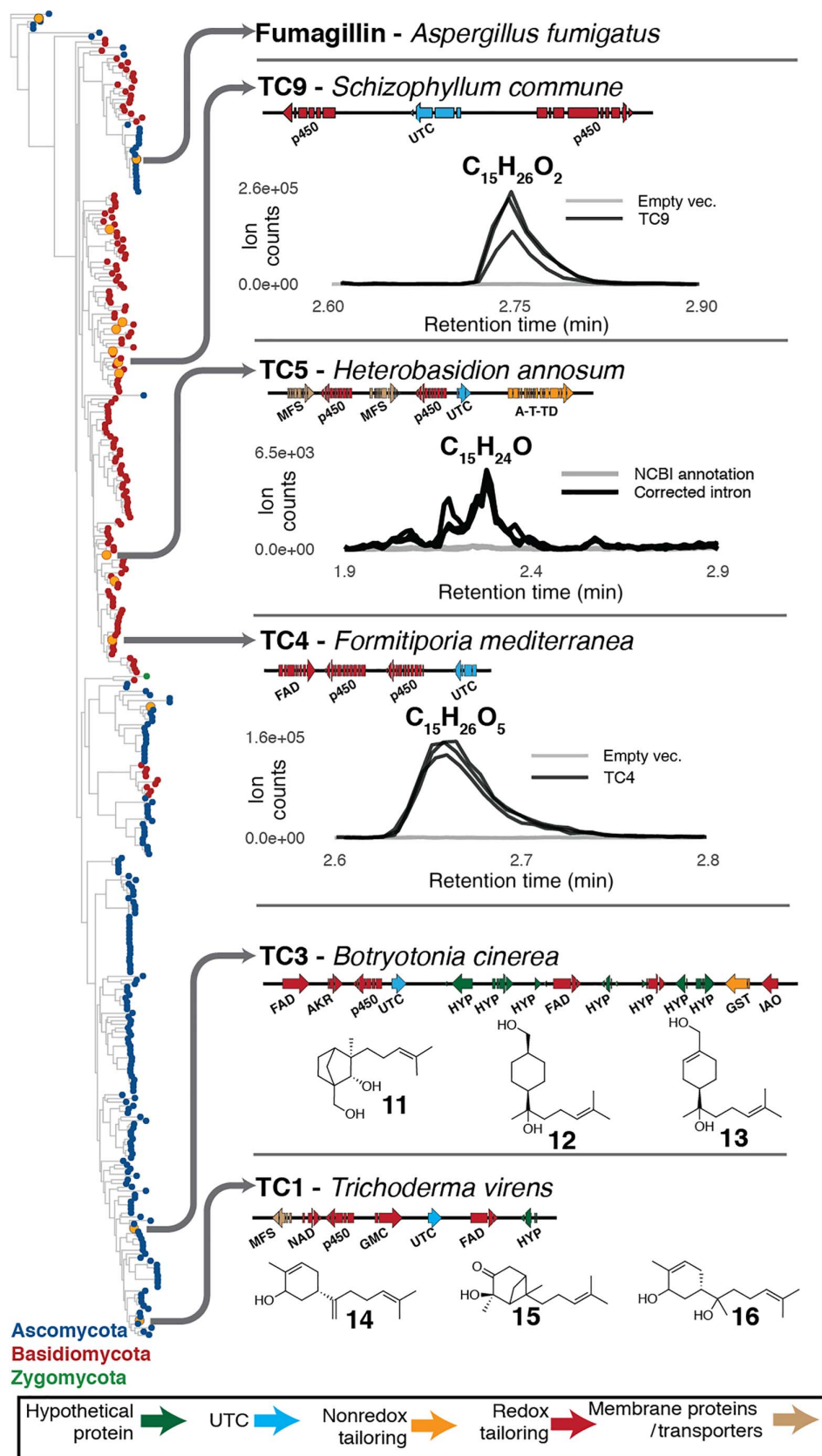


Fig. 6. UbiA-type cyclases represent a general class of biosynthetic enzymes. Putative enzyme activity abbreviations are listed in table S9. Cladogram generated using UbiA cyclase sequence. The cyclases associated with all clusters examined in this study are denoted by orange tips in the cladogram.

Table 1. Summary of control and cryptic fungal BGCs examined in this study.

ID	Type	Species of origin	Division	Productive?
IDT	Ctl	<i>Aspergillus tubingensis</i>	Ascomycota	Y
DHZ	Ctl	<i>Hypomyces subiculosus</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS1	PKS	<i>Coniothyrium sporulosum</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS2	PKS	<i>Coniothyrium sporulosum</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS3	PKS	<i>Acremonium</i> Sp. KY4917	Ascomycota	N
PKS4	PKS	<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS5	PKS	<i>Thielavia terrestris</i>	Ascomycota	N
PKS6	PKS	<i>Trichoderma virens</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS7	PKS	<i>Pseudogymnoascus pannorum</i>	Ascomycota	N
PKS8	PKS	<i>Scedosporium apiospermum</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS9	PKS	<i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i>	Ascomycota	N
PKS10	PKS	<i>Cochliobolus heterostropus</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS11	PKS	<i>Pseudogymnoascus pannorum</i>	Ascomycota	N
PKS12	PKS	<i>Pseudogymnoascus pannorum</i>	Ascomycota	N
PKS13	PKS	<i>Pseudogymnoascus pannorum</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS14	PKS	<i>Verruconis gallopava</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS15	PKS	<i>Moniliophthora roreri</i>	Basidiomycota	Y
PKS16	PKS	<i>Punctularia strigosozonata</i>	Basidiomycota	Y
PKS17	PKS	<i>Hydnomerulius pinastri</i>	Basidiomycota	Y
PKS18	PKS	<i>Arthroderma gypseum</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS19	PKS	<i>Setosphaeria turcica</i>	Ascomycota	N
PKS20	PKS	<i>Pyrenophora teres</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS21	PKS	<i>Cladophialophora yegresii</i>	Ascomycota	N
PKS22	PKS	<i>Talaromyces cellulolyticus</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS23	PKS	<i>Endocarpon pusillum</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS24	PKS	<i>Talaromyces cellulolyticus</i>	Ascomycota	Y
PKS25	PKS	<i>Moniliophthora roreri</i>	Basidiomycota	N
PKS26	PKS	<i>Hypholoma sublateralitium</i>	Basidiomycota	N
PKS27	PKS	<i>Ceriporiopsis subvermispota</i>	Basidiomycota	N
PKS28	PKS	<i>Moniliophthora roreri</i>	Basidiomycota	Y
TC1	UTC	<i>Trichoderma Virens</i>	Ascomycota	Y
TC2	UTC	<i>Trichoderma Virens</i>	Ascomycota	N
TC3	UTC	<i>Botryotonia cinerea</i>	Ascomycota	Y
TC4	UTC	<i>Formitiporia mediterranea</i>	Basidiomycota	Y
TC5	UTC	<i>Heterobasidion annosum</i>	Basidiomycota	Y
TC6	UTC	<i>Gelatoporia subvermispota</i>	Basidiomycota	N
TC7	UTC	<i>Dichomitus squalens</i>	Basidiomycota	N
TC8	UTC	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	Basidiomycota	N
TC9	UTC	<i>Schizophyllum commune</i>	Basidiomycota	Y
TC10	UTC	<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Basidiomycota	N
TC11	UTC	<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Basidiomycota	N
TC12	UTC	<i>Dichomitus squalens</i>	Basidiomycota	N
TC13	UTC	<i>Dacryopinax primogenitus</i>	Basidiomycota	N
				Total 43
				Productive 24

ID	Type	Species of origin	Division	Productive?
TC7	UTC	<i>Dichomitus squalens</i>	Basidiomycota	N
TC8	UTC	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	Basidiomycota	N
TC9	UTC	<i>Schizophyllum commune</i>	Basidiomycota	Y
TC10	UTC	<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Basidiomycota	N
TC11	UTC	<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Basidiomycota	N
TC12	UTC	<i>Dichomitus squalens</i>	Basidiomycota	N
TC13	UTC	<i>Dacryopinax primogenitus</i>	Basidiomycota	N
				Total 43
				Productive 24

CONCLUSION

Using the HEx platform developed here, we built strains expressing 41 cryptic fungal BGCs. Twenty-two (54%) of these clusters, derived from diverse ascomycete and basidiomycete fungal species, produced detectable levels of compounds not native to *S. cerevisiae* (Table 1). Ongoing and future studies will work to improve this success rate through a detailed analysis of those BGCs that failed. Testing multiple splice variants for ambiguous genes, quantifying transcript and protein expression levels for each gene, and ensuring phosphopantetheinylation of all ACP domains are among the approaches that may provide insight into the common failure modes of fungal BGCs refactored for expression in yeast. In addition, varying protein stoichiometry through building multiple versions of each refactored cluster with varying promoter strengths may also resurrect nonfunctional clusters or increase conversion of biosynthetic intermediates in those that produce multiple products.

A recent analysis of the diversity of natural products discovered over time has highlighted the need for innovative new approaches for molecule discovery (59). Here, by performing a large-scale survey of diverse BGCs from across the fungal kingdom, we have demonstrated such an approach. Using our platform, we identified a panel of novel natural products produced by enzymes with novel activities. Moreover, the genetic parts, improved host strains, and DNA assembly pipeline that comprise the HEx platform provide an improved means for accessing the vast biosynthetic potential encoding natural products with novel structures and bioactivities that exist within the multitude of cryptic BGCs present in fungal genomes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

General materials and methods

Restriction enzymes were purchased from New England Biolabs (NEB). Cloning was performed in chemically competent *E. coli* DH10 β (NEB, C3019L). Unless otherwise specified, PCR steps were performed using Q5 high-fidelity polymerase (NEB, M0491L) with programs set according to the manufacturer's specifications. PCR primers were purchased from Integrated DNA Technologies. All yeast cultures grown under selective conditions were cultured in SD (synthetic dropout) media prepared with ingredients purchased from MP Biomedicals. Yeast dropout media were made using a dropout base (DOB) of 27 g/liter (4025-032) and the appropriate supplementary nutrients at the manufacturer-specified concentrations. Yeast-rich media were prepared using a YP (yeast extract

and peptone) base consisting of yeast extract (10 g/liter; 212750, BD) and peptone (20 g/liter; 211677, BD). Carbon sources were dextrose (20 g/liter) in YPD and ethanol (30 g/liter) + glycerol (20 g/liter) in YPEG.

Generation of strains for HEx promoter characterization

All promoters were defined as the shorter of 500 bp upstream of the start codon of a gene or the entire 5' intergenic region. All promoter sequences are listed in table S3. All promoters from *S. cerevisiae* were amplified from genomic DNA, whereas *ADH2* promoters from all sensu stricto *Saccharomyces* were ordered as gBlocks from Integrated DNA Technologies. Minimal alterations were made to promoters from *S. kudriavzevii* and *Saccharomyces mikitaie* to meet synthesis specifications. In all constructs, *eGFP* was cloned directly upstream of the terminator from the *CYC1* gene (T_{CYC1}). pRS415 was digested with Sac I and Sal I, and a Not I-*eGFP*- T_{CYC1} cassette was inserted by Gibson assembly generating pCH600. Digestion of pCH600 with Acc I and Pml I removed the CEN/ARS origin, which was replaced by 500-bp sequences flanking the *ho* locus using Gibson assembly to yield plasmid pCH600-HOint. Each of the promoters to be analyzed was amplified with appropriate assembly overhangs and inserted into pCH600-HOint digested with Not I to generate the pCH601 plasmid series. Digestion of the pCH601 plasmid series with Asc I generated linear integration cassettes, which were transformed into *S. cerevisiae* BY4741 by the LiAc/polyethylene glycol (PEG) method (60). Correct integration was confirmed by PCR amplification of promoters and Sanger sequencing.

Characterization of HEx promoters

For characterization, all strains were initially grown to saturation overnight in 100 μ l of YPD media. These cells were then reinoculated at optical density (OD_{600}) = 0.1 into 1 ml of fresh YPD and allowed to grow to OD_{600} = 0.4 to reach mid-log phase growth (approximately 6 hours). Each culture (500 μ l) was pelleted by centrifugation and resuspended in YPE broth for YPE data, whereas YPD was used for YPD data. The 0-hour time point was collected immediately after resuspension. For each time point, 10 μ l of culture was diluted in 2 ml of deionized water and sonicated for three short pulses at 35% output on a Branson Sonifier.

Expression data were collected on 10,000 cells for each replicate using a FACSCalibur flow cytometer (BD Bioscience) with the FL1 detector. Data were analyzed in R using the flowCore package.

Construction of improved HEx yeast strains

HEx strains are based on the BY4741/BY4742 background, which in turn is based on S288c (38). The strains were made in two stages: (i) creation of a core DHY set with restored sporulation and mitochondrial genome stability and (ii) creation of JHY derivatives modified for the HEx platform. All changes introduced in this study were confirmed by diagnostic PCR and sequencing.

A sporulation-restored strain set was built by crossing BY4710 (38) to a haploid derivative of YAD373 (41), a BY-based diploid that contains three quantitative trait loci (QTLs) that restore sporulation: *MKT1*(30G), *RME1*(INS-308A), and *TAO3*(1493Q). A spore clone from the resulting diploid was repaired for *HAPI*, which encodes a zinc-finger transcription factor localized to mitochondria and the nucleus. *HAPI* is important for mitochondrial genome stability (61), and we inferred that it was also important for sporulation. S288c and derivatives contain a Ty1 insertion in the 3' end of *HAPI* that inactivates function. We excised the transposon using the delitto perfetto method (62) and confirmed repaired *HAPI* function based on transcription of a

CYC1p-lacZ reporter (63). The sporulation-restored *HAPI*-repaired strain and its auxotrophic and prototrophic derivatives were then used to create the DHY set of strains that were additionally restored for mitochondrial genome stability.

The above sporulation-restored strains were used to repair the poor mitochondrial genome stability known to be a problem with S288c and BY derivatives. Mitochondrial genome stability is essential for robust growth and *ADH2p*-like gene expression under conditions of respiration and for reducing the frequency of petite cells (slow-growing, respiration-defective cells that cannot grow on nonfermentable carbon sources). For a detailed description of the "mito-repair" method, see the construction of JHY650 (42). Briefly, we used the 50:50 genome editing method (64) to introduce the wild-type alleles of three genes shown to be important for mitochondrial genome stability by QTL analysis (40). The repaired QTLs are *SAL1*⁺ (repair of a frameshift), *CAT5*(91M), and *MIP1*(661T). Crosses with prototrophic and auxotrophic strains completed the DHY core set of about a dozen sporulation- and mitochondrial genome stability-restored strains that can be further modified as needed. DHY213 (table S4) is one such strain: It contains the seven desired changes described above, is otherwise congenic with BY4741, and was used in this study to create derivatives for the HEx platform (below and table S4).

Marker-free, seamless deletion of the complete *PRB1* and *PEP4* ORFs was performed using the 50:50 method (64). Integration of a 1609-bp *ADH2p-npgA-ACS1t* expression cassette on the chromosome was performed using a similar method used to integrate DNA segments with the recombinase directed indexing (REDI) method (42), except that *URA3*, not *FCY1*, was used as the counter-selectable marker. For an integration site, we replaced a 1166-bp cluster of three transposon long terminal repeats located centromere-distal to YBR209W on chromosome II (deletion of chrII 643438 to 644603). Two DNA segments were simultaneously inserted via homologous recombination at the integration site that had been cut with *Sce* I to create double strand breaks. One inserted segment was *ADH2p-npgA* (1448 bp), which was PCR-amplified from a BJ5464/*npgA* expression strain (*npgA* from *A. nidulans*) (65). We repaired the *npgA* 3' end to wild type using a reverse PCR primer that replaced the *npgA* intron included previously (65) with the wild-type *npgA* 3' sequence. To preclude recombination of the expression cassette with the native *ADH2* locus, we used as the second DNA segment the 161-bp *ACS1* terminator (not *ADH2t*), which was PCR-amplified from BY4741. The resulting strain (JHY692) was used in a similar fashion to replace only *npgA* with the *CPR* ORF (cytochrome P450 reductase, ATEG_05064 from *A. terreus*). Finally, a strain with both *npgA* and *CPR* expression cassettes (JHY702) was created by mating JHY692 and JHY705.

Preparation of fragments for plasmid assembly

Upon selection of a BGC for expression using the HEx platform, the coding sequences were downloaded as annotated in NCBI Genbank database. For each gene, overlapping sequences corresponding to the last 50 bp of the desired promoter and the first 50 bp of the desired terminator were added to the 5' and 3' termini, respectively. The regulatory sequences appended to each gene were dependent on position as defined in table S6. After the addition of assembly overhangs, all coding sequences longer than 4000 bases were split evenly into multiple fragments, each shorter than 4000 bp with 50-bp overhangs between adjacent parts. All sequences were then ordered as Genebits or GeneBytes from Gen9 (Cambridge, MA). Upon delivery, all fragments were amplified via PCR. Amplicons were purified using the QIAquick 96 PCR BioRobot kit (963141, Qiagen) prior to their use in plasmid assembly.

Similarly, regulatory cassettes containing fused terminators and promoters were amplified from the regulatory cassette plasmids described in table S6 and purified using the QIAquick PCR purification kit (28106, Qiagen).

Plasmid assembly by YHR

For each assembled plasmid, 500 ng of each coding sequence fragment was combined with 500 ng of each required regulatory cassette and 100 ng of the appropriate expression vector linearized with SalI. This DNA mix was transformed into the assembly strain (primarily BY4743 Δ DNL4) using a standard LiAc/PEG protocol (60). Briefly, a 5-ml culture of the assembly strain was grown to saturation overnight in YPD. Two milliliters of this culture was used to inoculate 50 ml of fresh YPD and grown to OD₆₀₀ \approx 1 (approximately 5 hours). Cell pellets were harvested by centrifugation for 10 min at 2800g and 4°C. Cells were then washed three times with 1 ml of 100 mM LiAc. The DNA fragment mix was brought up to a final volume of 74 μ l with nuclease-free water and combined with 36 μ l of 1 M LiAc and 10 μ l of salmon sperm DNA solution (10 mg/ml; D1626; Sigma-Aldrich). The mixture was thoroughly mixed and combined with 240 μ l of 50% (w/v) PEG solution (MW = 3350; P3640; Sigma-Aldrich) and mixed well. Five OD units of cells (cell pellet from 5 ml of OD₆₀₀ = 1 culture) were resuspended in this transformation mix and incubated at 30°C for 30 min followed by 45 min at 42°C. Transformed cells were pelleted by centrifugation for 30 s at 10,000g. The supernatant was discarded, and cells were resuspended in 100 μ l of nuclease-free water. This suspension and a 50 \times dilution thereof were spread on plates of the appropriate SD medium and incubated for 3 days at 30°C. Typical assembly transformations yield 5000 to 10,000 colonies.

Preparation of DNA for direct sequencing of yeast plasmid DNA

Yeast colonies were picked into 1.5 ml of the appropriate SD medium in a 2-ml deep-well block and incubated with shaking at 30°C and 1000 rpm until grown to saturation, typically 2 days. Cell pellets were harvested through centrifugation at 2800g for 20 min, and the supernatants were discarded. Plasmid DNA was isolated using a modified version of the QIAprep Turbo miniprep kit (27173/27191/27193, Qiagen). Zymolase (1000 U; Zymo Research E1004/5) and 80 mg of RNase A (19101, Qiagen) were added to 400 μ l of P1 buffer. Each pellet in the deep-well block was resuspended in 250 μ l of this modified P1 and incubated with shaking for 2 to 3 hours. The remainder of the plasmid preparation was undertaken according to the manufacturer's instructions with final elution in 100 μ l of water.

Prepared plasmids were treated with exonuclease to remove any contaminating linear DNA. A volume of 22.5 μ l of each prepared plasmid was combined with 1.5 μ l of Exonuclease V (10 U/ μ l; NEB, M0345L), 3.0 μ l of NEB Buffer 4 (NEB, B7004S), and 3.0 μ l of ATP (10 mM; NEB, P0756S) followed by incubation at 37°C for 1 hour. Exonuclease reactions were quenched by the addition of 1 μ l of EDTA (0.33 M) and incubation for 30 min at 70°C. Finally, reactions were purified using Sera-mag magnetic particles (1.5 mg/ml, bead/sample ratio = 1:1) with final elution in 25 μ l of tris-Cl (10 mM).

Preparation of sequencing libraries from purified plasmid DNA

Sequencing libraries were prepared using a previously published variation on the Nextera system (FC-121-1031, Illumina) (66). Tagmentation was set up on ice as follows: 1 μ l of purified, exonuclease-treated plasmid DNA (1 to 20 ng/ μ l) was combined with 1.25 μ l of Nextera TD

buffer and 0.25 μ l of Nextera TDE enzyme before incubation at 55°C for 10 min in a prewarmed thermocycler. Tagmented samples were used directly for adapter and barcode addition by PCR. For each plate of samples, 12 column-wise master mixes were prepared as follows: 57.2 μ l of Kapa HiFi Hotstart Ready Mix (2 \times ; KM2602, Kapa Biosystems) and 45.6 μ l of 5 μ M Index primer. Similarly, eight row-wise primer master mixes were prepared by the combination of 85.8 μ l of Kapa HiFi Hotstart Ready Mix with each of the row-wise index primers. Appropriate column-wise index and row-wise index master mixes (10 μ l) were added directly to each tagmentation reaction, yielding a final reaction volume of 22.5 μ l. These reactions were placed in a thermocycler, and the following program was run: 3 min at 72°C, 5 min at 98°C, 13 cycles of 10 s at 98°C, 30 s at 65°C, and 30 s at 72°C, followed by 2 min at 72°C before holding at 4°C. All 22.5 μ l of each reaction in a plate were pooled and purified using Sera-mag magnetic particles (1.5 mg/ml, bead/sample ratio = 1:1) with final elution in 60 μ l Tris-Cl (10 mM). Size selection for fragments from 200 to 600 bp was carried out on 30 μ l of the pooled library using a Pippin prep (Sage Science Pippin Prep gel cassette 100 to 600 bp, CSD 2010) followed by quality assessment and quantitation by both Bioanalyzer (high-sensitivity chip, Agilent Technologies) and qPCR using the KAPA Illumina Platform Library quantification kit (KK4835, ABI Prism). Sequencing libraries were run on either an Illumina MiSeq (up to 192 samples) or an Illumina NextSeq (up to 384 samples) platform.

After sequence verification, 2 μ l of the remaining yeast plasmid DNA was transformed into *E. coli*, and the resulting colonies were grown overnight in Terrific Broth + carbenicillin (100 mg/liter) before high-concentration plasmid isolation using either a QIAprep Spin Miniprep (27106, Qiagen) or a QIAprep 96 Turbo kit (120012, Qiagen).

Selection of cryptic fungal BGCs

We analyzed 581 public fungal genomes deposited in the Genbank database of the NCBI and applied the antiSMASH2 software (53) to search for type 1 PKS and UTC gene clusters. This analysis identified 3512 type 1 PKS gene clusters and 326 UbiA-like terpene gene clusters in 538 fungal genomes.

Phylogenetic analysis of both sequence sets was performed by building multiple sequence alignments of all protein sequences using MAFFT (67) and building phylogenetic trees as shown in Figs. 3 and 4 using FastTree 2 (68).

Twenty-eight of the 3512 sequenced type 1 PKS gene clusters and 13 of the 326 terpene gene clusters were selected for expression in yeast as described in the main text.

A full cladogram for the PKS proteins of all PKS-containing BGCs with all sequences deposited in MIBiG labeled is shown in fig. S7.

Construction and culture of production strains

Production strains were constructed by transforming plasmid DNA isolated out of *E. coli* (Qiagen miniprep 27106) into the appropriate expression host (JHY692 for PKS-containing plasmids, JHY705 for all others) using the Frozen-EZ Yeast Transformation II kit (Zymo Research T2001) followed by plating on the appropriate SD media (CSM-Leu for PKS-containing plasmids and CSM-Ura for all others). For BGCs encoded on at least two plasmids, three biological replicates for each haploid transformant were mated on YPD plates and incubated at 30°C for 4 to 16 hours before streaking for single colonies on CSM-Ura/-Leu and incubated at 30°C. All production strains used in this study are described in table S9.

Small-scale cultures for analysis were begun by picking three biological replicates of each production strain along with empty vector controls into 500 μ l of the appropriate SD medium in a 1-ml deep-well block and grown for approximately 24 hours at 30°C. Overnight culture (50 μ l) was used to inoculate 500 μ l of each of the production media to be tested in the experiment (generally both YPD and YPE) in 1-ml deep-well blocks. All blocks were covered with gas-permeable plate seals (AB-0718, Thermo Fisher Scientific) and incubated at 30°C for 72 hours with shaking at 1000 rpm. Supernatants were clarified by centrifugation for 20 min at 2800g, and a minimum of 100 μ l of clarified supernatant was stored for future analysis. The remainder of the supernatant was discarded, and the cell pellets were extracted by mixing with 400 μ l of 1:1 ethyl acetate/acetone. Cell debris was precipitated by centrifugation for 20 min at 2800g, and 200 μ l of the extraction solvent was pipetted to a fresh block and evaporated in a SpeedVac.

Before the analysis, all supernatants were passed through a 0.2- μ m filter plate, whereas all cell pellet extracts were resuspended in 200 μ l of high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)-grade methanol before filtering.

Analysis of small-scale cultures

LC-MS analysis was conducted on an Agilent 6545 quantitative time-of-flight mass spectrometer interfaced to an Agilent 1290 HPLC system. The ion source for most analyses was an electrospray ionization source (dual-inlet Agilent Jet Stream or “dual AJS”). In some analyses, an Agilent Multimode Ion Source was also used for atmospheric pressure chemical ionization. The parameters used for both ionization sources are outlined in the Supplementary Materials.

The HPLC column for all analyses was a 50-mm \times 2.1-mm Zorbax RRHD Eclipse C18 column with 1.8- μ m beads (959757-902, Agilent). No guard column was used.

Gradient conditions were isocratic at 95% A from 0 to 0.2 min, with a gradient from 95% A to 5% A from 0.2 to 4.2 min, followed by isocratic conditions at 5% A from 4.2 to 5.2 min, followed by a gradient from 5% A to 95% A from 5.2 to 5.4 min, followed by isocratic reequilibration at 95% A from 5.4 to 6 min. For electrospray analyses, A was 0.1% (v/v) formic acid in water, and B was 0.1% (v/v) formic acid in acetonitrile. For atmospheric-pressure chemical ionization analyses, B was substituted by 0.1% (v/v) formic acid in methanol.

Data analysis by untargeted metabolomics was performed with XCMS using optimal parameters determined by IPO (69).

For PKS-containing clusters, automated analyses were set to generate extracted ion chromatograms (EICs) for the top 100 spectral features as defined by both fold change and *P* value. These EICs were then manually inspected to identify the subset of automatically identified features that appear specific to the expressed BGC as defined by presence in each of three biological replicates of the production strain and absence from three biological replicates of a negative control strain (figs. S6 and S8 to S24).

Large-scale culture and compound isolation

For compound isolation, large-scale fermentation was carried out. The yeast strains were first struck out onto the appropriate SD agar plates and incubated for 48 hours at 30°C. A colony was then inoculated into 40 ml of SD medium and incubated at 28°C for 2 days with shaking at 250 rpm. This seed culture was used to inoculate 4 liters of YPD medium (1.5% glucose) and cultured for 3 days at 28°C and 250 rpm. Supernatants were then clarified by centrifugation and extracted with equal volume of ethyl acetate. Cell pellets were extracted with 1 liter of acetone. For compounds containing carboxylic acid groups, the pH value of the super-

natant was adjusted to 3 by adding HCl before extraction. The organic phases were combined and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by ISCO-CombiFlash Rf 200 (Teledyne ISCO) with a gradient of hexane and acetone. After analysis by LC-MS, the fractions containing the target compounds were combined and further purified by semipreparative HPLC using C18 reverse-phase column. The purity of each compound was confirmed by LC-MS, and the structure was solved by NMR (tables S11 to S21 and figs. S25 to S79).

All NMR spectra including ^1H , ^{13}C , COSY, HSQC, HMBC, and NOESY were obtained on a Bruker AV500 spectrometer with a 5-mm dual cryoprobe at the University of California, Los Angeles, Molecular Instrumentation Center. The NMR solvents used for these experiments were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories Inc.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Supplementary material for this article is available at <http://advances.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/4/4/eaar5459/DC1>

Supplementary Text

- fig. S1. Characterization of *S. cerevisiae* P_{ADH2}-like promoters.
- fig. S2. Cloning vectors used in this study.
- fig. S3. Improving DNA assembly.
- fig. S4. Schematics of all PKS-containing BGCs examined here.
- fig. S5. UTC-containing BGCs examined here.
- fig. S6. Volcano plot of all spectral features identified in the automated analysis of strains expressing PKS-containing BGCs.
- fig. S8. All features produced by PKS1 in strain 132.
- fig. S9. All features produced by PKS2 in strain 133.
- fig. S10. All features produced by PKS4 in strain 255.
- fig. S11. All features produced by PKS6 in strain 178.
- fig. S12. All features produced by PKS5 in strain 164.
- fig. S13. All features produced by PKS10 in strain 246.
- fig. S14. All features produced by PKS13 in strain 206.
- fig. S15. All features produced by PKS14 in strain 257.
- fig. S16. All features produced by PKS15 in strain 247.
- fig. S17. All features produced by PKS16 in strain 177.
- fig. S18. All features produced by PKS17 in strain 176.
- fig. S19. All features produced by PKS18 in strain 207.
- fig. S20. All features produced by PKS20 in strain 208.
- fig. S21. All features produced by PKS22 in strain 209.
- fig. S22. All features produced by PKS23 in strain 241.
- fig. S23. All features produced by PKS24 in strain 210.
- fig. S24. All features produced by PKS28 in strain 240.
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- fig. S26. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **6** in CDCl₃.
- fig. S27. ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum of compound **6** in CDCl₃.
- fig. S28. HSQC spectrum of compound **6** in CDCl₃.
- fig. S29. HMBC spectrum of compound **6** in CDCl₃.
- fig. S30. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **7** in acetone-d₆.
- fig. S31. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **7** in acetone-d₆.
- fig. S32. ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum of compound **7** in acetone-d₆.
- fig. S33. HSQC spectrum of compound **7** in acetone-d₆.
- fig. S34. HMBC spectrum of compound **7** in acetone-d₆.
- fig. S35. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **8** in acetone-d₆.
- fig. S36. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **8** in acetone-d₆.
- fig. S37. ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum of compound **8** in acetone-d₆.
- fig. S38. HSQC spectrum of compound **8** in acetone-d₆.
- fig. S39. HMBC spectrum of compound **8** in acetone-d₆.
- fig. S40. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **9** in CDCl₃.
- fig. S41. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **9** in CDCl₃.
- fig. S42. ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum of compound **9** in CDCl₃.
- fig. S43. HSQC spectrum of compound **9** in CDCl₃.
- fig. S44. HMBC spectrum of compound **9** in CDCl₃.
- fig. S45. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **10** in CDCl₃.
- fig. S46. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **10** in CDCl₃.
- fig. S47. ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum of compound **10** in CDCl₃.
- fig. S48. HSQC spectrum of compound **10** in CDCl₃.
- fig. S49. HMBC spectrum of compound **10** in CDCl₃.

fig. S50. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **11** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S51. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **11** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S52. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **12** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S53. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **12** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S54. ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum of compound **12** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S55. HSQC spectrum of compound **12** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S56. HMBC spectrum of compound **12** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S57. NOESY spectrum of compound **12** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S58. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **13** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S59. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **13** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S60. ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum of compound **13** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S61. HSQC spectrum of compound **13** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S62. HMBC spectrum of compound **13** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S63. NOESY spectrum of compound **13** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S64. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **14** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S65. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **14** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S66. ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum of compound **14** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S67. HSQC spectrum of compound **14** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S68. HMBC spectrum of compound **14** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S69. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **15** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S70. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **15** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S71. ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum of compound **15** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S72. HSQC spectrum of compound **15** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S73. HMBC spectrum of compound **15** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S74. HMBC spectrum of compound **15** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S75. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **16** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S76. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **16** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S77. ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum of compound **16** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S78. HSQC spectrum of compound **16** in CDCl₃.
 fig. S79. HMBC spectrum of compound **16** in CDCl₃.
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 table S3. Sequences of HEx promoters
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 table S5. Features integrated for the determination of sesquiterpenoid titer in Fig. 2B.
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 table S7. Standard part plasmids and expression vectors used for the assembly of cryptic BGCs in this study.
 table S8. Coordinates of native loci from which all clusters examined here were derived along with the IDs of plasmids expressing the engineered cluster versions.
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 table S16. NMR data of compound **11**.
 table S17. NMR data of compound **12**.
 table S18. NMR data of compound **13**.
 table S19. NMR data of compound **14**.
 table S20. NMR data of compound **15**.
 table S21. NMR data of compound **16**.
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