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Global Secretome Characterization of the Pathogenic Yeast *Candida glabrata*

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Abstract

Secretory proteins are key modulators of host–pathogen interaction. The human opportunistic fungal pathogen *Candida glabrata* lacks secreted proteolytic activity but possesses 11 glycosylphosphatidylinositol-anchored aspartyl proteases, also referred to as Yapsins (CgYps1–11), that are essential for its virulence. To delineate the role of CgYapsins in interaction with host cells, we have profiled, through liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) approach, the total secretome of *wild-type* and *Cgyps1-11* mutant. The *wild-type* secretome consisted of 119 proteins which were primarily involved in cell wall organization, carbohydrate metabolism, proteolysis, and translation processes. Of eight CgYapsins identified in the secretome, the release of two major CgYapsins, CgYps1 and CgYps7, to the medium was confirmed by Western analysis. Further, comparative analysis revealed 20 common proteins, probably signifying the core fungal secretome, among *C. glabrata*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and *Candida albicans* secretomes. Strikingly, the *Cgyps1-11* secretome was 4.6-fold larger, and contained 65 differentially abundant proteins, as revealed by label-free quantitative profiling, with 49 and 16 being high- and low-abundant proteins, respectively, compared to the *wild-type* secretome. Importantly, the CgMsb2 mucin, a putative CgYapsins' substrate, was six-fold underrepresented in the mutant secretome. Altogether, we demonstrate for the first time that CgYapsins are both bona fide constituents and key modulators of the *C. glabrata* secretome.

Keywords

Yapsins; secretory signal peptide; carbohydrate metabolism; cell wall organization; GPI proteins; core fungal secretome; pathogenic fungi

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Author Contributions

M.R. and R.K. conceived and designed the study. M.R. and N.K. performed experiments and acquired data. M.R. and R.K. analyzed data, prepared figures, and wrote manuscript.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

Introduction

Nosocomial bloodstream infections (BSIs) caused by fungal species are emerging as a major health problem.¹ *Candida* spp. are the leading cause of opportunistic fungal BSIs with *C. albicans* being the prime causal agent.^{1–3} A significant increase in the prevalence of BSIs due to non-*albicans* *Candida* spp., primarily represented by *C. glabrata*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. parapsilosis*, and *C. krusei*, has been observed in the last two decades.^{2,4,5} Based on the geographical distribution, *C. glabrata* can be the second to fourth most prevalent *Candida* bloodstream pathogen and accounts for up to ~ 30% cases of BSIs caused by *Candida* spp.^{3,5–7}

C. glabrata is a haploid budding yeast which belongs to the *Nakesomyces* clade.⁸ Compared to other *Candida* species, *C. glabrata* phylogenetically is more closely related to the nonpathogenic yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.^{8–10} Owing to this unique position in the phylogenetic tree, pathogenic traits of *C. glabrata* appear to have evolved independently of other *Candida* spp.^{8,11} In agreement, *C. glabrata* neither forms hyphae nor contains secretory aspartyl proteases.^{10,11} However, it is fully capable of establishing superficial mucosal and life-threatening BSIs in the human host.^{2,12} It also possesses the ability to survive and replicate in mouse and human macrophages.^{13–15} A family of 11 putative glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI)-anchored aspartyl proteases, also referred as CgYapsins (CgYps1-11), has been shown to be essential for the intracellular survival and virulence of *C. glabrata*.¹³ Recently, CgYps1-11 proteases have been implicated in suppression of the proinflammatory immune response of the host.¹⁵ Human THP-1 macrophages displayed an increased activation of the spleen tyrosine kinase (Syk) signaling pathway and secretion of the interleukin-1 β (IL-1 β) upon infection with the *C. glabrata* mutant lacking 11 CgYapsins (*Cgyps1-11*).¹⁵ Inhibition of the Syk signaling pathway rescued the intracellular survival defect of the *Cgyps1-11* mutant, thereby underscoring the role of CgYapsins in facilitating the survival of *C. glabrata* in human macrophages.¹⁵

A strategy widely adopted by successful pathogens is to secrete virulence factors to facilitate invasion of, and survival inside, the host.^{16,17} Consistent with this, secretory aspartyl proteases are key virulence factor of many pathogenic fungi, including *C. albicans*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, and *Aspergillus fumigatus*.^{17–19} The genome of *C. glabrata* does not code for any secretory aspartyl protease.^{10,11} The family of 11 CgYapsins represents the cell surface-associated aspartyl proteases in *C. glabrata*.¹³ Despite the predicted cell wall localization, CgYapsins have been reported to regulate the stationary-phase stress survival, pH and vacuole homeostasis, and energy production under in vitro conditions.^{13,19–22} Like their orthologs in *S. cerevisiae*, CgYapsins are required to survive the cell wall stress.^{13,23} Further, the *Cgyps1-11* mutant has been reported to possess sunken cell walls, altered cell wall composition, enlarged vacuole, and diminished ATP levels.^{15,22} CgYapsins have also been implicated in shedding the major adhesin Epa1 off the cell wall, as processing of Epa1 from the cell wall was found to be reduced in the *Cgyps1-11* mutant.¹³ Additionally, CgYapsins are required for proper trafficking of the vacuolar hydrolase carboxypeptidase Y, as it was missorted to the external environment in the *Cgyps1-11* mutant.²² Owing to these multiple phenotypic traits of the *Cgyps1-11* mutant, CgYapsins are considered as key players in the biology and pathogenesis of *C. glabrata*.^{13,15,21,22}

The mass spectrometry-based approaches have been used to identify the proteome and secretome of pathogenic microbes that has advanced our understanding of infectious diseases.^{24–26} The secretome of a pathogen is modulated by environmental cues, including cell growth phase and external conditions, and regulates its pathogenesis.^{27–29} Consequently, the key secretome constituents, including candidalysin, gliotoxin, secretory hydrolases, and iron scavenger siderophores, are pivotal to the virulence of the pathogenic fungi.^{17,18,30} As mentioned earlier, CgYapsins are essential for the virulence of *C. glabrata*.^{13,15} Hence, the goal of the current study was to identify and characterize the secretome of *C. glabrata wild-type* and *Cgyps1-11* mutant and to gain insights into the CgYapsin-mediated regulation of basic cellular processes. We report here for the first time that the secretome of *C. glabrata wild-type* and *Cgyps1-11* mutant contains 119 and 548 proteins, respectively. Although *Cgyps1-11* mutant, compared to *wild-type*, secreted out 4.6-fold higher number of proteins, only 12% proteins carried the classical secretory signal peptide sequence underscoring the importance of the nonconventional secretion pathway in the mutant. Contrarily, 50% secretory proteins in the *wild-type* strain contained the signal peptide. Further, our quantitative secretome analysis revealed differential abundance of 65 proteins in the *Cgyps1-11* mutant with 49 and 16 being high- and low-abundant proteins, respectively, compared to *wild-type* cells. Finally, we demonstrate unequivocally for the first time that two of putative GPI-anchored CgYapsins, CgYps1 and CgYps7, are present in the secretome of *C. glabrata wild-type* cells. Overall, our study paves the path to a better understanding of the role of secretory proteins in the virulence of *C. glabrata*.

Materials and Methods

Strains, Media, and Growth Conditions

C. glabrata wild-type (Cg 559), *Cgyps7* (YRK1003), *Cgyps2 ypsC* (YRK1005), and *Cgyps1-11* (YRK 85) strains were maintained on the rich yeast extract peptone dextrose (YPD) medium at 30 °C. All strains are derivatives of the *C. glabrata* vaginal isolate BG2.¹³

Secretome Collection

The secretome of *wild-type* (*wt*), *Cgyps7*, *Cgyps2 ypsC*, and *Cgyps1-11* cells was collected, as described previously.³¹ Briefly, *C. glabrata* cells were grown overnight in YPD medium at 30 °C. The cultures were inoculated in the minimal yeast nitrogen base (YNB) medium at a very low density ($OD_{600} = 0.0005$) and grown for 16–20 h at 30 °C. Once the OD_{600} reached 1.5, cultures were centrifuged and the supernatants were collected. The supernatants were passed through 0.4 μm membrane or syringe filters to remove the residual cells, if any. The resultant filtrates were concentrated using Amicon Ultra-15 and Ultra-0.5 (10 kDa cutoff) centrifugal filter units. The concentrated secretome fractions (200 μg) were resolved on a 12% sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) and visualized with the Coomassie Brilliant Blue stain. The protein concentration in collected secretome samples was measured using the Bio-Rad Protein Assay Dye Reagent Concentrate.

Global Secretome Analysis

The global secretome analysis involved protein identification via the microcapillary LC-MS/MS (liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry) method. For this, the secretome samples (200 μg) were run a 10% SDS-PAGE gel, until the bromophenol blue dye front entered 3 cm into the resolving gel, and the gel was stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue. The gel lane containing all proteins was sliced into three 1 cm \times 1 cm sections, with each section containing a different size range (<50 kDa, 50–120 kDa, and >120 kDa) of proteins. Each section was treated as an individual sample for mass spectrometry analysis. The secretomes of *wt* and *Cgyts1-11* cells, collected in duplicates (total 12 gel slices), were sent to the Taplin Biological Mass Spectrometry Facility, Harvard Medical School, Boston, for analysis using the Orbitrap mass spectrometer. The overall secretome protein yield for *wt* and *Cgyts1-11* strains was 1.60 and 2.23 mg per gram dry cell weight, respectively. Similarly, *Cgyts7* and *Cgyts2 ypsC* samples were collected in duplicates (total 12 gel slices) and sent for analysis.

At the Taplin Facility, samples were digested overnight with trypsin in-gel at 37 °C, followed by washes and dehydration with acetonitrile for 10 min. After complete removal of acetonitrile and drying in a speed vac, samples were reconstituted in the high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) solvent-A (2.5% acetonitrile, 0.1% formic acid) and loaded onto a nanoscale reverse-phase HPLC capillary column (100 μm inner diameter \times ~30 cm length) containing Accucore C18-2.6 μm spherical silica beads (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The peptides were eluted with a gradient of increasing concentrations of the solvent B (97.5% acetonitrile and 0.1% formic acid) for 80 min. Eluted peptides were ionized by electrospray and analyzed using the LTQ Orbitrap Velos Pro ion-trap mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The tandem mass spectrum of specific fragment ions for each peptide was generated by isolating and fragmenting the detected peptide.

The acquired fragmentation pattern for each peptide was analyzed using the Sequest software, and searches were run against the UniProt *C. glabrata* reference proteome database containing 5200 entries. The identified peptides were filtered to 1% false discovery rate. Peptides identified from the three individual gel pieces of each sample were combined using the Taplin core software, GFY Core Version 3.7—Module Search Version 3.3, and a selection criterion, of a minimum of 2 total peptides for each protein in both replicate samples, was applied to identify proteins present in the culture media of *wt* and mutant cells. The mass spectrometry parameters used for global secretome analysis are listed in Table S1.

Growth Curve and Viability Analysis

For time course analysis, *C. glabrata* strains were grown overnight in the YPD medium and inoculated in fresh YNB medium at a cell density corresponding to 0.0002 OD₆₀₀. Cultures were incubated at 30 °C with constant shaking; an aliquot was taken out at regular intervals; and once the OD₆₀₀ reached 0.1, absorbance at 600 nm was recorded. The absorbance values were plotted against time to obtain growth profiles. To assess the cell viability, a culture aliquot was taken out at select time intervals and diluted in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). Appropriate culture dilutions were plated on YPD medium, and the number of colonies that appeared after 1–2 days' incubation at 30 °C were counted. This number was multiplied by

appropriate dilution factors to obtain the total number of colony-forming units (CFUs) per milliliter of culture. The cell viability at the point of secretome collection was also measured using methylene blue staining. The 2,3-bis-(2-methoxy-4-nitro-5-sulphophenyl)-2*H*-tetrazolium-5-carboxanilide (XTT) assay was performed, as described previously.³² YPD-grown *C. glabrata* cultures were inoculated at 0.0002 OD₆₀₀ and grown for 18 h. Cells corresponding to 0.5 OD₆₀₀ were incubated with XTT (HiMedia #TC239) and menadione at 37 °C for 5 h. Following centrifugation at 6000 g for 15 min, absorbance of the clear supernatant was measured at 492 nm and data were plotted as absorbance units.

Quantitative Secretome Analysis

The quantitative secretome analysis involved label-free relative protein quantification, following LC-MS, using the Minora Feature Detector Node of the Proteome Discoverer 2.2. For this, secretomes (100 µg), prepared in duplicates, of log-phase *wt* and *Cgyts1-11* cells, were sent to the Valerian Chem Private Limited (Vproteomics), New Delhi, India, on dry ice.

At the Vproteomics, protein samples (25 µg) were first reduced with TCEP solution [5 mM Tris(2-carboxyethyl) phosphine-HCl] followed by alkylation with iodoacetamide (50 mM) and 16 h digestion with trypsin at 37 °C. Digests were cleaned up using the C18 silica cartridge and dried using a speed vac. The dried pellet was suspended in Buffer-A (5% acetonitrile and 0.1% formic acid). All analyses were performed using the EASY-nLC 1000 system (Thermo Scientific) coupled to the QExactive mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific) equipped with nano-electrospray ion source.

The trypsin-digested sample (1 µg) was resolved on a 50 cm long PicoFrit column (360 µm outer diameter, 75 µm inner diameter, and 10 µm tip) filled with 1.8 µm-C18 resin. The peptides were eluted with a 5–15% gradient of the Buffer-B (95% acetonitrile, 0.1% formic acid) for 85 min, 15–40% gradient for 80 min, followed by 95% gradient for 6 min at a flow rate of 250 nL/min for the total run time of 180 min. The MS data were acquired using a data-dependent top10 method dynamically choosing the most abundant precursor ions from the survey scan.

The raw data files for all four samples were analyzed using the Proteome Discoverer 2.2 software against the UniProt *C. glabrata* reference proteome database (containing 8078 entries). For Sequest HT and MS Amanda 2.0 search, the precursor and fragment mass tolerances were set at 10 ppm and 0.5 Da, respectively. The enzyme specificity for trypsin/P was set as cleavage at the C terminus of “K/R”, unless followed by “P”, along with two allowed missed cleavage sites. Carbamidomethyl on cysteine as fixed modification, and methionine oxidation and N-terminal acetylation were considered as variable modifications for database search. Both the peptide spectrum match and the protein false discovery rate were set to 0.01 and determined using the percolator node. Relative protein quantification was performed using the Minora Feature Detector Node of the Proteome Discoverer 2.2 with default settings. The peptide spectrum matches with high confidence were only considered. The mass spectrometry parameters used for quantitative secretome analysis are listed in Table S2.

Antibody Generation

CgYPS1 and *CgYPS7* genes without signal peptide- and pro-peptide-encoding sequences were cloned in the *Escherichia coli* expression plasmid pET28a+. N-terminally 6X-His-tagged CgYps1 and CgYps7 were expressed using IPTG (isopropyl β -D-1-thiogalactopyranoside) and purified with the TALON metal affinity resin. Purified CgYps1 was injected into Balb/C mice for polyclonal antibody generation at CDFD animal house, while purified CgYps7 protein was sent to the Bioklone Biotech Private Limited, Chennai, for generation of polyclonal antibody in New Zealand White rabbits. The specificity of anti-CgYps1 and anti-CgYps7 sera was checked using appropriate *CgYPS*-deleted strains.

Western Blot Analysis

Total cell lysates were prepared from log-phase grown cultures. Briefly, *C. glabrata* cells were pelleted down, washed, and suspended in the protein extraction buffer [50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 2 mM EDTA] containing 1 mM phenylmethylsulphonyl fluoride (PMSF), 1 mM sodium orthovanadate (NaOv), 10 mM sodium fluoride (NaF), and 1X protease inhibitor cocktail. To this cell suspension, 50–100 μ g of 0.5 mm glass beads were added, and cells were lysed on the Fastprep-24 bead-beater. Cell lysates were centrifuged to remove unlysed cells and debris.

For isolation of a total membrane fraction from log-phase-grown *C. glabrata* cultures, the protocol of Fernandes et al.³³ was adopted. In short, cells were pelleted down, washed, and suspended in the protein extraction buffer [100 mM Tris (pH 10.7), 5 mM EDTA, 2 mM dithiothreitol (DTT)] containing 1X protease inhibitor cocktail. The cell suspension was rapidly frozen by keeping at -80°C and left for overnight. Next day, 50–100 μ g of 0.5 mm glass beads were added to this cell suspension and cells were lysed on Fastprep-24. The lysed homogenate was diluted five times in buffer containing 0.1 M Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 0.33 M sucrose, 5 mM EDTA, and 2 mM DTT and centrifuged at 1000g for 3 min at 4°C . The supernatant was collected in a new tube and centrifuged again at 3000 g for 5 min at 4°C to remove the unbroken cells and cell debris. Next, the supernatant was centrifuged at 19 000g for 45 min at 4°C to obtain the total membrane fraction pellet. After one wash with the buffer [0.1 M Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 0.33 M sucrose, 5 mM EDTA and 2 mM DTT], the pellet was suspended in the membrane suspension buffer containing 20% glycerol (v/v), 0.1 mM EDTA, 0.1 mM DTT, and 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5) and stored at -80°C till further use.

The protein concentration in all samples was measured using the Pierce BCA protein assay kit unless stated otherwise. Total cell lysate (100 μ g), membrane fraction (100 μ g), and secretome (50 μ L) samples were resolved on a 10% SDS-PAGE gel. Secreted CgYps1 and CgYps7 were detected using polyclonal antibodies (1:500 dilution) raised against CgYps1 and CgYps7 proteins.

Measurement of Interleukin (IL) 1- β Levels

The human monocytic cell line THP-1 (ATCC TIB-202) was cultured in the RPMI medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and differentiated into macrophages with phorbol myristyl acetate (16 nM) treatment. After 12 h of incubation, the spent medium was removed and cells were grown, for recovery, in the fresh RPMI medium for 12 h. For

measurement of the secreted IL-1 β cytokine, THP-1 macrophages were either left as such or incubated with 50 μ L of *wt* and *Cgyys1-11* secretome. After 24 h incubation at 37 °C with 5% CO₂, the supernatants of control and secretome-co-incubated THP-1 macrophages were collected and spun at 1000g for 10 min to remove any particulate material. Levels of secreted IL-1 β in the supernatant were measured using the BD OptEIA ELISA kit. The concentration of the cytokine IL-1 β was calculated from the curve prepared with the standard protein.

Bioinformatic Analyses

The CAGL IDs were used to obtain the protein sequences from the *Candida* Genome Database (<http://www.candidagenome.org/>) using the “Batch Download” option. The SignalP5.0 (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/SignalP/>), TargetP1.1 (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/TargetP/>), and DeepLoc1.0 (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/DeepLoc-1.0/index.php>) servers with default settings were used to determine the presence of secretory signal peptide sequence, secretory signal peptide, and intracellular localization, of identified proteins, respectively. All Venn diagrams were prepared using the Lucid Chart (www.lucidchart.com) server. The Excel tool of Microsoft Office 2019 was used to make the bar graph and line curves.

Functional Analysis

To identify the nature of proteins secreted by *C. glabrata* strains, we performed the functional enrichment analysis using three tools, gene ontology (GO) Slim Mapper (<http://www.candidagenome.org/cgi-bin/GO/goTermMapper>) and Term Finder (<http://www.candidagenome.org/cgi-bin/GO/goTermFinder>) of the *Candida* Genome Database (CGD), and FungiFun (<https://elbe.hki-jena.de/fungifun/>). For all analyses, default settings of tools were used. For FungiFun analysis, *C. glabrata* CBS138 was used as the reference strain. For the representation purpose, all categories showing a corrected *p*-value <0.05 are shown.

Data Availability

The global and quantitative secretome mass spectrometry proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE³⁴ partner repository with data set identifiers PXD015131, PXD015132, and PXD015147.

Results and Discussion

Global Proteomic Analysis of the Secretome of *C. glabrata* Wild-Type and *Cgyys1-11* Strains

For secretome analysis, we employed the global proteomics strategy to identify all proteins secreted by *C. glabrata* wild-type (*wt*) and *Cgyys1-11* mutant strains into the medium. Among all identified proteins, we selected proteins, which were represented by a minimum of two total peptides in the MS data of both biological replicate samples. We found a total of 119 and 548 proteins in the secretome of *wt* and *Cgyys1-11* mutant, respectively, that fulfilled the minimum peptide number criterion (Figure 1). A set of 102 proteins were common to both strains, while 17 and 446 proteins were present uniquely in the *wt* and

Cgyps1-11 mutant secretome, respectively (Figure 1). Unexpectedly, among 17 proteins present uniquely in the *wt* secretome, eight were CgYapsins, CgYps1, CgYps3, CgYps5, CgYps6, CgYps7, CgYps9, CgYps10, and CgYps11 (Table S3), indicating that putative GPI-anchored cell wall aspartyl proteases are secreted into the medium. All proteins identified in the *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* secretome along with the total number of peptides identified are listed in Supplementary Tables S3 and S4, respectively.

Intriguingly, the *Cgyps1-11* mutant secretome was found to be 4.6-fold larger than the *wt* secretome. Hence, we next analyzed 119 and 548 secretory proteins constituting the *wt* and mutant secretome, respectively, for their putative cellular localization. First, the presence of the secretory signal peptide in identified proteins was checked using the SignalP 5.0 program (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/SignalP/>).³⁵ This analysis revealed 60 and 64 proteins, in the *wt* and mutant secretome, respectively, to be secretory (Tables S3 and S4). An independent analysis using the TargetP1.1 software (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/TargetP/>)³⁶ showed 61 proteins in *wt* and 84 proteins in mutant samples to be secretory in nature (Tables S3 and S4). A set of 47 proteins common to the *wt* and mutant secretome was predicted to be secretory by both tools (Tables S3 and S4). Further, of 119 proteins representing the *C. glabrata* secretome, 59 were predicted to have the canonical ER secretory signal by these two widely used web servers, Signal P and TargetP1.1 (Table S3).

The putative GPI-anchored proteins in the *C. glabrata* proteome have previously been identified, through in silico analysis, by Weig et al.³⁷ Since several cell wall proteins have been reported to be shed off during cell growth,^{28,38,39} we, therefore, next compared proteins identified in our global secretome analysis with the published data set of predicted GPI-anchored proteins.³⁷ We found that only 25 and 20 proteins present in the *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* mutant secretome, respectively, have been predicted to contain the C-terminal, fungal-specific, consensus sequence for GPI modification (Tables S3 and S4). The functional classification of these putative GPI proteins is listed in Table S5.

Next, we used the DeepLoc-1.0 algorithm (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/DeepLoc-1.0/index.php>)⁴⁰ to predict the subcellular localization of identified proteins. We found 10 (8%), 35 (29%), 6 (5%), and 6 (5%) proteins in the *wt* secretome with predicted nuclear, cytoplasmic, mitochondrial, and endoplasmic reticulum localizations, respectively (Tables 1 and S6). Contrarily, the *Cgyps1-11* secretome contained 71 (13%), 244 (44%), 66 (12%), and 34 (6%) proteins with predicted nuclear, cytoplasmic, mitochondrial, and endoplasmic reticulum localizations, respectively, indicating a 1.5- to 2.5-fold increased secretion of cytoplasmic and mitochondrial proteins, upon deletion of the *CgYPS1-11* genes (Tables S6 and S7).

Altogether, these data indicate that the *C. glabrata* secretome contains 119 proteins, of which 59 (50%), 24 (20%), 35 (29%), and 25 (21%) are predicted to be secretory, membrane, cytoplasmic, and GPI-anchored proteins, respectively. Further, the family of 11 cell surface-associated aspartyl proteases regulate the secretome of *C. glabrata*, as secretome of the mutant lacking these proteases contained 548 proteins, of which 64 (12%), 87 (16%), 244 (44%), and 20 (4%) are predicted to be secretory, membrane, cytoplasmic, and GPI-anchored proteins, respectively. This increased protein secretion in the mutant could either

be through extracellular vesicles or the nonclassical secretion pathway. Since the substantially higher number of proteins in the *Cgyps1-11* secretome could also arise from cell lysis, we performed four experiments to rule out this possibility. First, we performed growth curve analysis and showed that both *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* mutant displayed increase in growth after reaching cell density corresponding to 1.5 OD₆₀₀ (Figure S1A), the density at which secretomes were collected. Second, we measured CFUs at different time points and found no decrease in the cell number between 16 and 24 h growth period, the period during which secretomes were collected (Figure S1B). Third, we stained *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* cultures with methylene blue and found no appreciable cell death in either culture (Figure S1C). Finally, the XTT-based assay also revealed no differences in cell viability of *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* cultures at the secretome collection time point (Figure S1D). Collectively, these data highlight the differences in the secretomes of late-log phase cultures of *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* strains and raise the possibility that the absence of CgYapsins leads to a protein missorting defect in *C. glabrata*.

Functional Analysis of the *C. glabrata* Secretome

Next, we functionally annotated the set of identified secretory proteins to GO terms for biological process, cellular component, and molecular functions using the Candida Genome Database (<http://www.candidagenome.org/cgi-bin/GO/goTermFinder>)^{41,42} and FungiFun (<https://elbe.hki-jena.de/fungifun/fungifun.php>)⁴³ tools. The FungiFun analysis for Biological Process revealed fungal-type cell wall organization, carbohydrate metabolic process, translation, and proteolysis terms to be predominant in the *wt* secretome (Figure 2A). The *Cgyps1-11* secretome analysis showed the enrichment of amino acid transmembrane transport, pentose-phosphate shunt, de novo cotranslational protein folding, and removal of superoxide radicals biological processes (Figure 2B).

The Cellular Component ontology analysis revealed that proteins in the *wt* secretome primarily belonged to the cell wall, extracellular region, plasma membrane, cytosolic large ribosomal subunit, and endoplasmic reticulum terms (Table S8). Comparison of the *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* secretome revealed that besides cell periphery, a large number of proteins in the mutant secretome belonged to the cytosol category (Tables S8 and S9), which is consistent with our predicted subcellular localization of proteins in the *Cgyps1-11* secretome (Tables S6, S7, and S9). Similarly, aspartic-type endopeptidase activity, O-glycosyl hydrolase activity, and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (NAD⁺) (phosphorylating) activity function categories were exclusive to the *wt* secretome, while xenobiotic-transporting ATPase activity, unfolded protein binding, NAD binding, and proton-transporting ATP synthase activity categories were represented only in the *Cgyps1-11* mutant secretome (Tables S8 and S9).

Next, we constructed, using the STRING software, the protein–protein interaction network for the *wild-type* secretome proteins involved in the fungal-type cell wall organization and carbohydrate metabolic process (Figure 3). We found the β -1,3-glucanosyltransferase Gas1 and endo- β -1,3-glucanase Bgl2 to be the key proteins linking cell wall organization and carbohydrate metabolism protein network, respectively (Figure 3).

Collectively, the GO analysis revealed that the *C. glabrata* secretome is primarily composed of proteins involved in cell wall organization, proteolysis, translation, and carbohydrate metabolism; however, lack of CgYapsins resulted in the secretion of several membrane transporters and proteins involved in the pentose-phosphate shunt pathway, superoxide detoxification, and cotranslational protein folding, to the extracellular environment.

Comparative Analysis of the Identified Secretome with the Published Glyco-Secretome and Secretome of *C. glabrata*

Two previous studies have reported 29 and 33 proteins to be present in the culture supernatant and filtrate of *C. glabrata* cells, respectively.^{44,45} However, despite these two reports, the *C. glabrata* secretome remains to be characterized fully. Our discovery of 119 proteins as secretome constituents in the current study typifies the largest catalogue of secretory proteins in *C. glabrata*. Previously, Stead et al. had identified all glycosylated proteins present in the secretome of *wt* and *Cgace2* mutant strains.⁴⁴ The *Cgace2* mutant, which lacks the zinc finger motif-containing transcription factor, formed large cell clumps and was hypervirulent in mice.⁴⁶ Both *wt* and *Cgace2* strains (derivatives of the ATCC 2001 *C. glabrata* strain) contained 29 glycosylated proteins with two proteins being unique to the secretome of each strain.⁴⁴ Of these 29 *wt* secretory proteins, 28 were found in our global secretome analysis (Table S3 and Figure 4). One protein not recovered in our secretome analysis was the 60S acidic ribosomal protein, Cagl0a03168p (CgRpp2b; #Q6FYB0).

Further, comparison of our secretome data with those of Champer et al.⁴⁵ revealed 32 proteins to be common between the two analyses (Table S3 and Figure 4). One protein not recovered in our secretome analysis was the putative adhesin Cagl0k00110p (CgAwp2; #Q6FNG1). Notably, Champer et al. had identified proteins, through LC/MS^E analysis, of the cytosol, cell wall, and secretome of the strains of 13 fungal species, including one *C. glabrata* clinical isolate.⁴⁵ Despite different genetic background of *C. glabrata* strains, 21 proteins were found to be common among three secretome analyses, viz., secretome reported herein, and by Stead et al. and Champer et al. (Table S3 and Figure 4).^{44,45} Of this set of 21 proteins, eight and five were involved in cell wall organization and carbohydrate metabolism, respectively (Table S3). Nine of these 21 proteins have previously been predicted to be GPI-anchored³⁷ (Table S3). The presence of GPI-anchored proteins in fungal secretomes during normal growth is not unprecedented and has been implicated in modulation of cell adhesion.^{28,38,47,48} Similarly, the significant presence of carbohydrate metabolism proteins in the secretome of *C. glabrata* may hint toward their moonlighting functions, as reported for *Paracoccidioides* species.⁴⁹ Finally, though the precise reason for the absence of CgRpp2b and CgAwp2 in our secretome data is yet to be determined, these comparative analyses together support our inference that 119 proteins identified in our study are the largest catalogue of the secretome constituents of *C. glabrata*.

Comparative Analysis of Identified Secretory Proteins with the Predicted Secretome of *C. glabrata*

Two previous studies have predicted, through in silico analysis, *C. glabrata* proteins that are secretory in nature.^{50,51} The Lum and Min group predicted 2.3% (121 proteins) of the entire

proteome (5192 proteins) to be secretome constituents which were represented by 48 GPI-anchored and 73 soluble secretory proteins.⁵¹ Contrarily, using the three-layer hierarchical identification rule, Choi et al. considered an entry to be a secreted protein, if it was predicted to be so, by any one of the nine software tools (SignalP 3.0, SigCleave, SigPred, RPSP, TMHMM 2.0c, TargetP 1.1b, PSort II, SecretomeP 1.0f, and predictNLS).⁵⁰ Accordingly, the secretory proteins were divided into four classes, with *SP*, *SP^B*, *SL*, and *NS* classes containing 231, 290, 49, and 1767 proteins, respectively.⁵⁰

To compare our identified secretome with the predicted secretome information, we combined the list of *C. glabrata* proteins predicted to be secretory by both Choi et al. and Lum and Min (Table S10).^{50,51} Comparison of our secretome with the predicted secretome data revealed that 76% of proteins (90 proteins) detected in our *wt* secretome were predicted to be secretome constituents (Table 2). In contrast, only half of the *Cgyps1-11* secretome was predicted to be secretory (Table 2). The set of 29 proteins in the *wt* secretome, which were predicted to be secretory by neither study, included the plasma membrane proton pump, CgPma1, catalytic subunit of the phosphoinositide 3-kinase CgVps34, putative cell surface-associated aspartyl protease CgYps11, glycoside hydrolase CgGas1, and cytochrome c oxidase Cox12 (Table S11). Importantly, our in silico analysis predicted the presence of the secretory signal in three of these 29 proteins. Further, of these 29 proteins, 26 were detected in our all four samples (two replicate each for *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* mutant) (Tables S3, S4, and S11), indicating that these are likely to be bona fide components of the *C. glabrata* secretome. It is possible that these 26 proteins are secreted out through unknown export signals and/or extracellular vesicles. These results also highlight the importance of experimental validation of predicted subcellular localizations.

Comparative Analysis of the Secretomes of *C. glabrata*, *C. albicans*, and *S. cerevisiae*

The published secretome of *C. albicans*⁵² and *S. cerevisiae*⁵³ consists of 61 and 180 proteins, respectively. These 180 proteins in the secretome of *S. cerevisiae* were identified in at least two replicate experiments.⁵³ To determine the secretome similarity and difference, we compared the secretomes of *C. glabrata*, *C. albicans*, and *S. cerevisiae*. As mentioned earlier, we have identified a set of 119 proteins in the secretome of *C. glabrata*. Of these, 20 proteins were found to be common to all three yeast species (Figure 5 and Table S12), which may represent the core fungal secretome. The GO Slim Mapper analysis for biological process term revealed that of these 20 proteins, 11 and 8 are involved in cell wall organization and carbohydrate metabolism, respectively.

Further, the pairwise comparison revealed that the *C. glabrata* secretome showed a higher overlap (56 common proteins) with the *S. cerevisiae* secretome compared to the *C. albicans* secretome (31 common proteins). This could be due to the closer phylogenetic relationship between *C. glabrata* and *S. cerevisiae*.⁸⁻¹⁰ The proteins common specifically between *S. cerevisiae* and *C. glabrata* primarily belonged to cell wall organization, carbohydrate metabolism, and cell redox homeostasis, while the 11 protein set common specifically between *C. albicans* and *C. glabrata* contained phospholipase and aspartyl proteases, indicating that these secretory proteins may play a role in virulence. Of note, the *C. albicans* and *S. cerevisiae* secretome shared only 27 proteins, probably due to their discrete natural

habitat and high evolutionary distance between these two fungal species.^{8,10} Overall, besides the common secretory proteins involved in cell wall organization and carbohydrate metabolism, these data also underscore fungal species-specific composition of the secretome.

Notably, in the *C. albicans* secretome study, authors also reported a set of 35 proteins present exclusively in the extracellular vesicle fraction.⁵² Of this set, seven proteins (Pma1, Kar2, Fet3, Ykt6, Ssa4, Tdh3, and Ppk1) were present in the secretome of both *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* mutants of *C. glabrata*, while 17 proteins (Hxt6/7, Eft2, Pdi1, Tal1, Sah1, Cpr1, Sso2, Gpm1, Eno1, Ssa2, Rho3, Met6, Rho1, Gsc2, Sur7, Pep4, and Pdc1) were unique to the *Cgyps1-11* mutant secretome, thereby raising the possibility that CgYapsin disruption may result in impaired extracellular vesicle formation and/or release of the extracellular vesicular proteins to the medium in *C. glabrata*. Of note, fungal extracellular vesicles are the major carriers of unconventionally secreted proteins, including heat shock proteins, glycolytic enzymes, virulence factors, and oxidative stress-counteracting proteins.⁵⁴ Due to the vast nature of their cargo, extracellular vesicles could play an important role in infection establishment and progression. However, mechanisms underlying their biogenesis and selective cargo and transport across the cell wall are poorly understood. Extracellular vesicles may arise from plasma membrane, multivesicular bodies, and/or reverse micropinocytosis.⁵⁴ A large presence of nonconventionally secreted proteins in the *Cgyps1-11* secretome may reflect a requirement for CgYapsins in controlling extracellular vesicle cargo.

Further, a total of 49 proteins were found to be unique to the secretome of *C. glabrata* (Table S13.1). The GO Slim Mapper analysis found “structural molecule activity” (31%), “hydrolase activity” (14%), and “protein binding” (12%) function terms to be enriched in this set of 49 proteins (Table S13.2). A subset of these 49 unique proteins may hold promise as potential diagnostic biomarkers, and further studies will be designed to delve into this possibility.

Finally, while the *C. albicans* secretome contained seven secretory aspartyl proteases and two phospholipases,⁵² the *S. cerevisiae* secretome had three GPI-anchored aspartyl proteases and two phospholipases.⁵³ Similarly, the identified *C. glabrata* secretome contained eight CgYapsins (CgYps1, CgYps3, CgYps5, CgYps6, CgYps7, CgYps9, CgYps10, and CgYps11) and two phospholipases (CgPlb1 and CgPlb2) (Tables S3 and S12). Altogether, these data indicate that though the release of both aspartyl proteases and phospholipases to the external environment appears to be a feature conserved among these three yeast species, the mechanism underlying the release of GPI-anchored yapsins from the cell wall in *C. glabrata* and *S. cerevisiae* needs to be elucidated.

Label-Free Quantitative Secretome Analysis of *Wild-Type* and *Cgyps1-11* Cells

Since the secretome of *Cgyps1-11* cells contained 4.6-fold higher number of proteins compared to the *wt* secretome, we next performed quantitative proteomics analysis, through the label-free quantitation approach, to identify proteins, which were present differentially in the secretome of the *Cgyps1-11* mutant. The quantitative secretome profiling analysis identified a total of 85 and 193 proteins in the secretome of *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* cells,

respectively, with 79 secreted proteins being common to both strains (Figure 6A, Tables S14 and S15). Of these 79 proteins, 65 showed differential abundance (1.5-fold change), with 49 and 16 displaying increased and decreased abundance, respectively, in the secretome of the *Cgyps1-11* mutant (Figure 6B,C). Interestingly, the five most abundant proteins in the secretome of the *Cgyps1-11* mutant, CgTma7, CgHtb2, CgHtb1, CgMet6, and CgMbf1, were represented in the set of 49 proteins displaying higher levels than those in *wt* cells (Figure 6B; Table S15). A similar pattern was also observed for the least abundant protein set, CgMsb2, CgCrh1, CgCwp2, CgNca3, and CgScw11 (Figure 6C, Table S15). Of note, 6 and 114 proteins were unique to the secretome of *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* mutant, respectively (Figure 6A and Tables S14 and S15). As observed in the global secretome analysis, CgYapsins CgYps1, CgYps6, CgYps7, CgYps9, CgYps10, and CgYps11, represented this unique six-protein set in the *wt* secretome (Table S14). Importantly, CgYps3, CgYps6, and CgYps9 have previously been reported in the glyco-secretome of *C. glabrata wt* cells.⁴⁴ Further, of 114 proteins, that were present uniquely in the *Cgyps1-11* secretome, 21, 6, 6, and 4 were involved in translation, glycolysis, maturation of SSU-rRNA from tricistronic rRNA transcript, and cellular response to oxidative stress processes, respectively (Table S16). Of note, proteins involved in the detoxification of superoxide radicals were earlier found to be exclusively present in the global secretome of the *Cgyps1-11* mutant (Figure 2B). Since the *Cgyps1-11* mutant is known to have high reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels,²² it will be interesting to determine whether increased secretion/missorting of ROS detoxification proteins could account for the elevated ROS levels in the mutant.

Notably, the least abundant protein in the *Cgyps1-11* secretome, compared to *wt* secretome, was CgMsb2 that was six-fold underrepresented (Figure 6C). CgMsb2 orthologs are present in many fungi, including *S. cerevisiae*⁵⁵ and *C. albicans*.⁵⁶ Importantly, Msb2, a signaling mucin, has previously been shown to be cleaved by Yps1 in *S. cerevisiae*⁵⁵ and Saps in *C. albicans*.⁵⁶ This aspartyl protease-mediated Msb2 shedding in *S. cerevisiae* and *C. albicans* is required for activation of MAPK signaling.^{55,56} To check if the reduced abundance of CgMsb2 in *Cgyps1-11* secretome could be due to transcriptional downregulation, we measured transcript levels of the *CgMSB2* gene by quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR). However, we found a modest 1.6-fold upregulation in *Cgyps1-11* cells, compared to *wt* cells (Figure S2). This result is consistent with 1.6-fold higher *CgMSB2* transcripts observed in the RNA-Sequencing analysis of the *Cgyps1-11* mutant.¹⁵ Together, these data suggest that the posttranscriptional regulation of CgMsb2 is likely to account for its underrepresentation in the *Cgyps1-11* secretome and raise the possibility of CgMsb2 being a CgYapsin substrate, with aspartyl protease-dependent Msb2 cleavage as a common feature among *C. glabrata*, *C. albicans*, and *S. cerevisiae*.

Comparative Analysis of the Secretome Identified via Global and Quantitative Proteomic Approaches

Comparison of the global and quantitative secretomes of *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* mutant revealed an overlap of 70–80% with 61 and 155 proteins being common to the secretome of *wt* and *Cgyps1-11*, respectively, as identified by two methods (Figure 7). This set of 61 proteins in the *wt* secretome primarily belonged to fungal-type cell wall organization, carbohydrate metabolic process and proteolysis, with the latter process being represented by

six CgYapsins, CgYps1, CgYps6, CgYps7, CgYps9, CgYps10, and CgYps11 (Tables S8 and S17). The set of 155 proteins identified, by both global and quantitative analyses, in the *Cgyps1-11* secretome primarily belonged to translation, fungal-type cell wall organization, carbohydrate metabolic process, and glycolysis (Tables S9 and S18). Overall, the quantitative secretome profiling identified 1.4- to 2.8-fold fewer number of total proteins compared to the global secretome analysis, which could be due to the difference in the two methodologies and/or complex nature of the quantitative secretome samples, as these were not resolved on SDS-PAGE gel, prior to MS analysis. However, the biological processes enriched remained largely the same in secretomes identified by both global and quantitative proteomic approaches (Tables S8, S9, S17, and S18).

Further, a comprehensive comparative analysis revealed that a set of 53 proteins was identified in the secretome of both *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* mutants by global as well as quantitative secretome profiling (Table S19). Moreover, of these 53 proteins, 25 and 16 proteins showed increased and decreased abundance, respectively, in the *Cgyps1-11* mutant compared to the *wt* strain (Tables S15 and S19). Low-abundant proteins in the mutant were represented by cell wall proteins, including CgCwp1, CgCwp2, and CgPir3, and the mucin CgMsb2 (Table S19). The GO analysis of 53 common proteins revealed 13 and 9 proteins to be involved in cell wall organization and carbohydrate metabolism, respectively (Table S19). Altogether, these results indicate a role for CgYapsins in regulation of basic cellular processes, which may in part account for pleiotropic phenotypes associated with loss of CgYapsins.

Next, to determine if relative abundance of proteins can be measured based on the number of total peptides identified in the global secretome MS data, we calculated the ratio of the total number of peptides obtained for each protein in the *Cgyps1-11* mutant sample to that in the *wt* sample (Table S20). We found that of 102 proteins, common between the *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* mutant secretomes, 79 proteins showed differential abundance (1.5-fold change in the average peptide number ratio) with 65 being high- and 14 being low-abundant proteins (Table S20). Importantly, ~50% of these proteins (24 up and 9 down) showed different abundance in the quantitative secretome analysis (Table S20), suggesting that the peptide number ratio can be used to determine the protein abundance qualitatively.

Finally, we also determined the relative abundance, using the spectral counting-based approach, of all proteins, identified in global (Tables S21.1 and S21.2) and quantitative (Tables S22.1 and S22.2) secretome analyses. Spectral counting-based relative abundance analysis in global secretomes revealed CgCrh1, CgCwp2, CgScw4, CgBgl2, and CgPir3 to be the five most abundant proteins in the *wt* secretome (Table S21.1), while CgCwp2, CgYgp1, CgTrx1, CgRpl40b, and CgCis3 were found to be the five most abundant proteins in *Cgyps1-11* secretome (Table S21.2). Similarly, spectral counting-based relative abundance analysis in quantitative secretomes revealed CgCwp1, CgCwp2, CgCrh1, CgPir3, and CgTos1, and CgCwp1, CgCwp2, CgPir3, CgTos1, and CgHsp150, to be the five most abundant proteins in *wt* and *Cgyps1-11* secretomes, respectively (Tables S22.1 and S22.2). In general, a good correlation was found between spectral counting-based and minora node-based label-free quantification of secretome proteins (Tables S14, S15, and S22).

Overall, secretome of the *Cgypts1-11* mutant, in both global and quantitative proteomic analyses, contained 2- to 5-fold higher number of secretory proteins. In this regard, it is noteworthy that the *Cgypts1-11* mutant contains lower amount of β -glucan in the cell wall compared to that in the *wt* strain,¹⁵ which may lead to the weak attachment of cell wall proteins. Therefore, protein missorting, stable secreted proteins because of the lack of cell surface-associated proteolytic activity, and/or increased release of proteins due to weak anchoring in the mutant cell wall could all contribute to the large secretome of the *Cgypts1-11* mutant. To investigate the role of cell wall in modulation of the *C. glabrata* secretome, we sought to profile global secretomes of *Cgypts7* and *Cgypts2 ypsC* mutants that lack CgYps7 protease and nine proteases (CgYps2-6 and CgYps8-11), respectively. Of note, *Cgypts7* mutant, like *Cgypts1-11* mutant, has previously been shown to be sensitive to cell wall stressors.¹³ Contrarily, the *Cgypts2 ypsC* mutant showed *wt*-like susceptibility to the cell wall stress.¹³ We first verified the growth attenuation of *Cgypts7* and *Cgypts1-11* mutants in the presence of congo red (Figure S3), which binds to β -glucan and chitin, the key fungal cell wall structural components.

Next, we checked the growth profiles of *Cgypts7* and *Cgypts2 ypsC* mutants in YNB medium. The *Cgypts2 ypsC* mutant grew similar to *wt*, while *Cgypts7* mutant grew slightly more slowly (Figure S1A). However, viability of *Cgypts7* and *Cgypts2 ypsC* cells remained similar to *wt* cells at all time points, as determined by CFU (Figure S1B), methylene blue staining (Figure S1C), and XTT (Figure S1D) assays. Global secretome analysis identified a total of 59 and 52 proteins in the secretomes of *Cgypts7* (Table S23) and *Cgypts2 ypsC* mutant (Table S24), respectively. Both mutants shared a set of 45 secretory proteins (Figure S4). Further, 55 and 50 proteins were common between *wt* and *Cgypts7*, and *wt* and *Cgypts2 ypsC* secretomes, respectively (Figure S4). Similarly, a set of 46 and 44 proteins was common between *Cgypts1-11* and *Cgypts7*, and *Cgypts1-11* and *Cgypts2 ypsC* secretomes, respectively (Figure S4). The predicted cellular localization of secretory proteins in *Cgypts7* and *Cgypts2- ypsC* mutants is depicted in Table S25 and 26, respectively. Importantly, CgYps1 and CgYps7 were present in the *Cgypts2 ypsC* secretome (Table S24), while the *Cgypts7* secretome contained seven CgYapsins, CgYps1,2,5,6,9,10, and 11 (Table S23). Functional analysis of *Cgypts7* and *Cgypts2 ypsC* secretomes revealed a large fraction of proteins to belong to fungal-type cell wall organization and carbohydrate metabolic process (Tables S27 and S28). Altogether, the smaller and *wt*-like secretome of the cell wall stress-sensitive *Cgypts7* mutant indicates that the larger and differential secretome of the *Cgypts1-11* mutant is unlikely to be solely due to altered cell wall. These data also suggest that CgYps2-6 and CgYps8-11 proteases are not pivotal to secretome modulation.

CgYps1 and CgYps7 Are Present in the Secretome of *C. glabrata*

Next, to verify that the *Cgypts1-11* mutant indeed secretes out a large number of proteins, we prepared the secretome of log-phase *wt* and *Cgypts1-11* cultures which had undergone 11 doublings in the minimal YNB medium. SDS-PAGE analysis of equal volumes of secretome fractions of both strains revealed significantly higher amount of proteins in the mutant secretome (Figure 8A), thereby validating the secretome MS data. We also determined the protein profiles of total cell lysates and membrane fractions of *wt* and

Cgy ps1-11 mutants and found these to be very different from the secretory protein profiles (Figure 8B), suggesting that the secretome of *C. glabrata* cells contains a distinct set of proteins.

Further, to check if CgYps1 and CgYps7 are present in the secretome of *C. glabrata*, we performed immunoblot analysis on the secretome fractions. As shown in Figure 8C, a band of ~130 kDa, corresponding to CgYps1, and of ~120 kDa, corresponding to CgYps7, were present in the *wt* secretome, while the *Cgy ps1-11* mutant secretome, expectedly, showed signal for neither of the protein. A faint nonspecific protein band was observed in the *Cgy ps1-11* secretome in anti-CgYps1 blot (Figure 8C). Of note, both proteins migrated at a higher molecular mass compared to the predicted size of 63.8 and 63.4 kDa for CgYps1 and CgYps7, respectively. The higher molecular weight of CgYps1 and CgYps7 proteins could arise from posttranslational modifications, including β -glucosylation, as reported previously for other cell wall-anchored proteins.⁵⁷ Altogether, these data suggest that CgYps1 and CgYps7 proteins are released into the external environment. It remains to be determined whether the secretory CgYps1 and CgYps7 forms are proteolytically active.

Effect of the *C. glabrata* Secretome on the Macrophage Immune Response

Finally, to determine the physiological relevance of the differential secretome of the *Cgy ps1-11* mutant, we incubated the secretomes of both *wt* and *Cgy ps1-11* strains with PMA-activated human THP-1 macrophages and assessed the macrophage inflammatory cytokine response (Figure 9). Earlier, we have shown that THP-1 cells induced the production of IL-1 β upon infection with *C. glabrata wt* cells.¹⁵ The IL-1 β production was found to be higher upon infection with *Cgy ps1-11* cells.¹⁵ Of note, compared to five- to seven-fold replication of *wt* cells in THP-1 macrophages, the *Cgy ps1-11* mutant is killed in THP-1 cells, which has been attributed to the enhanced IL-1 β secretion.¹⁵ As shown in Figure 9, incubation of neither *wt* nor *Cgy ps1-11* secretome with THP-1 macrophages led to elevated production of IL-1 β by THP-1 cells. These results suggest that the differential activation of THP-1 macrophages by the *Cgy ps1-11* mutant is not solely dependent upon the proteins secreted by the *Cgy ps1-11* mutant. Together, these data also raise four distinct possibilities. First, *C. glabrata* infection-induced IL-1 β secretion in human THP-1 macrophages is probably not mediated by secretory proteins. Second, the secretory proteins may have lost their host immune response modulation activity during collection and processing of secretome samples. Third, human THP-1 macrophage activation may be triggered by *C. glabrata* cell wall polysaccharide components, viz., β -glucan, mannan, and chitin. Notably, content of these components were found to be different in the cell walls of *wt* and *Cgy ps1-11* mutant.¹⁵ Fourth, dynamic interactions between live *C. glabrata* cells and THP-1 macrophages are required for the latter to produce IL-1 β . In this context, it is noteworthy that mixed infection of *C. glabrata wt* and *Cgy ps1-11* cells to THP-1 macrophages had an adverse effect on the intracellular replication rate of *wt* cells, probably owing to relatively higher IL-1 β production,¹⁵ pointing out a role for either *Cgy ps1-11* cells or secretory components of the *Cgy ps1-11* mutant in controlling the proliferation of *wt* cells in macrophages. Future investigations will be designed to address the aforementioned possibilities.

Conclusions

Despite *C. glabrata* being a frequent causal agent of *Candida* BSIs,^{1,2,5} its biology and pathogenesis traits remain to be fully elucidated. Using the LC-MS/MS approach, we, here, have identified 119 proteins as constituents of the secretome of *C. glabrata*. Further, we show, through the FungiFun tool-based analysis, that proteins with aspartyl protease activity and 1,3- β -glucanosyltransferase activity, and proteins with functions in the biogenesis of cell wall and ribosome, represent key components of the secretome. One unexpected finding of our analysis was the presence of eight CgYapsins (CgYps1, 3, 5–7, 9–11) in the *C. glabrata* secretome. As majority of these enzymes, except for CgYps4 and CgYps11,¹³ are predicted to be GPI-anchored, their presence in the secretome is consistent with the identification of several other GPI-anchored proteins in the growth medium of *C. glabrata* and other fungi.^{28,38,39,44} The mechanisms underlying the presence of GPI-anchored proteins in fungal secretomes include proteolytic cleavage (processing of Flo11 adhesion molecule by Subtilisin-like protease Kex2 in *C. albicans* and autocatalysis of Yps1 yapsin in *S. cerevisiae*), release of precursors of cell wall-anchored proteins, cell wall degradation during mother–daughter separation, and routine shedding.^{28,47,58} The released soluble protein forms may modulate fungal adhesion, protease activity, and cellular signaling pathways.^{47,48,58} Keeping this in view, it will be intriguing to determine whether CgYapsin release into the external environment stems from a regulated proteolytic cleavage or routine turnover of cell wall proteins.

The six-fold underrepresentation of CgMsb2 in the *Cgyyps1-11* mutant secretome indicates that CgMsb2 could be a substrate of CgYapsins. Our preliminary in silico analysis revealed that the region between 565–590 amino acids in the CgMsb2 protein (936 aa-long) binds to the predicted active site of the CgYps1 enzyme. Future studies will investigate the CgYps1-dependent cleavage of CgMsb2 and its significance in the physiology and virulence of *C. glabrata*. Further, a decreased abundance of fungal cell wall organization proteins in the *Cgyyps1-11* mutant secretome indicates a pivotal role for CgYapsins in cell wall biogenesis, which is in accordance with our earlier RNA-Seq and cell wall composition data,¹⁵ and reported roles for fungal yapsins and *C. albicans* aspartyl proteases.^{18,20,23,59} Collectively, these data underscore the conservation of some target proteins among fungal aspartyl proteases.

In conclusion, besides cataloguing the secretome of an avirulent aspartyl protease-deficient *C. glabrata* strain for the first time, the current study suggests that CgYapsins may modulate the secretome of *C. glabrata*.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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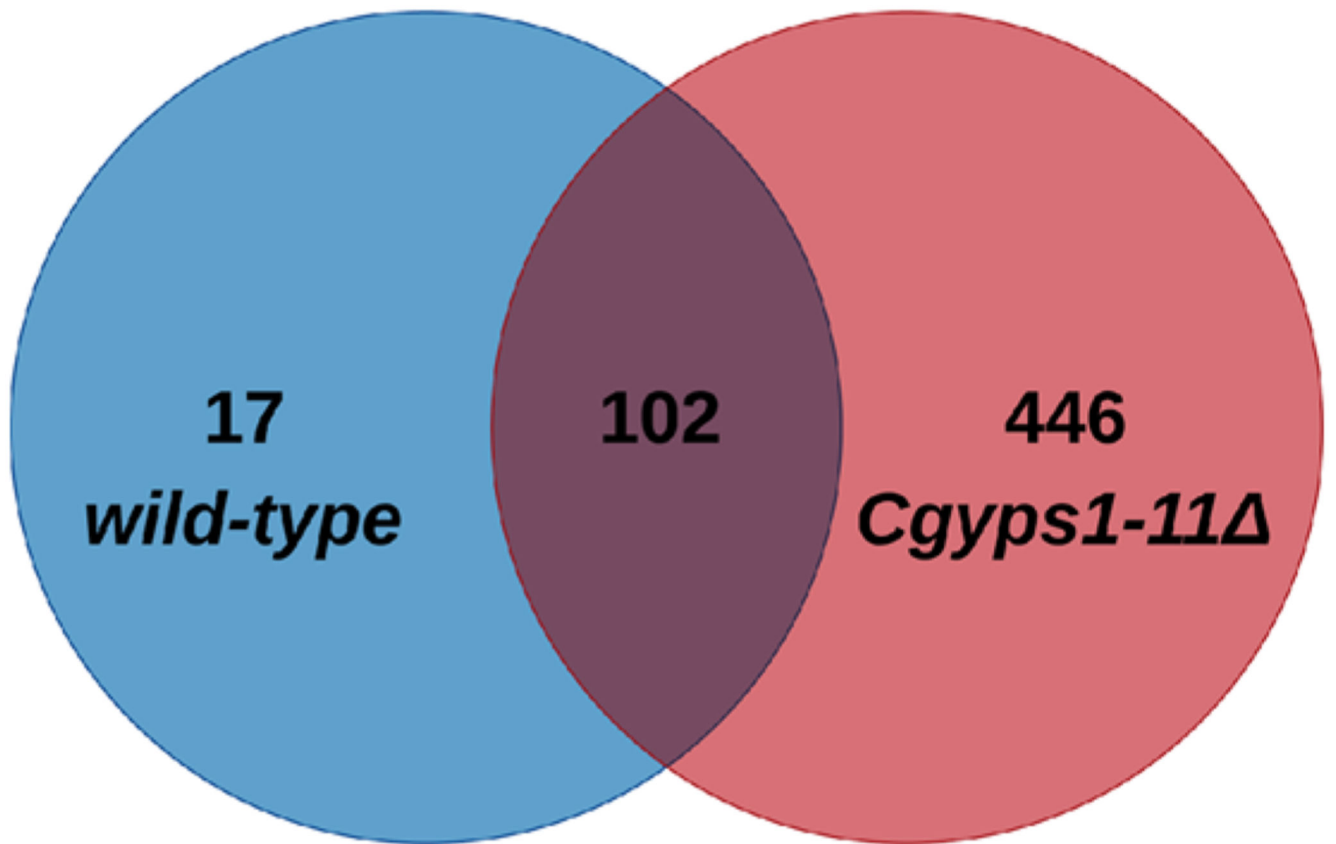


Figure 1. Global secretome analysis of *C. glabrata*. Venn diagram illustrating overlap in proteins identified in the secretomes of *wild-type* and *Cgyps1-11* strains.

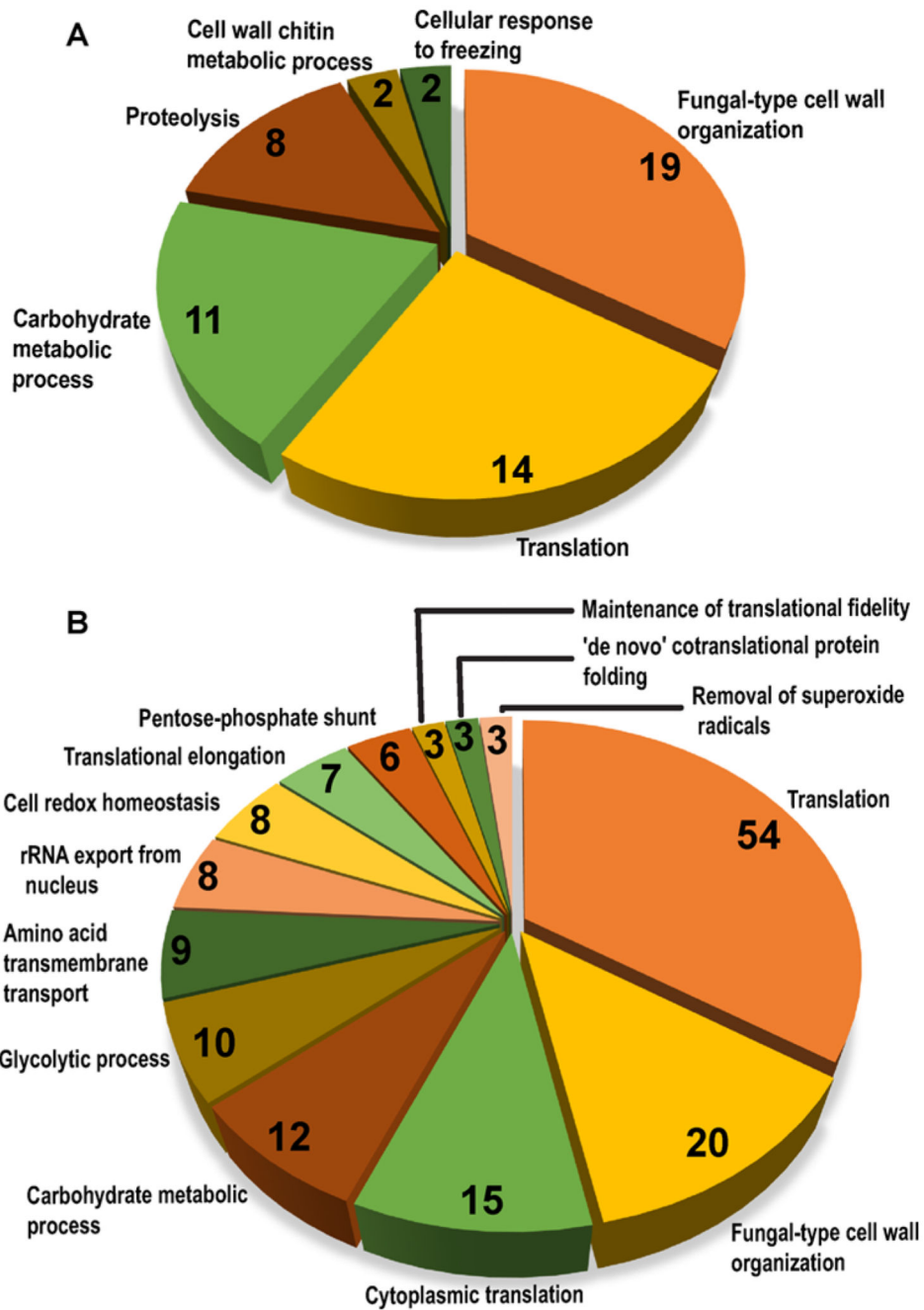


Figure 2. Functional enrichment analysis of secretomes. Pie chart illustrating enriched GO terms for biological process category in secretomes of *wild-type* (A) and *Cgyts1-11* (B), as determined by the FungiFun tool. The number of proteins classified in each category are depicted inside pie slices.

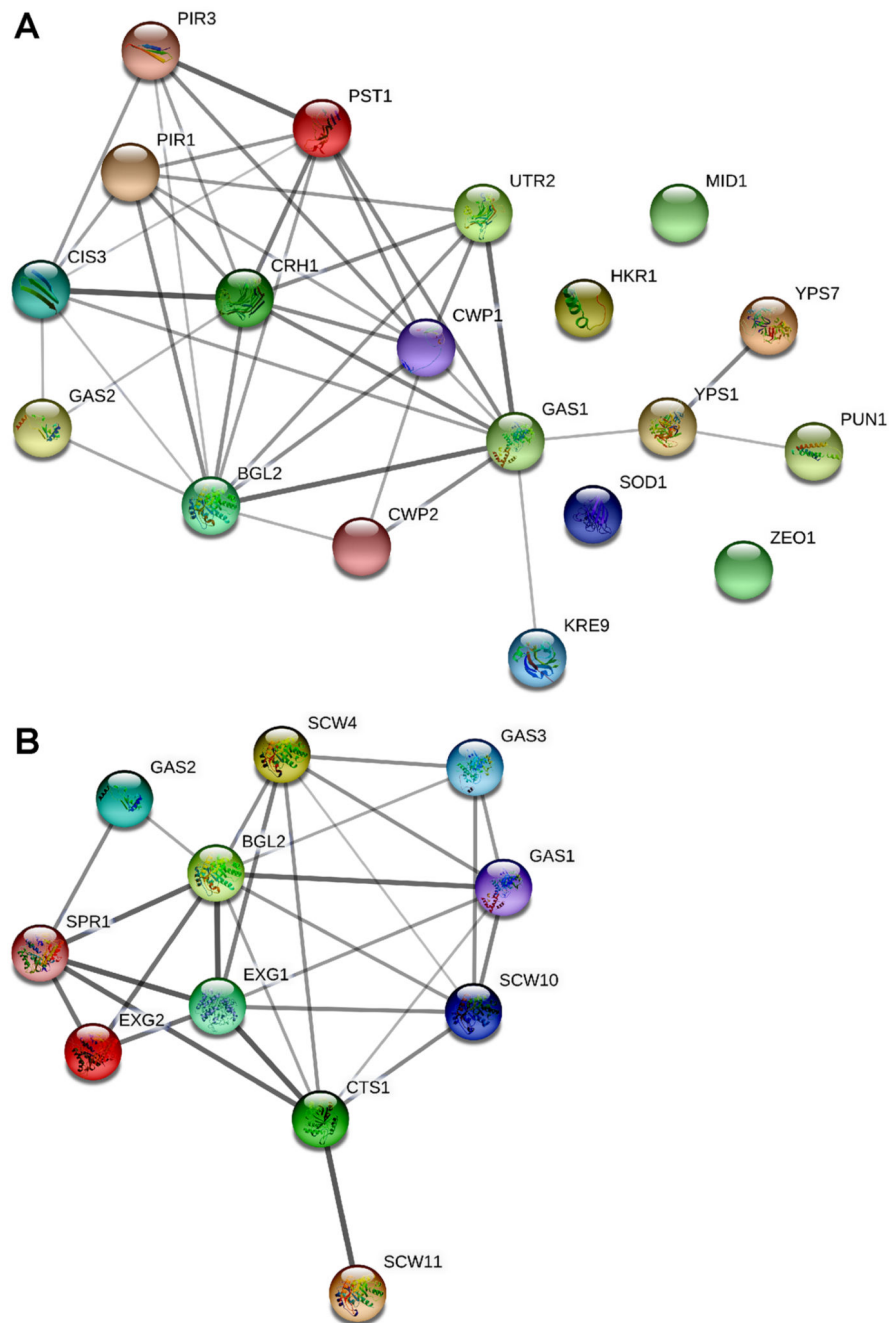


Figure 3. Protein–protein interaction network analysis. Networks, constructed by the STRING Protein–Protein Interaction Network (Ver 11.0) tool, depict interactions, among proteins identified in the *wild-type* secretome, that belonged to fungal-type cell wall organization (A) and carbohydrate metabolic process (B) categories. Since majority of *C. glabrata* proteins are uncharacterized, networks were constructed using the *S. cerevisiae* orthologs of identified *C. glabrata* proteins and *S. cerevisiae* as the reference strain. The line thickness reflects strength of the interaction.

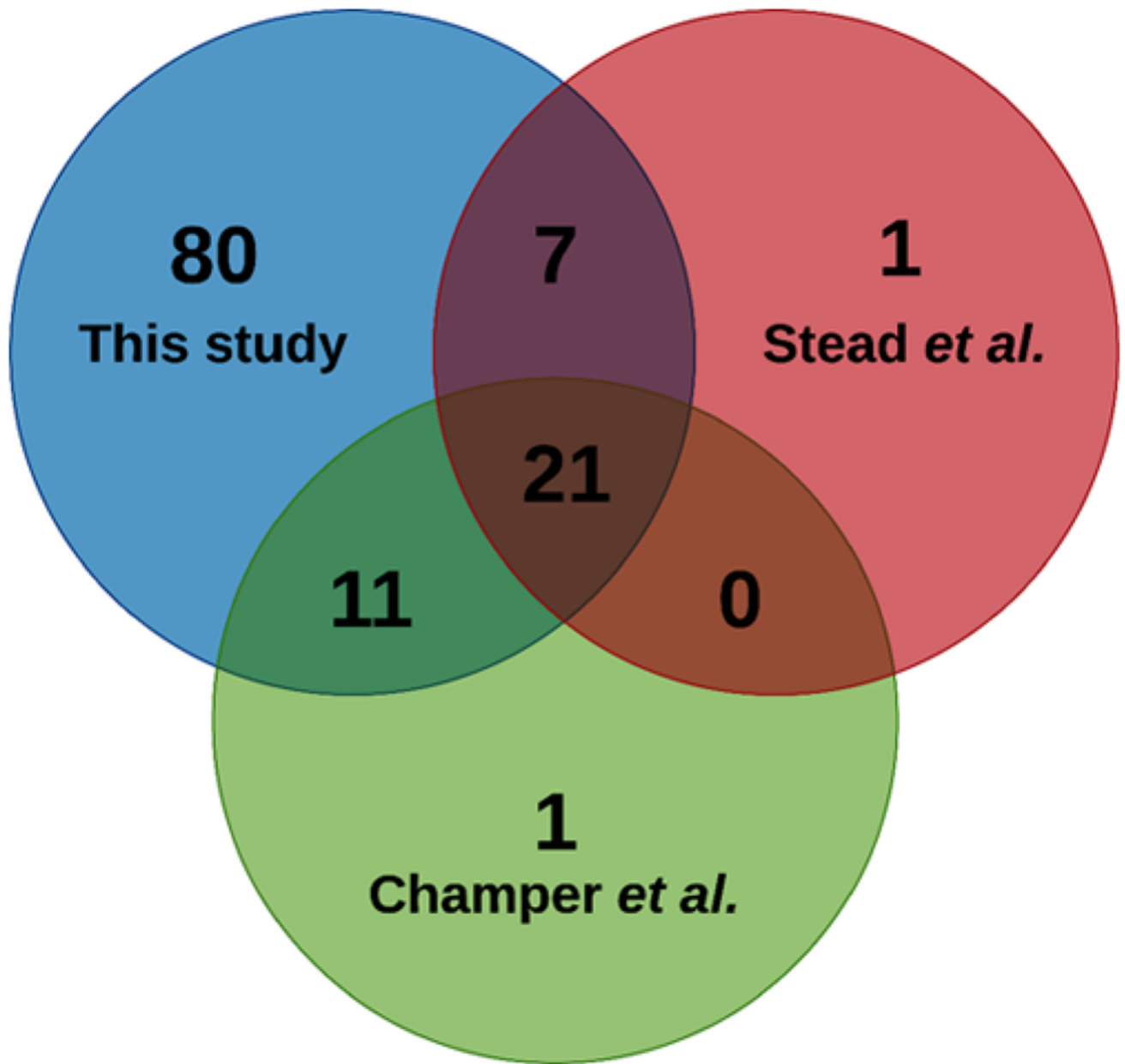


Figure 4.

Comparative analysis of the identified *wild-type* secretome with published global secretome and glycosylated protein secretome of *C. glabrata*. Venn diagram illustrating overlap among proteins identified in our *wild-type* secretome with those identified in Champer et al.'s secretome (Champer et al. 2016) and Stead et al.'s glycosylated protein secretome (Stead et al., 2010).

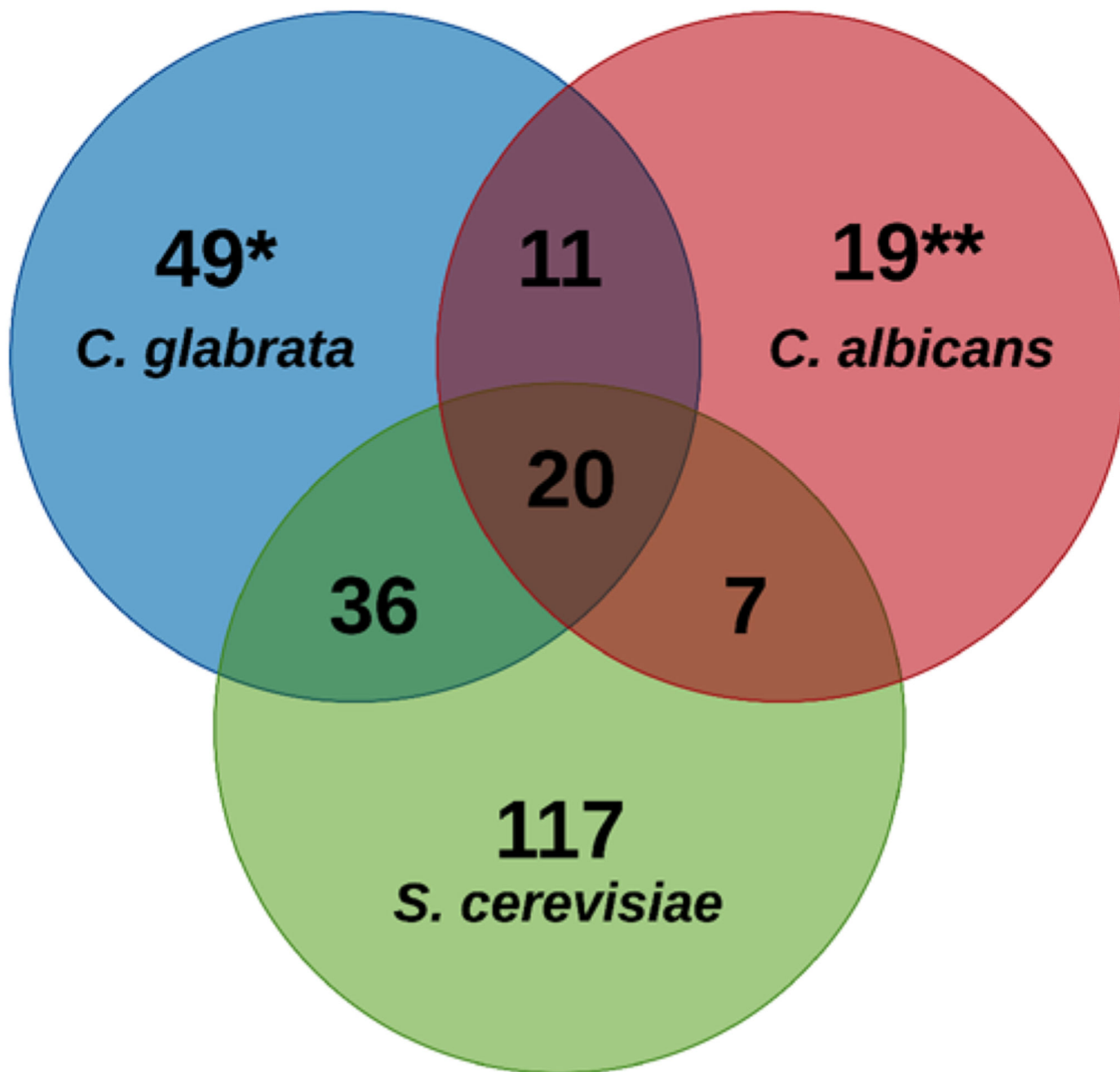


Figure 5.

Comparative analysis of secretomes of *C. glabrata*, *C. albicans*, and *S. cerevisiae*. Venn diagram illustrating overlap among proteins identified in the *C. glabrata* wild-type secretome with those identified in the secretomes of *C. albicans* (Gil-Bona et al. 2015) and *S. cerevisiae* (Smeekens et al. 2017). Of note, each of the three *S. cerevisiae* proteins, Scw11, Cwp1, and Gas1, corresponded to two different ORFs in *C. glabrata*, as indicated by *. Similarly, four of the *S. cerevisiae* proteins, Mkc7, Yps3, Cts1, and Plb3, corresponded to two, three, three, and two ORFs in *C. albicans*, respectively, as denoted by **.

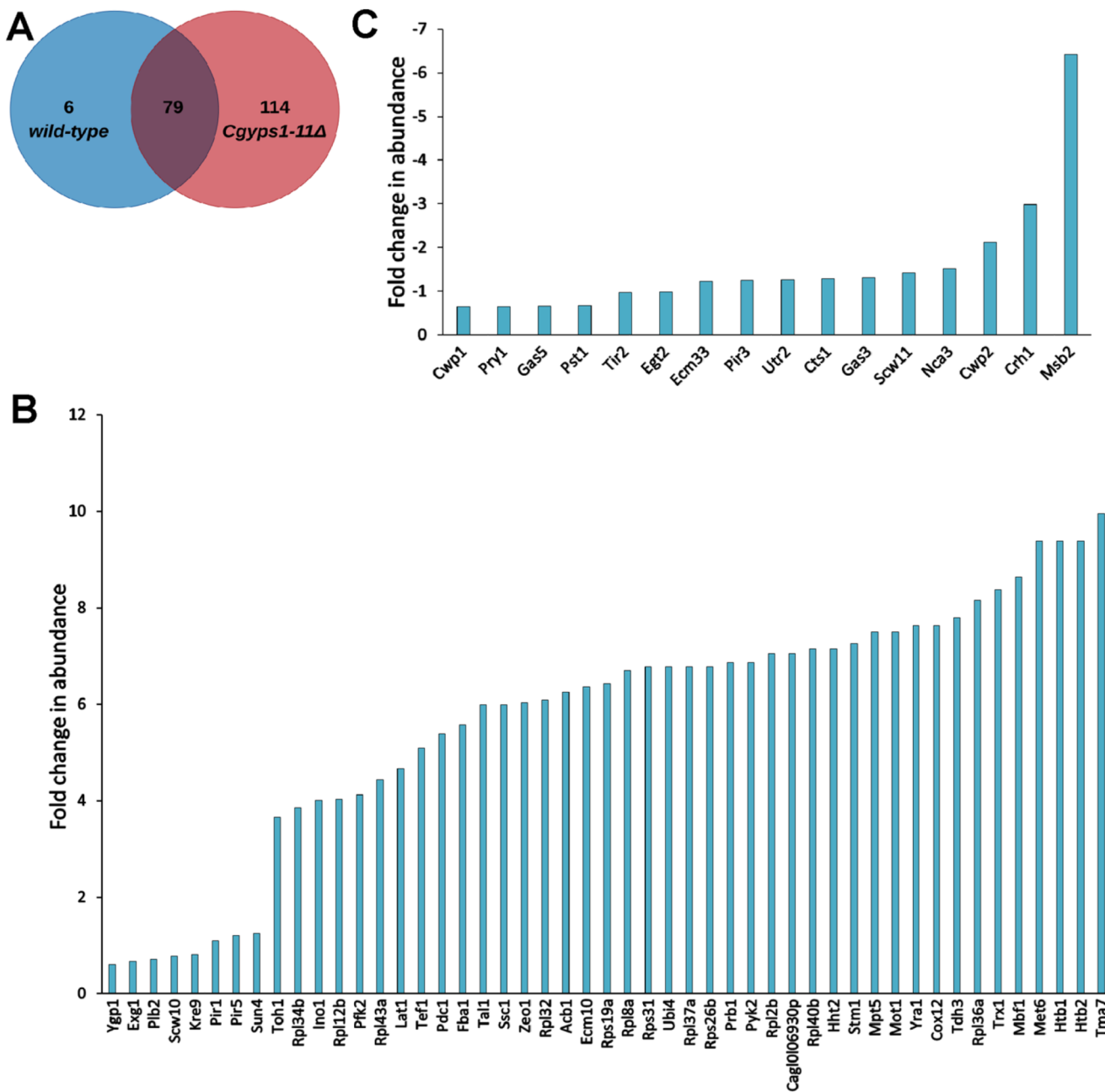


Figure 6. Quantitative secretome analysis of *C. glabrata*. (A) Venn diagram illustrating overlap in proteins identified in the quantitative secretomes of *wild-type* and *Cgyps1-11* strains. (B) Bar graph depicting 49 proteins with higher abundance in the *Cgyps1-11* secretome compared to the *wild-type* secretome. (C) Bar graph depicting 16 proteins with lower abundance in the *Cgyps1-11* secretome compared to the *wild-type* secretome. The fold-difference in levels are presented as Log₂ values.

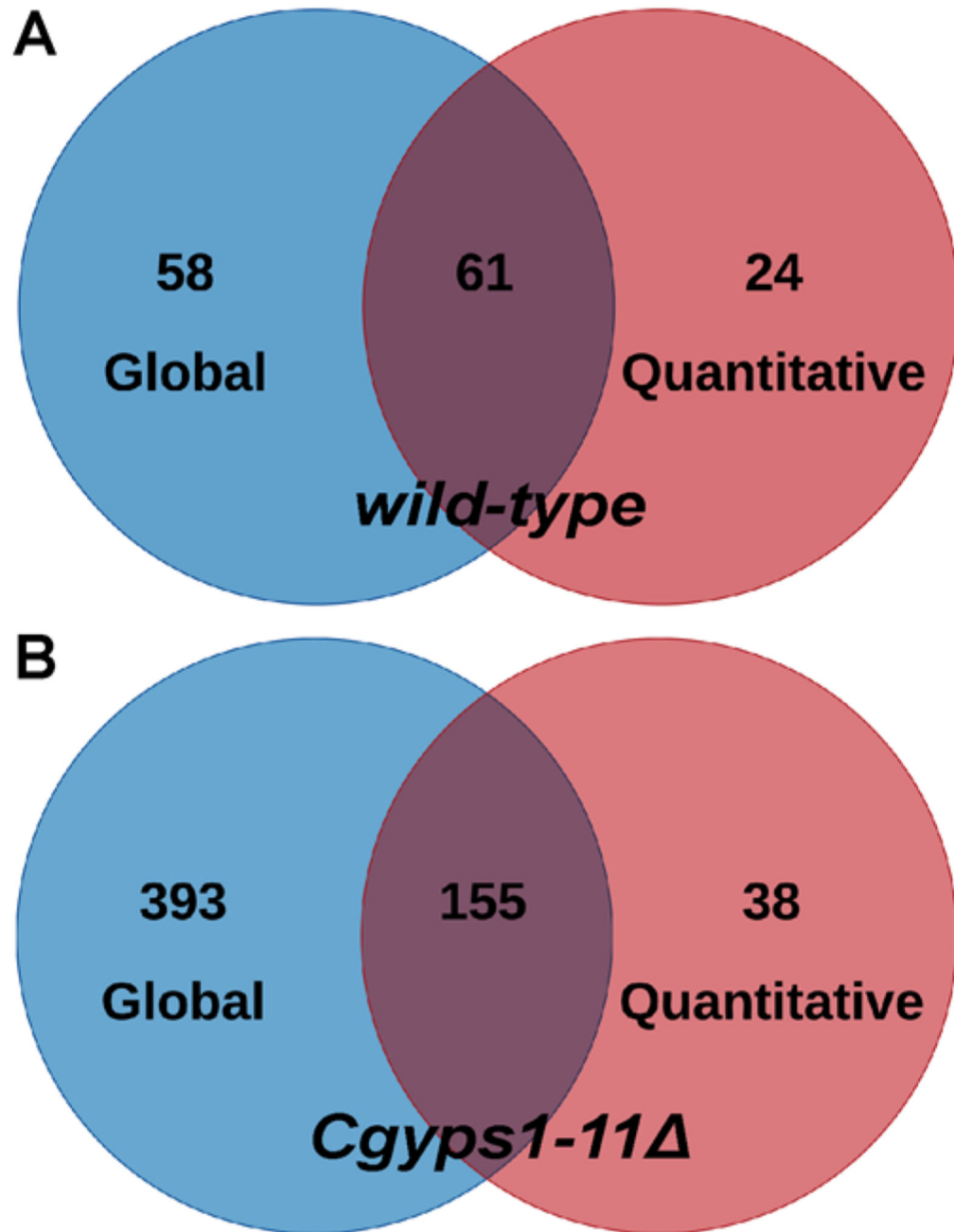


Figure 7. Comparative analysis of global and quantitative secretomes of *C. glabrata*. Venn diagrams illustrating overlap in proteins identified in global and quantitative secretomes of the *wild-type* (A) and *Cgyps1-11* (B) strains.

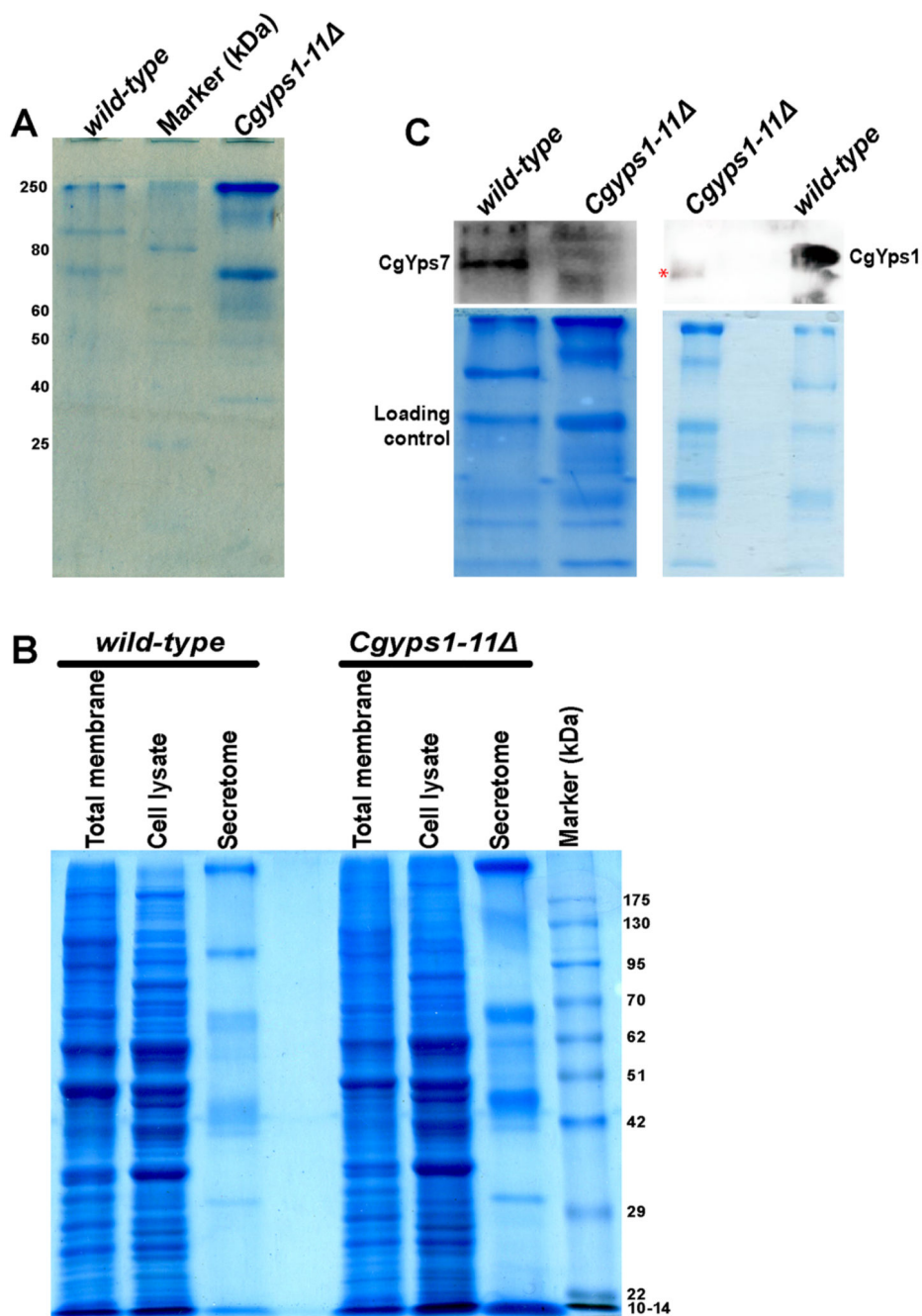


Figure 8.

CgYps1 and CgYps7 are secreted into the medium. (A) Representative SDS-PAGE gel image indicating increased protein secretion into the medium of the *Cgyps1-11* mutant. The secretomes of *wild-type* and *Cgyps1-11* mutants were collected after 11 doublings in the YNB medium, and 50 μL were resolved on a 12% SDS-PAGE gel. Proteins were stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue (CBB) for visualization. (B) Representative SDS-PAGE gel image depicting the total membrane, cell lysate, and secretory protein profiles of *wild-type* and *Cgyps1-11* mutants. Equal volume of secretomes (50 μL) and 100 μg of total

membrane and cell lysate were resolved on a 10% SDS-PAGE gel and stained with CBB for visualization. (C) Representative western blot images of CgYps1 and CgYps7 indicating their secretion into the medium of the *wild-type* strain. Equal volume (50 μL) of secretomes of *wild-type* and *Cgyps1-11* strains were loaded on a 10% SDS-PAGE and resolved for 4 h. Proteins were transferred to the polyvinylidene fluoride membrane and probed with anti-CgYps1 and anti-CgYps7 antibodies. CBB-stained SDS-PAGE gels were used as loading control. Of note, the red asterisk marks a nonspecific band seen in the *Cgyps1-11* secretome.

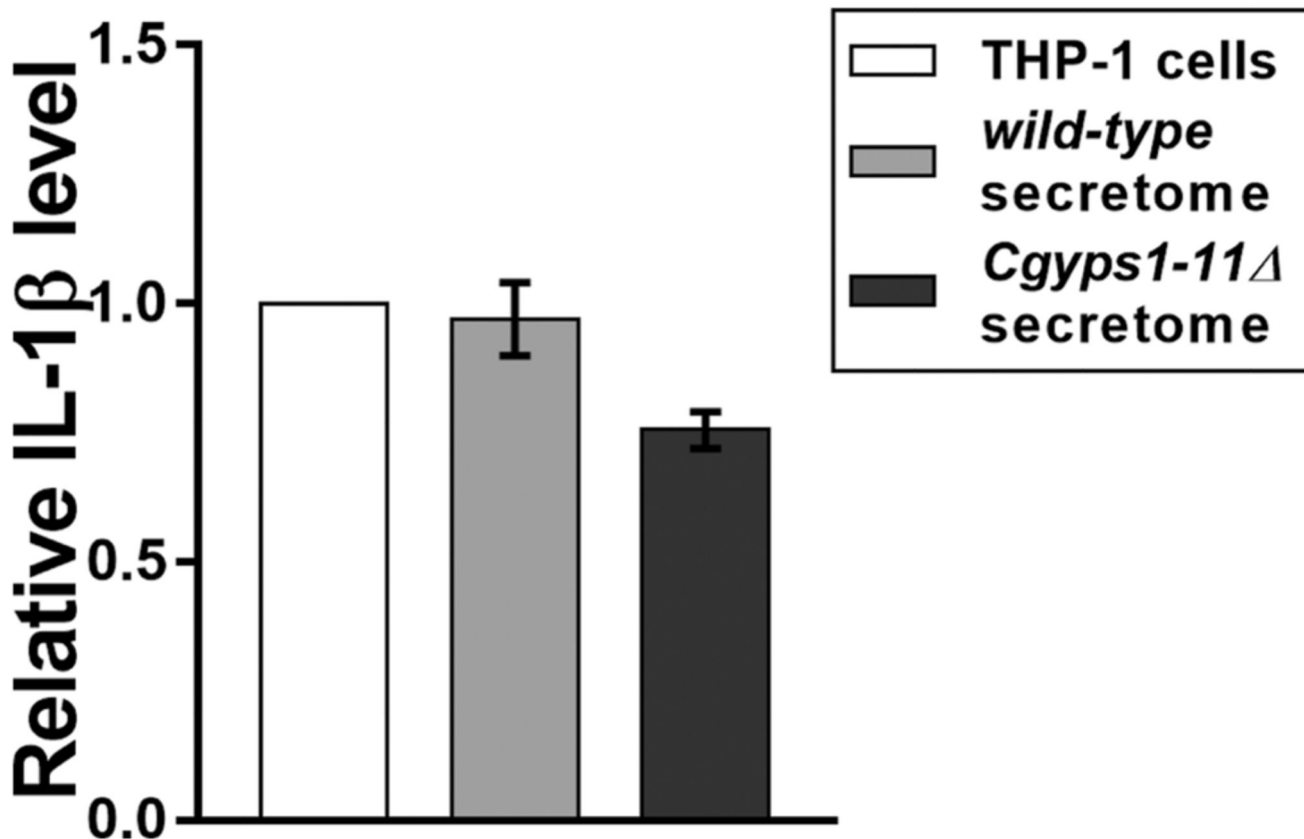


Figure 9.

C. glabrata secretome has no effect on the production of the proinflammatory cytokine IL-1 β by THP-1 macrophages. PMA-differentiated THP-1 cells were either left untreated or incubated with *wild-type* and *Cgyps1-11* secretome for 24 h. Levels of secreted IL-1 β were measured in 100 μ L of culture media using the BD OptEIA ELISA kit. Data (mean \pm standard deviation (SD); $n = 2$) represent relative amounts of IL-1 β produced by secretome-co-incubated THP-1 cells compared to the untreated THP-1 macrophages (considered as 1.0).

Table 1
Summary of DeepLoc 1.0 Server-Based Subcellular Localization Analysis of Proteins
Identified in Secretomes of *Wild-Type* and *Cgyps1-11* Strains^a

Strain	Total proteins	NLS	CP	ExC	Mito	CM	ER	Plast	Golgi	Lysosome/Vacuole	Per
<i>wild-type</i>	119	10	35	28	6	30	6	-	1	3	-
<i>Cgyps1-11</i>	548	71	244	41	66	55	34	2	8	17	10

^aNLS = Nucleus; CP = Cytoplasm; ExC = extracellular; Mito = Mitochondrion; CM = Cell membrane; ER = Endoplasmic reticulum; Plast = Plastids; Golgi = Golgi apparatus; Per = Peroxisome.

Table 2
Summary of Comparative Analysis of Identified and Predicted Secretome of *C. glabrata*

Strain	Number of total proteins identified	Predicted by Lum & Min, 2011	Predicted by Choi et al. 2010				Number of total predicted proteins	% of Predicted secretory proteins
			Classical pathway		Nonclassical pathway			
			SP	NS	SP ³	SL		
<i>wild-type</i>	119	38	50	30	9	1	90	75.63
<i>Cgyts1-11</i>	548	44	57	194	27	3	281	51.28