1	Into the wild: new yeast genomes from natural environments and new		
2	tools for their analysis.		
3			
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20			
21	Abstract		
22	Genomic studies of yeasts from the wild have increased considerably in the last few years. This		
23	revolution has been fueled by advances in high-throughput sequencing technologies and a better		
24	understanding of yeast ecology and phylogeography, especially for biotechnologically important		
25	species. The present review aims to first introduce new bioinformatics tools available for the generation		

and analysis of yeast genomes, as well as assess the accumulated genomic data of wild isolates of

industrially relevant species, such as *Saccharomyces* spp., which provide unique opportunities to
further investigate the domestication processes associated with the fermentation industry and
opportunistic pathogenesis. The availability of genome sequences of other less conventional yeasts
obtained from the wild has also increased substantially, including representatives of the phyla
Ascomycota (e.g. *Hanseniaspora*) and Basidiomycota (e.g. *Phaffia*). Here we review salient examples
of both fundamental and applied research that demonstrate the importance of continuing to sequence
and analyze genomes of wild yeasts.

34

### 35 **1. Introduction**.

Recent advances in sequencing technologies, the availability of new bioinformatics tools, and 36 37 multiple genomic studies during the last 5 years have significantly improved our understanding of the evolution, phylogeography, ecology, and biotechnology of yeasts. Although most studies have focused 38 39 on the genus *Saccharomyces*, substantial progress has been achieved with other yeasts of the phylum Ascomycota and, to a lesser extent, with yeasts of the phylum Basidiomycota. Today, approximately 40 41 one fifth of the 1,500 described yeast species have had their genomes fully sequenced (Kurtzman et al. 2011; Shen et al., 2018). In a few cases, sequences of multiple isolates are available for population 42 43 genomic studies (See Suppl Table 1). Historically, most studies were performed on yeast strains isolated from anthropic environments. In recent years, the number of yeasts from natural environments 44 45 (wild yeasts) whose genomes have been sequenced has increased rapidly, creating a new opportunity to more fully explore eukaryotic biological mechanisms. This review provides an update on recent 46 advances in the bioinformatics tools available for assembling, annotating, and mining yeast genomes 47 from a broad evolutionary range of yeasts (Section 2). Besides the best-studied genus Saccharomyces 48 (Section 3), we also include other examples of outstanding interest from the Ascomycota (Section 4.1) 49 and Basidiomycota (Section 4.2), which are rising models of yeast evolution and are becoming 50 important for specific industrial applications. 51

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# 53 2. New bioinformatic tools for *de novo* genome reconstruction and analysis of yeasts

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Access to whole genome sequence data has significantly increased in the past few years. In particular, the number of species of budding yeasts of the subphylum Saccharomycotina whose genomes have been sequenced has increased at least 3-fold (Hittinger et al., 2015; Shen et al 2018). 58 While these data are more accessible, their analysis can be challenging. Non-conventional yeasts can 59 have ploidy variation, have high heterozygosity, or be natural hybrids. Although there are multiple 60 tools available to explore a broad range of topics in yeast evolution, integrating these tools to answer 61 biological questions can be daunting. Table 1 depicts a description of new bioinformatics tools useful 62 for genomic data processing and their respective references.

63 Several tools have been developed to quantify ploidy levels and detect hybrids from short-read 64 sequencing data. Both *nQuire* and *sppIDer* are alignment-based approaches developed for detecting ploidy variation and hybridization events, respectively. They are useful to run on raw data prior to 65 genome assembly since these factors create challenges for *de novo* genome assembly programs that 66 affect performance and increase the frequency of assembly errors. Multiple *de novo* genome assembly 67 68 programs are available that can use short-reads, many of which are available in the wrapper *iWGS*, including the ploidy-aware genome assemble programs *PLATANUS* and *dipSPAdes*, which perform 69 well on highly heterozygous sequences. Additionally, genome assemblies with long-reads can be 70 performed with the wrapper LRSDAY (Yue et al 2018). Prior to these phylogenetic analyses, the 71 72 bioinformatic tool BUSCO can be used to assess genome quality and completeness, as well as to curate 73 a robust set of orthologous genes to build phylogenies in programs, such as *RAxML* (Shen et al., 2018). 74 As an alternative to traditional phylogenetic approaches that require aligned sequences, phylogenetic analyses can be performed prior to genome assembly using AAF and SISRS. Genome annotations can 75 be performed using MAKER2 and YGAP. MAKER2 is a wrapper that calls multiple gene annotation 76 77 tools and makes for multiple sets of gene predictions simultaneously, while YGAP is a web-based tool 78 built specifically for yeast genome annotation, especially genomes that are syntenic with the model 79 yeast Saccharomyces cerevisiae. Additionally, HybPiper can be used to detect candidate genes that are located in hard-to-assemble regions of the genome and does not require genome assembly. 80

In recent years, DNA–DNA hybridization (DDH) has been gradually replaced by highthroughput sequencing, which allows the *in silico* calculation of overall genome related indices (OGRI) (Chun & Rainey, 2014). OGRI include any measurements indicating how similar two genome sequences are, but they are only useful for differentiating closely related species (Chun et al., 2018). Examples of OGRI include average nucleotide identity (ANI) and digital DDH (dDDH), which are widely used, and relevant software tools are readily available as web-services and as standalone tools (for a detailed list see Chun et al., 2018; Libkind et al., submitted for same issue). Other approaches include the calculation of pairwise similarities (Kr, with the tool *genomediff* of *Genometools*) and
genome-wide alignments (*MUMmer*, (Marcais et al., 2018)). The resulting alignments can be used to
obtain syntenic regions, study conservation, and assist in ultra-scaffolding.

91 There are many bioinformatic tools and pipelines available that are not listed here. For example, 92 approaches have been developed to explore gene functions (Pellegrini et al., 1999; Jones et al., 2014), 93 horizontal gene transfers (Alexander et al., 2016), species phylogenetic tree inference (Shen et al., 94 2016) and copy number variation (Steenwyk and Rokas, 2017; 2018). Furthermore, new tools are being 95 developed regularly. The availability of these bioinformatic tools, coupled with access to hundreds of 96 genomes, allows us to address a broad range of questions in yeast genomics, evolution, and genetics.

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### TABLE 1: List of bioinformatics tools

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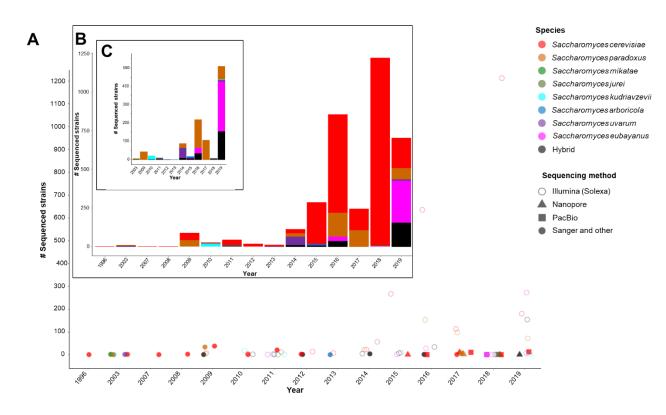
# 101 **3.** Genomics in the model genus *Saccharomyces*

102

103 The understanding of the S. cerevisiae genome has been driven by the advent of novel sequencing technologies. Indeed, S. cerevisiae was the first eukaryote to be completely sequenced (Goffeau et al 104 1996) (Figure 1). Furthermore, the development of the next-generation sequencing (NGS or 2<sup>nd</sup> 105 generation) technologies and the long-read sequencing (3<sup>rd</sup> generation) technologies, together with 106 bioinformatic tools (see Section 2) (Figure 2), have enhanced our understanding of yeast genome 107 108 evolution and led to nearly complete assemblies of the nuclear genomes of four of the eight known Saccharomyces species. The new combined datasets allowed the annotation of most eukaryotic genetic 109 110 elements: centromeres, protein-coding genes, tRNAs, Ty retrotransposable elements, core X' elements, Y' elements, and ribosomal RNA genes. The study of the population-scale dynamics of repetitive 111 112 genomic regions has been relatively underexplored due to the emphasis on short-read (< 300 bp) technologies, such as Illumina sequencing. Regardless, in combination with short-read datasets, new 113 114 long-read technologies are beginning to unravel the differences in Ty and other repeat content between different Saccharomyces strains and species (Istace et al 2017, Yue et al 2017, Czaja et al 2019), 115 116 including their contribution to differences in genome size between S. cerevisiae and S. paradoxus genomes (Yue et al 2017, Czaja et al 2019). Assembly of subtelomeric regions has also benefited from 117 118 combining short-read and long-read data. A recent study comparing the evolutionary dynamics of

subtelomeric genes found that the length of subtelomeric regions to vary greatly (0.13-76 Kb with 0-119 120 19 genes) and demonstrated an accelerated rate of evolution in domesticated S. cerevisiae strains compared to wild S. paradoxus isolates (Yue et al, 2017). Important traits for environmental 121 adaptations and phenotypic diversification can now being detected among subtelomeric structural 122 variants (which can also be important in speciation), the quantification and localization of copy number 123 variants (e.g. those observed in the CUP1 gene and ARR cluster), and presence and absence of 124 125 metabolic genes (McIlwain et al 2016, Yue et al 2017, Naseeb et al 2018; Steenwyk & Rokas, 2018). Mitochondrial genome sequence assemblies have also been missing from most Illumina sequencing 126 127 studies, except in a handful studies (Baker et al 2015, Wu et al 2015, Sulo et al 2017). In contrast, longread technologies better capture and facilitate the assembly of mitochondrial genome sequences 128 129 (Wolters et al 2015, Giordano et al 2017, Yue et al 2017). Similarly, despite the fitness disadvantages of possessing the 2µ plasmids (1.5-3 % growth rate disadvantage compared to cured cells) (Mead et al 130 1986), few genome sequencing studies explicitly comment about the recovery of 2µ plasmid sequences 131 (Baker et al 2015, Strope et al 2015, McIlwain et al 2016, Peter et al 2018). 132





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Figure 1. The genomes of more than three thousand Saccharomyces strains have been sequenced. At least 3,077 unique Saccharomyces strains have had their genomes sequenced using various

137 sequencing technologies in the last twenty-three years (Supplementary Table 1). 71.5% of the sequenced 138 Saccharomyces strains belong to S. cerevisiae, 11.0% are S. paradoxus, 8.5% are S. eubayanus, 5.95% are interspecies 139 hybrids, and 2.0% are Saccharomyces uvarum. At least 105 Saccharomyces strains have been sequenced by more than 140 two studies (Supplementary Table 1). Colored circles highlight the total genome sequences published per year per 141 technology (symbol shape) for each Saccharomyces species or for interspecies hybrids. Bar plots represent the total 142 number of sequenced strains from each Saccharomyces species or interspecies hybrids, including (panel B) and 143 excluding (panel C) S. cerevisiae strains. Bar plots are colored according to species.

144

<u>Illumina</u>	<u>Nanopore</u>	<u>PacBio</u>
Cheap	The fastest run (1 hour)	Fast (10 hours)
High throughput (Population genomics, GWAS)	Mostly complete de novo assembly	Mostly complete de novo assembly
Low error rate (<1%)	(Comparative Genomics)	(Comparative Genomics)
Better recovery of binding sites within the	Detects structural variation	Detects structural variation
telomeric repeats	1D <sup>2</sup> chemistry with low error rate (<4%)	Long reads in CLR method (30-250 Kb)
	Recovery of most subtelomeric regions	CC method with low error rate (<1%)
Short reads (150-300 bp)	Recovery of long repetitive regions	Recovery of most subtelomeric regions
Long run (1-3.5 days)	Study of DNA methylation (5mC)	Recovery of long repetitive regions
Limited de novo genome assembly		Study of DNA methylation
Poor coverage of subtelomeric regions	High error rate of 1D chemistry (~13%)	(4mC and 6mA)
No coverage of long repetitive regions	Limited coverage of subtelomeric regions	Better recovery of mtDNA
(i.e., Ty elements, rDNA cluster, repeated genes)	with excessive repeats	
mtDNA usually not assembled or analyzed	Homomer issues	High error rate of CLR method (~13%)
	1D <sup>2</sup> chemistry reduces throughput by half	Shorter reads in CC method (25 Kb)
	Generates duplicated regions in mtDNA	Generates duplicated regions in mtDNA
	(using standard assembly methods)	, v

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Figure 2. Pros and cons of the genome sequencing methods that are currently used most widely.
Pros and cons of technologies used for for *de novo* genome assembly and population genomics (Goodwin et al 2015, Chen et al 2017, Istace et al 2017, Giordano et al 2017). CLR: continuous long read; CC, circular consensus; 4mC, N4-methylcytosine; 5mC, 5-methylcytosine; 6mA, N6-methyladenine; Kb, kilobase.

# **3.1** Genomic differences among wild, pathogenic, and domesticated *Saccharomyces* strains

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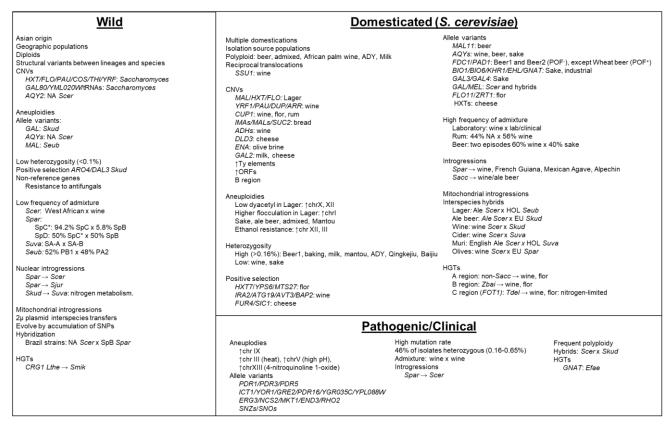
153 The importance of *S. cerevisiae* for a multitude of industrial processes, such as making wine, ale beers, biofuels, sake, and bread, has greatly influenced genome sequencing efforts, including in other 154 155 Saccharomyces species. Indeed, more 2,500 S. cerevisiae strains have been sequenced, including many that were independently sequenced by different labs (Figure 1). These efforts have helped differentiate 156 the genome characteristics of wild, pathogenic/clinical, and domesticated S. cerevisiae strains (Figure 157 3). However, it has also been necessary to increase isolation efforts of other Saccharomyces species to 158 generalize the genomic traits found in wild S. cerevisiae strains to other species where all or most 159 strains are wild. In contrast to wild strains, pathogenic/clinical strains and domesticated strains are both 160 associated with humans. Wild and human-associated strains differ for several genomic characteristics: 161 162 i) low heterozygosity in wild isolates, suggesting high inbreeding rates (Magwene et al 2011, Wohlbach et al 2014, Leducq et al 2016, Peris et al 2016, Naseeb et al 2018, Peter et al 2018, Duan et al 2018; 163 Langdon et al 2019a, Nespolo et al 2019); ii) fewer admixed strains from the wild, supporting low 164

levels of outcrossing (Liti et al 2009, Almeida et al 2014, Leducq et al 2016, Eberlein et al 2019, Peris 165 166 et al 2016); iii) the rarity of wild interspecies hybrids [currently only one is known (Barbosa et al 2016)], suggesting limited opportunities or low fitness for interspecies hybrids in wild environments 167 (Figure 3); iv) strong geographic structure of wild *Saccharomyces* populations (Hittinger et al 2010, 168 Almeida et al 2014, Gavevskiv et al 2015, Leducq et al 2016, Peris et al 2016, Peter et al 2018, Duan 169 et al 2018), which highlights the limited influence of humans on the expansion of wild strains; and v) 170 171 more copy number variants (CNVs), especially in subtelomeric genes, and more aneuploidies in domesticated lineages (Goncalvez et al., 2016; Gallone et al., 2016; Steenwyk & Rokas, 2017). In 172 173 addition, wild strains have evolved mainly by accumulating SNPs, whereas domesticated and clinical samples are more prone to Ty element and gene family expansions (Peter et al 2018). However, there 174 are common genomic characteristics among wild and human-associated strains: i) 75% genes not found 175 176 in a reference genomes are located in subtelomeric regions and are often related to flocculation, 177 nitrogen metabolism, carbon metabolism, and stress (Bergstrom et al 2014; Steenwyk & Rokas, 2017); ii) subtelomeric regions are hotspots of gene diversity, which influences traits (McIlwain et al 2016, 178 179 Yue et al 2017); and iii) loss-of-function (LOF) mutations usually occur in non-essential genes and are more frequent in regions closer to the 3' end of protein-coding sequences (Bergstrom et al 2014). 180

181 Several horizontal gene transfer (HGT) events have been described in Saccharomyces, including several specific examples that are well supported (Figure 3) (Peter et al 2018; Marsit et al., 2015; Novo 182 183 et al., 2009; Galeote et al., 2010; League et al., 2012). Nonetheless, caution is warranted for cases built solely using automated BLAST analysis, which can lead to premature conclusions for two main 184 reasons. First, the absence of published genome sequences for most species make the unequivocal 185 identification of donor and recipient species or clades challenging. And second, gene presence and 186 absence variation of a horizontally acquired gene within or between species can mislead inference of 187 the history of a gene if population or species sampling is insufficient or biased. For example, large gene 188 families found in subtelomeric regions are particularly prone to being identified as involved in HGT 189 events using simple BLAST criteria due to cryptic paralogy. In these cases, the fact that a gene's best 190 191 BLAST hit is to a distant species may just be missing data. For these reasons, we recommend using 192 BLAST-based statistics, such as Alien Index (Wisecaver et al., 2016; Alexander et al., 2016), to identify interesting candidates, followed by explicit gene tree-species tree reconciliation and 193 phylogenetic topology testing to evaluate candidate HGT events (Alexander et al., 2016; Wisecaver et 194 al 2016; Shen et al 2018). Furthermore, identification of HGT events, as well as more accurate 195

identification of donors and recipients, will greatly benefit from the completion of comprehensive
whole genome sequencing projects from diverse species, such as the Y1000+ Project (Hittinger et al.,
2015; Shen et al 2018). In summary, a combination of improved genome sampling and formal
phylogenetic approaches together provides the best path forward to generating robust inferences about
which genes have been horizontally acquired.

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202

### 203 Figure 3. Genomic traits of wild, pathogenic, and domesticated Saccharomyces yeasts. Main

204 genomic trait differences inferred from whole genome sequencing studies between wild Saccharomyces, domesticated, 205 and clinical S. cerevisiae strains (Supplementary Table 1). Heterozygosity is represented as the percentage of 206 heterozygous sites in the genome. Arrows  $(\rightarrow)$  indicate the introgression/HGT direction inferred. Arrow  $(\uparrow)$  indicates an increase in copy number. ADY, active dry yeast; CNVs, copy number variants; HGT, horizontal gene transfer; LOF, loss 207 208 of function; POF, phenolic off-flavor; SNPs, single nucleotide polymorphisms; Sacc, Saccharomyces; Scer: S. cerevisiae; 209 Spar, S. paradoxus; Sjur, S. jurei; Suva, S. uvarum; Seub, S. eubayanus; Efae, Enterococcus faecium; Tmic, Torulospora 210 microellipsoides; Zbai, Zygosaccharomyces bailii; Lthe, Lachance thermotolerans; PB, Patagonia B; PA, Patagonia A; 211 NA, North America; HOL, Holarctic.

212

# 213 3.2 Genomic insights into the fascinating phylogeography of the wild lager-brewing yeast

#### 214 ancestor, Saccharomyces eubayanus

215

The yeast species S. eubayanus has been isolated exclusively from wild environments; yet, 216 217 hybridizations between S. cerevisiae and S. eubayanus were key innovations that enabled cold fermentation and lager brewing (Libkind et al. 2011; Gibson and Liti 2015; Hittinger et al. 2018; Baker 218 et al. 2019, Langdon et al 2019b, Gallone et al., 2019). Industrial isolates of S. uvarum, the sister species 219 of S. eubayanus, with genomic contributions from S. eubayanus have also been frequently obtained 220 from wine and cider (Almeida et al. 2014; Nguyen and Boekhout 2017, Langdon et al 2019b), 221 indicating that this species has long been playing a role in shaping many fermented products. Even so, 222 pure strains of S. eubayanus have only ever been isolated from the wild. This association with both 223 wild and domesticated environments makes S. eubayanus an excellent model where both wild diversity 224 and domestication can be investigated. 225

226 S. eubayanus was initially discovered in 2011 in Patagonia (Argentina) from locally endemic 227 tree species of the genus Nothofagus (Libkind et al. 2011). Since then, it has received much attention 228 for brewing applications and as a model for understanding the evolution, ecology and population genomics of the genus Saccharomyces (Sampaio 2018). Many new globally distributed isolates have 229 230 been found in different parts of the world since its discovery (Peris et al. 2014; Bing et al. 2014; Rodríguez et al. 2014; Gayevskiy and Goddard 2016; Peris et al. 2016; Eizaguirre et al. 2018), 231 232 but the abundance and genetic diversity measured by multilocus genetic data is still by far highest in Patagonia (Eizaguirre et al., 2018). Recently, two independent investigations significantly increased 233 234 the number of S. eubayanus American isolates, mainly from Patagonia (Chile and Argentina), and together provide the largest genomic dataset for this species with a total of 256 new draft genome 235 236 sequences (Langdon et al, 2019a; Nespolo et al., 2019). This dataset confirms the previously proposed population structure (Peris et al. 2014, 2016; Eizaguirre et al. 2018), where two major populations were 237 detected (Patagonia A/Population A/PA and Patagonia B/Population B/PB) which has been further 238 divided into five subpopulations (PA-1, PA-2, PB-1, PB-2, and PB-3) (Eizaguirre et al. 2018). Other 239 isolates from outside Patagonia belong to PB, either the PB-1 subpopulation that is also found in 240 241 Patagonia (Gayevskiy and Goddard 2016; Peris et al. 2016), or a Holarctic-specific subpopulation that 242 includes isolates from Tibet and from North Carolina, USA (Bing et al. 2014; Peris et al. 2016; 243 Brouwers et al, 2019), which represents the closest known wild relatives of the S. eubayanus subgenomes of lager-brewing yeasts (Bing et al. 2014; Peris et al. 2016). Furthermore, 244 heterosis was recently demonstrated in a S. cerevisiae x Himalayan S. eubayanus hybrid, which showed 245 246 that regulatory cross talk between the two subgenomes is partly responsible for maltotriose and maltose 247 consumption (Brouwers et al, 2019). Multilocus data suggested that two more lineages from China, 248 West China and Sichuan, diverged very early from all other known S. eubayanus strains, while Holarctic isolates from China had unusually low sequence diversity (Bing et al 2014). In this way, S. 249 *eubayanus* can be subdivided into a total of eight non-admixed subpopulations (5 likely Patagonian, 3 250 251 from Patagonia B and 2 from Patagonia A, and 1 Holarctic; and 2 Asian, 1 West China and 1 Sichuan) and two admixed lineages (one North American lineage with a broad distribution and South American 252 253 strain sympatric to the Patagonian lineages) (Langdon et al 2019a). The global distribution and geographically well-differentiated population structure of S. eubayanus is similar to what has been 254 255 observed for Saccharomyces species, such as S. paradoxus (Leducq et al. 2014, 2016) and S. uvarum (Almeida et al. 2014). 256

257 While this species has been easily and repeatedly isolated from South American Nothofagus trees 258 (Libkind et al., 2011; Eizaguirre et al. 2018; Nespolo et al., 2019), only a handful of isolates have been 259 recovered from trees in China, New Zealand, and North America (Bing et al. 2014; Gayevskiy and Goddard 2016; Peris et al. 2016; Langdon et al., 2019a). These data suggest that S. eubayanus is 260 261 abundant in Patagonia but sparsely found in North America, Asia, and Australasia. Most subpopulations display isolation by distance with genetic diversity that mostly scales with the 262 263 geographic range of a subpopulation. In Patagonia, one sampling location can harbor more genetic diversity than is found in all of North America (Langdon et al., 2019a). The levels of diversity found 264 265 within Patagonia is further underscored by the restriction of four subpopulations to this region, suggesting that Patagonia is the origin of *S. eubayanus* diversity or at least the last common ancestor 266 267 of the PA and PB-Holarctic populations, the latter of which gave rise to lager-brewing hybrids. 268 Different hypotheses and scenarios are discussed in more depth by Langdon et al., (2019a) and Nespolo 269 et al., (2019).

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# 4. Non-conventional yeasts with non-conventional genomes

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Besides the well-studied genus *Saccharomyces*, more than 1500 recognized yeast species are known,
which belong either to the Ascomycota or Basidiomycota (Kurtzman et al., 2011). In this section, we
review the interesting stories recently revealed through the use of genome data of two representative
genera of both respective phyla, *Hanseniaspora* and *Phaffia*.

4.1 The yeasts with the least; the reductive genome evolution of *Hanseniaspora* 

278 A hallmark of evolution in the budding yeast subphylum Saccharomycotina is the loss of traits and 279 their underlying genes (Shen et al. 2018). Arguably, the most dramatic example of reductive evolution observed is the Hanseniaspora (Steenwyk et al. 2019), a genus of bipolar budding, apiculate yeasts in 280 the family Saccharomycodaceae. Hanseniaspora yeasts can be assigned to two lineages, a faster-281 evolving one and a slower-evolving one (FEL and SEL, respectively), which differ dramatically in 282 283 their rates of genome sequence evolution as well as in the extent and types of genes that they have lost 284 (Figure 4). The types of genes lost can be broadly ascribed to three categories: metabolism, DNA repair, and cell-cycle. 285

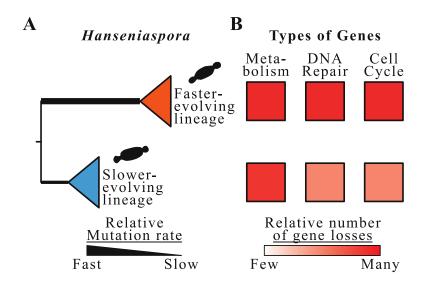
286 Metabolism-related genes have been lost in both FEL and SEL. Analysis of 45 growth traits across 332 Saccharomycotina yeasts revealed that Hanseniaspora species can assimilate fewer carbon 287 288 substrates compared to most of their relatives (Opulente et al. 2018, Shen et al. 2018) and have lost many of the associated genes and pathways (Steenwyk et al. 2019). Although less pronounced, similar 289 290 gene and trait losses have been observed in wine strains of S. cerevisiae (Gallone et al. 2016; Steenwyk and Rokas 2017) and are thought to be signatures of adaptation to the wine must environment 291 292 (Steenwyk and Rokas 2018). These gene losses may play a similar role in Hanseniaspora yeast ecology, considering their frequent isolation from fruit juices and fermenting musts (Cadez 2006; 293 294 Kurtzman et al. 2011), which likely reflects the specialization of *Hanseniaspora* species to sugar-rich 295 environments.

296 Hanseniaspora species, especially those in the FEL, have lost numerous DNA repair genes 297 spanning multiple pathways and processes (Steenwyk et al. 2019). For example, yeasts in both lineages have lost 14 DNA repair genes, including PHR1, which encodes a photolyase (Sebastian et al. 1990), 298 299 and *MAG1*, which encodes a DNA glycosylase that is part of the base excision repair pathway (Xiao 300 et al. 2001). However, FEL yeasts have lost 33 additional DNA repair genes, which include 301 polymerases (i.e., POL4 and POL32) and numerous telomere-associated genes, such as CDC13 (Lustig 302 2001). Inactivation or loss of DNA repair genes can cause hypermutator phenotypes, such as those 303 observed in microbial pathogens and in human cancers (Jolivet-Gougeon et al. 2011; Billmyre et al. 304 2017; Campbell et al. 2017). In the short-term, hypermutation can facilitate adaptation in maladapted 305 populations by increasing the chance of occurrence of beneficial mutations (e.g., conferring drug resistance); in the long-term, however, hypermutation is not a viable strategy due to the increased 306 accumulation of deleterious mutations (Ram and Hadany 2012). Molecular evolutionary analyses 307

308 suggest that the stem lineages of FEL and SEL yeasts were hypermutators; interestingly, the increased 309 mutation rates in the two stem lineages reflect the degree of observed DNA repair gene loss in the two lineages. The larger number of gene losses in FEL stem branch is consistent with its higher mutation 310 311 rate and the smaller number of gene losses in the SEL stem branch is consistent with a lower increase 312 in its mutation rate (Steenwyk et al. 2019). However, the mutation rates of both FEL and SEL crown groups (i.e., every branch after the stem) are similar to those of other yeast lineages, consistent with 313 314 evolutionary theory's predictions that long-term hypermutation is maladaptive (Ram and Hadany 2012; Steenwyk et al. 2019). Altogether, Hanseniaspora yeasts have lost DNA repair genes, undergone 315 316 punctuated sequence evolution, and slowed down their overall mutation rate, despite having a reduced DNA repair gene repertoire. 317

318 Finally, *Hanseniaspora* yeasts have lost genes associated with key features of the cell cycle, 319 including cell size control, the mitotic spindle checkpoint, and DNA-damage-response checkpoint processes, but these losses are more pronounced in the FEL. For example, both lineages have lost 320 WHI5, a negative regulator of the G1/S phase transition in the cell cycle that is critical for cell size 321 322 control (Jorgensen 2002). Other gene losses are exclusive to the FEL, such as the loss of MAD1 and MAD2, which bind to unattached kinetochores and are required for a functional mitotic spindle 323 324 checkpoint (Heinrich et al. 2014), as well as RAD9 and MEC3, which function in the DNA-damagecheckpoint pathway and arrest the cell cycle in G2 (Weinert et al. 1994). The loss of checkpoint genes 325 326 is thought to contribute to bipolar budding in both lineages and greater variance in ploidy, as well as strong signatures of mutational burden due to aberrant checkpoint processes in FEL compared to SEL 327 (Steenwyk et al. 2019). These observations suggest landmark features of cell cycle processes are absent 328 329 in *Hanseniaspora* and warrant future investigations into the functional consequences of these losses.

330



331

332 Figure 4: The evolutionary trajectories of *Hanseniaspora* lineages are marked by differential rates of sequence evolution and rates of loss of metabolism, DNA repair, and cell-cycle genes. (A) There are two 333 334 lineages in the budding veast genus Hanseniaspora: the faster-evolving and slower-evolving lineage (FEL and 335 SEL, respectively). The FEL has a long and thicker stem branch indicative of higher rates of sequence evolution 336 or higher mutation rates, whereas the SEL has a much shorter and thinner stem branch indicative of lower rates 337 of sequence evolution or lower mutation rates. (B) Each lineage has lost many genes associated with metabolism, 338 DNA repair, and cell-cycle processes; squares with colors toward the red end of the spectrum correspond to 339 greater rates of gene loss, whereas squares on the white end of the spectrum correspond to lower rates of gene 340 loss.

341

#### 342

# 4.2 Phaffia rhodozyma: A colorful genome from the Basidiomycota

The orange-colored yeast *Phaffia rhodozyma* (= Xanthophyllomyces dendrorhous), an early diverging 343 344 Agaricomycotina (Basidiomycota), possesses multiple exceptional traits of fundamental and applied interest. The most relevant is the ability to synthesize astaxanthin, a carotenoid pigment with potent 345 346 antioxidant activity and of great value for the aquaculture and pharmaceutical industries. Hyperpigmented mutants of *P. rhodozyma* are currently being exploited biotechnologically as a natural 347 source of astaxanthin in aquaculture feed (Rodríguez-Sáiz et al. 2010). These mutants were derived 348 349 from an initial collection from 1976 from bark exudates of specific tree species (e.g. Betula sp.) from the Northern Hemisphere. Today, P. rhodozyma is known to have specific niches in association with 350 trees of mountainous regions and a worldwide distribution comprising at least seven different genetic 351

lineages (Palma et al., 2014). One of these lineages was obtained from Andean Patagonia (Argentina) 352 353 on Nothofagus trees, the same substrates as S. eubayanus and S. uvarum (section 3.2) (Libkind et al., 354 2011), and based on genomic analyses, Patagonian wild strains were recently proposed as a potential novel variety of *P. rhodozyma* (Bellora et al., 2016). The 19-Mb genome of *P. rhodozyma* CRUB 1149 355 356 wild Patagonian isolate was sequenced and assembled, achieving a coverage of 57x. Analysis of its gene structure revealed that the proportion of intron-containing genes and the density of introns per 357 358 gene in *P. rhodozyma* are the highest hitherto known for fungi, having values more similar to those found in humans than among Saccharomycotina where intronless genes predominate. An extended 359 360 analysis suggested that this trait might be shared with other members of the order Cystofilobasidiales (Bellora et al., 2016). 361

362 Genome mining revealed important photoprotection and antioxidant-related genes, as well as 363 genes involved in sexual reproduction. New genomic insight into fungal homothallism was obtained, 364 including a particular arrangement of the mating-type genes that might explain the self-fertile sexual 365 behavior. All known genes related to the synthesis of astaxanthin were annotated. Interestingly, a 366 hitherto unknown gene cluster potentially responsible for the synthesis of an important UV protective 367 and antioxidant compound (mycosporine-glutaminol-glucoside) (Moline et al., 2011) was found in the 368 newly sequenced and mycosporinogenic strain. However, this gene cluster was absent in the strain 369 CBS 6938, which was shown not to accumulate this secondary metabolite, which has potential applications in cosmetics (Colabella et al., 2016). Genome mining also revealed an unexpected 370 371 diversity of catalases and the loss of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-sensitive superoxide dismutases in P. rhodozyma. Altogether, the *P. rhodozyma* genome is enriched in antioxidant mechanisms, in particular those most 372 373 effective at coping with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, suggesting that the environmental interaction with this reactive species has definitely contributed to shaping the peculiar genome of *P. rhodozyma*. 374

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### **5.** Yeast biotechnology gets wild with genomics

The identification of new yeast strains and novel species could offer valuable innovative opportunities for applied research by taking advantage of traits found by bioprospecting in extreme environments (Pretscher *et al.*, 2018, Cubillos *et al.*, 2019). Newly isolated yeasts are expanding the repertoire of phenotypic diversity, and therefore, the current known variation in physiological and metabolic traits. These yeasts from extreme environments are of considerable interest in biotechnology, owing to diverse advantages, such as: rapid growth rates at extreme temperatures (Choi *et al.*, 2017,

Yuivar et al., 2017, Cai et al., 2019), extraordinary capacity of fermentation in large-scale cultures 383 384 (Choi et al., 2017, Krogerus et al., 2017), and the production of cold-active hydrolytic enzymes (such as lipases, proteases, cellulases, and amylases) (Martorell et al., 2019). For example, the cryotolerant 385 yeast S. eubayanus exhibits a wide set of relevant traits appropriate for brewing, comprising efficient 386 biomass production at low temperature and production of high levels of esters and preferred aroma 387 compounds in beer (Libkind et al., 2011, Hebly et al., 2015, Mertens et al., 2015, Alonso-Del-Real et 388 389 al., 2017, Gibson et al., 2017, Krogerus et al., 2017). Similarly, the Antarctic yeast Wickerhamomyces anomalus has been indicated as a high producer and secretor of glucose oxidases, invertases, and 390 391 alkaline phosphatases enzymes at lower temperatures, decreasing the temperature requirement for their production (Schlander et al., 2017, Yuivar et al., 2017). In this context, the availability of new yeasts 392 393 as biological and genetic resources from the wild immediately opens new avenues, not only for their direct utilization in industrial processes, but also to gather and obtain new genomic data so that their 394 395 genes can be integrated into complex industrial systems already in use. However, the use and manipulation of these genetic resources are restricted by the limited knowledge in terms of the 396 397 molecular basis underlying metabolic traits of industrial interest. Mining this genomic and phenotypic diversity provides a great opportunity to pinpoint unique pathways of biotechnological importance, 398 399 which can then be exported to other systems or improved within the same genetic backgrounds. Recent advances in bioinformatics, quantitative genetics, systems biology, and integrative biology, together 400 401 with the large number of new genome sequencing projects are providing the means to address these challenges (Liti, 2015, Peter et al., 2018, Viigand et al., 2018, Cai et al., 2019, Langdon et al., 2019a, 402 Nespolo et al., 2019). Thus, leveraging wild yeast genomes, together with other "multi-omic" 403 approaches can generate possible targets for biotechnological applications. 404

405 Genomics can support predicting biochemical traits in organisms with biotechnological potential, where the combination of comparative genomic and physiological studies can allow key genomic 406 407 features to be inferred in non-conventional organisms (Riley et al., 2016). Furthermore, efforts to 408 unravel the complexity of yeast genomes have proven successful in providing genome-scale models that can determine their potential metabolic profiles (Loira et al., 2012, Lopes & Rocha, 2017). These 409 410 models can be applied to new yeast genomes to predict an organism's chemical repertoire by reconstructing metabolic pathways and elucidating their biotechnological potential (Wang et al., 2017). 411 412 Thus far, these approaches have been successfully applied to a subset of strains in model yeasts, such as Yarrowia lipolytica (Loira et al., 2012), S. cerevisiae (Heavner & Price, 2015, Mülleder et al., 2016), 413

and *Komagataella phaffii* (formerly known as *Pichia pastoris*) (Saitua *et al.*, 2017). Their utilization
in novel organisms is still in its infancy, but the integration of transcriptional regulatory networks and
metabolic networks could guide novel metabolic engineering applications (Shen *et al.*, 2019) to convert
new yeasts (strains or species) into potential resources for the production of biofuels and biochemicals.

418 Biotechnological applications in non-conventional organisms are poised to be enhanced by recent advances in genome-editing techniques, such as CRISPR-Cas9 (Donohoue et al., 2018). The utilization 419 420 of CRISPR-Cas9 requires whole genome sequences so that gRNAs can be designed to specifically target genes of interest. This system is highly effective in S. cerevisiae and other Saccharomyces 421 422 species, mostly due to their efficient homology-directed DNA repair machinery (Akhmetov et al., 2018, Kuang et al., 2018, Mertens et al., 2019). For example, novel S. eubayanus strains recently 423 424 isolated from Patagonia (Rodriguez et al., 2014) were successfully engineered for the lower production 425 of phenolic off-flavors (Mertens et al., 2019). Interestingly, high success rates have also been reported 426 in other non-conventional yeasts, demonstrating the large spectrum of genomes that can be modified 427 using the CRISPR-Cas9 system (Wang et al., 2017, Juergens et al., 2018, Kuang et al., 2018, Cai et 428 al., 2019, Lombardi et al., 2019, Maroc & Fairhead, 2019). For example, CRISPR-Cas9-assisted 429 multiplex genome editing (CMGE) in the thermotolerant methylotrophic yeast Ogataea polymorpha 430 allowed for the introduction of all the genes necessary for the biosynthesis of resveratrol, along with the biosynthesis of human serum albumin and cadaverine (Wang et al., 2017). The seemingly universal 431 432 capacity of the CRISPR-Cas9 genome-editing technique means that many, if not all, yeasts will 433 ultimately be susceptible to be modified using this system. Thus, even newly isolated yeasts and novel species could be used as microbial cell factories, allowing the spectrum of applications and products 434 435 to be expanded.

436

### 437 **6.** Conclusions

The power of genomics in the study of yeast biology, evolution, and biotechnology is highly dependent on the number of genome sequences available, and this factor is currently the main limitation for comprehensive studies. So far, studies have focused mostly on model species or taxa of specific fundamental or applied interest, mainly for ascomycetous yeasts. In contrast, few projects have dealt with basidiomycetous yeast genomes, many of which also likely harbor interesting characteristics. The description of novel species based on complete genome sequences is still not a trend among yeast

taxonomists, probably due in part to cost and due in part to the lack of general guidelines for this 444 445 practice. A review included in this issue represents the first attempt to establish minimal advice for 446 taxonomic descriptions using whole genome sequence data for the formal descriptions of novel yeast species (Libkind et al., submitted to this issue). As this practice becomes more widespread and the 447 genomic database for non-conventional yeasts grows, our ability to answer different biological 448 questions about their history, ecological adaptations, and dynamics will increase. Even so, new 449 bioinformatic tools that are more user-friendly and automatable will make the power of genomics more 450 accessible to researchers without bioinformatic training. On the technological side, the gradual increase 451 452 in the use of long-read sequencing technologies will enable the exploration of complete or near-453 complete genome assemblies, including repeats and telomeres, of non-conventional yeasts.

454 Here we provided clear examples of how our understanding of many biological and evolutionary 455 processes has been improved by widening the spectrum of yeasts studied, especially by including non-456 conventional yeasts from the wild. Emblematic cases from the anthropogenically-affected genus Saccharomyces were addressed as an example of how genomics helped to cast light into complex 457 458 microbial domestication processes and to detect genomic signatures of pathogenicity and domestication. This insight would not have been possible if large genomic datasets from wild isolates 459 460 of S. cerevisiae were not available. Similarly, the previously missing wild ancestor of lager-brewing veasts would have not been found if yeast explorations into pristine and remote environments had not 461 462 been carried out. Studies in the less known genus Hanseniaspora, including both domesticated and wild strains, revealed unexpected evolutionary histories, with surprising and interesting modes of 463 464 genome evolution. The basidiomycetous yeast *Phaffia rhodozyma* provided an illustrative example of the unique genomic traits that can be found within this understudied phylum. In the future, the large 465 466 number of new yeast genomes, along with transcriptomic, proteomic, and other multi-omic studies, 467 will rapidly improve our understanding of non-conventional and indeed all organisms at the systems level. 468

469

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