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<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>&lt;p&gt; &lt;b&gt; Background: &lt;/b&gt; Plums are the economically important Rosaceae fruit crops and include dozens of species distributed across the world. They are the most taxonomically diverse within the &lt;i&gt; Prunus &lt;/i&gt; genus and hold the center of the &lt;i&gt; Prunus &lt;/i&gt; genetic stage &lt;i&gt; . &lt;/i&gt; However, limited genomic information is available for the genetic studies and breeding programs of plums. &lt;i&gt; Prunus salicina &lt;/i&gt; , a typical diploid plum species, plays a predominant role in modern commercial plums production. Here we selected &lt;i&gt; P. salicina &lt;/i&gt; for whole-genome sequencing and presented a chromosome-level genome assembly through the combination of PacBio sequencing, Illumina Sequencing and Hi-C technology. &lt;b&gt; Findings: &lt;/b&gt; The assembly had a total size of 284.2 Mb, &lt;a class="ext-link" href="" data-jats-ext-link-type="uri"&gt; with contig N50 of 1.8Mb and scaffold N50 of 32.3Mb &lt;/a&gt; . 96.56% of the assembled sequences were anchored onto 8 pseudochromo</p>	
<b>Corresponding Author:</b>	Yehua He Soth China Agricultural University Guangzhou, Guangdong Province CHINA	
<b>Corresponding Author Secondary Information:</b>		
<b>Corresponding Author's Institution:</b>	Soth China Agricultural University	
<b>Corresponding Author's Secondary Institution:</b>		
<b>First Author:</b>	Chaoyang Liu	
<b>First Author Secondary Information:</b>		
<b>Order of Authors:</b>	Chaoyang Liu	
	Chao Feng	
	Weizhuo Peng	
	Jingjing Hao	
	Jianjun Pan	
	Yehua He	
<b>Order of Authors Secondary Information:</b>		
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# The chromosome-level draft genome of a diploid plum (*Prunus salicina*)

Chaoyang Liu<sup>1,3\*</sup>, Chao Feng<sup>2,\*</sup>, Weizhuo Peng<sup>1,3</sup>, Jingjing Hao<sup>1,3</sup>,  
Jianjun Pan<sup>4</sup>, Yehua He<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Key Laboratory of Biology and Germplasm Enhancement of Horticultural Crops in South China, Ministry of Agriculture, South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou 510642, China

<sup>2</sup> Key Laboratory of Plant Resources Conservation and Sustainable Utilization, South China Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou 510650, China

<sup>3</sup> Maoming Branch, Guangdong Laboratory for Lingnan Modern Agriculture, Maoming 525000, China

<sup>4</sup> Agricultural Technology Extension Center of Conghua District, Guangzhou. Guangzhou 510900, Guangdong Province, China

\*Equal contribution

Corresponding author: Yehua He (email: [heyehua@hotmail.com](mailto:heyehua@hotmail.com))

30 **Abstract**

31 **Background:** Plums are the economically important Rosaceae fruit crops and include  
32 dozens of species distributed across the world. They are the most taxonomically  
33 diverse within the *Prunus* genus and hold the center of the *Prunus* genetic stage.  
34 However, limited genomic information is available for the genetic studies and  
35 breeding programs of plums. *Prunus salicina*, a typical diploid plum species, plays a  
36 predominant role in modern commercial plums production. Here we selected *P.*  
37 *salicina* for whole-genome sequencing and presented a chromosome-level genome  
38 assembly through the combination of PacBio sequencing, Illumina Sequencing and  
39 Hi-C technology. **Findings:** The assembly had a total size of 284.2 Mb, with contig  
40 N50 of 1.8Mb and scaffold N50 of 32.3Mb. 96.56% of the assembled sequences were  
41 anchored onto 8 pseudochromosomes and a total of 24,448 protein-coding genes were  
42 identified. Phylogenetic analysis showed that *P. salicina* had closer relationship with *P.*  
43 *mume* and *P. armeniaca*, with *P. salicina* diverging from their common ancestor  
44 approximately 9.05 million years ago (Mya). 146 gene families were expanded during  
45 *P. salicina* evolution, and some cell wall-related GO terms were significantly enriched.  
46 It was noteworthy that members in the DUF579 family, a new class involved in xylan  
47 biosynthesis, were significantly expanded in *P. salicina*, which provided new insight  
48 into the xylan metabolism in plums. **Conclusions:** We constructed the first  
49 high-quality chromosome-level plum genome using PacBio, Illumina and Hi-C  
50 technologies. This work provides a valuable resource for facilitating plum breeding  
51 programs and studying the genetic diversity mechanisms of plums and *Prunus*  
52 species.

53

## 54 **Background**

55 Plums are the economically important Rosaceae fruit crops and produced throughout  
56 the world. About 12.6 million tons of plums (include sloes) are produced per year  
57 (FAOSTAT 2018, <http://faostat.fao.org/>), and the fruits are widely used for fresh  
58 consumption and processing like canning and beverages [1]. There are 19-40 species  
59 of plums distributed across Asia, Europe and America. It is considered that plums  
60 hold the center of the *Prunus* genetic stage for the largest diversity of any subgenus  
61 and a link between the major subgenera [2].

62 *Prunus salicina*, commonly called the Japanese plum or Chinese plum, is an  
63 important diploid ( $2x=2n=16$ ) plum species that predominates in the modern  
64 commercial production of plums (Fig. 1). *P. salicina* originate in China and its fruits  
65 are mostly used for fresh consumption for their characteristic taste [3]. Cultivars of *P.*  
66 *salicina* have wide variability in phenology, fruit size and shape, flavour, firmness,  
67 aroma, texture, phenolic composition, antioxidant activity and both skin and pulp  
68 color [4].

69 However, the genetic and genomic information for *P. salicina* as well as most plum  
70 species were scarce [5]. The availability of a fully sequenced and annotated genome  
71 will help to measure and characterize the genetic diversity and determine how this  
72 diversity relates to the tremendous phenotypic diversity among plum cultivars. The  
73 genomic information is essential to support many of the studies involved in  
74 fundamental questions about plums biology and genetics. Moreover, genome-based  
75 tools could be developed to improve breeding works of plums, which were usually  
76 hindered by the high degree of heterozygosity, self-incompatible and long juvenile  
77 stage [2, 5, 6].

78 The fruit firmness, one of the most important indices of plum quality, is closely  
79 associated with cell wall compositions [2]. Xylan is a major component of secondary  
80 cell walls [7], and the xylan metabolism is involved in various aspects of plant growth  
81 and development like fruit ripening and softening [8]. Previous studies showed that  
82 the plum species presented more xylose (the main component of xylan) compared to

83 other *Prunus* species, and was also one of the richest natural sources of xyliot [9, 10].  
84 The relatively high levels of xylan-related metabolites implying the possible special  
85 mechanism of the xylan metabolism in plum, and the available plum genomic  
86 information will be helpful to better understand the mechanism at molecular level.

87 Genome resources are already available for a number of Rosaceae fruit crops [11],  
88 including apple [12-14], peach [15], pear [16-18], strawberry [19, 20], almond [21],  
89 black raspberry [22], sweet cherry [23], apricot [24], loquat [25] and *Prunus mume*  
90 [26]. However, whole-genome sequencing and chromosome-level assembly for plums  
91 have not been reported until now. In this study, a typical diploid plum species, *P.*  
92 *salicina*, was selected for the whole-genome sequencing as a genomic reference. A  
93 high-quality chromosome-level *de novo* genome assembly of *P. salicina* was  
94 generated using an integrated strategy that combines PacBio sequencing, Illumina  
95 sequencing and Hi-C technology. The assembly has a total size of 284.2 Mb with  
96 contig N50 of 1.8Mb and scaffold N50 of 32.3 Mb, and vast majority (96.56%) of the  
97 assembled sequence was anchored onto 8 pseudochromosomes. The availability of the  
98 high-quality chromosome-scale genome sequences not only provides fundamental  
99 knowledge regarding plum biology but also presents a valuable resource for genetic  
100 diversity analysis and breeding programs of plums and other *Prunus* crops.

101

## 102 **Sample collection, library construction and sequencing**

103 *P. salicina* (*P. salicina* L. cv. 'Sanyueli') samples from Guangzhou, Guangdong  
104 Province, China (113°22'4" N, 23°9'5" E) were selected for genome sequencing. The  
105 samples were kept at the Horticultural Germplasm Conservation Center of South  
106 China Agricultural University (SCAU) for breeding and research. Total genomic DNA  
107 was extracted from fresh young leaves of 5-year-old *P. salicina* tree using the CTAB  
108 method [27].

109 A combination of PacBio single-molecule real-time (SMRT) sequencing, Illumina's  
110 paired-end sequencing and Hi-C technology was applied. For PacBio sequencing,  
111 SMRT libraries were constructed using the PacBio 20-kb protocol

112 (<https://www.pacb.com/>). A total of ~53.0 Gb long-sequencing reads were generated  
113 by PacBio Sequel platform. After removing adaptors within sequences, about 52.9 Gb  
114 ( $169.7 \times$  coverage) subreads were obtained (Table S1). The subreads have a mean  
115 length of 13.2 kb (Table S2). The Illumina DNA paired-end libraries were constructed  
116 with an insert size of 350 bp, and sequencing was performed on the Illumina HiSeq  
117 4000 platform according to the manufacturer's instructions; a total of approximately  
118 26.6 Gb ( $85.4 \times$  coverage) short sequencing reads was obtained (Table S1). Reads  
119 with adaptors, with unknown bases (N) than 10% and with low-quality bases ( $\leq 5$ )  
120 more than 50% were filtered out to gain the clean data for further analysis.

121 The Hi-C library was prepared using the standard procedures. The young leaves of  
122 the same *P. salicina* tree were used as starting materials. Nuclear DNA from young  
123 leaves was cross-linked in situ, extracted, and digested with DpnII restriction  
124 endonuclease. The 5' overhangs of the digested fragments were biotinylated, and the  
125 resulting blunt ends were ligated. The cross-links were reversed after ligation,  
126 proteins were removed to release the DNA molecules. The purified DNA was sheared  
127 to a mean fragment size of 350 bp and ligated to adaptors, followed by purification  
128 through biotin-streptavidin-mediated pull down. Finally, the library was sequenced on  
129 Illumina HiSeq 4000 platform to produce 59.1 Gb ( $189.5 \times$  coverage) Hi-C  
130 sequencing data (Table S1). After filtering adapter contamination and low-quality  
131 reads, a total of 56.1 Gb clean data were obtained for further assisting genome  
132 assembly. The quality of Hi-C sequencing was evaluated with HiCUP [28], and the  
133 effect rate was approximately 28.10% (Table S3).

134 In order to generate the RNA-seq data needed for the genome annotation stage, a  
135 total of six tissues, including leaf, flower, branch, young fruit pericarp, young fruit  
136 pulp and matured fruit, were sampled from the same *P. salicina* tree. Total RNA was  
137 extracted from six tissues using E.N.Z.A.<sup>®</sup> Plant RNA kit (OMEGA). RNA-seq  
138 libraries were constructed and sequenced by Illumina HiSeq 4000 in paired-end 150bp  
139 mode, and a total of ~46.7 Gb transcriptome data were produced (Table S4).

140

## 141 ***De novo* assembly of the *P. salicina* genome**

142 In the genome assembly process, Illumina sequencing data were used for the genome  
143 survey and polishing of preliminary contigs, PacBio long reads were used for contig  
144 assembly and Hi-C reads were used for chromosome-level scaffolding.

145 Sequencing data from the Illumina library were used to estimate the genomic  
146 information of *P. salicina* with the k-mer based method. Quality-filtered reads were  
147 subjected to 17-mer frequency distribution analysis using SOAPdenovo  
148 (SOAPdenovo, RRID: SCR\_010752) [29]. Based on the total number of k-mers  
149 (19,341,904,177), the estimated *P. salicina* genome size was calculated to be  
150 approximately 311.82 Mb (Figure S1). The heterozygous and repeat sequencing ratios  
151 were 0.70% and 54.49%, respectively (Table S5).

152 The *de novo* assembly of the *P. salicina* genome was carried out using the  
153 FALCON assembler (FALCON, RRID: SCR\_016089) [30], followed by the polishing  
154 with Quiver [31] and Pilon (Pilon, RRID: SCR\_014731) [32]. The PacBio subreads  
155 were subsequently processed by a self-correction of errors using FALCON [30].  
156 Based on the overlap-layout-consensus algorithm, the detection of overlaps among  
157 input reads and the assembly for the final string graph [33] were performed using  
158 FALCON pipeline [30]. The draft assembly was further polished using Quiver [31].  
159 Finally, the Illumina reads were mapped back to the assembly and the remaining  
160 errors were corrected by Pilon [32]. These processes yielded a draft *P. salicina*  
161 genome assembly with a total length of 284.2 Mb (Table 1).

162 Clean Hi-C reads were aligned to the assembled genome with BWA aligner (BWA,  
163 RRID: SCR\_010910) using default parameters [34]. Only uniquely aligned read pairs  
164 whose mapping quality more than 20 were remained for further analysis. Invalid read  
165 pairs, including dangling-end and self-cycle, relegation, and dumped products, were  
166 filtered by HiCUP [28]. 88.9% of uniquely mapped read pairs were valid interaction  
167 pairs (Table S3), which were used to cluster, order, and orient the assembly contigs  
168 onto pseudochromosomes by Lachesis (LACHESIS, RRID:SCR\_017644) [35]. The  
169 Juicebox [36] was applied to build the interaction matrices and complete the visual



170 correction. As shown in Fig. 1, the assembled sequences were anchored onto the 8  
171 pseudochromosomes with lengths ranging from 23.70 to 54.53 Mb (Table S6). The  
172 total length of pseudochromosomes accounted for 96.56% of the genome sequences  
173 (Figure 1), with contig N50 of 1.78 Mb and scaffold N50 of 32.32 Mb (Table1; Table  
174 S7).

175

## 176 **Assessing the completeness of the genome assembly**

177 To assess the quality of the genome assembly, the pair-end short reads were aligned to  
178 the assembled genome with BWA [34]. The mapping rate was 96.93% and a total of  
179 98.81 % assembled genome was covered by the reads and the mapping coverage with  
180 at least 4×, 10×, 20× was 98.48 %, 98.06% and 97.13%, respectively (Table1; Table  
181 S8). RNA-seq reads from six tissues of *P. sacilina* were mapped against our assembly  
182 using Hisat with default parameters [37], and the percentage of aligned reads ranged  
183 from 92.44% to 95.25% (Table1; Table S4). The SNPs were counted to evaluate the  
184 accuracy of the genome assembly, a total of 3668 homozygous SNPs were identified,  
185 accounting for only 0.0015% of the reference genome (Table S9). The low rate of  
186 homozygous SNPs suggested that the assembly had a high base accuracy. The  
187 completeness of the assembly was accessed using both Core Eukaryotic Genes  
188 Mapping Approach (CEGMA, RRID: SCR\_015055) [38] and Benchmarking  
189 Universal Single-Copy Orthologs (BUSCO, RRID: SCR\_015008) [39] approaches.  
190 234 Core Eukaryotic Genes (CEGs) out of the complete set of 248 CEGs (94.35%)  
191 were covered by the assembly, and 229 (92.34%) of these were complete (Table1;  
192 Table S10). BUSCO analysis based on single copy orthologs set showed that 95.7%  
193 of the expected genes were identified as complete, 1.3% were fragmented, and only  
194 3.0% were missing (Table1; Table S11). These results suggested that the genome  
195 assembly was complete and robust.

196

## 197 **Annotation**

### 198 **Repeat annotation**

199 To annotate repeat elements in the *P. salicina* genome, a combined strategy based on  
200 homology searching and *de novo* prediction was applied. For homology-based  
201 prediction, interspersed repeats were identified using RepeatMasker  
202 (<http://www.repeatmasker.org>) (RepeatMasker, RRID: SCR\_012954) and  
203 RepeatProteinMask (RepeatProteinMask, RRID: SCR 012954) [40] to search against  
204 the Repbase database [41]. For *de novo* prediction, RepeatScout  
205 (<http://www.repeatmasker.org/>) (RepeatScout, RRID:SCR 014653) [42],  
206 RepeatModeler (<http://www.repeatmasker.org/RepeatModeler/>) RepeatModeler  
207 (RRID:SCR\_015027), and LTR\_Finder ([http://tlife.fudan.edu.cn/tlife/ltr\\_finder/](http://tlife.fudan.edu.cn/tlife/ltr_finder/))  
208 (LTR\_Finder, RRID:SCR\_015247) [43] were used to identify *de novo* involved  
209 repeats. Tandem repeats were also *de novo* predicted using Tandem Repeats Finder  
210 (TRF) [44]. Overall, the results found that 48.28% of the assembly was covered with  
211 transposable elements (TE). Among of them, long terminal repeat (LTR)  
212 retrotransposons represented the greatest proportion, making up 42.10% of the  
213 genome (Table1; Table S12). Tandem duplicates occurred for 9.8% of the genes and  
214 were preferentially enriched in transferase activity and phloem development (Table 1;  
215 Figure S2). The TE percentage and density of duplicates resulted from tandem  
216 duplications were shown in Figure 1.

### 217 **Gene annotation**

218 A combination of three approaches, including homology-based prediction, *de novo*  
219 prediction and transcriptome-based prediction, was used to predict the protein-coding  
220 genes within *P. salicina* genome. For homology-based prediction, the homologous  
221 protein sequences of *Prunus persica*, *Prunus avium*, *Prunus mume*, *Pyrus*  
222 *bretschneideri*, *Malus domestica*, *Fragaria vesca* and *Arabidopsis thaliana* were  
223 obtained from NCBI database and mapped onto the *P. salicina* genome using TblastN  
224 (TBLASTN; RRID:SCR\_011822) (E-value  $\leq 1e-5$ ) [45], and then the matching  
225 proteins were aligned to the homologous genome sequences for accurate spliced  
226 alignments with GeneWise (GeneWise, RRID:SCR 015054) [46] to define gene  
227 models. For *de novo* prediction, Augustus (Augustus, RRID: SCR\_008417) [47],  
228 GlimmerHMM (GlimmerHMM, RRID: SCR\_002654) [48], SNAP (SNAP, RRID:

229 SCR 002127) [49], Geneid (GeneID, RRID: SCR 002473) [50] and Genescan  
230 (GENSCAN, RRID: SCR\_012902) [51] were used to predict the coding regions of  
231 genes. For transcriptome-based predictions, RNA-seq data from six tissues were used  
232 for genome annotation, processed by HISAT2 (HISAT2, RRID: SCR\_015530) [37]  
233 and Stringtie (StringTie, RRID: SCR\_016323) [52]. RNA-seq data were also *de novo*  
234 assembled with Trinity (Trinity, RRID: SCR\_013048) [53]. The assembled sequences  
235 were aligned against *P. salicina* genome with PASA (Program to Assemble Spliced  
236 Alignment, PASA, RRID: SCR\_014656) [54], and the effective alignments were  
237 assembled to gene structures. Gene models predicted by all of the methods were  
238 integrated by EVidenceModeler (EVidenceModeler, RRID: SCR\_014659) [54]. To  
239 update the gene models, PASA was further used to generate UTRs [54]. Finally,  
240 24,448 non-redundant protein-coding genes with an average transcript size of  
241 2,988.45bp were predicted in the *P. salicina* genome (Table 2), and the gene density  
242 was shown in Figure 1.

243 The functional annotation of protein-coding genes within *P. salicina* genome was  
244 carried out by aligning protein sequences against SwissProt [55] and NR databases  
245 using BLASTp (with a threshold of E-value  $\leq 1e-5$ ). The protein motifs and domains  
246 were annotated by searching against InterPro (InterPro, RRID: SCR 006695) [56] and  
247 Pfam (Pfam, RRID: SCR\_004726) database [57] with InterProScan (InterProScan,  
248 RRID: SCR\_005829) [58]. Gene Ontology (GO) terms for each gene were retrieved  
249 according to the corresponding InterPro entry. KEGG pathway was mapped by the  
250 constructed gene set to identify the best match for each gene [59]. Overall, 23,931  
251 (97.90%) protein-coding genes were successfully annotated (Table 1; Table S13).

## 252 **Non-coding RNA annotation**

253 The tRNAs were predicted using the program tRNAscan-SE (tRNAscan-SE, RRID:  
254 SCR 010835) [60], and rRNA genes were annotated using BLASTN (BLASTN,  
255 RRID:SCR\_001598) tool with E-value of  $1e-5$  against rRNA sequences from several  
256 relative plant species. miRNA and snRNA were identified by searching against the  
257 Rfam (Rfam, RRID:SCR\_007891) database [61] with default parameters using the  
258 INFERNAL software (INFERNAL, RRID:SCR 011809) [62]. A total of 627 miRNA,

259 960 tRNA, 273 rRNA and 2023 snRNA in the *P. salicina* genome were finally  
260 identified (Table S14).

261

## 262 **Gene family identification and phylogenetic analysis of *P. salicina***

263 OrthoFinder version 2.3.3 (OrthoFinder, RRID:SCR\_017118) [63] was used to  
264 identify the orthogroups among *P. salicina* and 16 other sequenced rosids, including *P.*  
265 *armeniaca*, *P. mume*, *P. persica*, *P. dulcis*, *P. avium*, *P. yedoensis*, *M. domestica*, *P.*  
266 *bretschneideri*, *Pyrus communis*, *F. vesca*, *Potentilla micrantha*, *Rosa chinensis*, *Rosa*  
267 *multiflora*, *Rubus occidentalis*, *Morus notabilis* and *A. thaliana*. As a result, 15,751  
268 orthogroups containing 23,265 genes were found in *P. salicina*. Moreover, 1,010  
269 genes which were specific to *P. salicina* were identified. A comparison of the  
270 predicted proteomes among the 17 species indicated that 9,616, 10,447, 11,098,  
271 13,963 and 15,512 orthogroups were shared between *P. salicina* and Rosids, Rosales,  
272 Rosaceae, Amygdaloideae and *Prunus*, respectively.

273 For phylogenetic construction, proteins of single-copy orthogroups (i.e., the  
274 orthogroups which contain none or only one genes for each species) presented in at  
275 least 70% of species were selected and aligned with MAFFT version 6.846b (MAFFT,  
276 RRID: SCR 011811) [64]. After determination of the best substitution model for each  
277 orthogroup with IQ-TREE version 1.7-beta12 (IQ-TREE, RRID: SCR\_017254) [65],  
278 the maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree across the 17 plant species was constructed  
279 using IQ-TREE with the parameter (-p -bb 1000), setting *A. thaliana* as outgroup. The  
280 divergence time of each node in the phylogenetic tree was estimated with Bayesian  
281 Evolutionary Analysis Sampling Trees (BEAST, RRID: SCR\_010228) [66]. Two fossil  
282 constraints and a secondary calibration node were applied. The fossil *Prunus*  
283 *wutuensis* (age: Early Eocene, minimum age of 55.0 Mya) and the fossil *Rubus*  
284 *acutiformis* (age: Middle Eocene, minimum age of 41.3Mya) were placed at the stem  
285 *Prunus* and *Rubus*, respectively [67]. For the secondary calibration node, the  
286 divergence of Rosoideae and Amygdaloideae at 100.7 Mya was dated according to  
287 Xiang et al. [67]. The Markov chain Monte Carlo was reported 10,000,000 times with

288 1000 steps. The phylogenetic tree indicated that *P. salicina* diverged from the ancestor  
289 of *P. mume* and *P. armeniaca* approximately 9.05 Mya, from the ancestor of *P. persica*  
290 and *P. dulcis* 11.12 Mya (Figure 2).

291 A collinear analysis of the three closely related *Prunus* species (*P. salicina*, *P.*  
292 *armeniaca*, and *P. mume*) was performed using MCScan (minspan=100; MCScan,  
293 RRID: SCR\_017650; <http://chibba.pgml.uga.edu/mcscan2/>), and the results showed  
294 that the three species exhibited high collinearity (Figure 3). A total of 16,827 and  
295 12,426 *P. salicina* genes were located in collinear blocks between *P. salicina* and *P.*  
296 *armeniaca* and between *P. salicina* and *P. mume*, respectively. Fewer inversions were  
297 found in *P. salicina* vs *P. armeniaca* than in *P. salicina* vs *P. mume*.

298

### 299 **Gene family expansion and contraction analysis**

300 For gene family expansion analysis, the ancestral gene content of each cluster at each  
301 node was investigated with CAFÉ version 3.1 (CAFÉ, RRID: SCR\_005983) [68],  
302 basing on the phylogeny and gene numbers per orthogroup in each species, the gene  
303 family expansions/contractions at each branch were determined with  $p$ -value < 0.001.  
304 The gene family analysis showed that during the evolution of *P. salicina*, 146 gene  
305 families were expanded and 500 families were contracted. The functional enrichment  
306 on Gene Ontology (GO) of those expanded gene families identified 60 significantly  
307 enriched GO terms ( $p$ -value < 0.05) (Table S15; Figure S3).

308 It was noteworthy that genes from the expanded families were enriched in a series  
309 of cell wall related processes, such as ‘cell wall polysaccharide metabolic process  
310 (GO: 0010383)’, ‘hemicellulose metabolic process (GO: 0010410)’ and ‘regulation of  
311 cellular biosynthetic process (GO: 0031326)’. Specially, genes in ‘xylan biosynthetic  
312 process (GO: 0045492)’, which corresponded to the DUF579 family [69], were  
313 significantly expanded. Further investigation showed that the major copy differences  
314 were found in Clade II, which consisted of orthologs of IRX15/IRX15L [69], with  
315 seven members in *P. salicina* and only two to four members in other *Prunus* species  
316 (Figure 4). It was reported that IRX15 and IRX15L defined a new class of genes

317 involved in xylan biosynthesis [70, 71]. The species-specific expansion of this new  
318 subclade might contribute to the relatively high content of xylan-related metabolites  
319 (like xylose and xyliot) in plum [9, 10], which provided new insight into the xylan  
320 metabolism in plum.

321 Moreover, the FRS (FAR1-related sequence) gene family, which played multiple  
322 roles in a wide range of cellular processes [72], was also significantly expanded in the  
323 phylogeny (GO: 000945), and the family expansion may be related to the genetic and  
324 phenotypic diversity in *P. salicina*.

### 325 **The positive selection analysis**

326 The ratios of nonsynonymous to synonymous substitutions ( $K_a/K_s$ ) were calculated  
327 for all the 2,314 single-copy orthologs of the sequenced *Prunus* species using the  
328 Codeml program with the free-ratio model as implemented in the PAML (PAML,  
329 RRID:SCR\_014932) package. A total of 213 positively selected genes (PSGs) were  
330 obtained in *P. salicina*, which were enriched in the ‘monooxygenase activity (GO:  
331 0004497)’ and ‘enzyme inhibitor activity (GO: 0004857)’ (Figure S4). It was  
332 noteworthy that the category ‘monooxygenase activity’ was also found in the enriched  
333 GO terms for the expanded gene families in *P. salicina*, which might provide valuable  
334 candidate genes for further functional investigations.

335

### 336 **Conclusions**

337 To our knowledge, this is the first report of the chromosome-level genome assembly  
338 of plums using Illumina and PacBio sequencing platforms with Hi-C technology. The  
339 assembly had a total size of 284.2 Mb, the contig and scaffold N50 reached 1.8 and  
340 32.3 Mb, respectively. A total of 24,448 protein-coding genes were predicted, and  
341 97.9% (23,931 genes) of which have been annotated. Phylogenetic analysis indicated  
342 that *P. salicina* was closely related to *P. mume* and *P. armeniaca*, and collinear  
343 analysis showed that these three species exhibited high collinearity. Expanded gene  
344 families in *P. salicina* were significantly enriched in several cell-wall related  
345 processes. Remarkably, the *P. salicina*-specific expansion of the xylan

346 biosynthesis-related DUF579 family provided new insight into the xylan metabolism  
347 in plums. Given the economic and evolutionary importance of *P. salicina*, the  
348 genomic data in this study offer a valuable resource for facilitating plum breeding  
349 programs and studying the genetic basis for agronomic and adaptive divergence of  
350 plum and *Prunus* species.

351

## 352 **Availability of supporting data and materials**

353 This Whole Genome Shotgun project has been deposited at DDBJ/ENA/GenBank  
354 under the accession WERZ00000000. The version described in this paper is version  
355 WERZ01000000. The raw sequencing data are available through the NCBI Sequence  
356 Read Archive (SRA) via accession numbers from SRR10233497 to SRR10233505,  
357 via the Project PRJNA574159 (Reviewer link:  
358 [https://dataview.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/object/PRJNA574159?reviewer=dkism9m6v4lriar1](https://dataview.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/object/PRJNA574159?reviewer=dkism9m6v4lriar12reb0gh59u)  
359 [2reb0gh59u](https://dataview.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/object/PRJNA574159?reviewer=dkism9m6v4lriar12reb0gh59u)). The transcriptome data are available through the NCBI SRA (from  
360 SRR10235674 to SRR10235679) (Reviewer link:  
361 [https://dataview.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/object/PRJNA576011?reviewer=el1jecd7btt3e3kod](https://dataview.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/object/PRJNA576011?reviewer=el1jecd7btt3e3kodpc46jiko5)  
362 [pc46jiko5](https://dataview.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/object/PRJNA576011?reviewer=el1jecd7btt3e3kodpc46jiko5)). All the annotation tables containing results of an analysis of the draft  
363 genome are available at Figshare (<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.9973469>).

364

## 365 **Abbreviations**

366 BLAST: Basic Local Alignment Search Tool; BEAST: Bayesian Evolutionary  
367 Analysis Sampling Trees; bp: base pair; BUSCO: Benchmarking Universal  
368 Single-Copy Orthologs; CEGMA: Core Eukaryotic Genes Mapping Approach; CTAB:  
369 cetyltrimethylammonium bromide; EVM: EVidenceModeler; Gb: gigabase pair; GO:  
370 Gene Ontology; Hi-C: high-throughput chromosome conformation capture; kb:  
371 kilobase pair; KEGG: Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes; Mb: megabase  
372 pair; miRNA: microRNA; Mya: million years ago; NCBI: National Center for  
373 Biotechnology Information; PacBio: Pacific Biosciences; PAML: phylogenetic  
374 analysis by maximum likelihood; PASA: Program to Assemble Spliced Alignments;

375 RNA-seq: RNA sequencing; rRNA: ribosomal RNA; SMRT: single-molecule  
376 real-time; SnRNA, small nuclearRNA; SNP: single-nucleotide polymorphism; TRF:  
377 Tandem Repeats Finder; tRNA: transfer RNA.

378

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384

### 385 **Author Contributions**

386 Y.H.H. conceived the study. C.Y.L. and C.F. performed bioinformatics analysis.  
387 W.Z.P., J.J.H. and J.J.P. collected the samples and extracted the DNA. C.Y. L. and C. F.  
388 wrote the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

389

### 390 **Competing interests**

391 The authors declare no competing interests.

392



393 **Figure Legends**

394 **Figure 1** The genome and photograph of *Prunus salicina*. Landscape of the *P.*  
395 *salicina* genome, comprising 8 pseudochromosomes that cover ~96.56% of assembly  
396 (A); Concentric circles, from outermost to innermost, showing TE percentage (red; B);  
397 gene density (green; C); density of duplicates resulted from tandem duplications (blue;  
398 D); (E) photograph of *Prunus salicina*.

399

400 **Figure 2** Evolution of *Prunus salicina* genome and orthogroups. (A) The phylogeny,  
401 divergence time and orthogroup expansions/contractions for 17 rosids. The tree was  
402 constructed by maximum likelihood method using 341 single copy orthogroups. All  
403 nodes have 100% bootstrap support. Divergence time was estimated on a basis of  
404 three calibration points (blue circles). Blue bar indicates 95% HPD (highest posterior  
405 density) for each node. The numbers in red and green indicate the numbers of  
406 orthogroups that have expanded and contracted along particular branches, respectively.  
407 (B) The comparison of genes among 17 rosids. The grey bars indicate the genes  
408 belonging to 9,616 rosids-shared orthogroups in each of 17 rosids. The grey + green  
409 bars indicate the genes belonging to 10,447 rosales-shared orthogroups in each of 16  
410 rosales. The grey + green + pink bars indicate the genes belonging to 11,098  
411 Rosaceae-shared orthogroups in each of 15 Rosaceae. The grey + green + pink +  
412 yellow bars indicate the genes belonging to 13,963 rosaceae-shared orthogroups in  
413 each of ten Amygdaloideae. The grey + green + pink + yellow + blue bars indicate the  
414 genes belonging to 15,512 *Prunus*-shared orthogroups in each of seven *Prunus*  
415 species. The red and stripe bars indicate the genes in species-specific orthogroups and  
416 unassigned genes, respectively. The white bars indicate the remaining genes for each  
417 genome.

418

419 **Figure 3** Collinear genes located in the pseudochromosomes of *P. salicina*, *P. mume*  
420 and *P. armeniaeca*. The inverted regions were highlighted with green color.

421

422 **Figure 4** The significant expansion of the DUF579 family members in *P. salicina*. (A)  
423 Phylogenetic tree of DUF579 proteins of *P. salicina* (red circle), *P. persica* (hollow  
424 inverted triangle), *P. mume* (solid triangle), *P. armeniaeca* (hollow diamond), *P. dulcis*  
425 (solid diamond) and *A. thaliana* (solid square). The DUF579 family members were  
426 achieved using Pfam PF04669 domain as a query to search against their respective  
427 genomes. (B) The summary of the numbers of clade members in DUF579 family.

428 **Additional files**

429 **Table S1** Statistics of *P. salicina* genome sequencing data.

430 **Table S2** Statistics of characteristics of PacBio long-read.

431 **Table S3** Statistics of Hi-C sequencing data.

432 **Table S4** Summary of the transcriptome and their mapping rate on the genome  
433 assembly.

434 **Table S5** Estimation of the genome size using k-mer analysis.

435 **Table S6** Summary of assembled 8 chromosomes of *P. Salicina*.

436 **Table S7** Summary of the genome assembly of *P. Salicina*.

437 **Table S8** Statistics of mapping ratio in genome.

438 **Table S9** Number and density of SNPs in *P. salicina* genome.

439 **Table S10** Assessment of CEGMA.

440 **Table S11** Summary of BUSCO analysis results according to prediction.

441 **Table S12** Detailed classification of repeat sequences.

442 **Table S13** Statistics of functional annotation.

443 **Table S14** Summary of non-coding RNA.

444 **Table S15** List of the Gene ontology terms significantly enriched in the expanded  
445 gene families of *P. salicina*

446 **Figure S1** 17-mer frequency distribution in *P. salicina* genome.

447 **Figure S2** Gene ontology enrichment of the tandemly duplicated genes in *P. salicina*.

448 **Figure S3** Gene ontology enrichment of *P. salicina*-expanded genes.

449 **Figure S4** Gene ontology enrichment of the positively selected genes in *P. salicina*.

450

451

452 **Table 1** Summary of genome assembly and annotation for *P. salicina*

	<b>Number or percentage</b>
<b>Assembly feature</b>	
Total length of scaffolds (bp)	284,209,110
Number of scaffolds	75
N50 of scaffolds (bp)	32,324,625
Total length of contigs (bp)	284,189,410
Number of contigs	272
N50 of contigs (bp)	1,777,944
Mapping rate by reads from short-insert libraries	96.93%
Core Eukaryotic Genes Mapping Approach (CEGMA) evaluation	94.35%
Benchmarking Universal Single-Copy Orthologs (BUSCO) evaluation	95.70%
RNA-Seq evaluation	92.44-95.25%
<b>Genome annotation</b>	
Percentage of transposable elements (TE)	48.28%
Percentage of long terminal repeat (LTR) retrotransposon	42.10%
No. of predicted protein-coding genes	24,448
No. of genes annotated to public database	23,930 (97.90%)
No. of genes annotated to GO database	13,484 (55.20%)
No. of genes duplicated by tandem duplications	2,384(9.8%)

453

454 **Table 2** Statistics of predicted protein-coding genes.

	Gene set	Number	Average transcript length (bp)	Average CDS length (bp)	Average exons per gene	Average exons length (bp)	Average intron length (bp)
<i>De novo</i> prediction	Augustus	23,592	2,627.71	1167.83	4.80	243.43	384.45
	GlimmerHMM	39,985	5,450.51	747.07	3.14	238.12	2200.59
	SNAP	24,882	2,876.50	728.45	4.22	172.73	667.66
	Geneid	33,780	3,829.40	899.99	4.44	202.74	851.78
	Genscan	21,882	8,251.09	1355.87	6.34	213.98	1292.13
Homolog prediction	<i>Pyrus bretschneideri</i>	20,265	3,119.83	1356.17	4.74	286.35	472.06
	<i>Malus domestica</i>	20,010	2,920.17	1361.30	4.65	292.56	426.72
	<i>Prunus mume</i>	23,064	3,038.66	1346.19	4.78	281.67	447.84
	<i>Prunus persica</i>	28,915	2,296.51	1099.56	4.06	270.55	390.64
	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	28,284	2,071.73	973.28	3.67	265.51	412.07
	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	22,927	2,994.24	1380.61	4.59	300.66	449.24
RNA-seq	<i>Prunus avium</i>	22,715	3,077.20	1351.28	4.74	284.86	461.03
	PASA	196,264	3,913.86	1008.68	5.16	195.60	698.88
	Transcripts	42,450	11,076.28	2360.92	6.85	344.83	1490.64
	EVM	27,981	2,736.70	1061.73	4.57	232.52	469.68
	PASA-update*	27,594	2,784.15	1092.82	4.64	235.59	464.83
	Final set*	24,448	2,988.45	1157.42	4.97	233.09	461.72

455 \* UTR regions were contained

456

457

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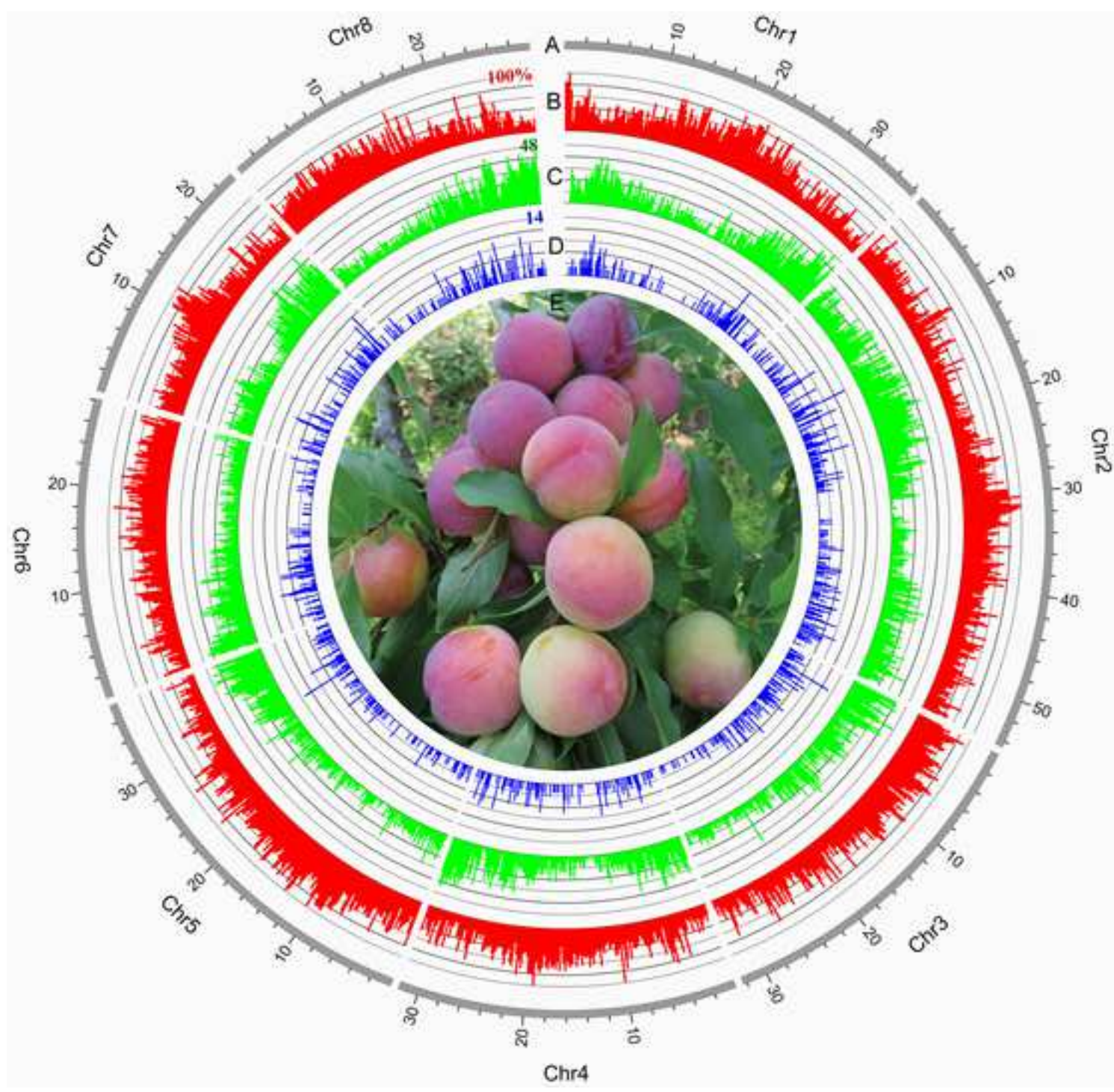
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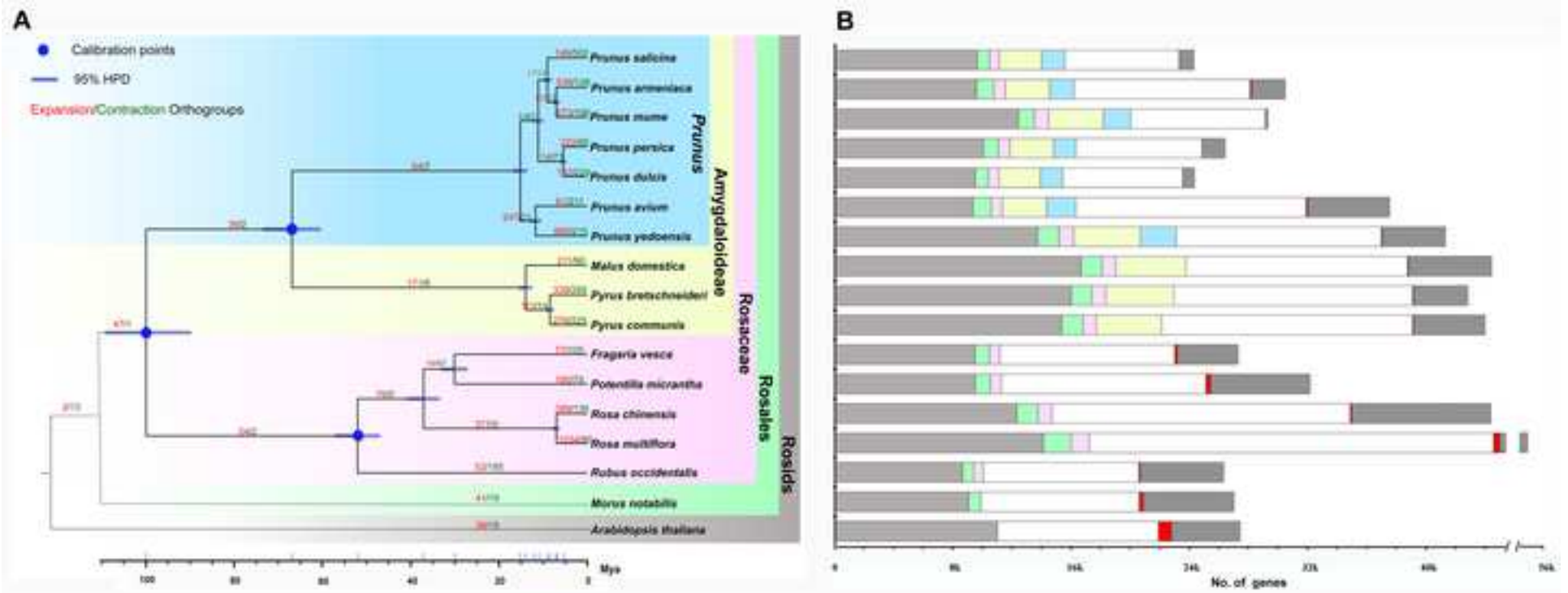
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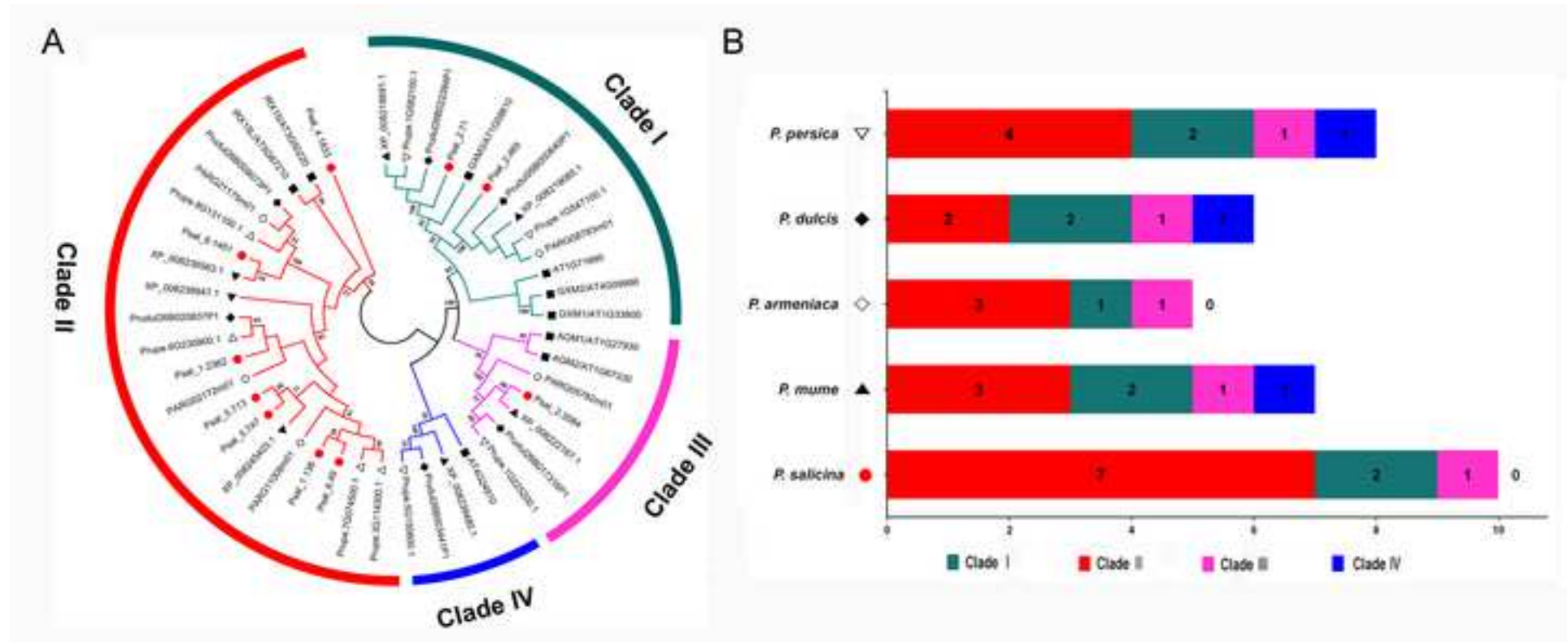
Figure 1

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