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3 **Morphological and physiological changes in *Streptomyces lividans* induced**  
4 **by different yeasts.**

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6 **Key words:** *Streptomyces*, yeast, invertase, glucose, fructose, differentiation

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1 **Summary**

2 *Streptomyces* development is a complex process that eventually finishes with the  
3 formation of individual unigenomic spores from the aerial hyphae. Intraspecific and  
4 interspecific signals must play a key role in triggering or blocking this process. Here  
5 we show that interaction between two types of microorganisms, *Streptomyces* and  
6 yeasts, leads to alteration of the *Streptomyces* developmental programme. This  
7 alteration is due to the action of invertase produced by the yeast on the sucrose  
8 present in the culture media, making glucose and fructose readily available for  
9 growth.

10

## 1 **Introduction**

2 Streptomyces have a complex life cycle in which spore germination leads to the  
3 development of a branching vegetative mycelium out of which aerial hyphal  
4 branches grow. This process ends with the formation of equidistant sporulation  
5 crosswalls that finally generate unigenomic differentiated spores (Chater 1998). This  
6 program involves the exchange of several different intercellular signalling molecules,  
7 making it a function of the entire interactive population of hyphal branches and  
8 compartments.

9 Intercellular communication among bacteria has been widely described (Kaiser and  
10 Losick 1993; Wirth et al. 1996; Gray 1997) and several kinds of molecules have  
11 been implicated (reviewed in Shapiro 1998). The homoserine lactones are the most  
12 common in Gram-negative species, (Kaiser and Losick 1993; Wirth et al. 1996; Gray  
13 1997) and the  $\gamma$ -butyrolactones in *Streptomyces* (Beppu 1995). Other types of  
14 signals include oligopeptides (Klerebezem et al. 1997) amino acids, and proteins  
15 (Kim et al. 1992; Kaplan and Plamann 1996; Shimkets and Dworkin 1997).

16 Due to the natural soil-dwelling habits of *Streptomyces* species, interactions with the  
17 environment and other organisms are likely to influence the specific developmental  
18 pathways of these bacteria. This is obvious even in a simplified ecosystem such as a  
19 contaminated Petri dish in the laboratory, where *Streptomyces* colonies often  
20 change their morphology as a response to the contaminant. Thus, during the  
21 comparatively long periods (up to two weeks) needed for mature colonies to form on  
22 Petri dishes, it is not uncommon to find the plates contaminated with other  
23 microorganisms, such as filamentous fungi, yeast or unicellular bacteria. In these  
24 circumstances, the *Streptomyces* colonies may overproduce pigments, antibiotics

1 and chemical signals and show changes in their growth patterns, even leading to  
2 obvious changes in the development of aerial mycelium.  
3 In this work we describe the effect that several yeasts have on *Streptomyces*  
4 differentiation on solid medium, and demonstrate that the enzyme invertase,  
5 produced by different microorganisms, can trigger this change in morphology.  
6

## 1 **Materials and Methods**

2 **Microorganisms used.** *Streptomyces lividans* 66 was used in most of the  
3 experiments. Other *Streptomyces* strains used are referred to in the legend of Fig. 1.  
4 Most of these strains were obtained from the John Innes Centre. The yeast strain  
5 routinely used was *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* W303 or its derivatives. Other strains  
6 were: *Candida albicans* CA14, *Hansenula polymorpha* NCYC495, *Kluyveromyces*  
7 *lactis* 2359/152, *Pichia anomala* ATCC 8168, *Pichia angusta* ATCC 14755,  
8 *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* 972, *Schwanniomyces occidentalis* ATCC 26077,  
9 and *Yarrowia lipolytica* W29.

10 **Media and culture conditions.** *Streptomyces* spores were obtained on R2YE or  
11 SFM agar plates (Hopwood et al. 1985; van Wezel et al. 1997). R2YE was normally  
12 used to detect the biological effect on solid medium. CuSO<sub>4</sub> (10 μM) was added to  
13 increase sporulation (Keijser et al. 2000). R2YE without sucrose was also used in  
14 some experiments.

15 Co-cultures of *Streptomyces* and different yeast strains were carried out on R2YE;  
16 *Streptomyces* strains were inoculated as a lawn using a spore suspension  
17 (approximately 10<sup>7</sup> spores/plate) and the yeasts were inoculated by stabbing with a  
18 toothpick. The plates were incubated at 28°C and observed every 24h.

19 The biological activity present in the supernatant of yeast cultures was evaluated in a  
20 similar way. Different yeast strains were grown in liquid YEPD (Rose et al. 1990) on  
21 a rotary shaker at 28°C and 200 rpm from 4 to 8 days. The cells were harvested by  
22 centrifugation and the supernatant was sterilised by filtration through a Millex-GP  
23 0.22 μm filter. Different quantities of the filtered supernatant were tested in wells on

1 R2YE plates inoculated with a lawn of *S. lividans* 66. Manipulation of  
2 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* utilized protocols described in Rose et al. (1990).  
3 Liquid cultures were made up in three-baffled flasks with 1/10 volume of medium; YE  
4 (1% Yeast extract, 5 mM of MgCl<sub>2</sub>, pH 7) supplemented with 10,3% sucrose (Ruiz-  
5 Arribas et al. 1995). Growth was carried out at 28°C and 200 rpm in an orbital  
6 shaker (Adolf Kühner AG, Birsfelden, Switzerland) for as long as required for each  
7 assay.

8 **Protein purification.** For effector purification, four two-litre flasks containing 500 ml  
9 of YEPD each were inoculated with *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* W303 and incubated  
10 on a rotary shaker at 28°C for 7 days. The supernatant was concentrated 100 times  
11 in an Amicon cell equipped with a YM100 membrane and diafiltered with 20 mM  
12 Tris-HCl, pH 7,9. The concentrated sample and fractions of the different columns  
13 were tested for biological activity against *S. lividans* as described above.

14 Chromatographic procedures were carried out with a Fast Performance Liquid  
15 Chromatography system (FPLC, Pharmacia Fine Chemicals). Absorbance at 280 nm  
16 and 205 nm was monitored with a Waters 690 multiwavelength detector coupled via  
17 a System Interface Module (SIM) to a computer running the Maxima 820 software  
18 (Waters).

19 The sample was loaded on a MonoQ (HR 5/5 anion exchange) column (Pharmacia  
20 Fine Chemicals) equilibrated with the same buffer. Fractions from the anionic  
21 exchange column showing biological activity were pooled, diafiltered with PBS (137  
22 mM NaCl, 27 mM KCl, 8 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 1,5 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> pH 7.2) and concentrated  
23 approximately 6-fold by an Amicon C-30 (YM-30), and rendered 1.7 M ammonium  
24 sulfate (final concentration) prior to loading on a Phenyl-Superose column (HR 5/5

1 hydrophobic interaction column; Pharmacia Fine Chemicals). The active fractions  
2 were pooled and concentrated 15-fold by an Amicon C-30. Aliquots of 200  $\mu$ l were  
3 loaded onto a Superdex-200 column (HR 10/30 gel filtration column; Pharmacia Fine  
4 Chemicals) that had been equilibrated in PBS, pH 6.8. The active fractions were  
5 concentrated by Amicon C-30 and re-chromatographed in the same column under  
6 the same conditions to give homogeneous preparations of a single protein. Protein  
7 contents were estimated by spectrophotometry at 280, 260 and 205 nm. The amino-  
8 terminal end was determined in an Applied Biosystems Protein Sequenator .

9         SDS-PAGE was carried out as described by Laemmli (1970) and the gels  
10 were calibrated with broad range of SDS-PAGE standards (Life Technologies).

11 **Photography.** Photographs of plates were taken by direct scanning with a Snap  
12 Scan 1236 (Agfa) equipped with a transparency option. A Stemi 11 Zeis  
13 stereomicroscope was used to obtain photographs of part of the plates.

14

## 1 RESULTS

### 2 ***Streptomyces* detects its neighbours**

3 This work started with the occurrence of a pink, yeast-like colony, at the edge of an  
4 R2YE agar plate inoculated with a lawn of *S. lividans* 66. The yeast was surrounded  
5 by a zone of growth inhibition (about 1.5 cm in diameter) of *S. lividans* aerial  
6 mycelium and sporulation (**FIG. 1A**). Blockage of aerial mycelium and sporulation  
7 did not seem to kill the substrate mycelium in the inhibition zone since samples  
8 taken from this area produced abundant normal growth and differentiated when  
9 inoculated into fresh R2YE plates. At the boundary the bald area, with the normally  
10 sporulated part of the lawn, an overgrowth of white-pink aerial mycelium was formed,  
11 sometimes decorated with droplets of liquid (**FIG. 1B**). Isolation and microscopic  
12 examination indicated that the contamination was an undefined species of yeast. A  
13 similar effect was also produced by 100  $\mu$ l of filtered supernatant from a four-day old  
14 submerged YEPD culture of this yeast deposited in a well. The substance was  
15 retained in a Centricon apparatus equipped with a 100-kDa cut-off cellulose filter  
16 (Amicon, YM-100), pointing to a high molecular mass, and was inactivated by boiling  
17 the supernatant for 15 min. indicating a proteinaceous nature (data not shown). We  
18 named this active supernatant "the effector".

19

### 20 **Other yeasts induce a similar effect**

21 Nine laboratory yeast strains of different species were stabbed into an R2YE plate  
22 inoculated with a lawn of *S. lividans* 66, and incubated at 28°C. Substrate mycelium  
23 grew normally all over the plate, regardless of the presence of the faster growing  
24 yeast colonies. After 6 days, halos of inhibition of aerial mycelium formation and

1 sporulation were observed around some, but not all, of the yeast colonies checked.  
2 *Kluyveromyces lactis* 2359/152 caused the strongest effect, while *Pichia anomala*  
3 ATCC 8168, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* W303 and *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*  
4 972 produced an inhibition zone similar to that caused by the original yeast  
5 contaminant. *Candida albicans* CA14, *Hansenula polymorpha* NCYC 495, *Pichia*  
6 *angusta* ATCC 14755, *Schwanniomyces occidentalis* ATCC 26077 and *Yarrowia*  
7 *lipolytica* W 29 did not cause any effect (**FIG. 1C**).

8 Fractionation experiments with *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Schizosaccharomyces*  
9 *pombe* and *Kluyveromyces lactis* cultures grown for four days in liquid YEPD  
10 showed that the release of the effector was slightly different in these three yeasts.  
11 While in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* most of the effector was released to the culture  
12 supernatant, in *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* most of the effector was in the cell  
13 extract, and in *Kluyveromyces lactis* the effector was more abundant in the  
14 supernatant but was also clearly present in the cell extracts (data not shown). Again,  
15 *Kluyveromyces lactis* was the most active, and hence 10  $\mu$ l of 4-day culture  
16 supernatant was sufficient to induce the phenotype while 100  $\mu$ l and 150  $\mu$ l were  
17 necessary for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and for *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*  
18 respectively.

19 Although *Kluyveromyces lactis* produced more effector than *Saccharomyces*  
20 *cerevisiae* this last microorganism was used in the following experiments because its  
21 genome sequence was available.

22

23 **Other *Streptomyces* species are also sensitive to the effector**

1 All the experiments described above were done with *S. lividans* 66 as indicator  
2 strain. Other *Streptomyces* species were also tested for their sensitivity to the yeast  
3 effector. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* and  
4 *Kluyveromyces lactis* were stabbed into lawns of twelve different *Streptomyces*  
5 species on R2YE plates, and incubated at 28°C. The growth and differentiation  
6 responses were monitored every 24 h and finally recorded after 8 days, to allow for  
7 all the strains to develop completely. Not all the species showed the same sensitivity  
8 to the yeast. The most sensitive strains were *S. lividans* 66 and *S. griseus* IMRU  
9 3570. Some other species, such as *S. badius* ATCC 39117, *S. coelicolor* A3(2), *S.*  
10 *flavogriseus* ATCC 33331, *S. halstedii* JM8 CECT 3310, *S. olivaceus* SC 3107, *S.*  
11 *parvulus* JI 2283 and *S. rochei* ATCC 10739, displayed halos of different sizes, and  
12 normally *Kluyveromyces lactis* was the most active yeast. Other species such as *S.*  
13 *albus* J1074, *S. vinaceus* JI 2838, and *S. viridochromogenes* ATCC 14920 did not  
14 show evident inhibition halos (**FIG. 1D**). We concluded that sensitivity to yeast-  
15 induced developmental alteration is widespread among streptomycetes although its  
16 intensity is species dependent.

17

#### 18 **Time of addition of the effector.**

19 So far, all our studies had been done with simultaneous inoculation of the yeast (or  
20 fractions) and the *Streptomyces* spores. To test whether the inhibitory effect  
21 depended on the time of addition of the effector, filter-sterilised supernatant (50 and  
22 100  $\mu$ l) of a four-day old *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* culture in YEPD broth was  
23 added at 24-h intervals (0, 24, 48, 72, and 96 h) to R2YE agar plates previously  
24 inoculated with *S. lividans* at time zero. The plates were incubated for up to ten days

1 at 28°C. The inhibitory effect was identical to that previously observed when the  
2 effector was added at 0 and 24 h, and decreased in intensity thereafter (particularly  
3 for the 50  $\mu$ l sample). At 72 and 96 h, only the 100- $\mu$ l sample caused a small halo of  
4 delayed sporulation, observed as a small white zone of aerial mycelium around the  
5 application point (**FIG. 2**). Apart from the dose-dependent effect, this experiment  
6 indicated that the sensitivity of the *Streptomyces* cells to the effector decreased as  
7 the developmental programme progressed (the aerial mycelium formation begins  
8 about 65 h), perhaps due to the different physiological conditions at each time point  
9 or to the formation of a permeability barrier.

#### 10 **Invertase is the effector.**

11 In order to purify the effector, the dialysed and concentrated supernatant of  
12 *S.cerevisiae* possessing the ability to inhibit the formation of *Streptomyces* aerial  
13 mycelium was chromatographed as indicated in Materials and Methods. After three  
14 chromatographic steps, 160  $\mu$ g of a pure protein was obtained. The amino-terminal  
15 end, xMTxETSDxPLVxFT (where x is an unidentified amino acid), was determined  
16 and compared against the protein databases. The invertase from *Saccharomyces*  
17 *cerevisiae* presented the highest identity. Enzymatic invertase activity was detected  
18 in the purified protein while no other activities, such as glucanase, protease or  
19 chitinase, were detected (data not shown).

20 That invertase activity was responsible for the observed effect was also  
21 demonstrated by using two commercial purified invertases from Sigma (I-9274, from  
22 baker's yeast and I-4753, from *Candida utilis*). One microgram of both invertases  
23 deposited in a well of a R2YE plate inoculated with a lawn of *S. lividans*, caused a  
24 halo of aerial mycelium inhibition (data not shown).

1 Additional genetic evidence was obtained when a *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* wild-  
2 type strain (X2180-1A) and a Suc2 deletion mutant (SEY2101) (Emr et al. 1983)  
3 were stabbed into an R2YE plate inoculated with a lawn of *S. lividans*. After 7 days  
4 at 28°C, the inhibition halo was clear around X2180-1A (the wild-type strain) but was  
5 absent around the SEY2101 (Suc2 mutant) colony (**Fig. 3**). Identical results were  
6 obtained when *Kluyveromyces lactis* JA6 (wild-type) and the invertase-negative  
7 mutant Y165 (Georis et al. 1999) were used (data not shown) .  
8 The introduction of pRB58, a 2  $\mu$ m plasmid derivative overexpressing the SUC2  
9 gene from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Carlson and Botstein 1982), into strain  
10 SEY2101 restored effector production and curing of the plasmid rendered colonies  
11 unable to display any inhibitory effect on *Streptomyces* (**Fig. 3**). These results clearly  
12 demonstrated that invertase was involved in the observed phenotype.

13

#### 14 **How does invertase produce its effect?**

15 Since the morphological effect exerted by invertase was only observed on  
16 conventional R2YE and not when sucrose (10.3%) was excluded, we decided to test  
17 whether the products generated by this enzyme would induce the same phenotype.  
18 Forty millilitres of 10.3% sucrose were treated with 40  $\mu$ g commercial invertase  
19 (Sigma I-9274)/ml for 24 h at 30°C. The sample was filtered through a Centricon  
20 plus-20 cartridge equipped with a cellulose membrane with a 30 kDa cut-off. The  
21 eluate was free of residual invertase activity and no biological activity (assayed on  
22 plates inoculated with *S. lividans*) was detected, even when more than 2 ml were  
23 deposited in the well. However, when this hydrolysate was used to replace the  
24 sucrose in the R2YE, inhibition of differentiation was observed.

1 Considering that R2YE medium was originally designed for protoplast regeneration  
2 by the inclusion of 10.3% sucrose for osmotic stabilization (Okanishi et al. 1974)  
3 and that total enzymatic hydrolysis would generate equimolar amounts of glucose  
4 and fructose, we prepared R2YE without sucrose but containing 5.15% of glucose  
5 and/or 5.15% of fructose. *S. lividans* 66 inoculated on these plates was unable to  
6 differentiate when both sugars were present and differentiated only partially in  
7 plates containing this concentration of just one of the sugars (**Fig. 4A**). However,  
8 higher concentrations of glucose or fructose alone were also able to inhibit  
9 differentiation.

10 Although no morphological changes (differentiation) has been observed in this strain  
11 on liquid media, we decided to study whether the conditions described above had  
12 any effect on the normal mycelial growth of this strain. This study was accomplished  
13 using 100-ml baffled flasks containing 10 ml of YE liquid medium supplemented with  
14 10.3% sucrose and inoculated with *S. lividans* spores ( $10^7$ ). Several amounts of  
15 pure invertase were added and the cultures incubated at 28°C in a shaker. A  
16 sample of each flask was observed under light microscopy every 24 h. The mycelial  
17 morphology was identical during the first 48 h but after 3 days the cultures that had  
18  $\mu\text{g}$  of pure invertase/ml appeared as fragmented, irregular and thicker mycelium.  
19 The change in morphology was more dramatic on ensuing days; thus, after 5-7 days  
20 these cultures had a morphology similar to unicellular bacteria **Fig. 4B**. A similar  
21 result was obtained in cultures in which the sucrose had been replaced by 5.15%  
22 glucose and 5.15% fructose and not invertase was added. When only 5.15% of one  
23 of the sugars was present, the culture appeared as small pellets containing short  
24 fragments of mycelium but no unicellular structures were observed at all **Fig. 4B**.

1 Again, higher concentrations of glucose, 8-10%, mimicked the effect of both sugars  
2 and resulted in mycelium with a fragmented aspect.

3 The main proof that invertase exerts its effect through glucose and fructose was  
4 obtained when *S. lividans* G015, a glucokinase (*glkA*) mutant, was used as the test  
5 strain. Metabolism, but not transport of glucose is blocked in this strain (Saito et al.  
6 1998). Glucose kinase plays an essential role in the glucose repression of genes  
7 required for arabinose and glycerol transport and of genes required for the  
8 metabolism of galactose, fructose and glycerol in *S. coelicolor* (Hodgson 1982; Seno  
9 and Chater 1983). *S. lividans* G015 differentiated normally on plates of R2YE on  
10 which the sucrose had been hydrolysed with invertase or in plates of R2YE without  
11 sucrose containing 5.15% of glucose and/or 5.15% of fructose (**Fig. 4C**). Morphology  
12 was also observed on liquid media (YES) supplemented with 1  $\mu$ g invertase/ml and on  
13 YE supplemented with 5.15% glucose or/and 5.15% fructose. The effect observed  
14 was very weak when compared with the fragmentation observed in the wild type  
15 strain (**Fig. 4D**).

16

## 1 **Discussion**

2 Complex morphological development such as that occurring in *Streptomyces*  
3 involves intricate pathways where intracellular and extracellular signals are  
4 perceived by regulatory systems that repress or trigger the process. Among the  
5 effectors of these pathways, sugars act not only as nutrients but also as important  
6 regulators of gene expression. Growth in poor carbon sources, such as mannitol,  
7 rescues the developmental defects in some *Streptomyces* "bald", *bld*, mutants  
8 (Chater 1984). In this paper we show that interaction between two microorganisms  
9 (*Streptomyces* and yeast) in a simple ecosystem (a plate of R2YE medium) leads to  
10 an alteration in the developmental programme of one of them: i.e., *Streptomyces*.  
11 This alteration is not the consequence of antibiosis, pheromone production, or  
12 competition for resources, but rather of an alteration in the availability of a carbon  
13 source, glucose and fructose, in this case, through the action of the invertase  
14 produced by the yeast. We have since isolated a bacterium (presumed to be a  
15 *Bacillus* sp.) that is able to induce the same effect by the action of the same enzyme:  
16 invertase. This supports the idea that the interaction described here is quite common  
17 for *Streptomyces* and other microorganisms, and different from cases where co-  
18 habitation can actually accelerate the sporulation process. Along the same line,  
19 nutrient levels are thought to affect colony morphology in *Bacillus* (Kawasaki et al.  
20 1997). Morphological changes and the induction of pigment production have been  
21 described in *Monascus* when co-cultivated with *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* or with  
22 *Aspergillus oryzae*. The effector in that case was a chitinase produced by  
23 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, that caused a partial hydrolysis of the *Monascus* cell  
24 wall (Shin et al. 1998).

1 In our experimental system, glucose and fructose are the final effectors, causing  
2 developmental blockage in *Streptomyces lividans*. The inhibition of *Streptomyces*  
3 differentiation by glucose has been previously described by several authors  
4 (Redshaw et al. 1976; Surowitz and Pfister 1985; Ueda et al. 1999; Umeyama et al.  
5 1999). In *S. alboniger*, this glucose excess elicits an uncoupling between glycolysis  
6 and the TCA cycle and originates the excretion of pyruvate and acidification of the  
7 media (Surowitz and Pfister 1985) that may prevent differentiation. In *S. coelicolor*  
8 grown on unbuffered glucose based minimal media cAMP was required to avoid a  
9 developmental block caused by acid toxicity (Süsstrunk et al. 1998). We have  
10 observed that, on solid media, the inhibition area has pH5-6 and similar pH values  
11 were obtained in the fragmented submerged liquid cultures, while the pH on the  
12 controls was about 7. These results suggest that acidosis could be implicated in this  
13 process, but we have not followed this further. On other set of experiments, the  
14 glucose kinase mutant *S. lividans* G015 is resistant to the inhibitory effect, which  
15 argues again in favour of glucose and fructose or its metabolic derivatives as being  
16 responsible for blocking differentiation. Although glucose kinase mutants are able  
17 to transport glucose into the cells, they are unable to use it as a carbon source and  
18 are relieved from catabolite repression. Kelemen et al. (1995) reported that deletion  
19 of DNA lying close to, but distinct from *glkA*, induced ectopic sporulation in *S.*  
20 *coelicolor*, but no such a deletion has been reported to occur in the *S. lividans* G015  
21 mutant. An alternative explanation -the osmotic effect of a high glucose  
22 concentration- could also be ruled out since, again, the glucose kinase mutant  
23 subjected to the same osmotic stress was still able to differentiate. Thus, either  
24 glucose derivatives produced through the action of GlkA, or GlkA itself due to its

1 suggested direct regulatory intervention in catabolite repression, must be considered  
2 as being responsible for the observed effect. Pope et al. (1996) and Viollier et al  
3 (2001) suggested that some *bld* genes play a key role in the generation or detection  
4 of signals required to evaluate the nutritional environment of the colony.

5 Several promoters have been described as targets for carbon regulation, most of  
6 them related to polysaccharide-hydrolase genes but, as far as we know, no  
7 development-associated promoters have been identified as direct targets for  
8 catabolite repression. It would be interesting to study which of the *bld* and *whi* genes  
9 are expressed or repressed in the presence of glucose and the phenotype of strains  
10 carrying both the *glkA* and the different *bld* and *whi* mutations.

11 Another possibility is that sucrose itself may have some effect on differentiation in  
12 *Streptomyces*. Most *Streptomyces* strains are unable to use sucrose as a carbon  
13 source, due to the lack of invertase or sucrase activity that would cleave it into  
14 hexoses. However, glucose-induced of sucrose uptake and utilization has been  
15 described in *S. alboniger* (Surowitz and Pfister 1985). To our knowledge, no other  
16 reports of sucrose use have been published and, so far, no putative invertase genes  
17 have appeared in the *S. coelicolor* sequencing project. It could be speculated that if  
18 sucrose itself had a positive effect on sporulation, its breakdown would prevent that  
19 positive effect from being exerted. Corroborating this, we have observed a positive  
20 effect, in *S. lividans* sporulation, when sterile filtered sucrose is used to prepare  
21 R2YE instead of the normal recipe, where sucrose is autoclaved with most of the  
22 media components and can be partialy hydrolysed during the sterilisation process.

23 Sucrose and invertases play a key role in the differentiation of plants, where they  
24 have different functions depending on the type of invertase and its location (Sturm

1 1999). The sugar concentration and/or the resulting changes in osmotic values  
2 maintain a certain state of differentiation or lead to changes in the developmental  
3 programme. Whereas a high hexose-to-sucrose ratio favours cell division, a low  
4 hexose-to-sucrose ratio favours differentiation. This would indicate that the ability to  
5 switch from the undifferentiated to the differentiated state is not only an intrinsic  
6 property of the cells but also a result of metabolic signals (Weber et al. 1997; Wobus  
7 and Weber 1999; Viollier et al. 2001). A positive correlation between increased acid  
8 invertase activity and the infection of plants by certain pathogens has also been  
9 reported (Sturm and Chrispeels 1990). Although the physiological significance of this  
10 response is not yet clear, it is possible that the hexoses released might be involved  
11 in stress signalling and/or might act as gene expression regulators for the pathogen.  
12 In *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, several glucose transporters have been described  
13 and two of them, Snf3p and Rgt2p, act as glucose sensors (Özcan et al. 1996). We  
14 used their sequences to search for the corresponding proteins in the *S. coelicolor*  
15 sequence database. Two proteins were identified that may have similar functions in  
16 *Streptomyces* and in a forthcoming work we intend to study their involvement in  
17 glucose sensing and the control of development in this organism.  
18

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20  
21

1 **Figure legends**

2

3 Fig. 1 A) Plate of R2YE showing the effect of yeast contamination (right side) on the  
4 differentiation of *Streptomyces lividans* 66. B) A closer view of the area indicated in  
5 Fig 1A. Droplets were sometimes visible in the transition region (TR) to the normally  
6 sporulated part. C) Plate of R2YE inoculated with a lawn of *S. lividans* 66 showing  
7 the effect of different yeasts. *Candida albicans* CA14; *H. polymorpha* NCYC 495;  
8 *Kluyveromyces lactis* 2359/152; *Pichia anomala* ATCC 8168; *Pichia angusta* ATCC  
9 14755; *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* W303; *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* 972;  
10 *Schwanniomyces occidentalis* ATCC 26077; *Yarrowia lipolytica* W29.  
11 D) Effect of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (1), *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* (2) and  
12 *Kluyveromyces lactis* (3) on the differentiation of several *Streptomyces* species. *S.*  
13 *lividans* 66; *S. albus* J1074; *S. badius* ATCC 39117; *S. coelicolor* A3(2); *S.*  
14 *flavogriseus* ATCC 33331; *S. griseus* ATCC 10137; *S. halstedii* JM8 CECT 3310; *S.*  
15 *olivaceus* SC3107; *S. parvulus* JI 2283; *S. rocheii* ATCC 10739; *S. vinaceus* JI 2838;  
16 *S. viridochromogenes* ATCC 14920.

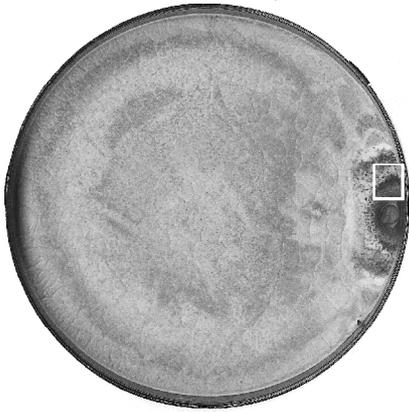
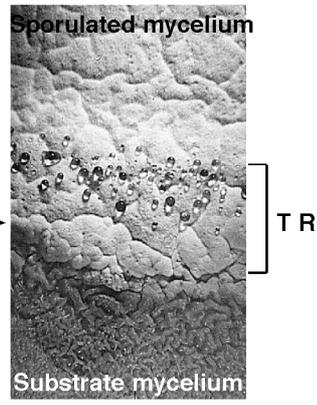
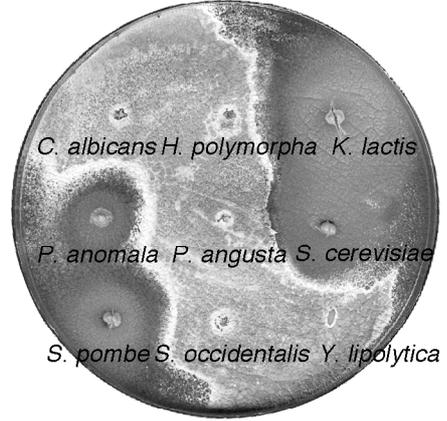
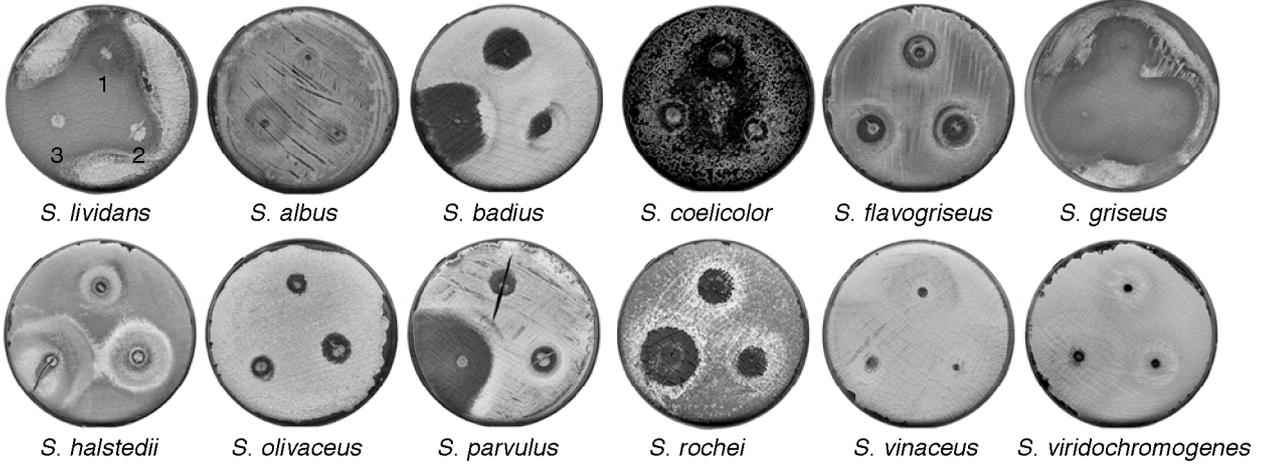
17

18 Fig. 2. Effect of the addition of 50  $\mu$ l (upper part) or 100  $\mu$ l (lower part) of  
19 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* supernatant on *S. lividans* 66 at the indicated time. 50 or  
20 100  $\mu$ l of water was added in the control (0h).

21

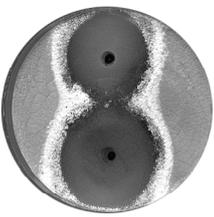
22 Fig. 3. Plate of R2YE inoculated with a lawn of *S. lividans* 66 showing the effect of  
23 different *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains. X2180-1A (wild type strain). SEY2101

1 (Suc2 mutant). SEY2101/ pRB58 (plasmid carrying SUC2 in multicopy). SEY2101/  
2 cured pRB58 (the plasmid pRB58 has been eliminated).  
3  
4 Fig. 4. A, C) *S. lividans* 66 (A) and *S. lividans* G015 (*glkA*) (C) inoculated on plates  
5 of R2YE with the following modifications: without sucrose (–Sucrose); Unmodified  
6 R2YE (Control); R2YE +10 $\mu$ g invertase/ml (+ Invertase); without sucrose containing  
7 5.15% glucose (–Sucrose + 5.15%G); without sucrose containing 5.15% fructose  
8 (–Sucrose + 5.15%F) or R2YE without sucrose containing 5.15% glucose and 5.15%  
9 fructose (–Sucrose + 5.15%G + 5.15% F). .  
10 B and D). *S. lividans* 66 (B) and *S. lividans* G015 (*glkA*) (D) cultures on YE liquid  
11 media with different modifications: YE with 10.3% sucrose (+ 10.3% suc); Effect of  
12 1  $\mu$ g/ml of invertase (+ 10.3% suc + invertase); YE with 5.15% glucose (+5.15% G);  
13 YE with 5.15% fructose (+5.15% F), or YE with 5.15% of both (+5.15% G+5.15%F).  
14 The cultures were observed after 3 (3d) and 5days (5d). B) *S. lividans* 66; D) *S.*  
15 *lividans* G015 (*glkA*).  
16

**A****B****C****D**



0h (control)



0 h



24 h



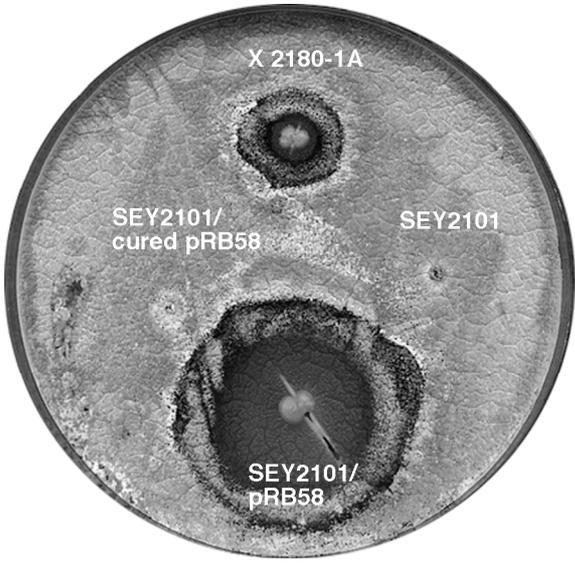
48 h



72 h



96 h

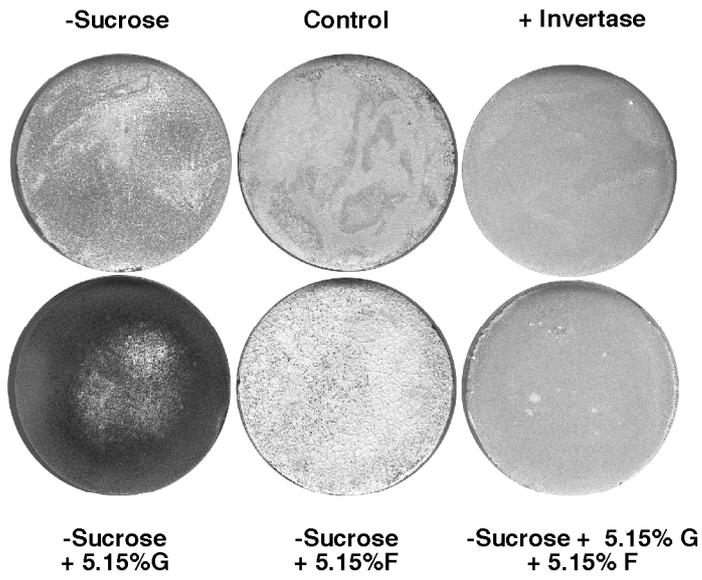
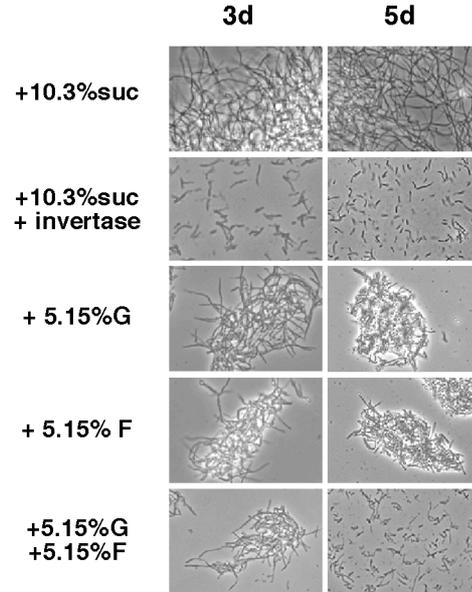
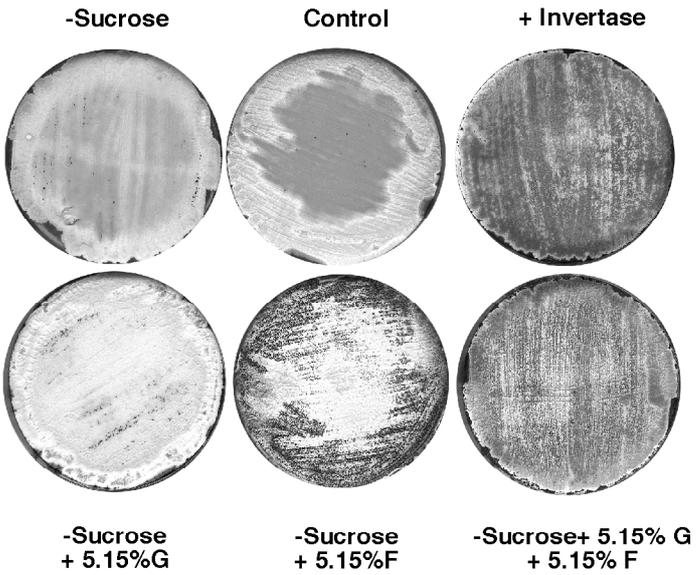


X 2180-1A

SEY2101/  
cured pRB58

SEY2101

SEY2101/  
pRB58

**A****B****C****D**