

Title

CYP5122A1 encodes an essential sterol C4-methyl oxidase in *Leishmania donovani* and determines the antileishmanial activity of antifungal azoles

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Supplementary Fig. 12. The effect of fluconazole and posaconazole on intracellular *L. donovani*.

Supplementary Fig. 13. Microscopic counts of *L. donovani* LV82 promastigote cultures exposed to posaconazole, butoconazole, and amphotericin B.

Supplementary Fig. 14. Isolation of GFP-low clones from $Ld22A1^{-}$ +pXNG4-22A1 by FACS.

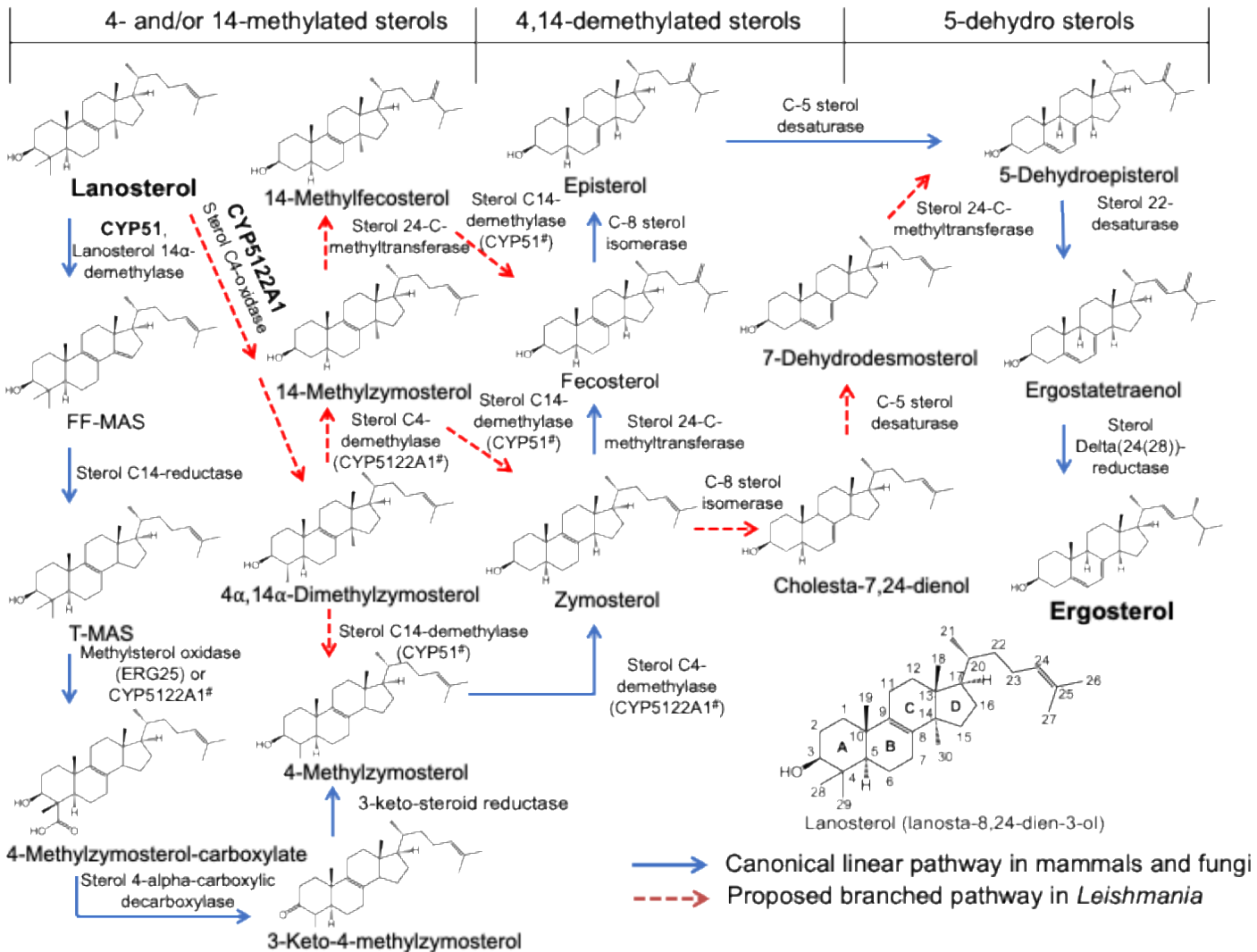
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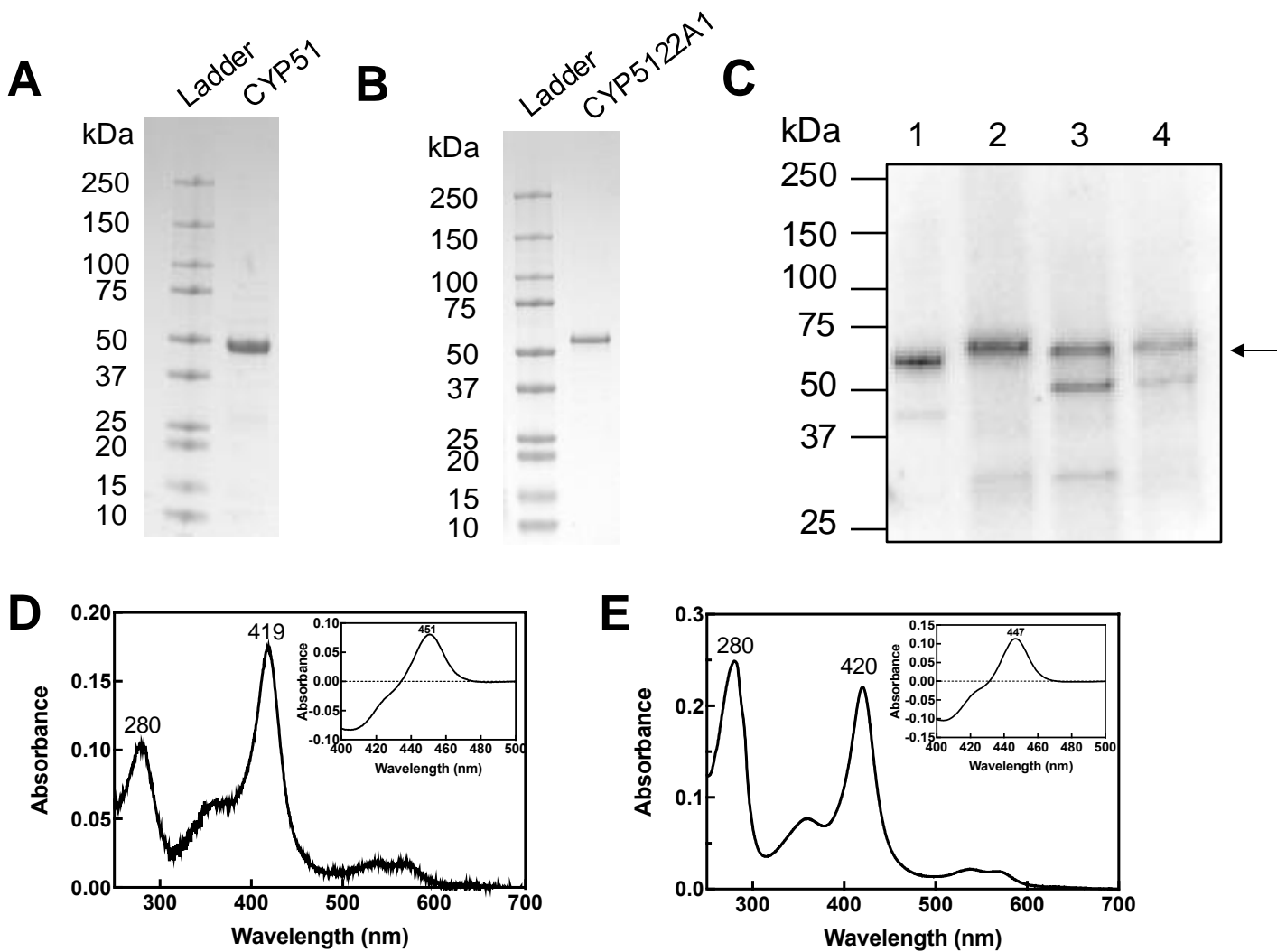
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Uncropped gels and blots for Supplementary Figures.



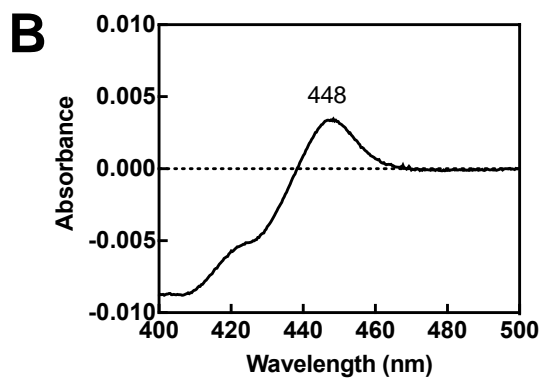
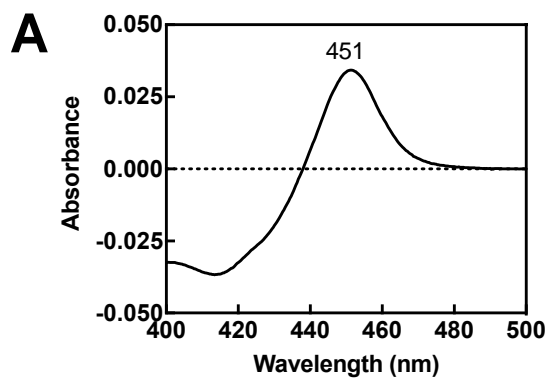
Supplementary Fig. 1. Proposed branched ergosterol biosynthesis pathway in *Leishmania* with CYP5122A1 serving as a sterol C4 methyl-oxidase, which is adapted from the previously proposed pathway by Feng *et al.* in 2022 [ref. 18]. # CYP51 and CYP5122A1 are presumed to be the sterol C14- and C4-demethylase in these downstream reactions, respectively.

Supplementary Fig. 2. Multiple sequence alignment of CYP5122A1 and CYP51 enzymes using Clustal Omega (available at <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/clustalo/>). The highly conserved EXXR motif and the P450 signature motif FXXGX(H/R)XCXG are boxed. The sites of truncation are indicated by arrows. LdCYP5122A1: *L. donovani* CYP5122A1 (XP_003861867.1); TcCYP5122A1: *T. cruzi* CYP5122A1 (XP_807973.1); TbCYP5122A1: *T. brucei* CYP5122A1 (XP_843664.1); LdCYP51: *L. donovani* CYP51 (XP_003859085.1); HsCYP51: *Homo sapiens* CYP51 (NP_000777.1); ScCYP51: *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* CYP51 (NP_011871.1); CaCYP51: *Candida albicans* CYP51 (XP_716761.1).

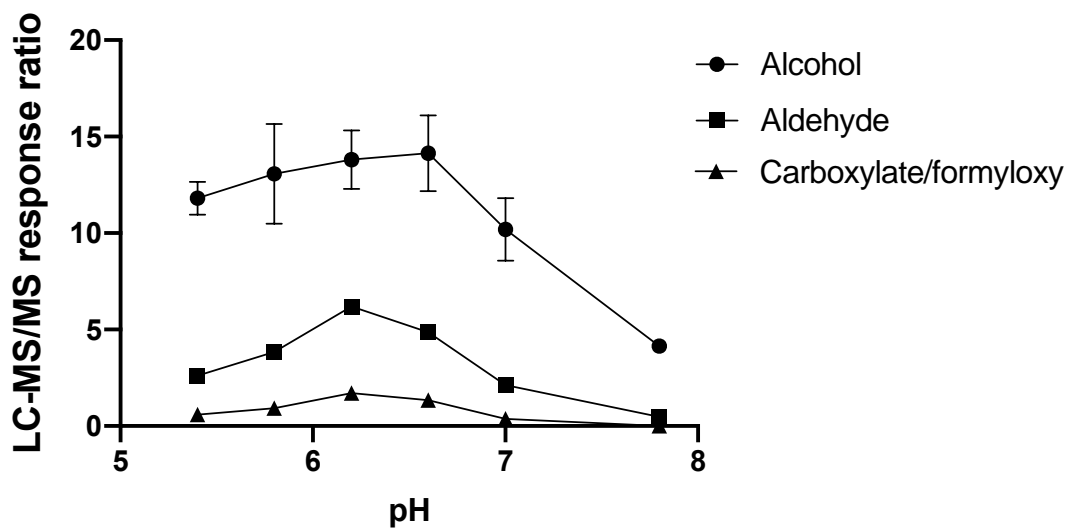


Supplementary Fig. 3. Purified CYP51 and CYP5122A1 exhibited characteristic spectral properties and CYP5122A1 was detected in various *Leishmania* parasites.

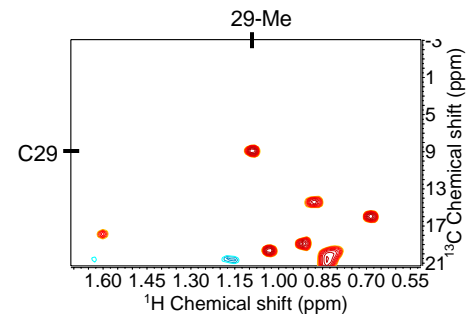
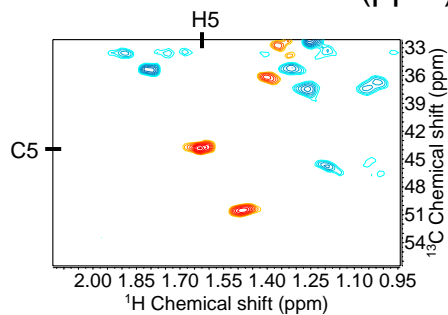
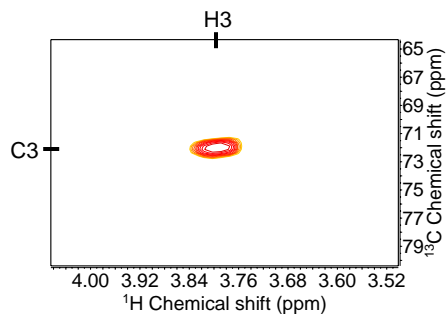
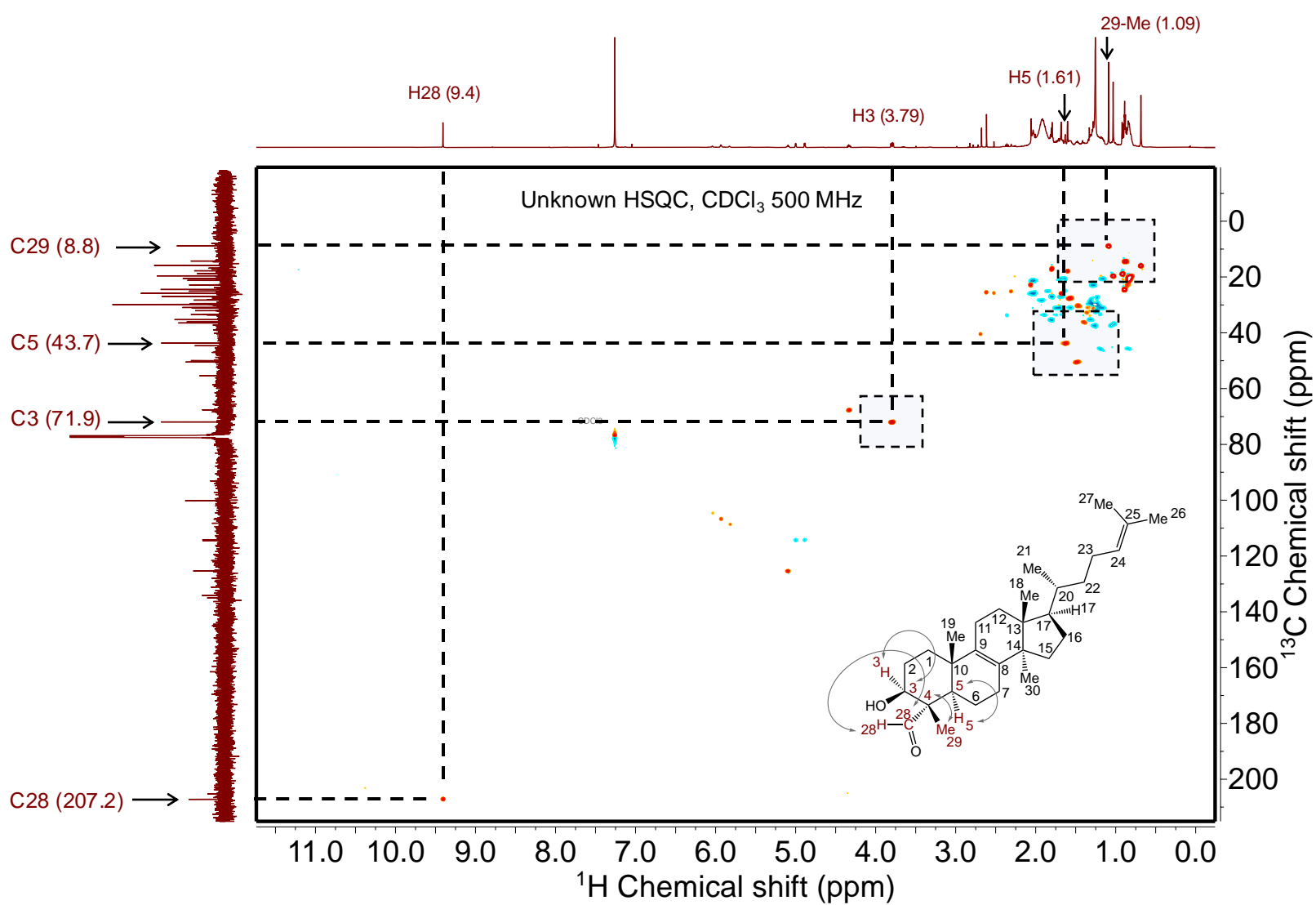
(A-B) SDS-PAGE analysis of recombinant CYP51 and CYP5122A1. This purification was repeated at least half a dozen times for each CYP with the same results. (C) Detection of CYP5122A1 by Western blot analysis in Lane 1, recombinant *L. donovani* CYP5122A1 (62 kDa). Lane 2, *L. major* (LV39 strain) cell lysates (68 kDa). Lane 3, *L. donovani* (LV82 strain) cell lysates (66 kDa). Lane 4, *L. donovani* (Ld1S strain) cell lysates. The absolute absorbance spectra were measured for recombinant CYP51 (D) and CYP5122A1 (E), showing the Soret band at around 420 nm. The insets show the CO difference spectra of sodium dithionite-reduced CYPs which exhibited the characteristic peak at around 450 nm.

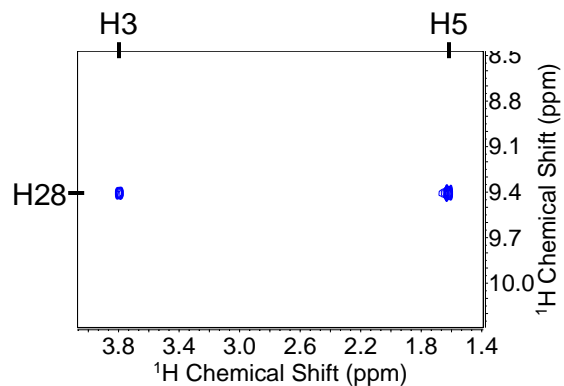
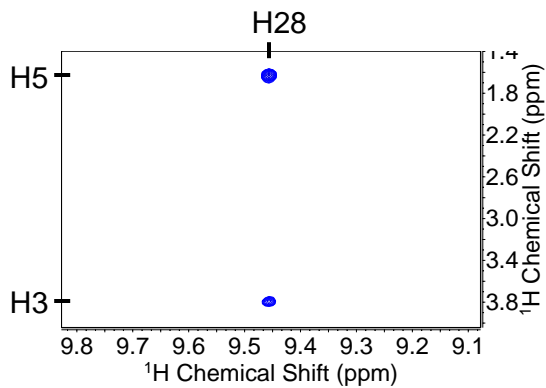
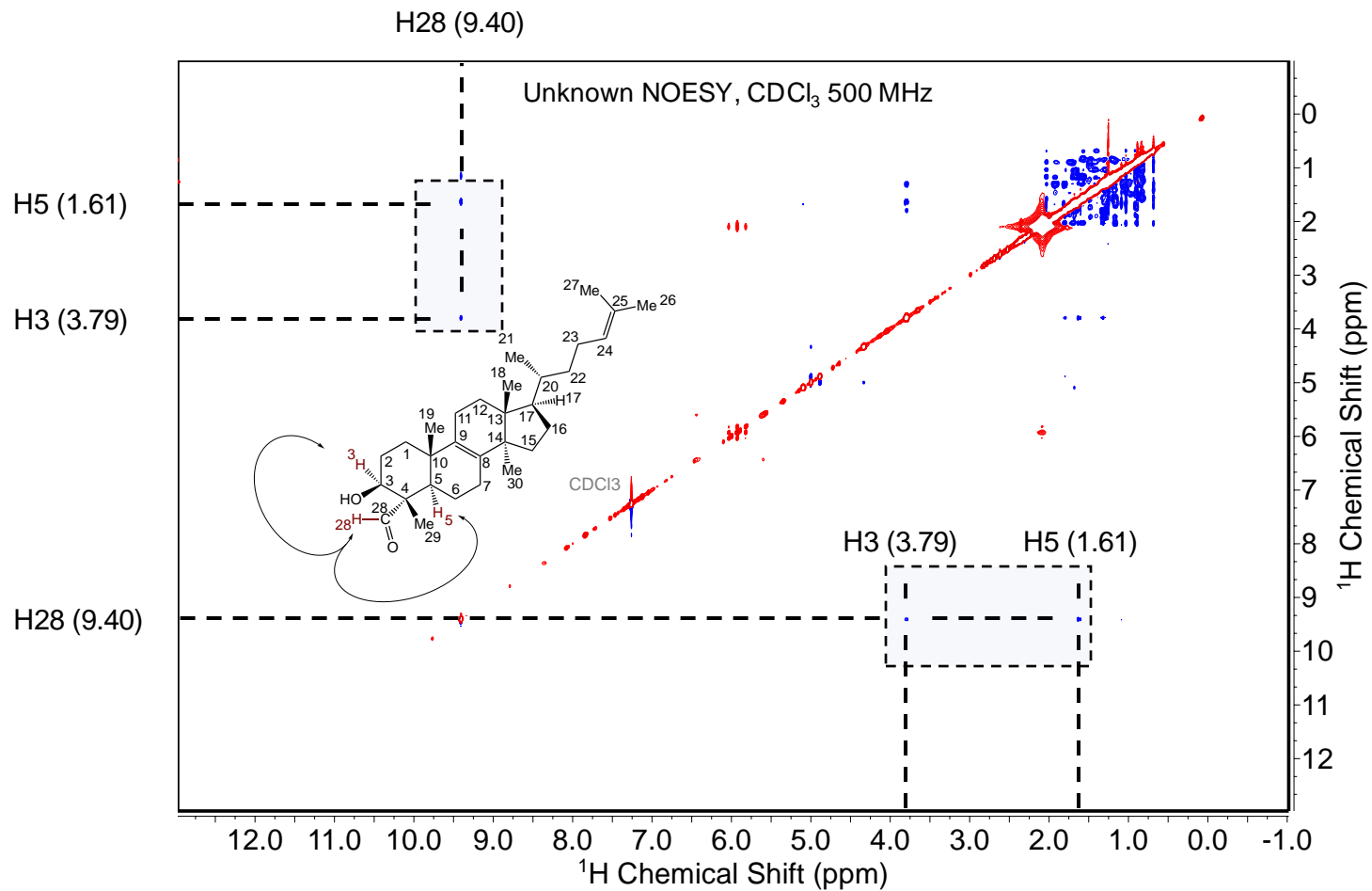


Supplementary Fig. 4. Reduced CO difference spectra of TbCPR-reduced CYPs in the presence of NADPH. (A) CYP51 and (B) CYP5122A1 exhibited the characteristic P450 peak.



Supplementary Fig. 5. pH dependence of CYP5122A1-catalyzed oxidation of lanosterol. Symbols and error bars represent the means and standard deviations of triplicate determinations. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

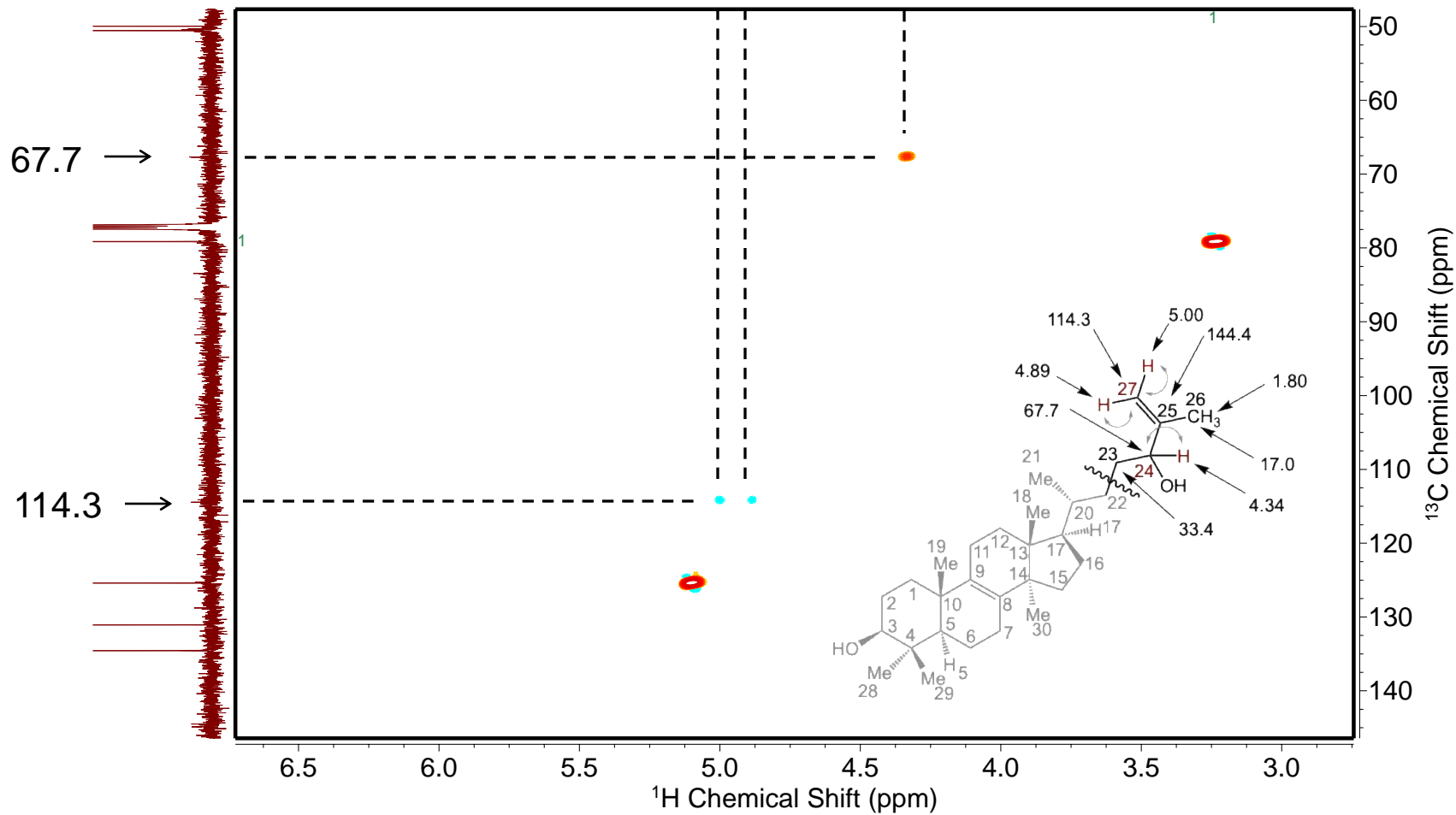
B

C

Supplementary Fig. 6. 2D NMR spectra of the purified metabolite (unknown) of lanosterol from incubations with CYP5122A1. (A) HMBC correlations of carbons C28 (aldehyde) and C29 (C4 methyl) with nearby protons H3, H5, H28 (aldehyde), and/or H29 (C4 methyl) and HMBC correlations of the olefinic carbons (C8-9 and C24-25) with nearby protons in the methyl groups. (B) HSQC correlations of carbon C28 and proton H28 in the aldehyde group and carbons C3, C5 and C29 with directly connected protons H3, H5 and H29-Me, respectively. (C) NOESY, through space interactions of the proton H28 (aldehyde) with nearby protons H3 and H5.

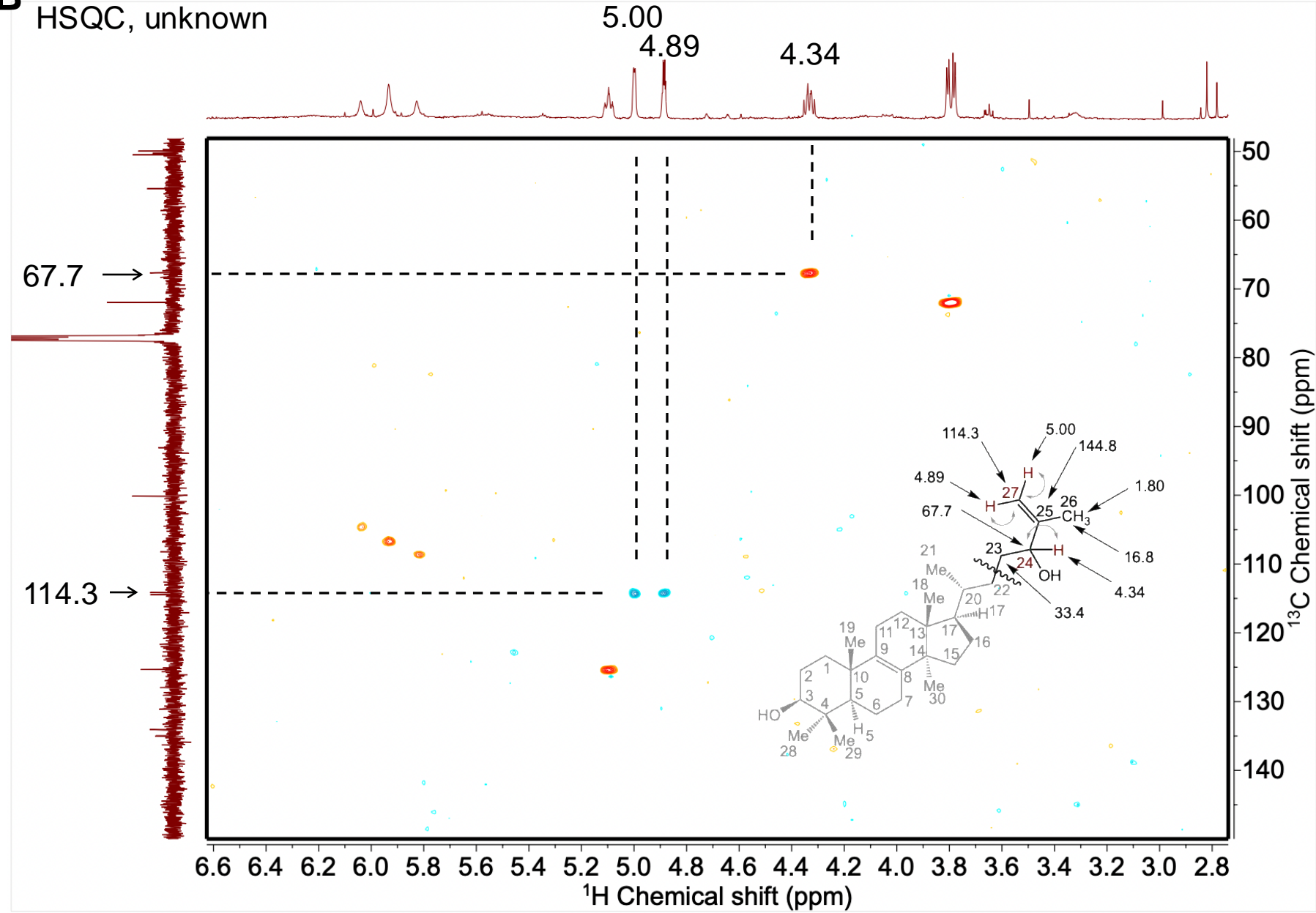
A

HSQC, Lanosterol

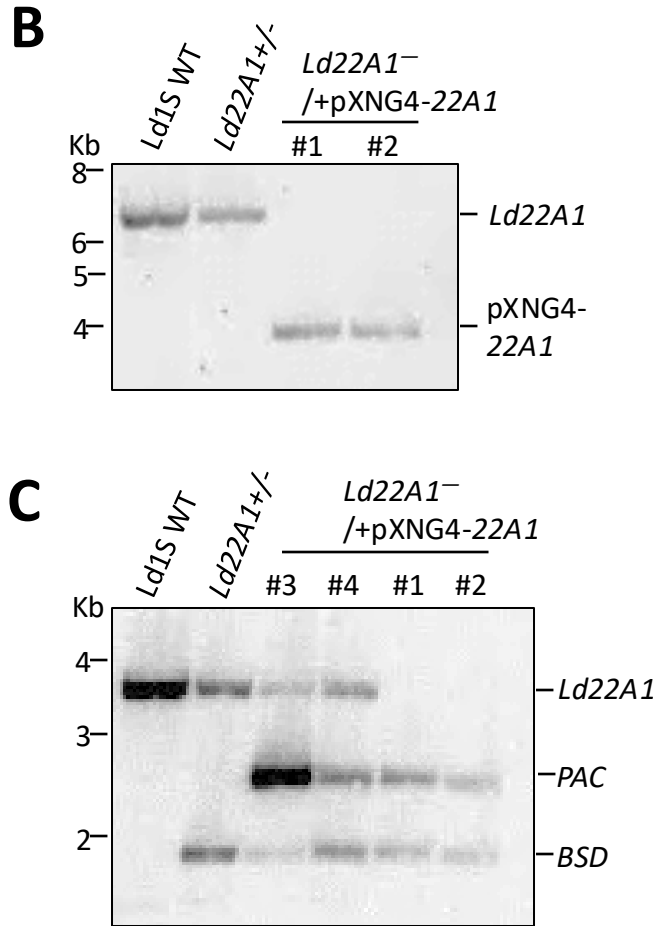
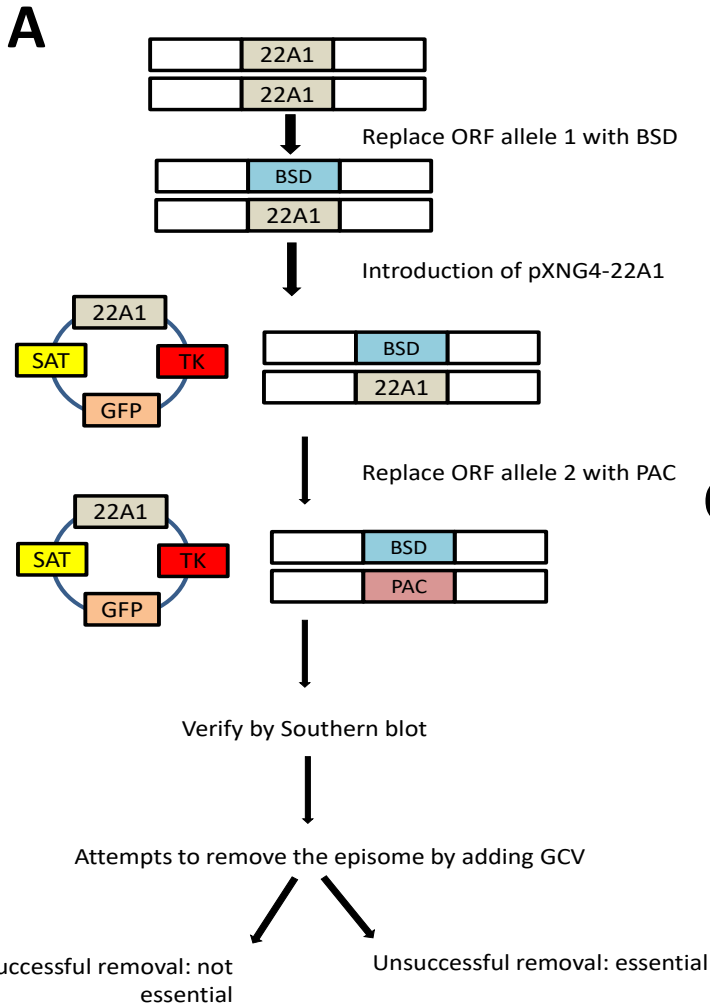
5.00
4.89
4.34

B

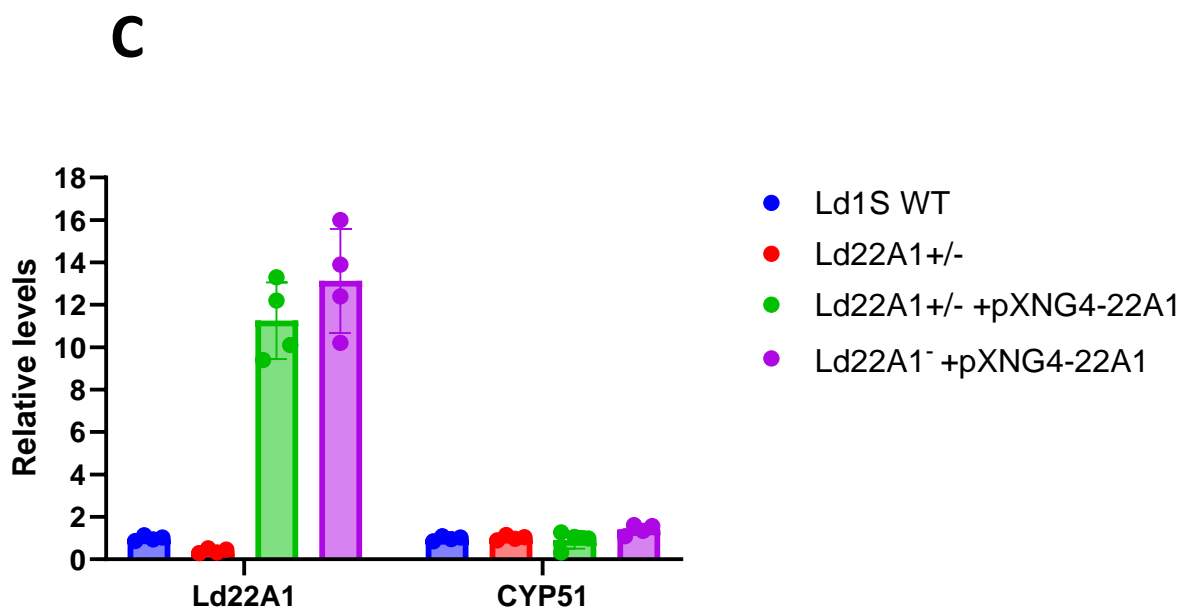
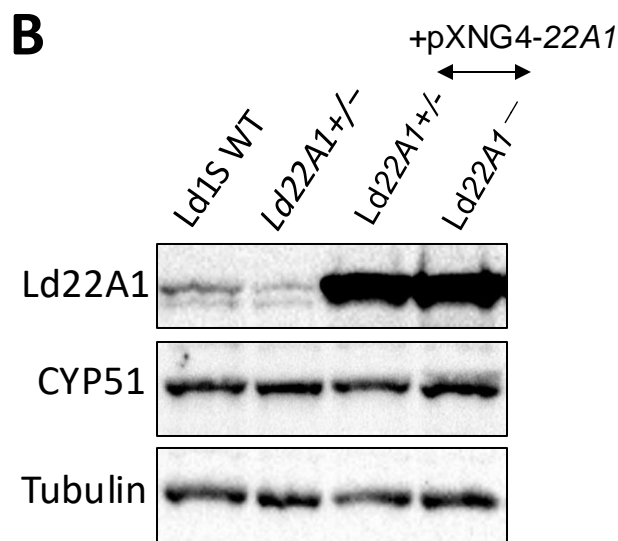
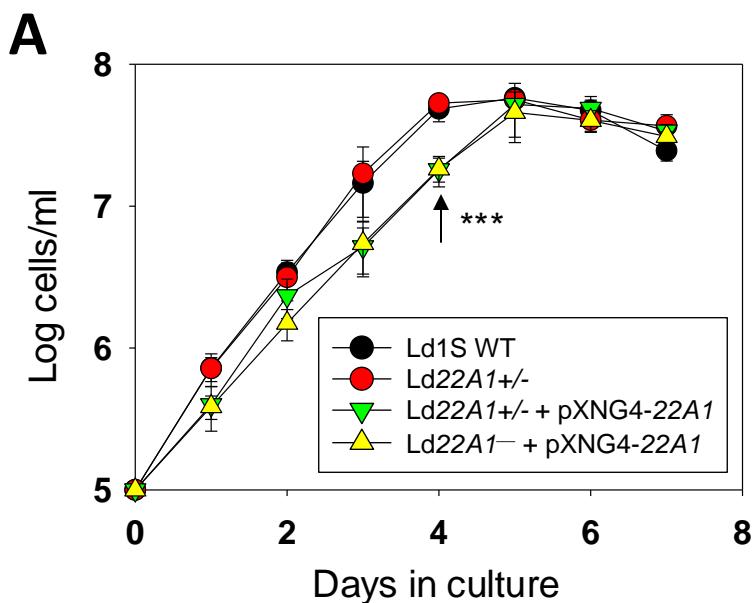
HSQC, unknown



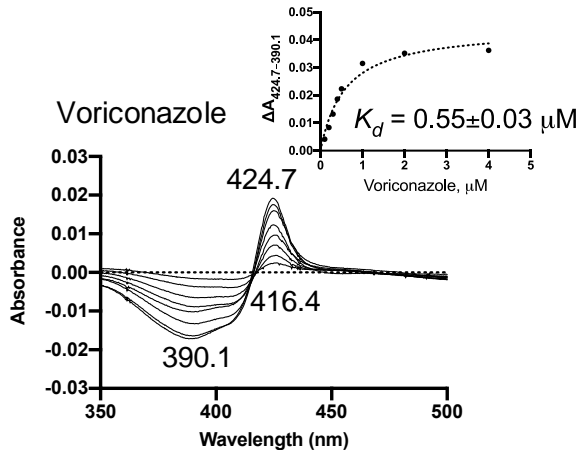
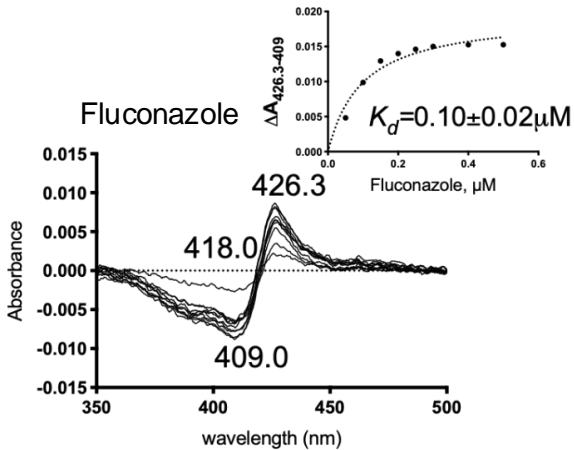
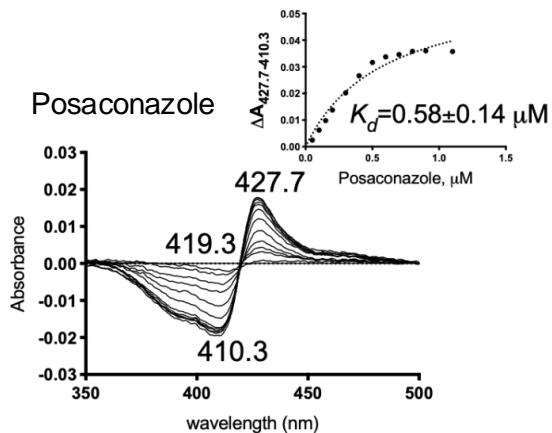
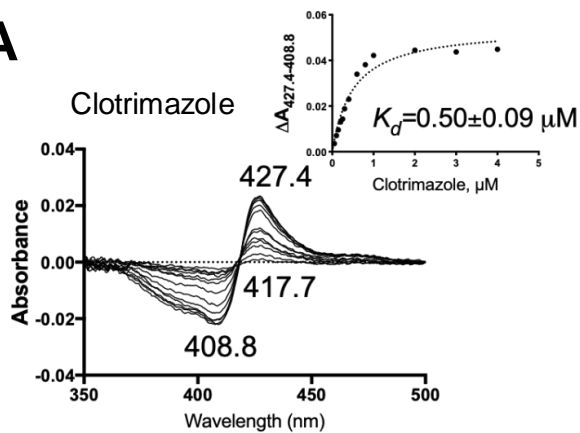
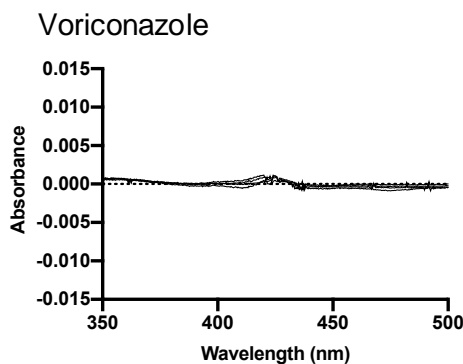
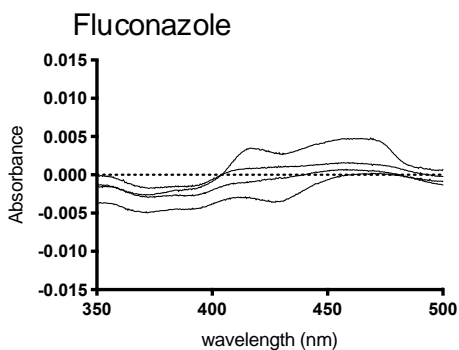
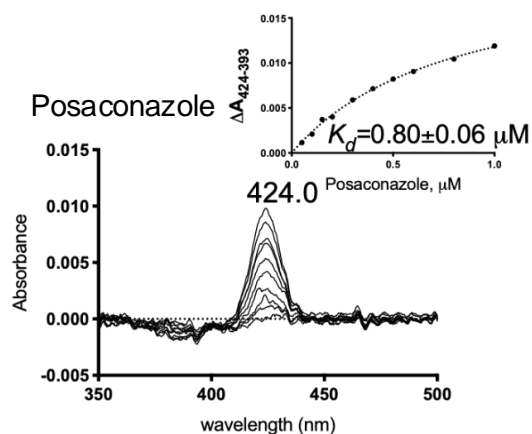
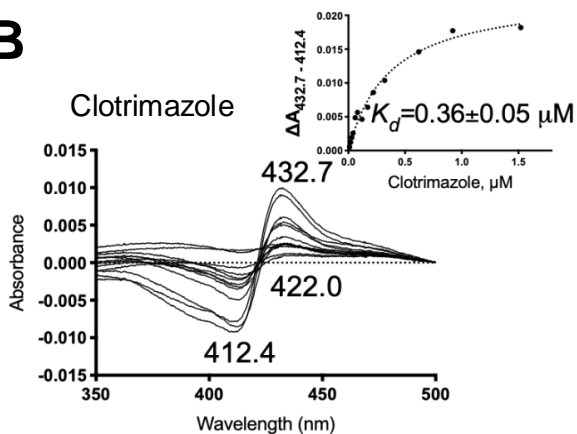
Supplementary Fig. 7. 2D NMR signals of an impurity (a sterol side chain oxidation product) present in both (A and C) lanosterol standard and (B and D) the purified unknown sample (aldehyde metabolite) from incubations of lanosterol with CYP5122A1. (A and B) HSQC correlations of olefinic carbon C27 with two protons H27 and secondary alcohol carbon C24 with proton H24 in the side chain of the impurity. (C and D) HMBC correlations of olefinic carbon C27 with nearby protons H26 and H24, secondary alcohol carbon C24 with protons H26, H27, carbon C23 with proton H24, and methyl carbon C26 with olefinic protons H27 and proton H24.



Supplementary Fig. 8. Genetic manipulation of *CYP5122A1* (A) Scheme of assessing the *CYP5122A1* essentiality using a complementing episome-assisted knockout approach coupled with negative selection. Southern blot was processed with genomic DNA from *Ld1S* WT, *Ld22A1*^{+/-} and *Ld22A1*⁻/+pXNG4-*Ld22A1* using radiolabeled *CYP5122A1* ORF probe (B) and 5'-flanking region probe (C). Bands related to *Ld22A1*, pXNG-*Lm22A1*, *Ld22A1*, pXNG-*Ld22A1* and antibiotic-resistant genes (BSD/PAC) are indicated. As shown in (C), clone #1-2 were chromosomal-null (*Ld22A1*⁻/+pXNG4-*Ld22A1*) whereas clone #3-4 still contained endogenous *CYP5122A1*.

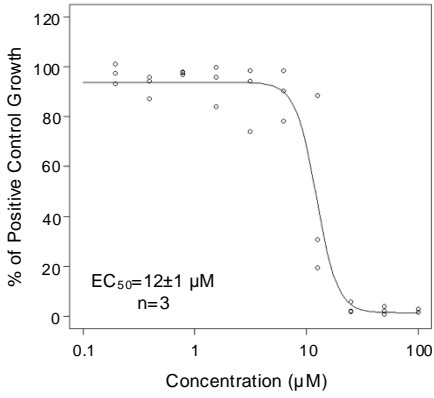


Supplementary Fig. 9. Protein expression levels of CYP51 and CYP5122A1. (A) Log phase promastigotes were inoculated in complete M199 medium and incubated at 27 °C. Culture densities were determined daily. (B) Whole cell lysates from log phase promastigotes were analyzed by western blot using anti-LdCYP5122A1, anti-LdCYP51 or anti- α -tubulin antibodies. (C) Relative abundances of LdCyp5122A1 and CYP51 were quantified using α tubulin as the loading control. Bars and error bars represent the means and standard deviations from three experiments. Two-tailed ANOVA without adjustment (**: $p < 0.01$, ***: $p < 0.001$). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

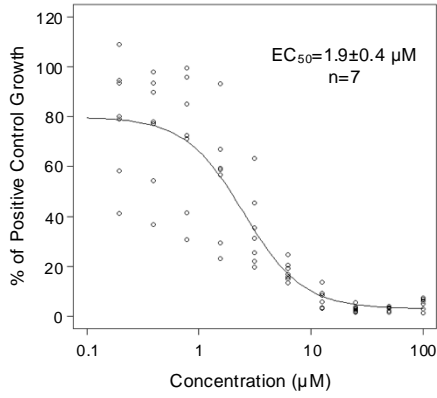
A**B**

Supplementary Fig. 10. Binding spectra of antifungal azoles with CYP51 (A) and CYP5122A1 (B). Purified recombinant CYPs (in the oxidized ferric form) were incubated with an increasing amount of sterol ligands and difference spectra were recorded over a reference sample that only contained protein and buffer. Dissociation constant (K_d) was derived by fitting the equation $\Delta A = \Delta A_{\max}[L]/(K_d + [L])$ to the peak-to-trough absorbance difference (ΔA) versus the ligand concentration ($[L]$) curve, where ΔA_{\max} is the maximal amplitude of the spectral response.

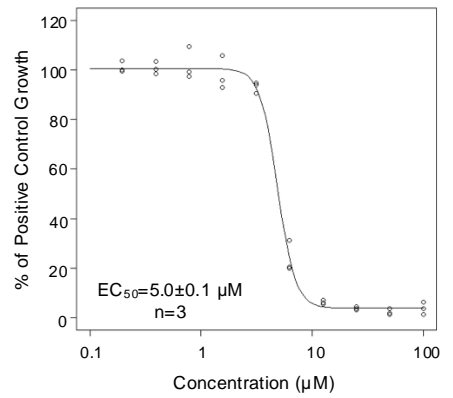
Bifonazole



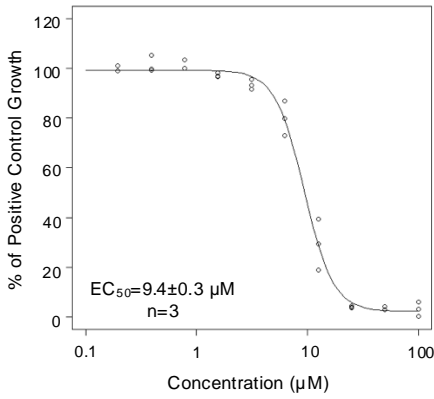
Butoconazole



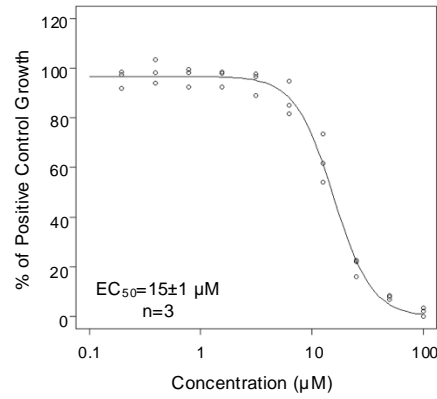
Clotrimazole



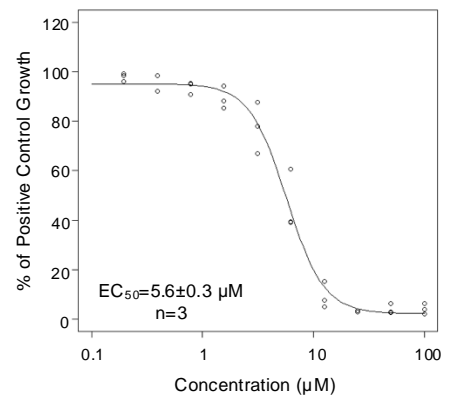
Econazole



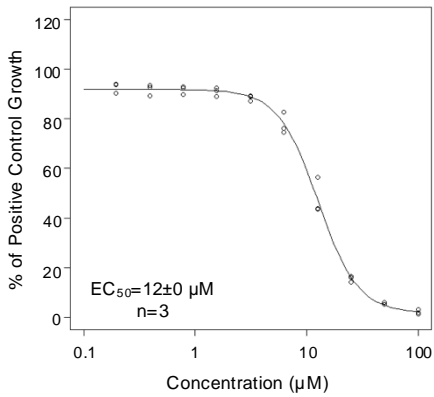
Efinaconazole



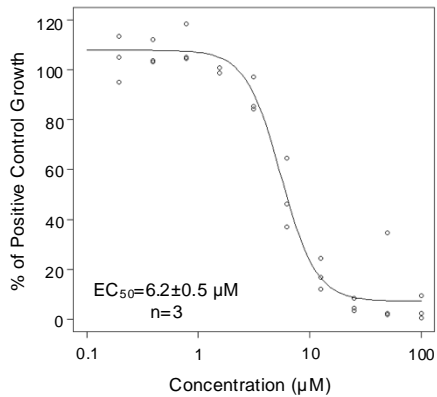
Fenticonazole



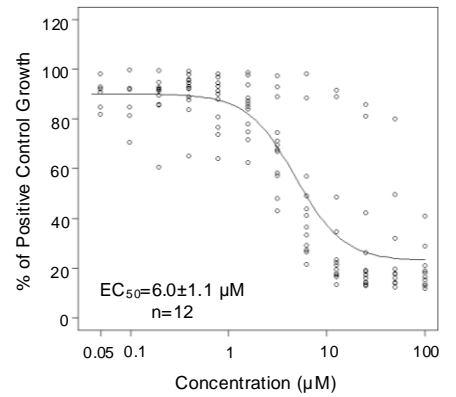
Isavuconazole

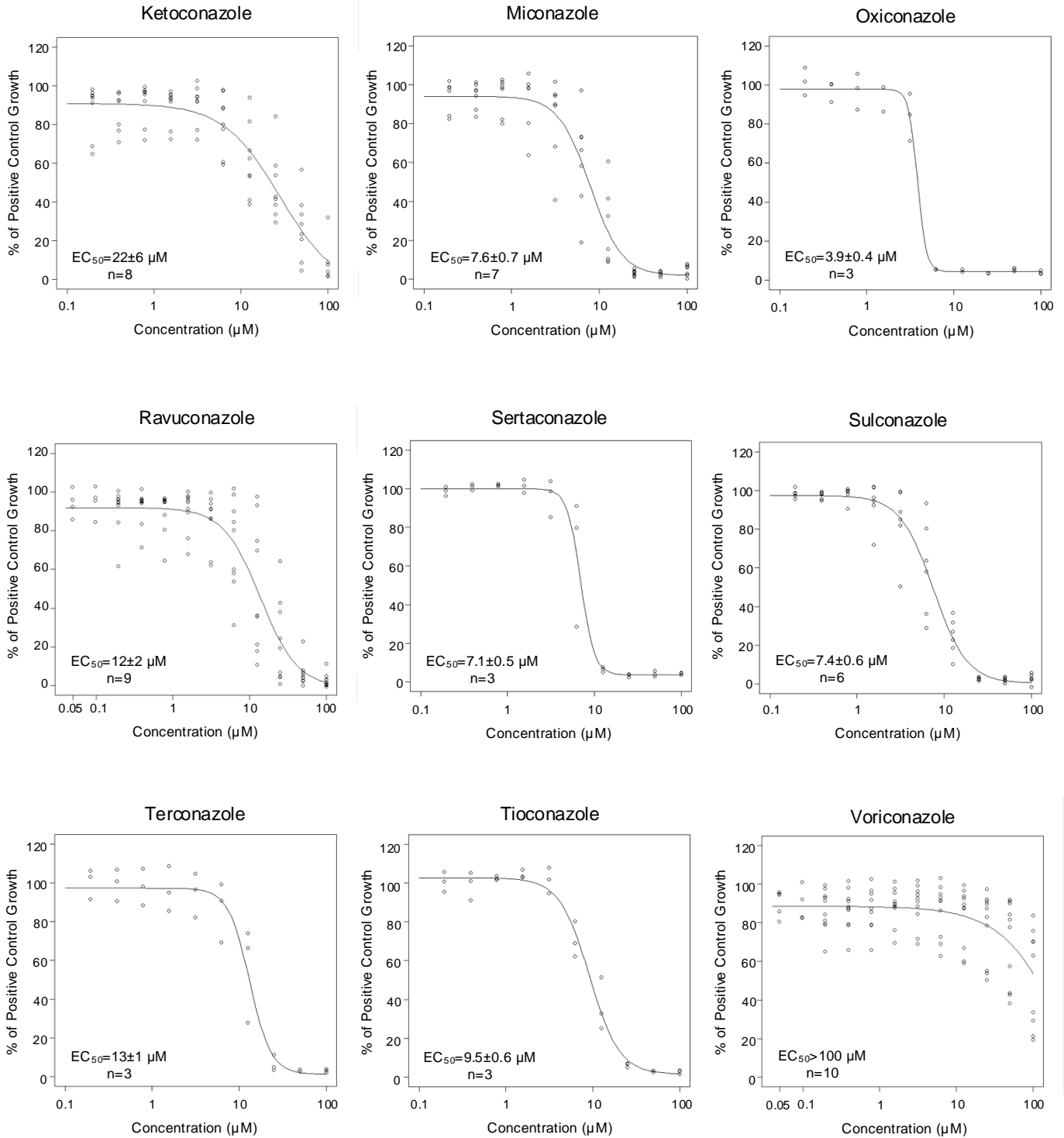


Isoconazole

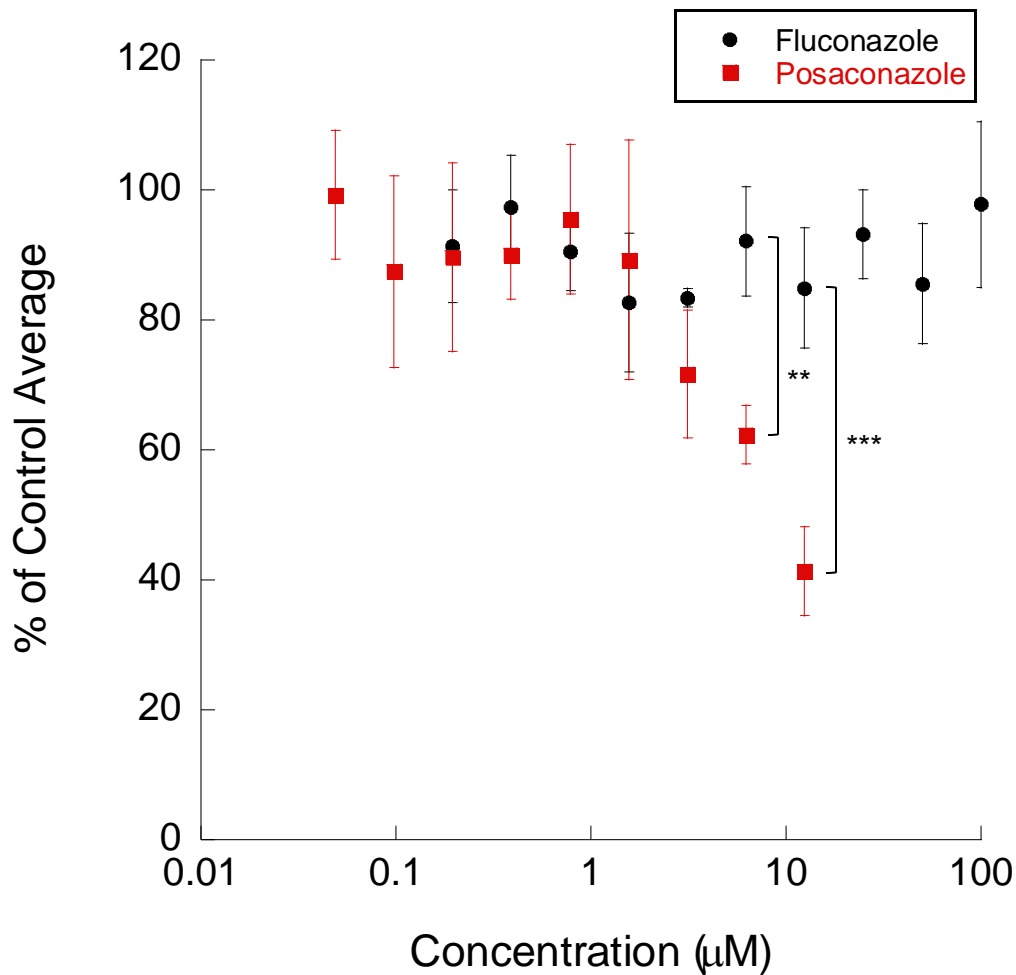


Itraconazole

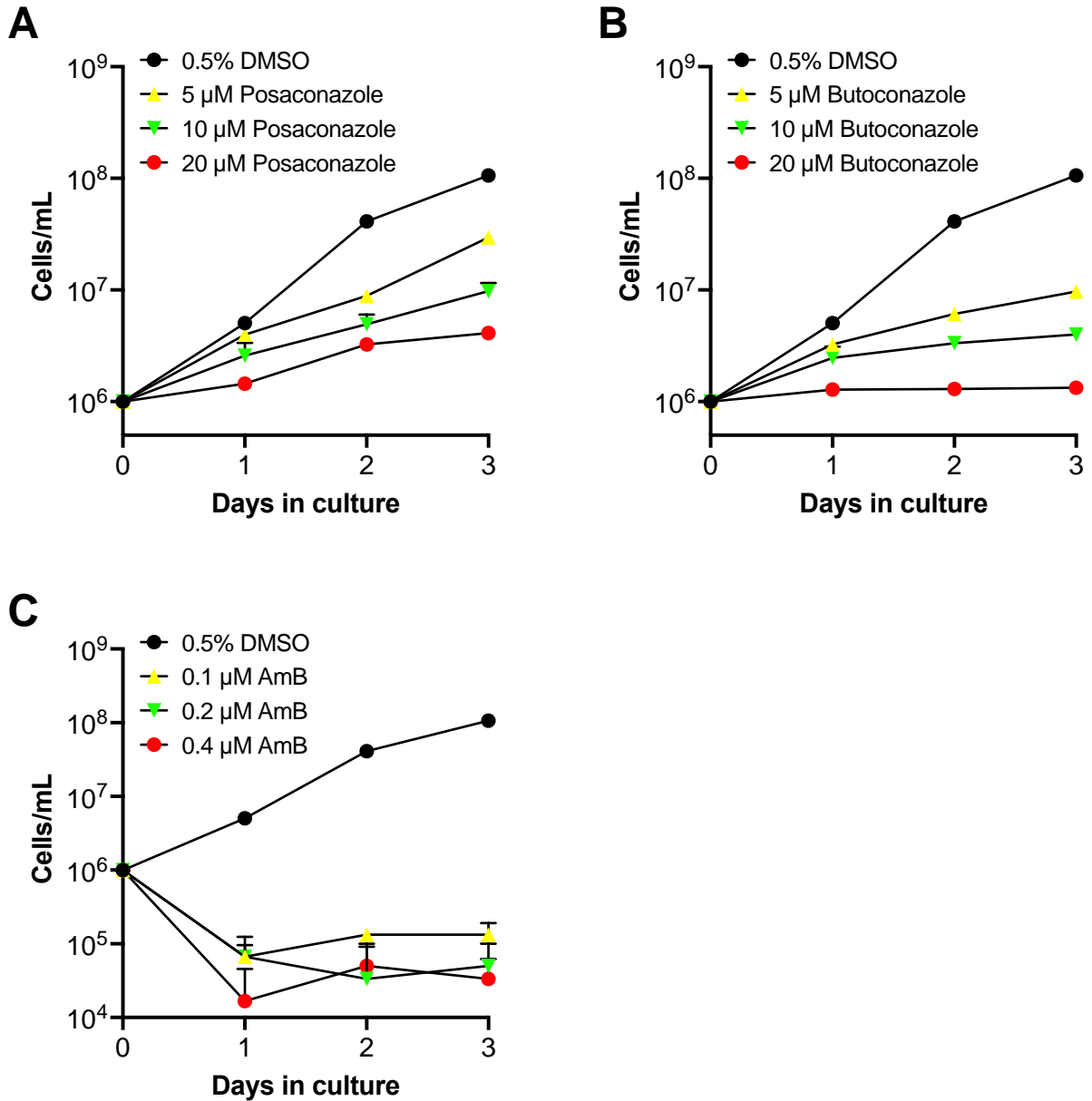




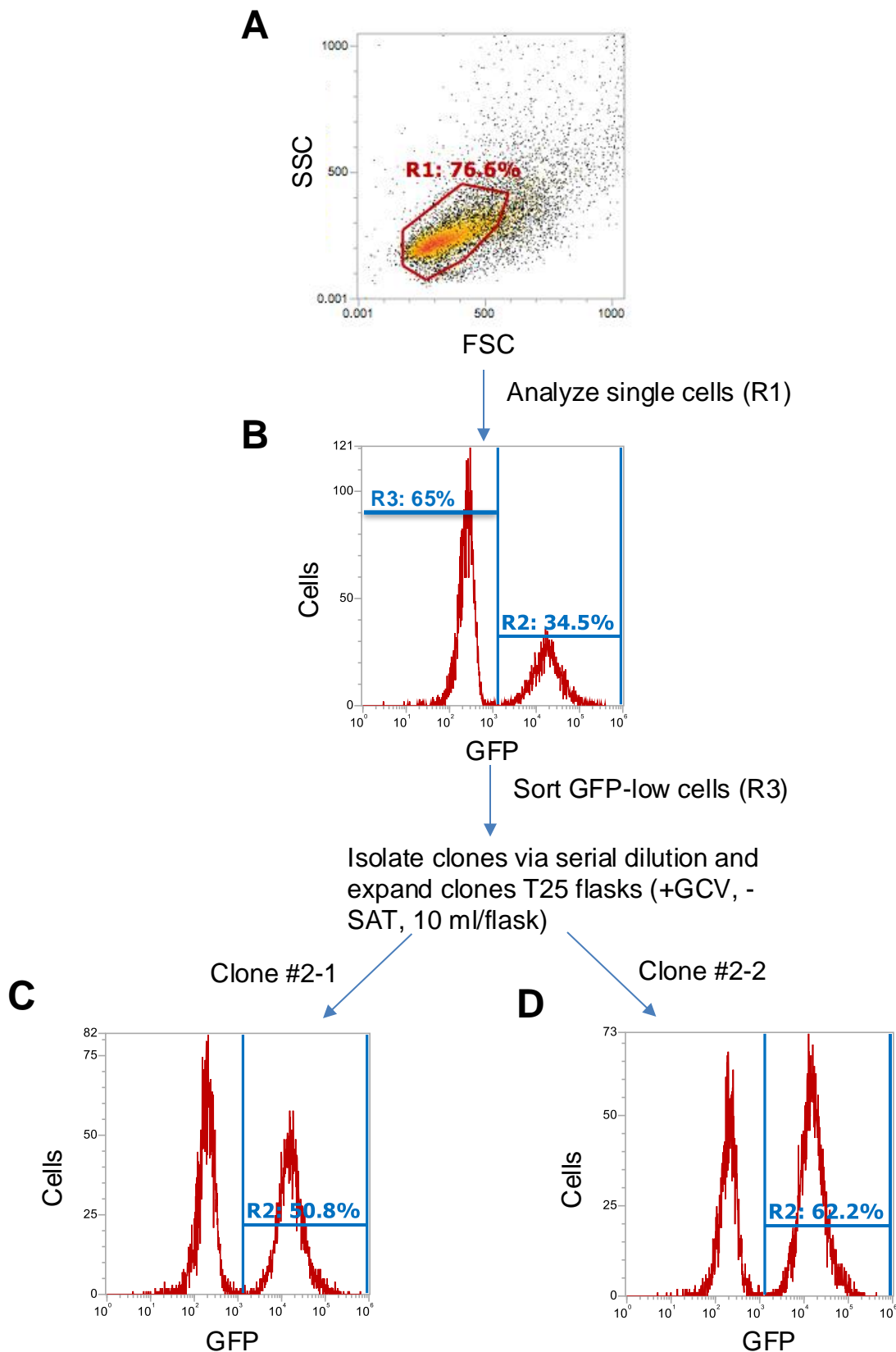
Supplementary Fig. 11. Effect of azole drugs on the proliferation of *L. donovani* LV82 promastigotes. Promastigotes were incubated with serial dilutions of azole drugs and their growth was assessed as described in the Materials and Methods section. Average absolute EC_{50} values along with the standard error obtained by least square fitting are shown on each graph along with the number of independent determinations (n) employed for each azole. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Fig. 12. The effect of fluconazole and posaconazole on intracellular *L. donovani*. Peritoneal macrophages were infected with *L. donovani* LV82 parasites for six hours, then were incubated in the presence or absence of serial dilutions of fluconazole or posaconazole for three days as described by Joice et al. (ref. 76). Cells were stained with DAPI and intracellular parasite burden was determined by image analysis as described by Joice et al. (ref. 76). Symbols and error bars represent the means and standard deviations of four independent determinations (**: $p < 0.01$, ***: $p < 0.001$). Note: these data were referred to in the legend of Figure 2 and were plotted in part in Supplementary Figure 3 appearing in ref. 76. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Fig. 13. Microscopic counts of *L. donovani* LV82 promastigote cultures exposed to posaconazole, butoconazole, and amphotericin B. Promastigote cultures were incubated with either posaconazole (5, 10, and 20 μ M), butoconazole (5, 10, and 20 μ M), amphotericin B (0.1, 0.2, and 0.4 μ M), or 0.5% DMSO vehicle in 24 well plates at a final volume of 500 μ L under the culture conditions outlined in Materials and Methods. Cell counts were performed daily for three days. The average and standard deviation of triplicate measurements are plotted for each condition from the same representative experiment performed on three separate occasions. For clarity, cell densities of cultures maintained in the presence of vehicle or posaconazole are plotted in panel A, cell densities of cultures maintained in the presence of vehicle or butoconazole are plotted in panel B, and cell densities of cultures maintained in the presence of vehicle or amphotericin B are plotted in panel C. Error bars show positive standard deviations because the absence of cells in some samples incubated with 0.2 and 0.4 μ M amphotericin B caused the negative error bars to extend below 1 cell/mL. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Fig. 14. Isolation of GFP-low clones from *Ld22A1*⁺+pXNG4-22A1 by FACS. (A) Single cells (R1) from *Ld22A1*⁺+pXNG4-22A1 #2 grown in the presence of GCV were analyzed for GFP fluorescence (B), and GFP-low cells (R3) were sorted by FACS. Clones were then isolated via serial dilution followed by proliferation in the presence of GCV and absence of SAT. GFP fluorescence for clone #2-1 (C) and #2-2 (D) was analyzed by flow cytometry. Note: B, C and D in this figure are equivalent to Figure 5D, E, and F, respectively.

Supplementary Table 1. Vendor and product information of azole antifungal drugs used in the study.

Chemical Name	Company/Source	Cat. no.	Lot/batch no.
Bifonazole	Alfa Aesar	J63253	I30Z073
Butoconazole nitrate	TCI	B4801	L45WJ-IQ
Clotrimazole	FrontierScientific	496300	L520P36
Econazole	Acros organics	458630050	27220-47-9
Efinaconazole	Sigma	SML1244	046M4752V
Fenticonazole nitrate	TCI	F1008	EFU8K-QC
Fluconazole	Cayman Chem	11594	0449945-13
Isavuconazole	ACHEMBLOCK	M15424	11061
Isoconazole nitrate	Acros organics	458640010	A0362537
Itraconazole	Acros organics	452870050	A0341356
Ketoconazole	TCI America	K00451G	VRTIO-AJ
Miconazole	Alfa Aesar	J60872	M23D029
Oxiconazole nitrate	Sigma	SML1474-10mg	016M4718V
Posaconazole	Carbosynth	FP27107	FP271071401 and 0000029291
Ravuconazole	Sigma	SML1216	055M4724V
Sertaconazole nitrate	eMolecules	QA-5480	A43413
Sulconazole nitrate	Selleckchem	S4120	1
Terconazole	sigma	32355	BCBS8877V
Tioconazole	Alfa Aesar	J60459	Q20E005
Voriconazole	TCI America	V0116	RVK6H-QO

Supplementary Table 2 : Selected ¹H and ¹³C NMR data for lanosterol and the unknown.

Structural Position	¹ H (ppm)		¹³ C (ppm)	
	Lanosterol	Unknown	Lanosterol	Unknown
18-methyl	0.69	0.68	15.9	15.9
19-methyl	0.98	1.03	19.3	19.6
21-methyl	0.91 (d, J = 6.4 Hz)	0.91 (d, J = 6.4 Hz)	18.8	18.8
26-methyl	1.68	1.68	25.9	25.9
27-methyl	1.60	1.60	17.8	17.8
28-methyl	1.00	–	28.1	–
29-methyl	0.81	1.09	15.6	8.8
30-methyl	0.87	0.88	24.4	24.5
28-aldehyde	–	9.40	–	207.2
-C ₃ -H ₃	3.24 (dd, J = 4.6 Hz, 11.7 Hz)	3.79 (dd, J = 4.1 Hz, 11.5 Hz)	79.1	71.9
-C ₄ (quaternary)	–	–	39.0	55.4
-C ₅ -H ₅	1.04	1.61	50.5	43.7
-C ₈	–	–	134.5	135.0
-C ₉	–	–	134.6	134.1
-C ₂₄ -H ₂₄	5.10 (t, J = 6.6 Hz)	5.10 (t, J = 6.4 Hz)	125.4	125.3
-C ₂₅	–	–	131.0	131.2

Supplementary Table 3: Selected ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data for an impurity molecule present in both lanosterol standard and the unknown sample. (Proposed side chain structure of the impurity is shown in Supplementary Fig. 7)

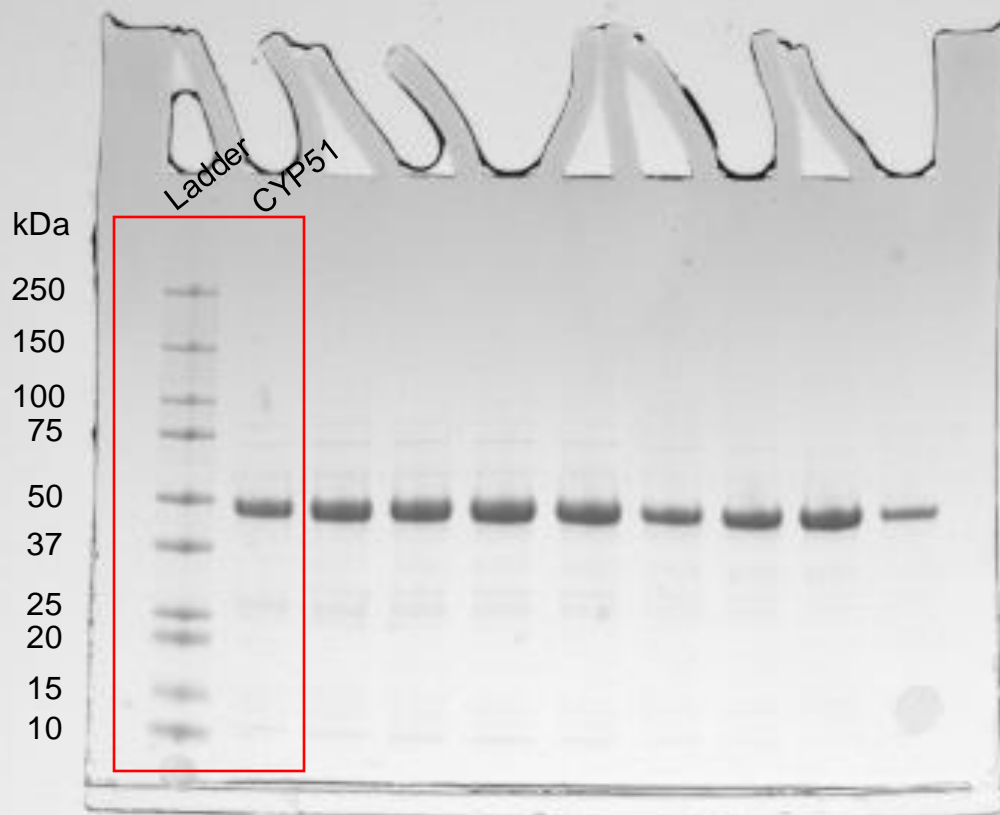
Structural Position	^1H (ppm)		^{13}C (ppm)	
	Lanosterol	Unknown	Lanosterol	Unknown
23 or other methylene	Unassigned	Unassigned	33.4	33.4
24-CH(OH)	4.34 (q, J = 6.3 Hz)	4.34 (q, J = 6.4 Hz)	67.7	67.7
25-alkene	-	-	144.4	144.8
26-methyl	1.80	1.80	17.0	16.8
27-alkene	4.89 and 5.00	4.89 and 5.00	114.3	114.3

Supplementary Table 4. Primer sequences and purposes

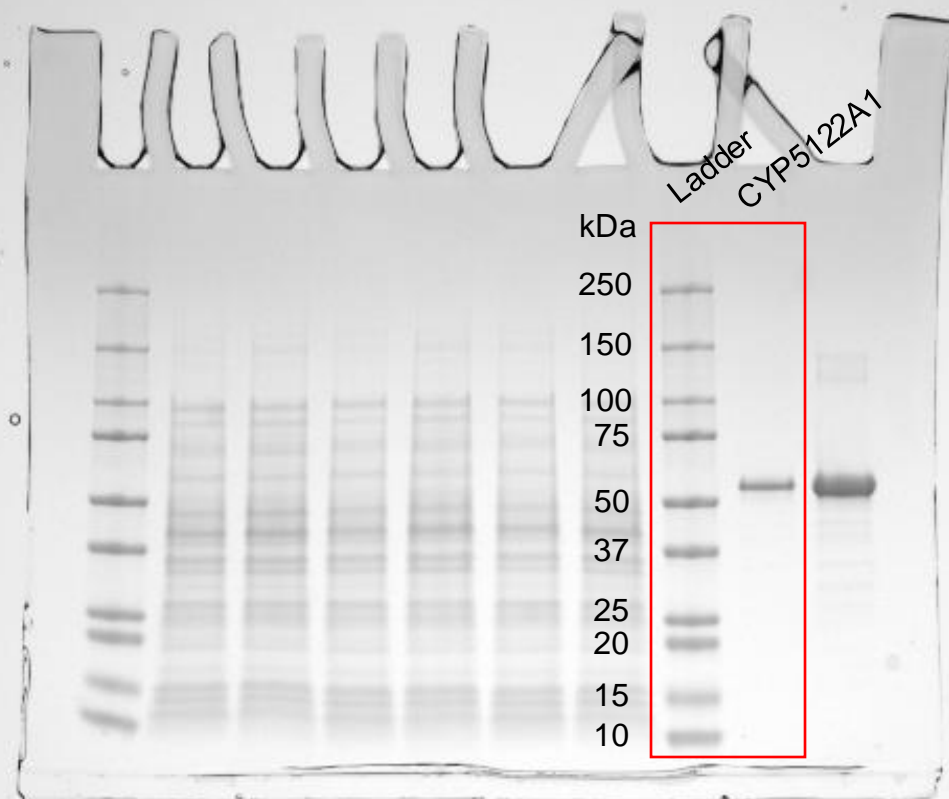
Descriptive name	Purpose	Sequence (5' to 3')
28S rRNA forward	To amplify part of 28S rRNA gene in qPCR (forward primer)	AAGATGGACCGCCTCTAGT
28S rRNA reverse	To amplify part of 28S rRNA gene in qPCR (reverse primer)	ATCCTTCCCCGCTCCAGTAT
Ld22A1 ORF-F	To amplify the ORF of Ld 22A1 (forward primer)	ATA GTA ggatcc ACC ATG GCC GCG AAC GCG CTT C
Ld22A1 ORF-R	To amplify the ORF of Ld 22A1 (reverse primer)	GCG CT ggatcc TTA CAT GAA CAA CTT GTT CGG TGT GCC
Ld22A1-5'FR-F	To amplify the 5'-flanking region of Ld 22A1 (forward primer)	CAT GCT gaattc CTC TCG TTC TCG TTG GAC
Ld22A1-5'FR-R	To amplify the 5'-flanking region of Ld 22A1 (reverse primer)	GTC CCG actagt CTG AGA ACA GTT CAC AAC
Ld22A1-3'FR-F	To amplify the 3'-flanking region of Ld 22A1 (forward primer)	CGG ACG actagt GGC AAG agatct AGC GAA CTG AGA ATG GCC
Ld22A1-3'FR-R	To amplify the 3'-flanking region of Ld 22A1 (reverse primer)	GTC CAG aagctt CCG TAC AGT CCA TTG CCG
F sequencing primer	To sequence the pcWori+ plasmid to verify insert sequence	GATCAGCTTACTCCCCTTCC
R sequencing primer	To sequence the pcWori+ plasmid to verify insert sequence	CGTATCACGAGGCCCTTTC
Internal sequencing primer	To sequence the pcWori+ plasmid to verify insert sequence for TbCPR	GAGCGAATTGGGGGCCAGCGCTTCTACC

Uncropped gels and blots for Supplementary Figures

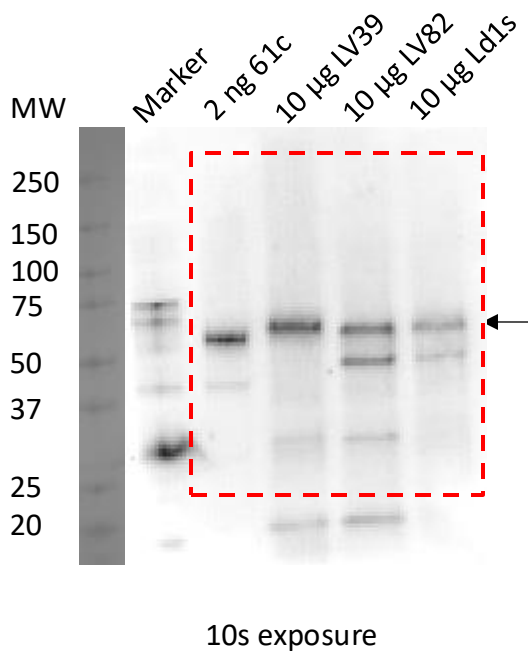
Supplementary Fig. 3A



Supplementary Fig. 3B



Supplementary Fig. 3C



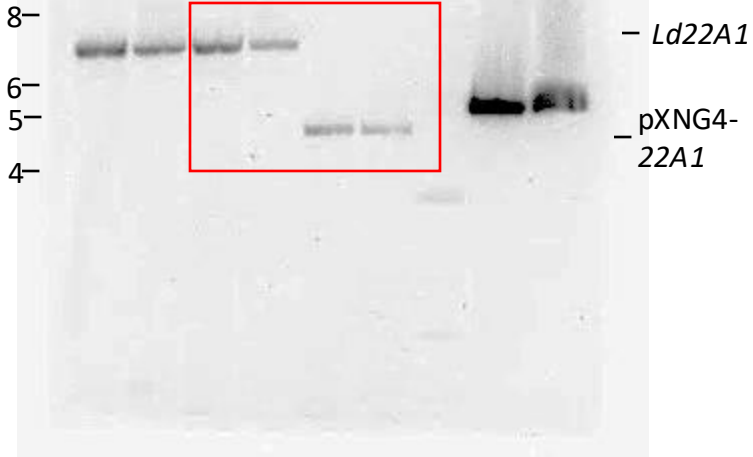
Primary Ab: 1:1000 rat anti-61c serum #1 in 0.1% TBST with 5% milk. Incubate at 4 °C overnight.

Secondary Ab: 1:10,000 goat anti-rat IgG pAb (HRP) (Sigma-Aldrich, AP136P) in 0.1% TBST. Incubate at RT for 2 h.

Supplementary Fig. 8B

Ld1S WT
Ld22A1^{+/-}
Ld22A1⁻
/+pXNG4-22A1
#1 #2

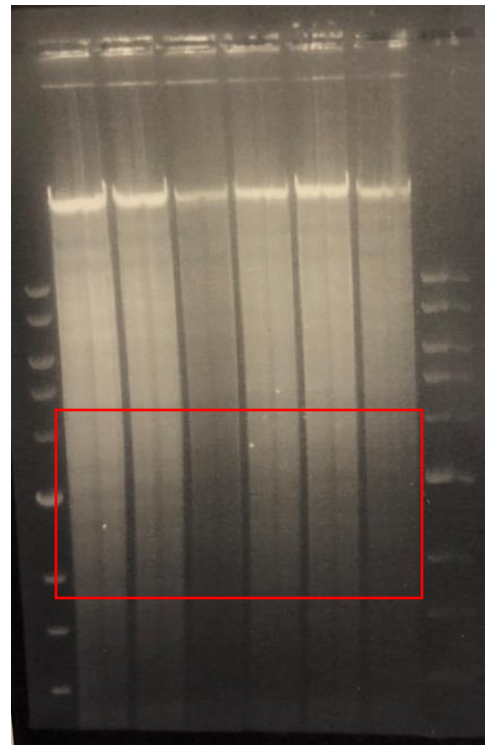
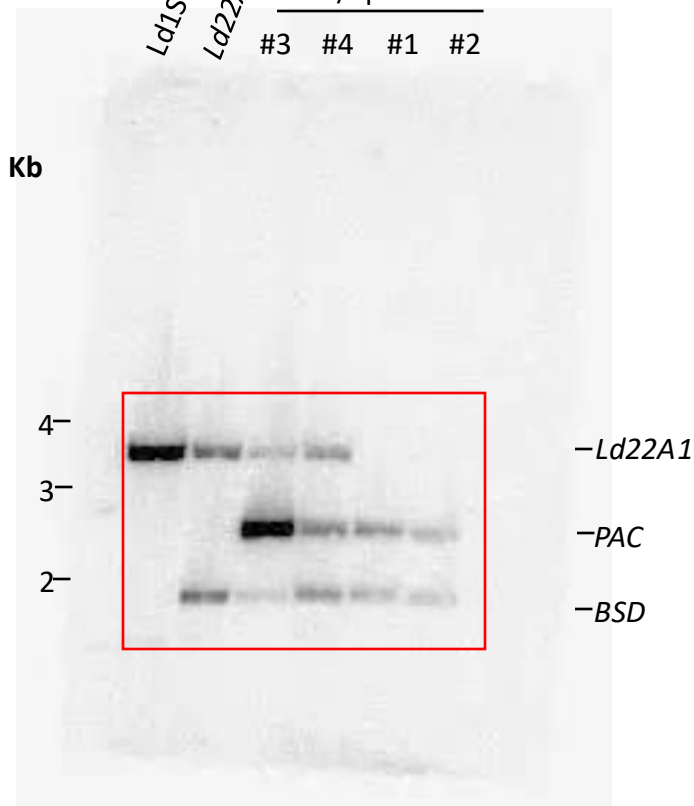
Kb



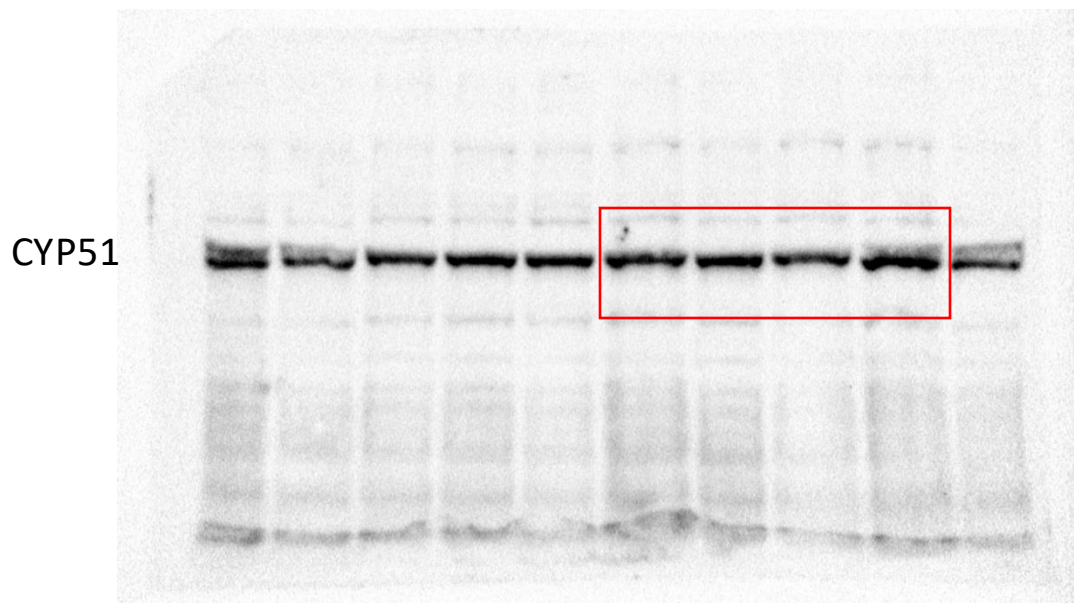
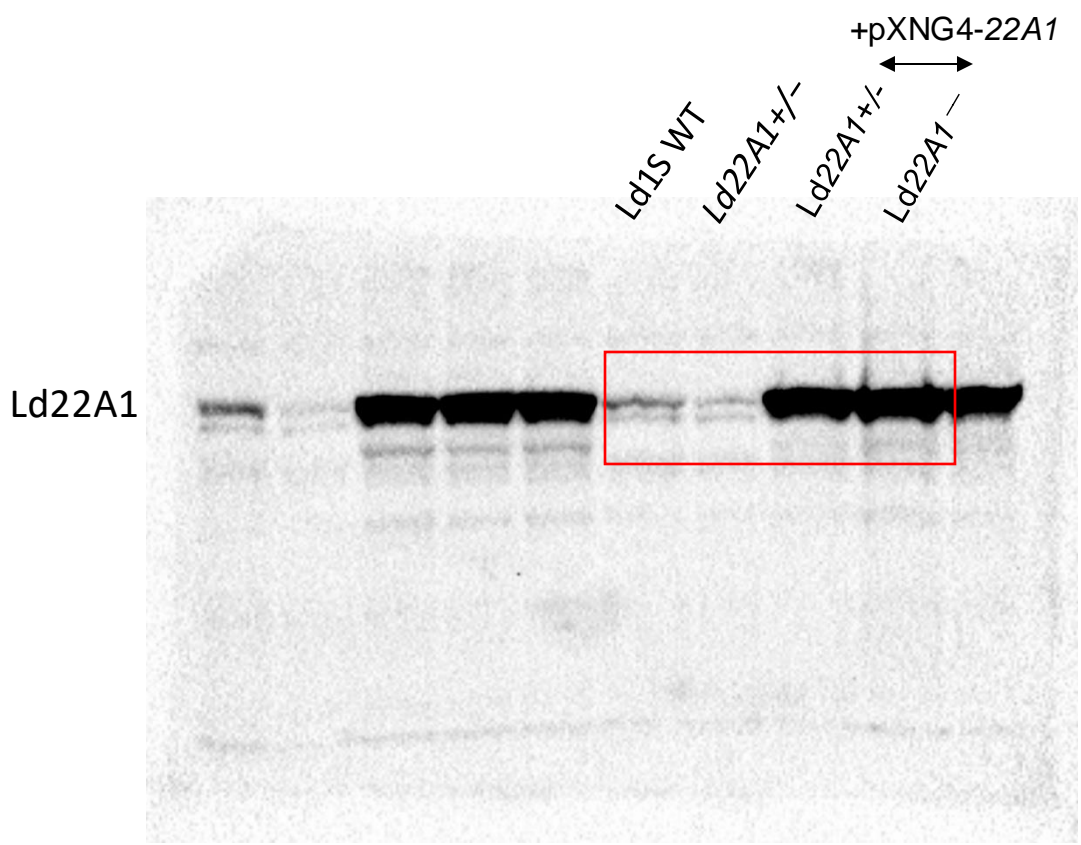
Supplementary Fig. 8C

Ld1S WT
Ld22A1^{+/-}
Ld22A1⁻
/+pXNG4-22A1
#3 #4 #1 #2

Kb



Supplementary Fig. 9B



Supplementary Fig. 9B

Tubulin

