Mutual repression between proliferation and plant invasion is mediated by a master regulator of appressorium formation in the corn smut fungus *Ustilago maydis***.**

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

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SI Materials and Methods

Plasmid Constructions

Serine or threonine to alanine mutant variants were constructed as replacement cassettes carrying the desired mutation (associated to the appearance or loss of a restriction enzyme target for diagnostic purposes) to be inserted by homologous recombination into the endogenous locus. The cassette also allowed the insertion of a resistance to hygromycin, flanked by FRT sites to remove the resistance cassette once the endogenous locus was mutated, following published procedures (1).

To replace native *hdp2* allele with the *hdp2T607A* allele, we constructed a gene replacement cassette using Golden Gate assembly, following published procedures (2). The 5' fragment, carrying the desired mutation (2051 bp) was produced by PCR-based mutagenesis (four-primer PCR with internal mutagenic primers) and it was assembled from two fragments: the left fragment (627 bp) was amplified with the primer pair HDP2-1/HDP2-2 and the right fragment (1479 bp) was amplified with the primer pair HDP2-3/HDP2-4. The inserted mutation was a change in the codon number 691 (ACG to GCG), which was associated to the loss of the restriction site for *Rse*I. The 3' fragment (463 bp) was obtained by genomic PCR with the primer pair HDP2-5/HDP2-6.

To replace native *biz1* with the *biz1S663A T691A* alleles, we also constructed a gene replacement cassette using Golden Gate assembly. The 5' fragment consisted of a synthetic 922 bp DNA fragment that includes the two desired mutations: codon 663 (TCG to GCT) and codon 691 (ACG to GCG). The mutation in codon 663 resulted in the formation of a recognition site for *Afe*I. This DNA fragment was also flanked by *Bsa*I recognition sites compatible with

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the vectors used in the Golden Gate assembly. The 3' fragment (899 bp) was obtained by genomic PCR with the primer pair BIZ1-1/BIZ1-2.

To construct single codon substitutions in Biz1, we exchanged, in the 922 bp synthetic DNA carrying the two mutations, fragments with the respective wildtype versions upon digestion with *Nco*I+*Sac*I (to exchange codon 663) or *Sac*I+*Cla*I (to exchange codon 691). The respective single mutant fragments were assembled using Golden Gate assembly as above.

To replace native *biz1* with the *biz1S663D T691D* allele, we also constructed a gene replacement cassette using Golden Gate assembly using a 5' fragment consisting of a synthetic 922 bp DNA fragment that includes the two desired mutations: codon 663 (TCG to GAC) and codon 691 (ACG to GAT). The mutation in codon 663 resulted in the formation of a recognition site for *Psu*I.

To construct the *biz1* allele under the control of P_{crq1} promoter (*biz1^{crg1}*), we also used a Golden Gate assembly as described. The 5' fragment (1062 bp) and 3' fragment (1114 pb) were obtained by genomic PCR with the primer pairs BIZ1CRG-1/BIZ1CRG-2 and BIZ1CRG-3/BIZ1CRG-4 respectively.

To construct the C-terminal fusion of Biz1 to GFP or 3HA we also used a Golden Gate assembly as described. The 5' fragment (1108 bp) and 3' fragment (899 bp) were obtained by genomic PCR with the primer pairs BIZ1GFP-1/BIZ1GFP-2 and BIZ1GFP-3/BIZ1GFP-4 respectively.

Strains used in each experiment.

Fig. 1. (B) FB1, FB2, UMS123, UMS125, UMP368, UMP369, UMP370, UMP371, UMP364, UMP367, UMP365, UMP366. (C) SG200AM1, UMP367, UMP365, UMP366. (D) UMP560.

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Fig. 2. (B) FB1, UMC10, UMP382, UMP390, UMP386, UMP400. (C) AUM331, AUM333, AIUM332, AUM335. (D) UMP120, UMP433, UMP434, UMP437. (E) AB34, UMP112, UMS120, UMP431, UMP432, UMP433, UMP434, UMP436, UMP437.

Fig. 3. (A) UMP382, UMP383, UMP384. (C) UMP382, UMP386, UMP390, UMP400, UMP384, UMP397, UMP392, UMP393.

Fig. 4. (A) AUM346, AUM349, AUM347, AUM348. (B) AUM349, UMP568. (C) UMP406, UMP407, UMP408, UMP409.

Fig. 5. (B) UMP363, UMP520. (C) UMP363, UMP520. (D) SG200, UMS131, UMS360, UMN69, UMP500, UMP501, UMP502, UMP503.

Fig. S1. SG200AM1, UMS154, UMS155, UMS156, UMS186, UMS187.

Fig. S2. SG200, UMS131, UMP500, UMP565, UMP566, UMP567.

Fig. S3. UMP363, UMS191, UMS154, UMP571.

Fig. S4. SG200, UMS131, UMP500.

Fig. S5. FB1, FB2, UMS364, UMS367, UMS123, UMS125, UMP365, UMP366.

Fig. S6. SG200AM1, UMS154, UMP361, UMP363.

Fig. S7. UMP112, UMP431, UMS120, UMP433.

Fig. S8. AB34, AB33, UMP431, UMS120, UMP433.

Fig. S9. AUM331, AUM332, AUM333, AUM335.

Fig. S10. UMP112, UMS120, UMP431, UMP432, UMP433, UMP434, UMP436, UMP437.

Fig. S11. AUM346, AUM347, AUM348, AUM349.

Fig. S12. UMP520.

Fig. S1. Cell cycle regulation seems to interfere with elements downstream the signaling cascade responsible to activate the formation of appressoria.

A. Scheme of the genetic pathway responsible of appressorium formation in *U. maydis*. The activation of the program that produces differentiation of the infective filament into the appressorium involves the sensing of plant-derived stimuli by two membrane proteins, Sho1 and Msb2 (3), which transmit the signal by a well-characterized MAPK cascade (4). Mutants lacking these elements are severely impaired in their capacity to produce appressoria and subsequently showed dramatic defects in virulence. Downstream of this signaling cascade, a plethora of transcription factors seems to be required to activate the transcriptional program responsible for the appressorium formation (5).

B. Gain-of-function mutants in the MAPK cascade do not bypassed the cell cycle arrest requirement during *in vitro* appressorium formation. Incubation of solopathogenic strains (i. e. independent of the mating step, derived from SG200 strain, (6)) on hydrophobic surfaces in the presence of 16 hydroxyhexadecanoic acid (the cutin monomer), resulted in the induction of appressorium formation (4). Because the appressorium from *U. maydis* is a simple slight swelling of the infective filament, not easy to distinguish by morphological criteria, to facilitate the localization of appressoria, these solopathogenic strains carried a fluorescent reporter of appressorium formation (AM1-GFP). The AM1-GFP reporter is a transcriptional GFP fusion with the promoter from the gene encoding um0779. This marker shows GFP expression exclusively in those tip cell of filaments that differentiate an appressorium (4).

To address at which level (upstream or downstream of the signaling cascade) an active cell cycle interferes with the appressorium formation, we have analyzed whether the bypass of the MAPK signaling was able to disable the inhibition of appressorium formation by an active cell cycle. For that, we inserted two distinct constructions aimed to activate the MAPK cascade at different levels into a solopathogenic strain carrying the two mutations disabling the b-dependent cell cycle arrest (*chk1*∆ and *hsl1tef1*). As control, we introduce the same constructions into a wild-type strain. These constructions expressed, under the control of the *crg1* promoter (induced by the presence of arabinose), either the *fuz7DD* allele, encoding a version of the pheromone cascade MAPK kinase, which is independent of upstream activation (7) or the *kpp6P130A P131A* allele, which is a MAPK version partially independent of the requirement of membrane sensor Sho1(3). We have spread the respective strains carrying the AM1-GFP reporter on an artificial hydrophobic surface (Parafilm) in the presence of long-chain hydroxy fatty acids and arabinose. After 20 hours of incubation, we have scored the proportion of filaments (stained with CFW) showing GFP fluorescence (i. e. adopting the appressorium differentiation program). The graph shows the result from three independent experiments, counting more than 50 filaments each. We have observed that no one of the tested mutants showed a suppression of the repressive effect of an active cell

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cycle into the appressorium formation *in vitro*. These results suggested that the inhibitory signal emanating from an active cell cycle most likely was not affecting the signaling cascade and that, probably, the putative targets of the cell cycle regulation were located downstream of the MAPK cascade.

Fig. S2. The suppression of the lack of virulence in *hsl1tef1 chk1***∆ mutants required the two Ser/Thr to Ala substitutions in Biz1.**

Graph showing disease symptoms caused by the indicated solopathogenic strains (SG200-derived) carrying different *biz1* alleles. The symptoms were scored 14 days after infection. Three independent experiments were carried out and the average values are expressed as percentage of the total number of infected plants (n: 30 plants in each experiment, see Table S4 for raw data). While the double Ser/Thr to Ala substitution (*biz1S663A, T691A*) was able to suppress the lack of virulence of *chk1*∆ and *hsl1tef1* mutants, the single substitutions (*biz1S663A* or *biz1T691A*) failed to do so. Phosphomimetic substitutions (Ser/Thr to Asp, *biz1S663D, T691D*) behaves as the double phosphodead mutant. These results are coherent with the interaction, described in this work, with 14-3-3 protein once Biz1 is phosphorylated. 14-3-3 proteins

showed higher affinity to dual binding sites in their targets, although they are still able to bind to single sites (8), and it has been reported that glutamate and aspartate do not provide good phosphomimetic residues with respect to 14-3-3 binding to target proteins and resulted in phosphodead mutations (9).

Fig. S3. *chk1***∆** *hsl1tef1* **mutants carrying the** *biz1AA* **allele were able to produce appressoria on plant.**

To address whether the presence of Biz1^{AA} was able to recover the ability of *chk1∆ hsl1^{tef1}* mutants to produce appressoria on plant, we used the strategy

depicted in (10), which allows the direct comparison of two different strains in the same conditions. Basically, we co-infected plants with equal numbers of two distinct SG200-derived cells carrying the appressorium reporter AM1-GFP. In one experiment class (left panel), the double $chk1\Delta hsl1^{tef1}$ strain carrying in addition a transgene that constitutively expressed a cherry fluorescent marker was mixed with the triple $chk1\Delta$ *hsl1^{tef1} biz1^{AA}* mutant. In the second experiment class (right panel), we reversed the mixture of strains, being the triple mutant strain the one that carried the cherry marker. After 1 dpi, fungal material on the leaf surface was stained with calcofluor white (CFW) and expression of AM1 (GFP fluorescence) was scored with respect to specific cherry fluorescence.

A. Panels showing the indicated strain combinations. The asterisk marks the presence of appressorium on the plant surface. Bar: 30 µm.

B. Quantification of the total number (from two independent experiments) of detected appressoria (filaments with GFP signal), indicating the number of them showing cherry fluorescence in the two different strain combinations. Note that appressorium formation was always associated to the triple mutant and never was observed with the double mutant.

Fig. S4. *chk1***∆** *hsl1tef1* **mutants carrying the** *biz1AA* **allele were able to penetrate the plant tissue.**

Series of z axis projections showing the infection of wild-type (SG200) (left pannel), double mutant (middle panel), and triple mutant (right panel) solopathogenic strains. Corn leaves showing symptoms (chlorotic areas in the case of double mutant) were collected at day 5 after infection and fungal material was visualized by staining with Chlorazole Black (11). We followed through the z axis the presence of fungal material inside the plant tissue

(arrows). The point of penetration is marked by an asterisk. Note that the double mutant was unable to penetrate and it seem to proliferate on the surface of the plant. Bar: 25 µm.

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Fig. S5. Macroscopic symptoms of plants infected with strains carrying Biz1AA.

A. Representative images of plants infected with the corresponding crosses. Plants were photographed 8 dpi.

B. Morphology of tumours caused by crosses of wild-type (control), *biz1AA* and triple *chk1∆ hsl1^{tef1} biz1^{AA}* mutant. Tumours were photographed at 16 dpi.

C. Image showing tumours produced by the infection with the triple $chk1\Delta$ *hsl1^{tef1} biz1^{AA}* mutant. Note the presence of small, shoot-like structures (arrows) in some tumors.

Plants infected with the triple mutant cross do not showed big tumors. We believe that the less severe symptoms observed by the triple mutant infections were attributable to the lack of Chk1 activity, more than some possible effect of Biz1^{AA}. We base this assumption in two observations: in first place, plants infected with strains carrying the *biz1AA* allele alone presented tumors that were similar to those observed from wild-type infections. Secondly, a striking feature observed in tumors induced by $chk1\Delta$ *hsl1^{tef1} biz1^{AA}* strains is the development of small, shoot-like structures (arrows). Such structures were described previously in plants infected by *U. maydis* mutants lacking either Chk1 or Atr1 kinases, which were required for the correct fungal development inside the plant (12), basically because they control the cell cycle during dikaryotic growth of basidiomycetes (13).

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Fig. S6. Appressoria formation in vitro.

Micrographs to show *in vitro* appressoria formation from control strain as well as from the strain carrying the $biz1^{AA}$ allele and the mutations disabling the cell cycle arrest. All the strains carried the appressorium-specific AM1-GFP reporter. Cells were stained with Calcofluor White (CFW) and analyzed for AM1 marker expression (AM1-GFP). The arrows pointed the tip of filaments forming appressorium. Scale bar, 20 um.

Fig. S7. The presence of Biz1AA arrest the cell cycle in the infective filaments that disconnect the b- program from cell cycle regulation.

AB33-based strains carrying the indicated mutations were incubated for 8 hours in minimal medium amended with nitrate to induce the genes encoding the bfactor (which are under the control of the *nar1* promoter (14)). These strains also carried an NLS-GFP transgene as a nuclear marker to address the nuclear number of each filament. Filaments carrying a single nucleus were considered as arrested on cell cycle (15). (A) Representative images of cultures from the indicated strains. Bar: 20 μ m. Note that the triple mutant cells were cell cycle arrested at the same extent as the control strain (AB33) in similar conditions.

(B) Graph shows the quantification of the nuclear content of filaments. Data are presented as mean ± SD from three independent experimental replicates counting more than 50 filaments each.

Fig. S8. Biz1AA does not alter the level of Cdk1 inhibitory phosphorylation. AB33-derived cells carrying the indicated mutations were grown for 8 hours in inducing conditions for b-factor (nitrate minimal medium) and samples were taken and submitted to Western blot analysis. Immunoblots were incubated successively with an antibody that recognizes the Cdk1 phosphorylated form (anti-Cdk1-Y15P) and anti-PSTAIRE, which recognizes both Cdk1 and Cdk5. Levels of Cdk1 phosphorylation were determined by quantifying the level of antibody signal using a ChemiDoc (Bio- Rad). Differences in loading of samples were corrected by dividing each phosphopeptide-specific antibody signal by the Cdk1 (anti-PSTAIRE) antibody signal. This experiment was carried out three independent times and the values shown in panel A are the average from these repeats. Panel B showed a representative gel.

Fig. S9. The putative CDK-mediated phosphorylation of Biz1 inhibits its ability to arrest the cell cycle.

Micrographs showing cells carrying the *biz1* or *biz1AA* alleles in which the endogenous promoter was exchanged by the *crg1* promoter (induced by

arabinose). Some strains also carried an ectopic copy of a transgene expressing the *cdk1AF* allele under the control of *crg1* promoter. Cells were incubated for 6 hours in CMA (Complete medium plus arabinose). A fusion of a nuclear envelope protein (Cut11) to cherry was used to detect the nucleus in each cell and classify the cells in function of nuclear number (i. e. arrested or not). Ectopic expression of Biz1 induces hyperpolarized growth (10). Scale bar, $20 \mu m$.

Fig. S10. Disconnecting Biz1 from cell cycle arrest during induction of the infective filament.

Graph showing the quantification of the nuclear content of AB33-derived filaments. The indicated AB33-based strains were incubated for 8 hours in minimal medium amended with nitrate to induce the genes encoding the bfactor (which are under the control of the *nar1* promoter (14)). These strains also carried an NLS-GFP transgene as a nuclear marker to address the nuclear number of each filament. Filaments carrying a single nucleus were considered as arrested on cell cycle (15) . Data are presented as mean \pm SD from three independent experimental replicates counting more than 50 filaments each.

Fig. S11. CDK-mediated phosphorylation retains Biz1 at the cytoplasm. Micrographs of the indicated strains expressing or not an ectopic copy of *cdk1AF* allele as well as Biz1-GFP or Biz1^{AA}-GFP fusion. The cells also carried a Cut11cherry fusion to detect nuclear membrane. Cultures were incubated for 6 hours in inducing conditions (CMA). Scale bar, $20 \mu m$.

Fig. S12. Analysis of the ability of the *hsl1tef1 chk1***∆** *biz1AAPdik6:clb1* **mutant strain to form appressoria formation on planta and to invade the plant tissue.**

(A) We infected plants with solopathogenic cells carrying the four mutant alleles (*hsl1tef1 chk1*∆ *biz1AAPdik6*) as well as the AM1-GFP reporter. After 1 dpi, fungal material on the leaf surface was stained with calcofluor white (CFW) and expression of AM1 (GFP fluorescence) was scored with respect to specific cherry fluorescence. From 8 leaves obtained in independent infections, we were able to detect in total 6 filaments showing fluorescence. Panel A showed one representative micrograph indicating the presence of filaments expressing AM1- GFP on plant surface. This filament seemed composed by several cell compartments (separated by septa stained with CFW), and the 2-3 more apical compartments showed GFP fluorescence (inset). Arrows pointed the tip of the filament and one of the septa. Bar: $50 \mu m$.

(B) Series of z axis projections showing the presence of *hsl1tef1 chk1*∆ biz1^{AA}P_{dik6} cells on plant surface that were unable to invade the plant tissue. Corn leave areas near the syringe puncture were collected at day 5 after infection and fungal material was visualized by staining with Chlorazole Black (11). We have analyzed 10 independent leaves, finding no evidence of plant penetration. Bar: 25 µm.

Strain	Relevant genotype	Source
FB1	a1, b1	(16)
FB ₂	a2, b2	(16)
UMS123	a1, b1, chk1 Δ (HygR), hsl1 ^{tef1} (NatR)	(15)
UMS125	a2, b2, chk1 Δ (Hyg ^R), hsl1 ^{tef1} (Nat ^R)	(15)
UMP368	a1, b1, $hdp2^{T607A}$:frt	This work
UMP369	a2, b2, $hdp2^{T607A}$:frt	This work
UMP370	a1, b1, chk1 Δ (Hyg ^R), hsl1 ^{tef1} (Nat ^R), hdp2 ^{T607A} :frt	This work
UMP371	a2, b2, chk1 \triangle (Hyg ^R), hsl1 ^{tef1} (Nat ^R), hdp2 ^{T607A} :frt	This work
UMP364	a1, b1, biz1 ^{S663A T691A} :frt	This work
UMP367	a2, b2, biz1 ^{S663A T691A} :frt	This work
UMP365	a1, b1, chk1 Δ (Hyg ^R), hsl1 ^{tef1} (Nat ^R), biz1 ^{S663A T691A} :frt	This work
UMP366	a2, b2, chk1 \triangle (Hyg ^R), hsl1 ^{tef1} (Nat ^R), biz1 ^{S663A T691A} :frt	This work
SG200	a1, mfa2, bW2, bE1 (Phleo ^R)	(6)
SG200AM1	a1, mfa2, bW2, bE1 (PhleoR), ip[Pum01779GFPx3 (CbxR)]	(4)
UMP361	a1, mfa2, bW2, bE1 (Phleo ^R), ip[$P_{um01779}$ GFPx3 (Cbx ^R)], biz 1^{S663A} $T691A$:frt	This work
UMS154	a1, mfa2, bW2, bE1 (PhleoR), $ip[P_{um01779}GFPx3$ (CbxR)], chk1 Δ (Hyg ^R), hsl1 ^{tef1} (Nat ^R)	(15)
UMP363	a1, mfa2, bW2, bE1 (Phleo ^R), ip[$P_{um01779}$ GFPx3 (Cbx ^R)], chk1 Δ (Hyg ^R), hsl1 ^{tef1} (Nat ^R), biz1 ^{S663A T691A} :frt	This work
UMP560	a1, mfa2, bW2, bE1 (Phleo ^R), ip[$P_{um01779}$ GFPx3 (Cbx ^R)], chk1 Δ (Hyg ^R), hsl1 ^{tef1} (Nat ^R), biz1 ^{S663A T691A} :frt, cut11-Cherry $(G418^R)$	This work
UMC10	a1, b1 ip[P_{crg1} :cdk1 ^{AF} (Cbx ^R)]	(17)
UMP382	a1, b1, biz1 ^{crg1} -3HA (G418 ^R , Hyg ^R)	This work
UMP390	a1, b1, biz1 ^{crg1} -3HA (G418 ^R , Hyg ^R), ip[P_{crg1} :cdk1 ^{AF} (Cbx ^R)]	This work
UMP386	a1. b1. biz1 ^{crg1, S663A T691A} -3HA (G418 ^R , Hyg ^R)	This work
UMP400	a1. b1. biz1 ^{crg1, S663A T691A} -3HA (G418 ^R , Hyg ^R), ip[P_{crg1} :cdk1 ^{AF} (Cbx^R)	This work
AUM331	a1, b1, biz1 ^{crg1} (G418 ^R), cut11-Cherry (Phleo ^R)	This work
AUM333	a1, b1, biz1crg1 (G418R), cut11-Cherry (PhleoR), ip[P_{crg1} :cdk1AF (Cbx^R)	This work
AUM332	a1. b1 biz1 ^{crg1, S663A T691A} :frt (G418 ^R), cut11-Cherry (Phleo ^R)	This work
AUM335	a1. b1 biz1crg1, S663A T691A:frt (G418R), cut11-Cherry (PhleoR),	This work

Table S1. *U. maydis* strains used in this study

Table S2. Oligonucleotides used in this study

Replicate 3

Table S4. Raw data for infection assays from Figure S2

Table S5. Raw data for infection assays from Figure 5D

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