

Roles of Hsf1, Sfl1 and Skn7 in mediating heat-shock protein genes and sustaining asexual cycle, stress tolerance and virulence in *Beauveria bassiana*

Gang Zhou^{1,2,3}, Sheng-Hua Ying³, Yue Hu³, Xiang Fang^{1*}, Ming-Guang Feng^{3*}, Jie Wang^{1,3*}

¹ College of Food Science, South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou, Guangdong, 510642, China (Corresponding at E-mail: wangjielangjing@126.com)

² Guangdong Open Laboratory of Applied Microbiology, Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Microbial Culture Collection and Application, State Key Laboratory of Applied Microbiology Southern China, Guangdong Institute of Microbiology, Guangzhou, Guangdong, 510070, People's Republic of China

³ Institute of Microbiology, College of Life Sciences, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, 310058, China

Table S1. Paired primers used for the manipulation of *hsf1*, *sfl1* and *skn7* in *B. bassiana*.

Primer	Paired sequences (5'-3')*	Purpose
Hsf1up-F/R	AAAAAGAATT <u>CGCTCGAGAGTCAGAGAG</u> / AAAAAA <u>AGCTTGTGCGGGTTG</u> GGGTAT	Cloning <i>hsf1</i> 5'-end (1045 bp)
Hsf1dn-F/R	AAAAACT <u>CGAGAGGAGAGCGTGAGAAG</u> / AAAAA <u>ACTAGTGGGGTTATGAACACCTCCAG</u>	Cloning <i>hsf1</i> 3'-end (1072 bp)
Sfl1up-F/R	AAAAAGAATT <u>CGGTAGATTGTAGCACAGACGGG</u> / AAAA <u>AGAGCTACGAGGGTGGAA</u> GTGAAATAAC	Cloning <i>sfl1</i> 5'-end (1583 bp)
Sfl1dn-F/R	AAAAAT <u>CTAGAGCTCGGTCCAAAGAAAACA</u> / AAAA <u>AGATCTCGAATCTGGCTCAGGTGTAT</u>	Cloning <i>sfl1</i> 3'-end (1432 bp)
Skn7up-F/R	AAAA <u>AGATTCGGTAGCGACTGTGTTGGC</u> / AAAAAC <u>CCGGGTTGACGACGGGTGAAAG</u>	Cloning <i>skn7</i> 5'-end (2113 bp)
Skn7dn-F/R	AAAAAA <u>AGATCTAGCCGTAAAGTTGCGTCGTC</u> / AAAA <u>AACTAGTCGCTAGGCTGTCGCTGT</u>	Cloning <i>skn7</i> 3'-end (2298 bp)
Hsf1fl-F/R	<u>GGGGACCAC</u> TTGTACAAGAA <u>AGCTGGGTGACCAGCGTCACGGCAAGAAT</u> / <u>GGGGACAAGTT</u> <u>GTACAAAAAAAGCAGGCTGACTGAATGCCACAGCGTT</u>	Cloning full-length <i>hsf1</i> (5390 bp)
Sfl1fl-F/R	<u>GGGGACCAC</u> TTGTACAAGAA <u>AGCTGGGTGAGGAGAACAGATTGGAC</u> / <u>GGGGACAAGTT</u> <u>GTACAAAAAAAGCAGGCTCGTTGGACCTACTCCTTTTC</u>	Cloning full-length <i>sfl1</i> (4336 bp)
Skn7fl-F/R	<u>GGGGACCAC</u> TTGTACAAGAA <u>AGCTGGGTCTTAGCGATGTGAAGCAGGTT</u> / <u>GGGGACAAGTT</u> <u>GTACAAAAAAAGCAGGCTCAGAGCACCACAAACACAT</u>	Cloning full-length <i>skn7</i> (5811 bp)
pHsf1-F/R	CAAGCACCTACAACAAACAAG / CTCACCGCTTGGCTTGGCT	PCR detecting <i>hsf1</i>
pSfl1-F/R	CACTACACTCGTCTTACCGCCAG / TCGGGAGGCAGTTGAACAGGT	PCR detecting <i>sfl1</i>
pSkn7-F/R	TCGAACTCTCTCCCG / TGGTCTCTCCCACAGCATT	PCR detecting <i>skn7</i>
sbHsf1-F/R	TGTGACTCAAGGTAAAAAAG / GAATATATTGTGGCAGTGGGT	Southern probe for <i>hsf1</i>
sbSfl1-F/R	GTAGGTAGGTACTTGCC / GCACTGGAGAGAGAAAAAAT	Southern probe for <i>sfl1</i>
sbSkn7-F/R	TTCTCCTCCTATTCCGTCTT / GACACCGAAGGAGGTTGACAG	Southern probe for <i>skn7</i>
qHsf1-F/R	GTCCGATGAACCACTCTT/AAAGGAGTCCAGGGATCT	qRT-PCR detecting <i>hsf1</i>
qSfl1-F/R	ATCCAGCATCTAATATCA/TAAAGTATTGGGAGAGAA	qRT-PCR detecting <i>sfl1</i>
qSkn7-F/R	GAACAATGCCAGTGAATT / CGACAACAACAAAGGTAT	qRT-PCR detecting <i>skn7</i>
qActin-F/R	TCTCTACGGCAACATTGTC / TGCTGGAAGGTGGATAGG	qRT-PCR detecting γ -actin gene

*Underlined regions denote the sites of restriction enzyme for the deletion of each target gene (*EcoRI/HindIII* and *XbaI/SpeI* for *hsf1*, *EcoRI/SacI* and *XbaI/BglII* for *sfl1*, and *EcoRI/XmaI* and *BglII/SpeI* for *skn7*) via homogenous recombination of 5' and 3' fragments separated by *bar* marker or the gateway exchange fragments for complementation of each target gene.

Table S2. Paired primers used for assessing transcript levels of 46 genes in the mutants of *hsf1*, *sf11* and *skn7* versus *B. bassiana* wild-type via qRT-PCR.

Gene ID	Gene	Annotation	Sequences (5'-3') of paired primers
Involved in growth and asexual development			
19887954	<i>fluG</i>	developmental protein	CCTCCCTAGTTGGTCGCTTCTC / CGCTGCGTAATCGCTCCTC
19885980	<i>flbA</i>	developmental regulator	CCAATCCACTCGCCGCTCTC / CGGAGGAAAGAGAAATCGTAGAGG
19890000	<i>flbB</i>	bZIP transcription factor	GCACTGACACGCCGACAAGAGC / CGGCCGCCGAAGCTGTTG
19886193	<i>flbC</i>	C ₂ H ₂ conidiation transcription factor	TCCATCTCCAACCTGCTGGTCTC / GGCGGCGTAGGCCAGGG
19890271	<i>flbD</i>	MYB conidiophore development protein	CGGCAAGCGATGGGCAGAGATTG / ACGAGCAAGGTGACGGTAGAGGTG
19889611	<i>hyd1</i>	hydrophobin 1	TTCTCAGCGATCTTGATCTT / GCACTTGTTGCGATTGG
19886027	<i>hyd2</i>	hydrophobin 2	CATGGTGGAAAGGATCTG / ATCTGGTCGCTTCTCG
Involved in Na⁺ efflux			
19889202	<i>Ena1</i>	P-type Na ⁺ /K ⁺ ATPase 1	TTCTCACCGACGATAACT / TATTCTCAGCCAGGACAT
19892062	<i>Ena2</i>	P-type Na ⁺ /K ⁺ ATPase 2	TAATACCAGGCAAGAAAGT / TTAGGACGACAATGAGAG
19886191	<i>Ena3</i>	P-type Na ⁺ /K ⁺ ATPase 3	GAATCTCAGCAGACTCAT / AATCACGAATCTTCCCT
19887969	<i>Ena4</i>	P-type Na ⁺ /K ⁺ ATPase 4	CGATGATGACAGCAAGTT / CGATAGAGCACACAGAT
19890673	<i>Ena5</i>	P-type Na ⁺ /K ⁺ ATPase 5	CAAGGATACAAGCGGTAA / CGACGAAGTAATGAGGTT
HSP-coding genes			
19890898	<i>hsp20</i>	heat shock protein 20	TCAGGAGATGAGAAGAAC / GCTGTGATGATGTTGTT
19891700	<i>hsp30a</i>	heat shock protein 30	TCTTCCCTGGTCGTGAT/GTATTGGTCGCTGCTCTC
19885069	<i>hsp30b</i>	heat shock protein 30	ATGGCTCTCTTCCC/AGTATGTCAAACTCGTC
19886748	<i>hsp40a</i>	heat shock protein 40	GAGATTGACCTCTATGAG / CTCCCTGAATTGACCTC
19891452	<i>hsp40b</i>	heat shock protein 40	AGAAGACTACTACAAGATCC / TTCCTGGCAGTATCATC
19889942	<i>hsp40c</i>	heat shock protein 40	ATTCACACGACGAACAAG / TCGAGTCATAGTAAGC
19888317	<i>hsp40d</i>	heat shock protein 40	CAGGTAACCTCCGACAAG / CGAAAATAGACGAGAAAG
19885590	<i>hsp40e</i>	heat shock protein 40	GACAAGAACAGGACGAT / ACCTCTCAGCAGAAATT
19883188	<i>hsp40f</i>	heat shock protein 40	AATCGGTGCTCTCAAGTT / TGTCGAAAGAATTGTAAG
19888479	<i>hsp60a</i>	heat shock protein 60	TTTACATCTTCACTACGA/CCTCTCTAATCAGTTCT
19892463	<i>hsp70a</i>	heat shock protein 70	GTGGTAAAGGCATGATT / GAGTCAGAAGTTGAAAG
19889799	<i>hsp70b</i>	heat shock protein 70	GGACCTATGGCTAACAG / AATGCGACACCAGAAAAG
19891640	<i>hsp70c</i>	heat shock protein 70	TTGGCTCAGTTGAATGTG / GCAAGTCTGAAAGCAATA
19892721	<i>hsp70d</i>	heat shock protein 70	TTCTTGTAGCCGTTGATT / GGTATTATCTCCTCTTAC
19884009	<i>hsp70e</i>	heat shock protein 70	AGCAGAACATGTCAAT/TGGCTGATGAAGAAGTTG
19886620	<i>hsp70f</i>	heat shock protein 70	AGCCGTTCTCTTCTC/GCCTGATGACTCTGTG
19883269	<i>hsp70g</i>	heat shock protein 70	CATGGTTCTCTCAAGAT / CTGGTTGCGTTGAAGTA
19888598	<i>hsp70h</i>	heat shock protein 70	TGCTGGTGGTATGATGAC / TCGGAGAAGGTAGAGAAGA
19886917	<i>hsp70i</i>	heat shock protein 70	ATTATGGCACTGTATTG / TGATACGGTTCTTGAT
19885360	<i>hsp70j</i>	heat shock protein 70	ACATCAAGGTCACTAAC / CTTCTCTCGTCTCGTC
19889859	<i>hsp70k</i>	heat shock protein 70	TCAACATTACGGCATTC / CTTCTGTAGTGTCCAT
19884520	<i>hsp70l</i>	heat shock protein 70	TCTGTCTTAACGATACC / TCACGAAGAGCAGTAATC
19883953	<i>hsp70m</i>	heat shock protein 70	ACTCTACTTCAATATGGC / TAGGTCTACTCCCTCAAG
19886284	<i>hsp70n</i>	heat shock protein 70	CATTGTTCTCTATTGACT / TCTCCTGATCTCCACTA
19883808	<i>hsp70o</i>	heat shock protein 70	TACAATCTGACTGAAGAACATATC / ATCGTTGAGCCTGACATT
19889528	<i>hsp90</i>	heat shock protein 90	TTCTCTCCCTCATCATCAAC/CTTGTAGCGGACCTTGTC
19885295	<i>hsp104</i>	heat shock protein 104	CTTTCGCCACAATTCAAC/ACACCGATGTAGGTATCTT
19884587	<i>hsp78</i>	heat shock protein 78	ATACAGACCTGCCGTAT/TATGTTGCGTGTGACCATTG

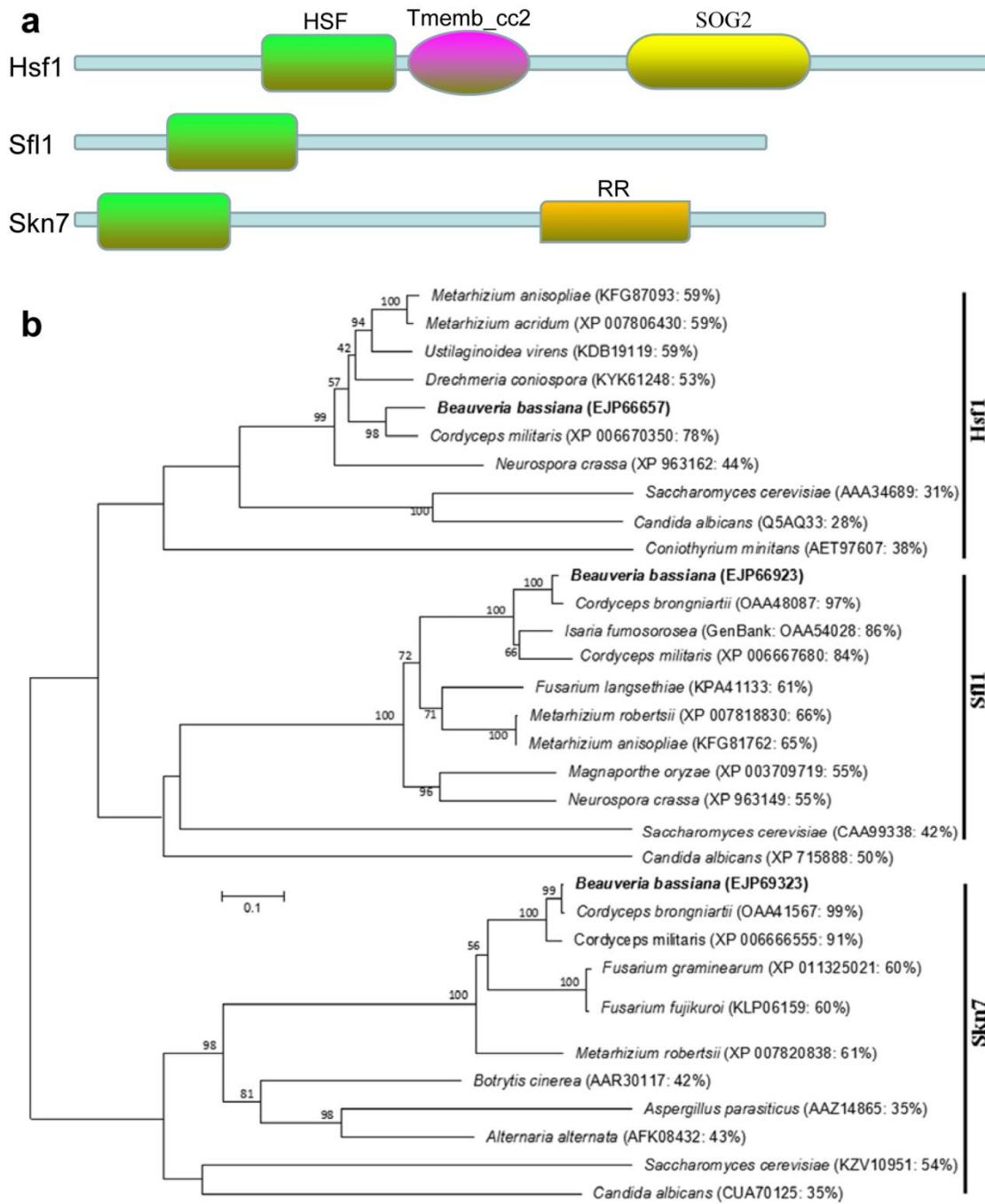


Fig. S1. Structural and phylogenetic features of three HSF-containing genes found in the genome database of *B. bassiana*. **(a)** Conserved domains predicted from three HSFs via sequence alignment and online blast analysis at <http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast.cgi>. **(b)** Phylogenetic tree for three HSFs of *B. bassiana* and other fungi based on a neighbor-joining method in MEGA7 at <http://www.megasoftware.net>. The NCBI accession code of a given protein and its sequence identity to that of *B. bassiana* are given in the parentheses following each fungal name. Scale bar: branch length proportional to genetic distance.

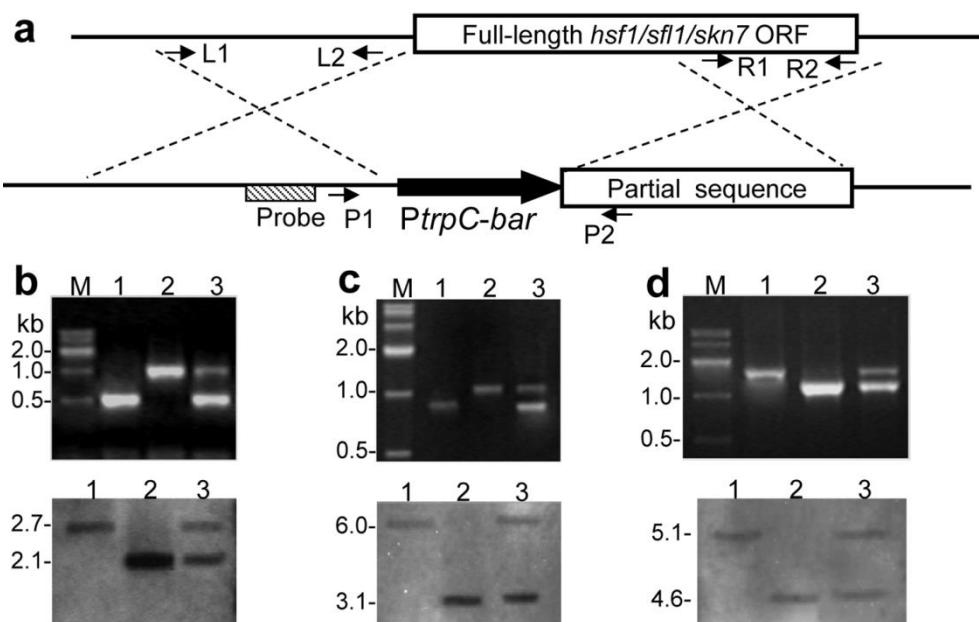


Fig. S2. Construction and identification of *B. bassiana* *hsf1*, *sfl1* and *skn7* mutants. **(a)** Schematic diagram for the deletion strategy of each target gene. **(b-d)** The *hsf1*, *sfl1* and *skn7* mutants identified via PCR (*upper panel*) and Southern blot hybridization (*lower panel*), respectively. *Lane 1*: wild-type strain. *Lane 2*: deletion mutant. *Lane 3*: complemented mutant. Genomic DNAs used for Southern blotting of *hsf1*, *sfl1* and *skn7* were digested with *Xba*I/*Xba*I, *Xba*I/*Xba*I and *Bst*XI/*Eco*RI, respectively.

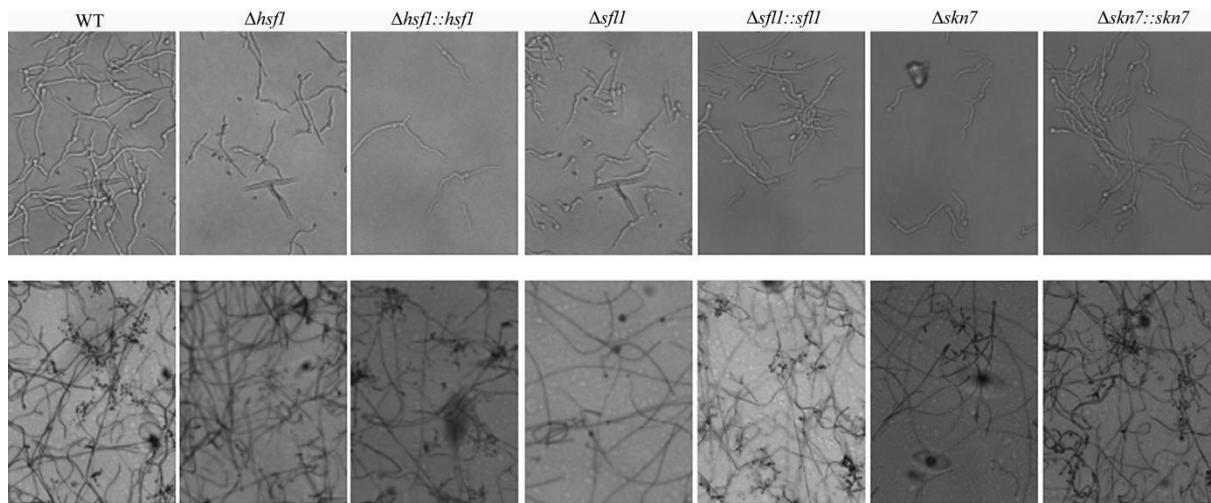


Fig. S3. Images of germ tubes and early hyphae after conidia were cultivated on GM plates for 16 h (up) and conidiophores and conidia after conidia were cultivated on SDAY plates for 3 days (down), visualized at 400 \times magnification.

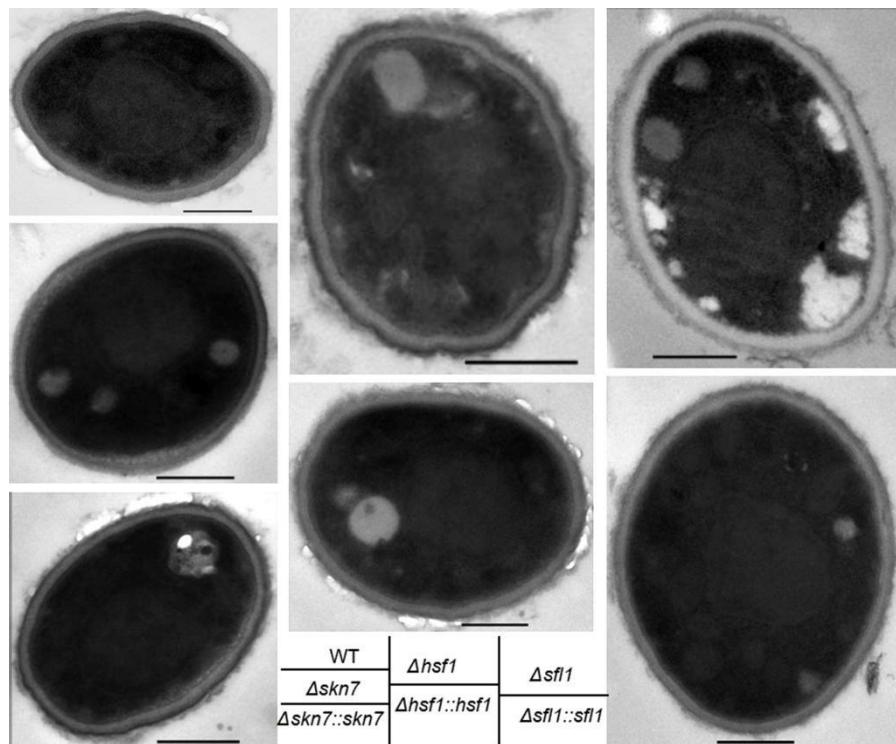


Fig. S4. Images for the ultrathin sections of conidia observed under transmission electron microscopy (TEM). Briefly, aerial conidia were washed three times in PBS (pH 7.0) and fixed overnight at 4 °C with 2% paraformaldehyde and 2.5% (v/v) glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.2). After post-fixed in 1% OsO₄, conidia were dehydrated in a graded ethanol series, embedded in Spurr resin and stained with 2% uranyl acetate and Reynold's lead solution. The samples were examined under an H-7650 transmission electron microscope (Hitachi). Scale: 0.5 μ m.

Table S3. Relative transcript levels of HSPs gene in the 3-d-old SDAY cultures of *hsf1*, *sfl1* and *skn7* mutants versus WT grown at 25°C or then shocked at 40°C for 1 h.

HSP genes	Relative transcript levels (mean ± SD) in normal cultures*							Relative transcript levels (mean ± SD) in heat-shocked cultures*						
	WT	Δ <i>hsf1</i>	Δ <i>hsf1::hsf1</i>	Δ <i>sfl1</i>	Δ <i>sfl1::sfl1</i>	Δ <i>skn7</i>	Δ <i>skn7::skn7</i>	WT	Δ <i>hsf1</i>	Δ <i>hsf1::hsf1</i>	Δ <i>sfl1</i>	Δ <i>sfl1::sfl1</i>	Δ <i>skn7</i>	Δ <i>skn7::skn7</i>
<i>hsp20</i>	1.00±0.09	13.5±0.97	1.71±0.35	1.38±0.11	1.02±0.08	0.24±0.01	0.97±0.02	1.00±0.07	2.14±0.03	1.00±0.02	0.11±0.02	0.95±0.04	0.47±0.03	1.00±0.02
<i>hsp30a</i>	1.00±0.09	1.25±0.14	0.97±0.13	0.83±0.02	1.00±0.02	0.58±0.01	1.00±0.01	1.00±0.03	0.10±0.01	0.95±0.03	0.78±0.02	0.97±0.04	0.54±0.02	0.95±0.03
<i>hsp30b</i>	1.00±0.11	1.50±0.10	1.02±0.06	0.23±0.02	0.96±0.02	0.25±0.01	0.96±0.03	1.03±0.31	0.43±0.04	1.00±0.03	0.09±0.01	0.93±0.06	0.94±0.02	1.00±0.02
<i>hsp40a</i>	1.00±0.06	0.17±0.01	1.00±0.01	1.03±0.06	1.02±0.06	0.62±0.03	0.93±0.04	1.04±0.39	0.54±0.03	1.00±0.02	0.79±0.04	1.00±0.03	3.34±0.33	1.35±0.39
<i>hsp40b</i>	1.00±0.10	0.10±0.00	0.95±0.04	1.33±0.02	1.01±0.02	0.45±0.02	0.96±0.04	1.01±0.14	1.21±0.04	1.00±0.03	0.17±0.04	0.95±0.03	1.14±0.07	1.00±0.05
<i>hsp40c</i>	1.00±0.06	6.30±0.31	1.63±0.35	1.09±0.02	0.99±0.02	0.24±0.01	0.99±0.01	1.00±0.02	0.30±0.01	1.00±0.01	0.61±0.05	1.00±0.03	0.14±0.01	0.93±0.10
<i>hsp40d</i>	1.01±0.13	7.45±0.67	1.71±0.47	1.03±0.07	1.02±0.06	0.19±0.01	0.95±0.04	1.00±0.12	1.07±0.02	1.00±0.01	0.14±0.01	0.99±0.01	0.07±0.00	0.87±0.01
<i>hsp40e</i>	1.01±0.14	8.99±0.90	1.74±0.18	1.57±0.17	1.11±0.02	0.20±0.02	0.95±0.04	1.00±0.04	0.84±0.03	1.00±0.02	0.21±0.00	1.00±0.00	0.12±0.00	0.84±0.03
<i>hsp40f</i>	1.00±0.12	5.53±0.12	1.67±0.50	0.95±0.02	1.00±0.02	0.28±0.00	0.97±0.03	1.00±0.08	0.49±0.04	0.97±0.03	0.24±0.01	1.00±0.01	0.18±0.00	1.00±0.00
<i>hsp60</i>	1.00±0.10	35.9±11.7	0.97±0.05	0.68±0.14	1.00±0.11	0.42±0.10	0.96±0.21	1.00±0.12	2.13±0.22	1.14±0.10	0.50±0.09	0.93±0.01	1.07±0.25	1.01±0.17
<i>hsp70a</i>	1.00±0.09	0.77±0.05	1.00±0.03	1.68±0.11	0.98±0.11	0.77±0.05	1.10±0.18	1.00±0.06	0.06±0.00	0.96±0.04	0.07±0.00	1.00±0.00	2.19±0.02	1.00±0.01
<i>hsp70b</i>	1.00±0.05	0.11±0.01	0.95±0.07	0.29±0.02	0.94±0.04	2.60±0.08	1.02±0.07	1.00±0.06	2.43±0.07	1.00±0.05	0.14±0.01	0.85±0.04	0.06±0.01	0.87±0.02
<i>hsp70c</i>	1.00±0.03	15.7±1.10	1.96±0.37	2.28±0.13	0.98±0.12	0.17±0.01	0.90±0.00	1.00±0.03	1.42±0.03	1.00±0.02	0.09±0.01	0.87±0.02	0.06±0.01	0.83±0.01
<i>hsp70d</i>	1.01±0.14	17.4±0.83	1.84±0.07	1.74±0.14	1.02±0.09	0.74±0.03	1.01±0.02	1.00±0.05	1.82±0.01	1.00±0.01	0.07±0.00	0.95±0.05	0.06±0.01	0.85±0.03
<i>hsp70e</i>	1.00±0.10	0.92±0.02	1.00±0.02	0.16±0.00	0.97±0.06	0.20±0.01	0.94±0.06	1.09±0.50	0.83±0.08	1.00±0.05	0.13±0.01	0.90±0.01	0.34±0.06	1.00±0.04
<i>hsp70f</i>	1.00±0.10	0.90±0.03	1.00±0.03	0.16±0.01	0.94±0.05	0.15±0.00	0.94±0.05	1.00±0.04	0.91±0.04	1.00±0.03	0.12±0.01	0.90±0.00	0.06±0.00	0.95±0.04
<i>hsp70g</i>	1.00±0.08	0.06±0.00	1.00±0.00	0.51±0.06	0.95±0.02	2.82±0.04	0.99±0.03	1.00±0.08	2.32±0.08	1.00±0.06	0.09±0.01	0.88±0.03	1.38±0.14	1.03±0.06
<i>hsp70h</i>	1.00±0.07	0.59±0.07	0.95±0.00	0.33±0.03	1.00±0.02	2.60±0.08	0.98±0.06	1.00±0.02	0.53±0.03	1.00±0.02	0.48±0.01	1.00±0.00	0.45±0.07	1.00±0.05
<i>hsp70i</i>	1.00±0.03	0.47±0.01	1.00±0.01	0.12±0.01	0.96±0.04	2.78±0.22	0.98±0.02	1.00±0.06	1.22±0.03	1.00±0.02	0.17±0.01	0.98±0.02	0.52±0.04	1.00±0.03
<i>hsp70j</i>	1.00±0.06	4.82±0.24	1.62±0.36	2.01±0.03	0.99±0.03	0.44±0.01	0.96±0.02	1.00±0.05	1.84±0.17	1.00±0.12	0.12±0.01	0.90±0.01	0.07±0.00	0.87±0.02
<i>hsp70k</i>	1.00±0.06	4.17±0.23	1.03±0.15	1.31±0.11	0.98±0.11	2.30±0.11	1.03±0.11	1.00±0.08	0.81±0.04	1.00±0.03	0.52±0.02	1.00±0.01	0.42±0.04	1.00±0.03
<i>hsp70l</i>	1.00±0.11	0.46±0.09	0.96±0.01	0.15±0.03	0.84±0.03	2.39±0.08	1.02±0.08	1.00±0.09	1.48±0.04	1.00±0.03	0.43±0.03	1.00±0.02	0.74±0.09	1.01±0.16
<i>hsp70m</i>	1.00±0.10	17.7±0.71	1.71±0.36	1.41±0.12	1.09±0.06	0.11±0.01	0.97±0.05	1.00±0.04	1.01±0.00	1.00±0.00	0.06±0.00	0.87±0.04	0.06±0.00	1.00±0.00
<i>hsp70n</i>	1.00±0.01	15.4±0.75	1.70±0.19	1.07±0.04	1.01±0.04	0.38±0.04	0.94±0.02	1.00±0.07	0.71±0.03	1.00±0.02	0.03±0.00	0.86±0.03	0.92±0.01	1.00±0.01
<i>hsp70o</i>	1.01±0.15	14.1±0.78	1.69±0.12	1.37±0.08	1.02±0.06	0.12±0.00	0.98±0.04	1.00±0.05	0.98±0.05	1.00±0.04	0.06±0.00	0.84±0.03	0.05±0.00	0.94±0.07
<i>hsp90</i>	1.00±0.02	0.75±0.02	1.01±0.02	0.33±0.01	0.99±0.02	0.54±0.01	1.00±0.00	1.00±0.07	0.23±0.02	1.00±0.01	0.48±0.04	0.97±0.03	1.06±0.04	1.00±0.02
<i>hsp104</i>	1.00±0.04	2.73±0.21	0.98±0.12	0.63±0.02	1.00±0.02	0.36±0.00	1.00±0.00	1.00±0.09	0.42±0.05	1.00±0.04	3.61±0.39	1.46±0.09	0.57±0.04	1.00±0.03
<i>hsp78</i>	1.00±0.00	0.93±0.00	1.00±0.00	0.15±0.00	0.90±0.00	0.20±0.01	0.80±0.01	1.00±0.08	0.66±0.01	1.00±0.01	0.63±0.03	0.97±0.03	3.71±0.86	1.44±0.13

* Red: HSP genes significantly upregulated by ≥ 2-fold. Green: HSP genes significantly downregulated by ≥ 50%.