

Effector identification in the lettuce downy mildew *Bremia lactucae* by massively parallel transcriptome sequencing

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SUMMARY

Lettuce downy mildew (*Bremia lactucae*) is a rapidly adapting oomycete pathogen affecting commercial lettuce cultivation. Oomycetes are known to use a diverse arsenal of secreted proteins (effectors) to manipulate their hosts. Two classes of effector are known to be translocated by the host: the RXLRs and Crinklers. To gain insight into the repertoire of effectors used by *B. lactucae* to manipulate its host, we performed massively parallel sequencing of cDNA derived from *B. lactucae* spores and infected lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) seedlings. From over 2.3 million 454 GS FLX reads, 59 618 contigs were assembled representing both plant and pathogen transcripts. Of these, 19 663 contigs were determined to be of *B. lactucae* origin as they matched pathogen genome sequences (SOLiD) that were obtained from >270 million reads of spore-derived genomic DNA. After correction of cDNA sequencing errors with SOLiD data, translation into protein models and filtering, 16 372 protein models remained, 1023 of which were predicted to be secreted. This secretome included elicitors, necrosis and ethylene-inducing peptide 1-like proteins, glucanase inhibitors and lectins, and was enriched in cysteine-rich proteins. Candidate host-translocated effectors included 78 protein models with RXLR effector features. In addition, we found indications for an unknown number of Crinkler-like sequences. Similarity clustering of secreted proteins revealed additional effector candidates. We provide a first look at the transcriptome of *B. lactucae* and its encoded effector arsenal.

INTRODUCTION

Oomycete plant pathogens cause devastating diseases on a wide variety of crops. These organisms resemble fungi, but are more closely related to brown algae. Well-known oomycete pathogens are the obligate biotrophic downy mildews and the hemibiotrophic *Phytophthora* species, including *P. infestans*, the causative

agent of the Irish potato famine, and *P. ramorum*, which causes sudden oak death. The downy mildews have a narrow host range, for instance *Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis* grows only on living *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants, *Plasmopara viticola* is an important grape pathogen and *Bremia lactucae* is the most important pathogen of lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*). The control of *B. lactucae* is an increasingly difficult task as fungicides have been phased out because of environmental concerns, and fungicide resistance is becoming more widespread (Brown *et al.*, 2004). Genetically controlled resistance to *B. lactucae* is present in most commercial lettuce varieties, but is quickly overcome by new rapidly evolving *B. lactucae* races.

The *B. lactucae* life cycle starts from a spore landing on the plant's epidermis, followed by penetration, hyphal colonization of host tissue and sporulation, leading to the release of large numbers of spores. At all stages, *B. lactucae* is in contact with its host, so that it can interfere with defence and manipulate host processes to obtain nutrients. In contrast with many oomycetes, *B. lactucae* infection usually starts with the direct germination of asexual spores, without a zoospore intermediate stage. *B. lactucae* also does not rely on entry via stomata, but, instead, usually penetrates directly through the cuticula into an epidermal cell. A primary vesicle and, later, a secondary vesicle are then formed in the epidermal cell, after which hyphae grow in the intercellular space of the mesophyll tissue. Haustoria are formed in most mesophyll and epidermal cells encountered by the hyphae (reviewed in Lebeda *et al.*, 2008). The *B. lactucae*–lettuce interaction is a classic example of a gene-for-gene interaction, in which single dominant avirulence genes in *B. lactucae* are genetically recognized by dominant resistance genes in lettuce (reviewed by Michelmore and Wong, 2008). Knowledge on the molecular biology and basis of *B. lactucae* pathogenicity, however, is mostly lacking.

Studies of oomycete–plant interactions at the molecular level are now revealing more and more details on the molecular toolbox used by these remarkable pathogens. The genomes of the sequenced oomycete species *Albugo candida* (Kemen *et al.*, 2011), *A. laibachii* (Links *et al.*, 2011), *H. arabidopsidis* (Baxter *et al.*, 2010), *P. infestans* (Haas *et al.*, 2009), *P. sojae* (Tyler *et al.*,

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2006), *P. ramorum* (Tyler *et al.*, 2006) *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* (Tian *et al.*, 2011) and *Pythium ultimum* (Lévesque *et al.*, 2010) represent a treasure trove of information on the effector repertoires secreted by these pathogens to manipulate their hosts. Various types of effectors are predicted to act in the apoplast and, in addition, two classes of oomycete effector translocate into the host cell (reviewed in Stassen and Van den Ackerveken, 2011). Effectors from one of the host-translocated classes are referred to as RXLR effectors, after the RXLR amino acid motif contained by the first characterized effectors of this class (Rehmany *et al.*, 2005), although variations in this motif also permit host translocation (Kale *et al.*, 2010). Examples of variants of RXLR motifs include the QXLR motif found in host-translocating effectors of the oomycete pathogen of cucumber, *Ps. cubensis* (Tian *et al.*, 2011), and the GXLR motif found in the *P. infestans* effector SNE1 (Kelley *et al.*, 2010). Furthermore, ATR5 of *H. arabidopsidis* is recognized inside host cells and has homology to the RXLR motif-containing effectors, but does not contain an RXLR motif (Bailey *et al.*, 2011). A second class of host-translocated effectors are the Crinklers, which contain two conserved amino acid motifs preceding a modular C-terminal section. In a number of Crinklers, the domains that form the modules in this C-terminal section induce cell death when expressed in *Nicotiana benthamiana* (Haas *et al.*, 2009). Two Crinklers from *P. sojae* are even thought to be indispensable for successful infection of soybean (Liu *et al.*, 2011). Although the effector repertoire is generally highly divergent between species, features such as motifs associated with host-translocated effectors allow for the identification of potential effectors encoded by gene models or mRNA sequences.

Access to the catalogue of the effectors of a species allows for the cloning and investigation of individual effector genes. This has led to the identification of various activities of effectors on host processes. Examples include the disruption of host cell wall–membrane adhesion (Bouwmeester *et al.*, 2011), suppression of defensive protease activity (Kaschani *et al.*, 2010; Song *et al.*,

2009; Tian *et al.*, 2007) and suppression of effector-triggered immunity (e.g. Kelley *et al.*, 2010; Liu *et al.*, 2011). In addition, the first cytoplasmic target and mode of action of a host-translocated effector has been identified; host E3 ligase CMPG1 is stabilized by *P. infestans* effector AVR3a (Bos *et al.*, 2010), revealing more details about the mechanisms by which oomycetes establish a successful infection of their hosts.

In this article, we investigate the potential effector arsenal of *B. lactucae* by cDNA sequencing and *de novo* assembly of transcript sequences. Transcripts obtained from *B. lactucae*-infected lettuce were compared with short reads of *B. lactucae* genomic DNA (gdDNA) to select for *B. lactucae* transcripts. From the predicted *B. lactucae* secretome, we identified homologues of known effector families as well as new groups of potential effector proteins.

RESULTS

Bremia lactucae transcriptome sequencing

Two sources of RNA were used for *B. lactucae* transcriptome sequencing: RNA isolated from asexual *B. lactucae* conidiospores and RNA isolated from *B. lactucae*-infected lettuce leaves. Many effector genes are known to be differentially expressed during different stages of infection, with transcripts of early-stage effectors being present in spores, and transcripts of later stage (hyphal growth) effectors being expressed in *B. lactucae* growing *in planta*. To increase the number of different infection stages and, as a result, transcript diversity, lettuce seedlings were inoculated twice with a 3-day interval (see time line in Fig. 1A). Lettuce seedlings were inoculated with conidiospores (Fig. 1B) that germinate on the leaf surface, penetrate through epidermal cells and then continue to grow intercellular hyphae in the mesophyll, forming haustoria in plant cells (Fig. 1C). Plants were kept under low relative humidity and, as a result, when material was harvested for RNA isolation (day 7), no *B. lactucae* sporulation was

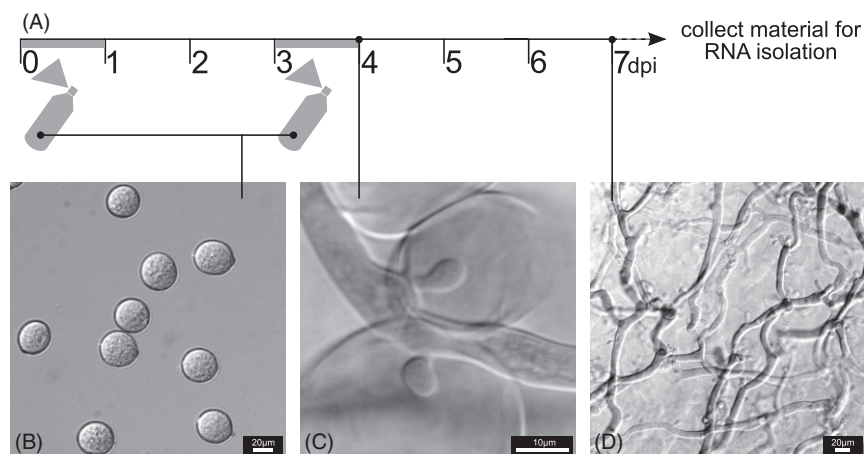


Fig. 1 Preparation of *Bremia lactucae*-infected lettuce leaves for transcriptome analysis. (A) Time line of sampling. Light grey bars represent periods in which infected lettuce was kept at high humidity. (B) Spores were spray inoculated at time point 0 and at a second time point at 3 days post-inoculation (dpi). (C) *Bremia lactucae* establishes an infection and forms hyphae between plant cells, creating haustoria in adjacent cells. (D) Leaf material heavily colonized with *B. lactucae* hyphae and haustoria is harvested for RNA isolation at 7 dpi.

Table 1 Materials and method of preparation of cDNA for transcriptome sequencing. The contribution of each pool to the number of reads and number of bases is indicated.

Pool	Material	Strategy	5' reads*	Total 5' nucleotides	3' reads	Total 3' nucleotides
1	Spores	5' sequencing	86 352	22 212 388	–	–
2	Interaction	5' sequencing	115 413	30 335 206	–	–
3	Interaction	Random primed + normalized	701 499	182 312 369	–	–
4	Mixed	Random primed + normalized	637 709	165 624 293	–	–
3+4†	Mixed	Random primed + normalized	–	–	1 013 411	262 824 074

*The DNA code in the adapter that links a read to a pool could not be resolved for 19 422 reads that are not included in this table.

†The DNA code was not sequenced in 3' reads.

observed, although abundant growth of intercellular hyphae and the formation of haustoria were visible (Fig. 1D).

Transcript sequencing was performed using 454 sequencing technology on cDNA of spores and *B. lactucae*-infected cotyledons generated by either oligo dT priming and 5' enrichment, or by random priming and normalization. An overview of the number of obtained sequences per approach is given in Table 1. Normalization selectively removes sequences present in relatively high abundance, shifting the odds of a randomly sequenced transcript representing a rare transcript towards that of sampling of a high-copy transcript. It is important to sample transcripts that are present in low abundance, as effectors may be produced very locally and can therefore be present at low abundance in the overall sample. We generated random-primed cDNA to more evenly spread coverage over the entire length of the transcripts. Pools 3 and 4 (Table 1) are random primed and normalized, and were used to generate the majority of reads (>90%). We also sequenced the 450–650-bp fragments from both the 3' and 5' ends, as the expected ~200-bp read size of the 454 sequencing technology (GS FLX) used would otherwise probably miss the 3' ends of transcripts. In addition, we sequenced the 5'-enriched non-normalized pools to provide stronger coverage of the 5' ends of transcripts that are most important when looking for N-terminal signal peptides of secreted proteins.

A total of 523 477 146 bases from 2 349 338 cDNA reads (91.28% of all available reads) was assembled into 59 618 contigs. The total length of contig consensus sequences was 36 217 753 bases and the average coverage of these sequences was 14.6-fold. The average length of contig consensus sequences was 607.5 bases. Further statistics relating to the assembled sequences can be found in Table 2.

The assembled contigs are derived from both *B. lactucae* and lettuce, as most transcript sequences were derived from RNA of infected plants. To determine which transcripts are derived from *B. lactucae* and to correct 454 sequencing errors, we generated additional sequence information by SOLiD sequencing of *B. lactucae* gDNA. Conidiospores were used for gDNA isolation as they are the only life stage of *B. lactucae* that can be well separated from its lettuce host. We sequenced gDNA rather than mRNA from spores, as the transcript pool in spores most probably lacks many

Table 2 Assembly process statistics regarding the number of input reads, reads after filtering and remaining singletons. The number and total length of contigs are given for all and large (>500 nucleotide) contigs.

Transcriptome assembly	
Reads	
Total number of reads	2 573 806
Number of reads after filtering	2 349 338 (91.28%)
Number of bases in reads after filtering	523 477 146 (90.65%)
Singletons remaining after assembly	82 194 (3.19%)
Contigs	
Contigs	59 618
Bases in consensus sequences	36 217 753
Large contigs (>500 bp)	26 358 (44.21%)
Bases in large contigs	26 543 633 (73.29%)
Average size of large contigs	1 007
N50 size of large contigs	1 087

transcripts that are involved in the interaction with the host plant. The *B. lactucae* gDNA SOLiD sequencing data obtained consist of 173 428 926 reads of ~50 bp.

By mapping *B. lactucae* gDNA reads to the assembled 454 reads, contigs representing *B. lactucae* transcripts can be differentiated from lettuce-derived or poorly assembled sequences. Transcripts with high average gDNA read coverage probably represent *B. lactucae* transcriptome sequences, whereas low or no coverage indicates a lettuce or contaminant origin. A total of 20 925 of 59 618 contigs, or 35.2%, had at least one SOLiD gDNA read mapped to the sequence. The average gDNA read coverage per contig peaked at 37–40-fold coverage, as shown in Fig. 2. The shoulder seen at approximately half this coverage (18–20-fold coverage) in Fig. 2 may represent alleles that have been assembled as separate transcripts. We defined the *B. lactucae* transcriptome set as the 19 663 contigs with a 10-fold or higher average SOLiD-sequenced gDNA read coverage. The vast majority of excluded sequences had no gDNA read coverage and, of those that did, most had an average gDNA read coverage of less than one-fold (Fig. 2). The average length of the sequences in our *B. lactucae* transcriptome set of 19 663 contigs was 736.7 bp, up from 607.5 bp in the overall set, probably as a result of the exclusion of short contaminant sequences. Of all the assembled spore-derived reads (pool 1), over 93% were found in consensus sequences that were classified as *B. lactucae*. For the

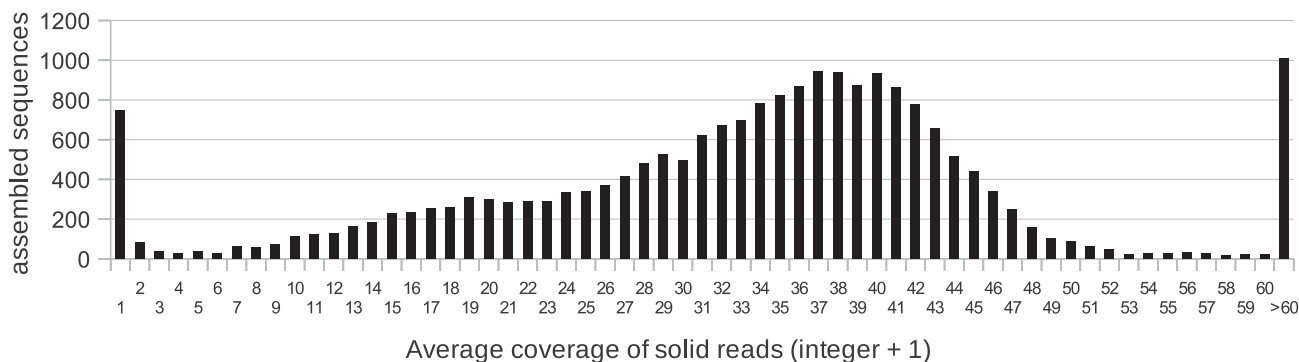


Fig. 2 Number of consensus sequences with indicated average genomic DNA (gDNA) read coverage. Read coverages are assigned into groups by taking the integer + 1 of the actual average read coverage.

non-normalized, interaction-derived reads (pool 2), we found 20% of reads in *B. lactucae* contigs, whereas, from normalized pools (pools 3 and 4), 47% matched to *B. lactucae*. This suggests that the normalization procedure increased the proportion of *B. lactucae* transcript sequences in the interaction cDNA. To assess whether lettuce transcripts were successfully excluded, we compared our assembled sequences with a collection of 226 050 expressed sequence tags (ESTs) from *Lactuca* species (The Compositae Genome Project; <http://cgpdb.ucdavis.edu>). For the sequences excluded from the *B. lactucae* transcriptome, we found matching ESTs for ~70% of our sequences. More importantly, we found only 151 sequences (<1%) in our *B. lactucae* set with *Lactuca* EST matches. However, comparison of these transcripts with the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) nonredundant (NR) protein sequence collection revealed that 89 of these most closely matched *P. infestans* proteins, suggesting that they are of oomycete origin, and are therefore correctly assigned to *B. lactucae*. We conclude that the *B. lactucae* set contains few contaminant sequences, as only a very minor number of possible lettuce sequences were detected.

We also used data on the differences between the 454 transcripts and the mapped SOLiD reads to mitigate problems arising from insertions and deletions of small numbers of bases. We corrected 3048 of the 454 transcripts with SOLiD data. To assess whether sequences were improved, we compared nucleotide sequences before and after correction with the protein sequences in the NCBI NR protein database by BLASTX. Errors in the sequence that lead to frame shifts yield two short hits with the same database sequence, rather than one single hit. We found 619 cases in which the corrected sequences had fewer hits to the same database sequences than the uncorrected version, and 152 cases in which there were more hits. This indicates that the incorporation of the information from the SOLiD mapping improved the assembly quality, although, project-wide, most contigs remained unchanged.

Translation of the 19 663 *B. lactucae* sequences resulted in 16 372 protein sequences of at least 20 amino acids and starting with a methionine. The majority of coding sequences ended with a

stop codon, whereas about one-third lacked a stop codon and apparently lacked 3' sequences. To obtain an indication of the coverage of the transcriptome, we compared the protein models with a set of 248 hidden Markov models (HMMs) of core eukaryotic genes used for genome completeness surveys (http://korflab.ucdavis.edu/Datasets/genome_completeness/). The HMMs are based on extremely highly conserved proteins thought to be present in all eukaryotes in small numbers of paralogues (Parra *et al.*, 2007). For 79% of all HMM models of conserved eukaryotic genes, matches were found to our *B. lactucae* transcript sequences. The same approach, using the *P. infestans* and *H. arabidopsidis* protein models based on their complete genomes, yielded 95% and 96% coverage, respectively. The *B. lactucae* transcripts represent the genes expressed during infection, and may therefore not represent all genes that are present in the genome. With a match of 79%, the *B. lactucae* transcriptome is well represented.

The protein sequences corresponding to a set of 119 core orthologous genes were used to determine the place of *B. lactucae* in oomycete phylogeny by comparison with six pathogenic oomycete species and four nonpathogenic stramenochromes for which predicted proteomes are available. As depicted in Fig. 3, the stramenochromes branch off first, after which *Saprolegnia parasitica* and then *Py. ultimum* branch off in the evolutionary tree. We then find *B. lactucae*, followed by *H. arabidopsidis* and, finally, three *Phytophthora* species. We can therefore compare *B. lactucae* with the earlier branching necrotrophic oomycete *Py. ultimum* and the later branching biotrophic downy mildew *H. arabidopsidis* and hemibiotrophic *Phytophthora* species.

To define the *B. lactucae* secretome, we determined which protein models contained a signal peptide but no transmembrane helix predictions. Of the 16 372 models considered, 1023 were predicted to be secreted. The size of the secretome is close to that predicted for the downy mildew *H. arabidopsidis* (1016 predicted secreted proteins) and *Py. ultimum* (1123 secreted proteins), as shown in Fig. 4. The 1023 candidate secreted *B. lactucae* proteins were further analysed for protein domains and other features related to effectors.

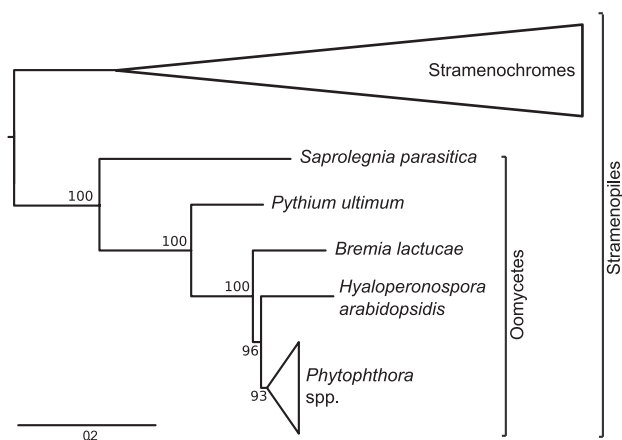


Fig. 3 Phylogeny of *Bremia lactucae* and related stramenochromes determined from a multiple sequence alignment of 119 concatenated orthologous sequences. The scale bar represents 0.2 substitutions per amino acid. Numbers represent the bootstrap support for the given branch.

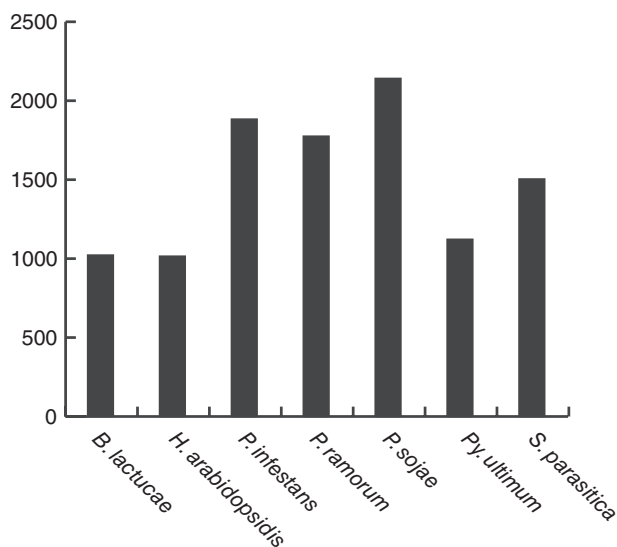


Fig. 4 The size of the secretome encoded in the genomes of different oomycetes, as determined from the presence of signal peptides and the absence of transmembrane helices in the protein models of each species.

Domain composition of the *B. lactucae* secretome

An initial approach to catalogue the secretome was to determine which Pfam domains, families and repeats were present. We obtained a total of 348 Pfam annotations for 295 of the 1023 secretome protein models. Prevalent domains in the *B. lactucae* secretome (Table 3) included various domains that may be linked to pathogenicity. The most prevalent domain in the *B. lactucae* secretome was the elicitor domain. Elicitors are small highly conserved secreted proteins characterized by a domain that contains six cysteine residues important for structure. Of the 12 *B. lactucae* protein models with elicitor domain matches, nine contained at least six cysteines in the predicted mature peptide. *Phytophthora*

elicitors trigger a hypersensitive response in host plants, an effect that is linked to sterol binding and transporting activity for which a surface-exposed polar residue is important (Hirasawa *et al.*, 2004; Mikes *et al.*, 1997, 1998; Plešková *et al.*, 2011; Ricci *et al.*, 1989; Vauthrin *et al.*, 1999). Elicitors may play a role in the uptake of sterols by oomycetes that do not synthesize their own, as the presence of elicitors appears to be correlated with the loss of the sterol biosynthetic pathway (Gaulin *et al.*, 2010; Jiang *et al.*, 2006; Vauthrin *et al.*, 1999). Elicitors are found in higher numbers in the hemibiotroph *P. infestans* and the necrotroph *Py. ultimum* than in *H. arabidopsidis* and *B. lactucae* (Table 3), suggesting that they may be selected against in biotrophs that adapt a more stealthy infection strategy. All of the *B. lactucae* elicitors are α -elicitors (Nespoulous *et al.*, 1992), which generally provoke a less marked host response than do β -elicitors.

Trypsin domains, found in peptidases, are present in *B. lactucae* in numbers similar to those in *P. infestans* and *Py. ultimum*, whereas fewer are found in *H. arabidopsidis*. The role of oomycete proteases in pathogenesis has not been determined, with only a single report of a *P. infestans* protease with an intact catalytic triad that is expressed during infection (Raffaele *et al.*, 2010). More common are catalytically inactive trypsin-like proteins that act as glucanase inhibitors (Rose *et al.*, 2002). The *B. lactucae* proteins with trypsin matches do not have intact catalytic residues in the active site and could therefore function as glucanase inhibitors. Host glucanases can damage the oomycete cell wall, impeding oomycete growth and releasing glucan-oligosaccharide elicitors (van Loon *et al.*, 2006), and are therefore a potentially useful target for inhibition by an invading oomycete.

Jacalin domains and Ricin-B-lectin domains, both found in lectins, are present in larger numbers than in the other oomycetes. A Jacalin domain-matching oomycete protein has been proposed to act in cell wall degradation (Raffaele *et al.*, 2010), and roles in host attachment have been suggested on the basis of homology to lectins (Ottmann *et al.*, 2009) and lectin-like activities (Gaulin *et al.*, 2002). Host lectins, however, act in defence and may recognize oomycete-derived carbohydrates or glycosylation features. Pathogen lectins could therefore also be instrumental in masking these signals, as has been demonstrated for the ECP6 effector of the plant-pathogenic fungus *Cladosporium fulvum*, which masks chitin oligosaccharides that normally trigger plant immune responses (de Jonge *et al.*, 2010).

Cysteine-rich secreted proteins and proteins mediating disulphide bond formation may play an important role in dealing with the protease-rich conditions in the extracellular environment. Cysteine residues can form disulphide bridges that may contribute to protein stability and protect against proteases. In addition, DnaJ proteins may act as molecular chaperones to further stabilize apoplast proteins. Many protein families involved in pathogenicity, found in other oomycetes, are small cysteine-rich proteins. Examples include the aforementioned elicitors, *Phytophthora* PCFs

Pfam domain	<i>B. lactucae</i>	<i>H. arabidopsidis</i>	<i>P. infestans</i>	<i>Py. ultimum</i>
Elicitin	12	9	28	37
Trypsin	11	4	13	14
Jacalin	7	4	4	0
DnaJ	6	3	5	5
Cysteine-rich secretory protein family	6	7	14	9
Ricin-B-lectin	4	2	1	0

Table 3 Number of protein models in *Bremia lactucae*, *Phytophthora infestans*, *Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis* and *Pythium ultimum* that are predicted to contain the domains that are most prevalent in the *B. lactucae* secretome.

(Bos *et al.*, 2003; Liu *et al.*, 2005; Orsomando *et al.*, 2001) and *H. arabidopsidis* PPATs (Bittner-Eddy *et al.*, 2003) and HaCRs (Cabral *et al.*, 2011). Although there are six proteins matching the Pfam cysteine-rich secretory domain model, these protein models contain few cysteine residues. Nonetheless, 135 cysteine-rich proteins (>5% cysteine) are found in the *B. lactucae* secretome. The majority of these are short (<100 amino acid) peptide predictions and not all predictions include a stop codon. Of all proteins in the secretome, 13.2% are cysteine-rich, compared with 8.4% of non-secreted proteins. There is high diversity in the pattern of spacing between cysteine residues in the cysteine-rich proteins, and no groups of proteins with similar cysteine spacing could be defined.

In terms of protein families in Pfam that have significant hits in the *B. lactucae* secretome, the NLP [necrosis and ethylene-inducing peptide 1 (NEP1)-like protein] family is most prevalent, with eight members. Originally thought to act as cytolytic toxins, the NLPs are found in many oomycetes. Structurally, they were shown to be related to actinoporins, but their resemblance to lectins may indicate an alternative function in attachment to the host (Ottmann *et al.*, 2009). Although the *P. sojae* NLP PsojNIP and *P. infestans* NLP PINPP1.1 induce cell death when expressed in tobacco (Kanneganti *et al.*, 2006; Qutob *et al.*, 2002), the NLPs of the obligate biotroph *H. arabidopsidis* do not induce necrosis (Baxter *et al.*, 2010; Cabral *et al.*, 2012). The *H. arabidopsidis* NLPs are predominantly found in a species-specific subclade within the NLPs. NLP sequences of *B. lactucae* are more widely distributed in the oomycete NLP gene phylogeny (Fig. S1, see Supporting Information). A cell death-inducing activity of the *B. lactucae* NLPs is, however, unlikely as not all residues that are critical for the induction of cell death by NLPs (Ottmann *et al.*, 2009) are conserved in *B. lactucae* NLPs.

Many contigs, corresponding to protein models with different domains, show differential abundance between *B. lactucae* spores and infected lettuce leaves. This was deduced by estimating the relative abundance levels from the number of transcript sequence reads from the non-normalized 5' cDNA sequencing pools of spore and interaction stages (Table S1, see Supporting Information). It is striking to see that many transcripts encoding secreted proteins are already abundant in spores, e.g. transcripts for several elicitors, trypsins and Jacalin domain proteins. Many other transcripts are more abundant in infected lettuce plants, e.g. an elicitin and several cysteine-rich proteins. For none of the NLP contigs was a

large number of reads or differential abundance observed, suggesting that they are not highly expressed at the *B. lactucae* stages analysed.

Host-translocated effectors

To find potential host-translocated RXLR effectors, a search for the amino acid motif RXLR was performed on the predicted *B. lactucae* secretome. This search identified 43 potential RXLR effectors, counting only hits with the RXLR located between positions 30 and 60 in proteins of at least 65 amino acids. As variants of the RXLR motif also allow host entry, we expanded our search to include protein models that are similar to known RXLRs. We therefore performed a BLAST search with all *H. arabidopsidis* (Baxter *et al.*, 2010) and *Phytophthora* spp. (Haas *et al.*, 2009) RXLRs against the *B. lactucae* secretome. To rule out matches based on homology to conserved signal peptide sequences, they were removed from the *B. lactucae* proteins. In this search, 38 matches were found in the *B. lactucae* secretome, irrespective of the presence or absence of an RXLR or RXLR-like motif. In a third approach to find RXLR effectors, we selected the RXLR motif and 20 residues on either side in the sequences that were identified by the motif search, and used these as input for a jackhammer search. Jackhammer is an iterative search that uses matches to an initial input sequence to construct an alignment profile which is employed to search for additional matches in the target database and to further refine the profile. Eight new candidates were identified in a set of 53 that included 43 input sequences and two sequences that were found by BLAST. Eleven proteins were predicted by all three methods (Fig. 5). The combined set consists of 78 unique potential RXLR effectors, the details of which are provided in Table 4. We also found protein models by BLAST comparison that did not have an RXLR motif or variant thereof, but did have an EER motif, albeit slightly more N-terminal of the location at which the RXLR motif would be expected. For 11 *B. lactucae* contigs encoding RXLR and RXLR-like proteins, we observed clear differential expression based on transcript reads between spores and *in planta* stages (Table S1). Most of the *B. lactucae* RXLR and RXLR-like effectors were not found in the genomes of other downy mildews. Bidirectional BLAST matches (E-value < 1e-3 both ways) were found for only seven *B. lactucae* versus eight *H. arabidopsidis* RXLRs, and none for *Ps. cubensis*. In addition, between *Ps. cubensis* and *H. arabidopsidis* only three RXLR matches were found.

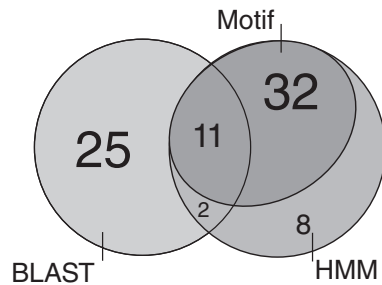


Fig. 5 Venn diagram depicting the overlap of the three methods used for the prediction of RXLR effectors. HMM, hidden Markov model.

Using the collection of Crinkler effectors of *Phytophthora* species (Haas *et al.*, 2009), we performed similarity searches to identify these effectors in the *B. lactucae* secretome. We found six candidates, three of which contained an LXFLA amino acid motif that was similar to the motifs reported in *Phytophthora* species. Interestingly, gDNA read coverage was higher than expected for four candidates: two containing the LXFLA motif (six- and three-fold) and two without this sequence (22- and 40-fold). This suggests that more gene copies or pseudogenes may be present in the genome than are detected in our transcriptome set, or that multiple genes have been assembled into a single sequence. The sequences containing an LXFLA motif are not complete, suggesting problems with assembly. We therefore used the HMM models of Crinkler domains (Haas *et al.*, 2009) to screen all predicted peptides for the potential presence of Crinkler domains. All peptides were included as many of the potential *Phytophthora* Crinklers do not have a signal peptide and signal peptides may have been assembled separately. We found a total of 75 sequences that had homology to one or more of the reported Crinkler domains. In total, we found matches to 14 different C-terminal Crinkler domains in *B. lactucae* (Table 5), again with higher than expected gDNA coverage. Interestingly, we also found traces of D2, DC and DBF domains, which are also found in cell death-inducing *P. infestans* Crinklers (Haas *et al.*, 2009).

Expanded sequence families in *B. lactucae*

The clustering of *B. lactucae* secretome sequences with those of six other oomycete species and four stramenopile species was performed on the basis of a comparison of all sequences with each other. A cluster of closely related genes may indicate a recently expanded family of genes that plays an important role in pathogenesis and adaptation to the host. Clustering revealed 85 groups of sequences containing multiple *B. lactucae* members. We focused on eight clusters with three or more *B. lactucae* members that contained significantly more *B. lactucae* members than would be expected on the basis of the presence of members of six other oomycetes and four other stramenopiles.

Two clusters could be categorized on the basis of Pfam domain hits. The first is a *B. lactucae*-unique cluster containing a three-

member subset of the Pfam elicin domain-matching sequences. The second cluster, with 11 *B. lactucae* members and two *H. arabidopsidis*, five *P. infestans*, 10 *P. sojae* and 18 *P. ramorum* members, contains all seven Jacalin domain-containing proteins. The members of this cluster have BLAST hits in the NCBI NR protein database to *P. infestans* hypothetical conserved proteins, but also to NPP1, an NLP, and putative adhesins. The sequences are distinct from the sequences with a Pfam NLP prediction, as those cluster together in another cluster, with eight *B. lactucae*, nine *H. arabidopsidis*, 25 *P. infestans*, 40 *P. sojae* and 56 *P. ramorum* members.

Of the remaining six clusters, five consist of three *B. lactucae* sequences each, and one cluster consists of four *B. lactucae* sequences. All but one cluster could be linked to identified RXLR effector candidates. The four-member cluster most closely represents the 'classic' RXLR effector, with an RXLR motif in all members and a DER motif in one of them. The four clusters of three sequences share similar sequence features that are more apparent when these clusters are aligned (Fig. 6). No significant similarity to sequences in the NCBI NR protein database was found for sequences in these four clusters. All members of the C1 cluster had already been identified as potential RXLR effectors, as well as a single member of each of two other clusters (C4 contig18477 and C3 contig28334). One member of C1, contig49490, has an intact RXLR motif that aligns with similar features in sequences in all sequence clusters. The presence of these sequences in groups of related sequences, with features similar to those found in known RXLR effectors, suggests that these proteins may be host-translocated effectors. The cluster that could not be linked to RXLR effectors has no RXLR-like motif (not shown) and contains no members that were identified as potential RXLR effectors, although all members contain an EER motif.

The clustering of secreted sequences highlights three elicitors specific for *B. lactucae*. It also shows that the family of jacalin domain proteins occurs in a cluster with varying numbers of family members in other oomycete species, suggesting that they might fulfil a species-specific role. Finally, it identifies other potential host-translocated effectors that were not predicted by other methods.

DISCUSSION

The *B. lactucae* transcriptome sequences that have been generated by next-generation sequencing methods provide a first look at the toolbox used by *B. lactucae* to manipulate its host. Potential apoplastic and host-translocated effectors could be predicted from the assembled transcript sequences. We showed that 79% of a set of conserved eukaryotic genes used to assess genome completion are represented in the *B. lactucae* transcriptome, underlining a broad sampling of the transcriptome. The transcriptome is far more plastic than the genome, and the remaining 21% of conserved eukaryotic genes may not have been sampled because not

Contig ID	RXLR start	RXLR	EER start	EER(like) motif*	Stop codon	Evidence†
16131	44	RRLR	55	EER	363	MBH
16134	41	RRLR	50	EER	454	MBH
23155	49	RLLR	61	EQEER	—	MBH
27267	55	RALR	68	EER	—	MBH
35642	42	RRLR	60	EDR	—	MBH
40355	50	RRLR	64	DER	270	MBH
42290	45	RGLR	200	NEK	333	MBH
43449	35	RMLR	—	—	—	MBH
45396	53	RLLR	—	—	130	MBH
49490	44	RRLR	57	DER	—	MBH
19377	49	RRLR	—	—	269	MB
22293	45	RFLR	65	DEK	—	MB
07991	43	RQLR	78	EER	161	MH
08247	52	RSLR	—	—	103	MH
08248	52	RSLR	—	—	146	MH
08983	49	RRLR	—	—	—	MH
16394	46	RRLR	59	QNDR	—	MH
18684	50	RRLR	—	—	282	MH
18840	49	RPLR	61	NQEER	—	MH
20700	56	REL	—	—	252	MH
21364	47	RALR	58	EDK	—	MH
23333	35	RFLR	—	—	—	MH
24965	57	RSLR	62	DENR	107	MH
29191	46	RKLR	—	—	75	MH
31910	45	RLLR	54	DNNEER	160	MH
32917-1	47	RSLR	60	NDER	—	MH
33962	39	RILR	—	—	74	MH
36117	38	RDLR	—	—	424	MH
36219	45	RHLR	60	ENR	201	MH
38529	40	RQLR	91	EDK	—	MH
39974	41	RQLR	50	DER	—	MH
40514	44	RLLR	56	EER	126	MH
41799	42	RALR	—	—	90	MH
41935	44	RLLR	53	DDNDER	—	MH
43687	55	RSLR	—	—	91	MH
43968	33	RGLR	—	—	185	MH
45726	42	RLLR	—	—	—	MH
46714	45	RSLR	82	NQR	—	MH
48006	46	RALR	55	NEDR	92	MH
48013	55	RALR	—	—	82	MH
50216	47	RSLR	60	DEER	102	MH
53213	43	RGLR	61	EER	—	MH
53460	47	RSLR	60	DEER	—	MH
22259	—	—	52	EER	375	BH
29756	36	RSLQ	51	DER	—	BH
56090	42	RSLQ	55	EER	—	BH
07727	45	RRLK	63	EER	—	B
07952	—	—	65	NEER	304	B
08155	55	RRLQ	109	EER	321	B
09272	—	—	58	DEER	346	B
09828	—	—	48	EER	652	B
11813	—	—	49	EER	629	B
12298	63	RLKREQ	—	—	612	B
13165	114	RSLR	360	DEK	—	B
14316	—	—	50	EER	365	B
16501	481	RKLR	—	—	485	B
17177	—	—	—	—	—	B
18477	42	QNLR	—	—	—	B
19297	57	KVLR	—	—	253	B
24419	—	—	54	DEER	434	B
24503	—	—	—	—	520	B
28334	43	EKLR	53	ENR	479	B
29771	—	—	—	—	263	B
35494	—	—	—	—	—	B
35745	169	RSLR	72	EER	—	B
48427	62	RLLD	—	—	—	B
51693	—	—	49	EER	—	B
51725	39	PSLR	—	—	—	B
56746	—	—	49	EER	—	B
23857	42	GKLR	55	DER	243	H
23857	42	GKLR	55	DER	243	H
25695	44	GKLR	57	DER	336	H
26201	58	RSLR	63	DENR	111	H
31920	44	GRLR	57	DER	233	H
38296	63	RRLR	—	—	—	H
46806	43	QLRLR	57	DER	—	H
50948	41	GRLR	54	DER	—	H
59265	49	RLLR	62	EE	—	H

*Determined as two or more D,E,N and/or Q residues followed by a R or K residue: [DENQ]{2,}[RK].

†Evidence codes are as follows: M, motif; B, BLAST; H, jackhmer.

Table 4 RXLR and RXLR-like motifs found in *Bremia lactucae* secretome protein models identified as potential RXLR effectors based on a motif search, BLAST comparison with RXLRs of other oomycetes or a jackhmer search with *B. lactucae* RXLR motifs and surrounding amino acids as input. All sequence coordinates are given in amino acids. Evidence codes are built up of M (motif search), B (BLAST comparison) and H (jackhmer search).

Table 5 Matches to hidden Markov models of Crinkler domains (as Haas *et al.*, 2009) in the *Bremia lactucae* transcriptome and the predicted copy numbers thereof.

Domain	Peptide predictions	Predicted copy number*
N-terminal		
LFLAK	15	64
DWL	13	101
C-terminal		
D2	11	11
DAB	2	4
DBE	4	22
DBF	3	3
DC	2	1
DDB	3	2
DDC	2	1
DFA	2	2
DFB	8	111
DFC	9	68
DN17	1	1
DN7	1	1
DX9	1	1
DXX	15	135

*The predicted copy number is determined by dividing the observed average genomic DNA coverage of the assembled transcripts in which the indicated domains are encoded by the average genomic coverage of all assembled *B. lactucae* transcripts.

all developmental stages of *B. lactucae* were represented in our material (e.g. sporangiophore formation, but also sexual reproduction). Another possibility is that the transcripts have been sampled, but are not assembled as full-length transcripts and therefore do not satisfy the cut-off values for the models of the conserved eukaryotic genes.

Protein predictions were based on the use of homology to known proteins to select the most probable open reading frame (ORF) from the contigs. In 432 cases, this suggested a model that spanned multiple ORFs in a single contig, in which case these ORFs were taken together as a single protein model. Manual inspection revealed that this may be a result of the inclusion of unprocessed introns in the cDNA sample. Although introns are thought to be rare in oomycetes, one study (Shen *et al.*, 2011) found that, of a total of 128 alternative splicing events detected in *P. sojae*, intron skipping was the most common event, explaining 97 cases.

Sequencing of plant-pathogenic oomycetes has revealed a variable number of RXLR effectors in different organisms. We identified 78 potential RXLR effectors in the *B. lactucae* secretome, 43 of which contained a conserved RXLR motif. This is a relatively small number compared with the 134 found in *H. arabidopsidis* (Baxter *et al.*, 2010) and the 563 found in *P. infestans* (Haas *et al.*, 2009), but close to the 32 RXLR effectors found in *Ps. cubensis* (Tian *et al.*, 2011). In addition, 29 potential effectors with a QXLR motif were found in *Ps. cubensis*. There is evidence that QXLR motif proteins can also translocate into the host (Tian *et al.*, 2011), illustrating that strict conformation to the RXLR motif is not

required. In *B. lactucae*, we identified four clusters of three related *B. lactucae* sequences that all contain sequence features reminiscent of RXLR motifs.

We reported traces of Crinkler proteins in the *B. lactucae* transcriptome. These sequences were not completely assembled and had a higher than expected coverage of genomic DNA reads. This may indicate that our sampling strategy is suboptimal for capturing Crinklers; EST sequencing of *H. arabidopsidis* material collected in a similar manner revealed a single partially assembled Crinkler (Cabral *et al.*, 2011). It may be that, in these obligate biotrophs, Crinklers are expressed in smaller numbers or in a more limited timeframe. Alternatively, key Crinkler-derived reads may be lost during normalization and assembly because of high sequence similarity.

Sequencing of the transcriptome of *B. lactucae* has provided a wealth of information about the proteins expressed during infection of the host. The protein models described are an extensive source of potential effectors. Candidate effectors can now be cloned and tested to study their role in the infection process, e.g. as suppressors of host immunity. An important next challenge is to determine how these proteins manipulate host processes. Ultimately, host susceptibility and resistance genes can then be identified from *Lactuca* resources, allowing for novel strategies in breeding for resistance against *B. lactucae*.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

454 sequencing

Bremia lactucae isolate BL24 was grown on *Lactuca sativa* cultivar Olof and the enhanced *B. lactucae*-susceptible *Lactuca sativa* cv. Olof × *Lactuca saligna* recombinant inbred line BIL4.4 (Zhang *et al.*, 2009a, b). Plants were kept at 17 °C under 9 h light per day (100 µE/m²/s). *Bremia lactucae* spores were spray inoculated at 150 spores/µL suspension on 7-day-old soil-grown lettuce seedlings until run-off was imminent. Inoculation was repeated at 3 days after the initial inoculation. After each inoculation, plants were kept under high humidity for 24 h and thereafter at low humidity. Trypan blue staining was performed by boiling in staining solution for 5 min, and otherwise as described for *H. arabidopsidis* (Van Damme *et al.*, 2005). Material was harvested 7 days after the initial inoculation. For spore isolations, inoculated plants were kept at high humidity for 7 days, after which spores were rinsed off leaves in water. Spores were filtered through a double layer of miracloth and then spun down (3650 g) and washed in water three times. Spores and infected leaf material were snap frozen and ground using a mortar and pestle. RNA was isolated from ground material using the Qiagen (Venlo, The Netherlands) plant RNA mini kit employing RLC buffer according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Isolated RNA was sent for preparation for sequencing to Vertis Biotechnologie AG (Freising, Germany). Poly(A) RNA was selected from all samples. Two cDNA synthesis strategies were then performed. In the first, the poly(A) RNA was incubated with calf intestine phosphatase (CIP) and tobacco acid pyrophosphatase (TAP), followed by ligation of

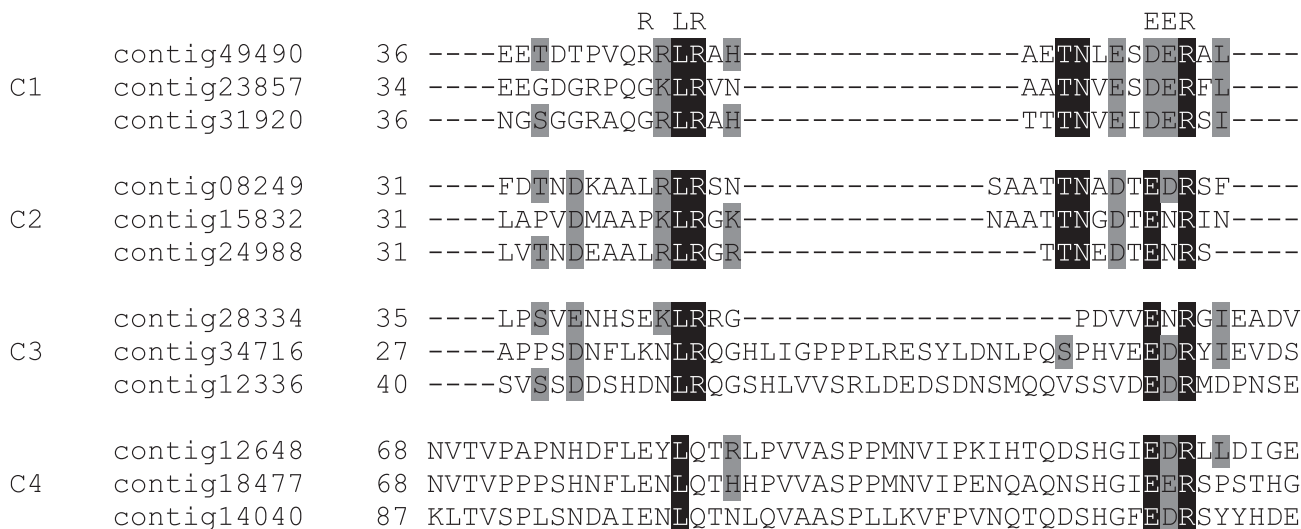


Fig. 6 Alignment of the sequences of four *Bremia lactucae*-specific clusters of predicted secreted proteins. The columns in which potential RXLR and dEER-like motifs can be found are indicated above the alignment.

an RNA adapter to the 5'-phosphate of decapped mRNAs. First-strand cDNA synthesis was then performed with an adapter-random hexamer primer and M-MLV-RNase H reverse transcriptase. The resulting cDNAs were amplified with 21 cycles of long and accurate polymerase chain reaction (LA-PCR). In the second approach, first-strand cDNA synthesis was primed with a random hexamer primer, after which 454 adapters A and B were ligated to the 5' and 3' ends of the cDNA. The cDNA was finally amplified with PCR using a proof reading enzyme (17 cycles). To normalize samples, one cycle of denaturation and reassociation of the cDNA and subsequent separation of single-stranded cDNA (normalized cDNA) of double-stranded RNA by hydroxylapatite chromatography were performed. Normalized cDNA was amplified with eight PCR cycles. For both approaches, cDNA in the size range 450–650 bp was eluted from agarose gel using the Macherey & Nagel (Düren, Germany) NucleoSpin Extract II kit. Sequencing was performed on the 454 GS FLX system, using standard reagents.

SOLiD sequencing

Lettuce leaves were surface sterilized in 4% bleach for 3 min, rinsed with water and placed abaxial side up on wet filter paper. The leaves were then spray inoculated (200 spores/ μ L) with *B. lactucae* isolate BL24 and kept at high humidity for 8 days. Spores were snap frozen and lysed by bead beating and incubation in cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB). DNA was extracted with phenol–chloroform; 7 μ g of DNA was sheared into 100–110-bp mean size fragments, end-repaired with the End-It DNA End-Repair Kit (Epicentre Biotechnology, Madison, WI, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions, and cleaned by phenol–chloroform extraction. Adapters were ligated as recommended by Applied Biosystems (Carlsbad, CA, USA) and cleaned by phenol–chloroform extraction. Fragments of 150–200 bp were excised from a 2% agarose electrophoresis gel and purified using the QIAquick Gel Extraction Kit (Qiagen). Further steps in sample preparation and sequencing were taken as recommended by Applied Biosystems.

Sequence analysis

The 454 transcriptome sequences were assembled using Roche (Basel, Switzerland) gsAssembler (version 2.0.00) software with an expected coverage of 15-fold (based on initial assembly coverage levels) and otherwise default settings. SOLiD reads were mapped to the assembled 454 reads by Burrows–Wheeler Aligner (BWA) (Li and Durbin, 2009) (version 0.5.8.1442; maximum edit distance, 10; first 25 bases as seed; maximally two mismatches in the seed; otherwise default settings for colourspace alignment). Assembled sequences were corrected using insertion/deletion information from the mapping process. Correction effectiveness was determined by comparison with the NCBI NR database by BLASTX (Altschul *et al.*, 1997) (E-value = 1e-3, best hit). Sequences with >10-fold average SOLiD read coverage were kept as *B. lactucae* sequences. Proteins were predicted from these sequences by selecting an ORF based on the BLASTX comparison with the NCBI NR database or, failing matches, selecting the ORF(s) of greatest length. In cases in which BLAST comparison led to the selection of adjacent ORFs, these ORFs were concatenated into a single model. ORF lengths were determined from methionine to stop unless the ORF was at the 5' or 3' end, in which case the length was determined from the 5' or up to the 3', respectively, as sequences may be incomplete. Sequences were trimmed to start with a methionine and sequences shorter than 20 amino acids were removed before signal peptide prediction by SignalP (3.0a) (Bendtsen *et al.*, 2004; Nielsen and Krogh, 1998) (first 70 amino acids, eukaryote, default cut-offs). Transmembrane helices were predicted using TMHMM (2.0) (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/TMHMM/>). Secretome criteria were the prediction of a signal peptide by both neural network and HMM prediction methods and no predicted transmembrane helices (unless overlapping at least 10 amino acids of the signal peptide). All BLAST comparisons were performed with an E-value cut-off of 1e-3. HMM and jackhmmer (version 2.3.2; <http://hmmer.org/>) searches were performed with an E-value cut-off of 1e-3 and otherwise default settings, except for the genome completeness models, for which bit-score cut-offs were provided. For jackhmmer searches using *B. lactucae* RXLRs, the RXLR motif and the 20 amino acids N- and

C-terminal thereof were used as input. Pfam (Finn *et al.*, 2010) searches were performed at the gathering threshold.

To obtain a phylogeny of NLP proteins in *B. lactucae* and other oomycetes, we predicted the presence of the NLP domain (PF05630, Pfam v24; Finn *et al.*, 2010; <http://pfam.sanger.ac.uk/>) in their proteomes using hmmer3 (<http://hmmer.org/>) (gathering cut-off). To predict full-length NLP domains, we retrieved the seed alignments from the Pfam database and created a calibrated hmmer2 model. hmmer2 (gathering cut-off) was used with this model on the hmmer3-identified candidates. Short domain hits (<180 amino acids) were discarded. The sequences were aligned with mafft (Katoh and Toh, 2008) (L-INS-i); the phylogeny was predicted with RAxML (Stamatakis, 2006) (gamma model of site heterogeneity; WAG substitution matrix) and the robustness was assessed with 1000 bootstrap replicates. To obtain an estimation of the positioning of short fragmented predicted NLPs from *B. lactucae*, we manually added them to the set of predictions, aligned them and retrieved a phylogeny as outlined above.

Sequence clustering and phylogeny

Clusters of similar sequences were generated from a sequence similarity network, the edges of which were determined by all versus all BLASTP comparison of predicted proteins (for phylogeny) or secretomes (for potential effectors) of different stramenopiles (Armbrust *et al.*, 2004; Baxter *et al.*, 2010; Bowler *et al.*, 2008; Cock *et al.*, 2010; Gobler *et al.*, 2011; Haas *et al.*, 2009; Lévesque *et al.*, 2010; Tyler *et al.*, 2006; *Saprolegnia parasitica* Sequencing Project, Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT <http://www.broadinstitute.org/>) (see also Table S2 in Supporting Information). Signal peptides were masked for clustering of the secretomes and short sequences were removed. Only edges that represented a match in which high-scoring pairs (HSPs) spanned >50% of both target and query sequences, and had >20% effective coverage (fraction of covered amino acids), were taken into account, with the exception that *B. lactucae* sequences did not need to span 50% of non-*B. lactucae* sequences. *Bremia lactucae* sequences may be truncated and therefore not span 50% of the non-*B. lactucae* sequence. The similarity network was then clustered into families using the Markov-Cluster-Algorithm (MCL; <http://mcl.org/mcl/>, v09-308, 1.008, inflation = 3) (van Dongen, 2000; Enright *et al.*, 2002). Clustered sequences were aligned in Jalview (Waterhouse *et al.*, 2009) using the MAFFT web service (Katoh and Toh, 2008). We predicted a reliable species phylogeny utilizing a multi-protein marker containing 119 concatenated 1 : 1 : 1 families retrieved from the protein clusters determined beforehand. These families were aligned using mafft (v6.713b; maxiterate 1000; localpair) (Katoh and Toh, 2008) and subsequently concatenated. Positions containing >20% gaps, as well as less conserved adjacent positions, were removed until a conserved column with a median of the pairwise BLOSUM62 of ≥ 0 was reached. The phylogenetic tree was predicted using RAxML (v7.0.4; gamma model of invariant sites, WAG substitution model, fast bootstrap approximation) (Stamatakis, 2006) and the robustness of the topology was assessed by 1000 bootstrap replicates.

Accession numbers

Bremia lactucae sequences longer than 200 nucleotides were deposited in the NCBI Transcriptome Shotgun Assembly sequence database under accession numbers JP948721-JP965883. All nucleotide data and protein translations are available at <http://web.science.uu.nl/pmi/data/bremia/>.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article:

Fig. S1 Phylogenetic relationship between NLPs [necrosis and ethylene-inducing peptide 1 (NEP1)-like proteins] from various oomycete plant pathogens. Four of the NLPs in the *Bremia lactucae* secretome provided full-length NLP domain matches and are included in the main tree, indicated in purple. The positions of fragments of the domains found in the complete *B. lactucae* transcriptome were determined separately (indicated in the main tree by stars), as they are difficult to locate based on the alignment of the full-length domain. *Bremia lactucae* NLPs are spread more widely across the oomycete NLP gene tree than are the *Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis* NLPs (indicated in bold as clade or individual common names), and do not fall within *H. arabidopsidis* or *Pythium ultimum* subclades. *Bremia lactucae* NLPs cluster close to the two *H. arabidopsidis* NLPs outside of the *H. arabidopsidis*-specific subclade. NLP names indicated in blue belong to NLPs that have been shown to induce necrosis when expressed in tobacco leaves. Scale bar indicates 0.1 substitutions per amino acid. Stars indicate the location of subtrees that contain short fragments (incomplete assembly) of *Bremia* NLPs that were assessed separately.

Table S1 Number of reads from spore and infection sequencing pools per contig for those that show a five-fold or greater difference in the number of reads between spore and infection stages as determined from 5′ end sequences of the non-normalized sequencing pools. Differential expression was observed for contigs corresponding to protein models of all the indicated categories, except for those encoding for DnaJ domain proteins and NLPs [necrosis and ethylene-inducing peptide 1 (NEP1)-like proteins] for which no difference in abundance was found.

Table S2 Versions and sources of genomes used for analysis.

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