Transcriptional profiling of Zygosaccharomyces bailii early response to acetic acid or copper stress mediated by ZbHaa1

Miguel Antunes, Margarida Palma & Isabel Sá-Correia

The non-conventional yeast species Zygosaccharomyces bailii is remarkably tolerant to acetic acid, a highly important microbial inhibitory compound in Food Industry and Biotechnology. ZbHaa1 is the functional homologue of S. cerevisiae Haa1 and a bifunctional transcription factor able to modulate Z. bailii adaptive response to acetic acid and copper stress. In this study, RNA-Seq was used to investigate genomic transcription changes in Z. bailii during early response to sublethal concentrations of acetic acid (140 mM, pH 4.0) or copper (0.08 mM) and uncover the regulatory network activated by these stresses under ZbHaa1 control. Differentially expressed genes in response to acetic acid exposure (297) are mainly related with the tricarboxylic acid cycle, protein folding and stabilization and modulation of plasma membrane composition and cell wall architecture, 17 of which, directly or indirectly, ZbHaa1-dependent. Copper stress induced the differential expression of 190 genes mainly involved in the response to oxidative stress, 15 ZbHaa1-dependent. This study provides valuable mechanistic insights regarding Z. bailii adaptation to acetic acid or copper stress, as well as useful information on transcription regulatory networks in pre-whole genome duplication (WGD) (Z. bailii) and post-WGD (S. cerevisiae) yeast species, contributing to the understanding of transcriptional networks’ evolution in yeasts.

Zygosaccharomyces bailii is described as the most problematic food spoilage yeast due to its remarkable high tolerance to weak acids, namely acetic acid1. Compared to Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Z. bailii displays a three-fold higher tolerance to this acid2. This marked difference has brought much interest in uncovering the molecular mechanisms underlying Z. bailii tolerance to acetic acid stress, compared with the model yeast S. cerevisiae (a topic recently reviewed by Palma et al.3). A large part of what is currently known regarding the global molecular mechanisms underlying S. cerevisiae response and tolerance to sub-lethal or lethal concentrations of acetic acid comes from the consolidation and exploitation of diverse functional genomic approaches employed throughout the last two decades3. However, the utilization of this kind of approaches in a non-conventional yeast species such as Z. bailii is still scarce, partially due to the fact that only recently the annotated genome sequences of Z. bailii strains4,5 or Z. bailii-derived hybrid strains6,7 were released. This genomic data, not only provided new insights into the genetic and physiological traits of Z. bailii sensu lato clade, but also rendered available fundamental genomic information for the elucidation of tolerance mechanisms to acetic acid at a genome-wide scale5.

Different functional genomic-based approaches have been conducted to examine the biological processes involved in Z. bailii adaptation and tolerance to acetic and lactic acids, specifically, two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2DE)-based expression proteomics8,9, metabolomics10, plasma membrane lipiddomics11 and transcriptomics1. However, the genome-wide regulation of transcriptional alterations occurring in Z. bailii in response to acetic acid-induced stress is still unexplored. To date, only two transcription factors were demonstrated as being involved in Z. bailii tolerance to acetic acid, specifically, ZbMsn412, the single homologue of S. cerevisiae Msn4 and Msn2 general stress response activators13, and ZbHaa114, the homologue of S. cerevisiae transcription factor Haal, the master regulator required for the direct or indirect activation of 80% of the acetic acid-responsive genes in S. cerevisiae15-17. Haal was first identified as a Cup2 (alias Ace1) paralogue based on sequence homology to the Cu-activated DNA binding domain and N-terminal Zn module15. However, contrarily
to what the sequence homology to Cup2 would indicate, the function of Haa1 is not affected by the copper status of the cell\(^5\). Haa1-mediated transcriptional activation requires its interaction with the DNA binding sequence 5′-(G/C)(A/C)GG(G/C)G-3′, designated Haa1 responsive element (HRE), present in the promoter region of acetic-acid-responsive genes\(^7\). ZbHaa1 was found to be required for the adaptive response and tolerance to both acetic acid and copper stress by Z. bailii, activating the transcription of genes homologous to S. cerevisiae Haa1 and Cup2 targets, under acetic acid- or copper-induced stress, respectively\(^4\). Therefore, ZbHaa1 was proposed as a bifunctional transcription factor, assuming the functions of S. cerevisiae paralogues Haa1 and Cup2 originated after the whole genome duplication (WGD) event\(^4\).

The aim of the present study is to examine the alterations occurring in the transcriptome profile of Z. bailii IST302 cells during early response to acetic acid- or copper- induced stress mediated by ZbHaa1. The strain IST302 was used herein since its annotated genome was recently released, is haploid, and much more amenable to genetic manipulation and physiological studies than other studied strains\(^5\). This study allowed the identification of ZbHaa1-dependent regulons active during the early adaptive response to acetic acid- or copper- induced stress. It also provides useful information to allow the comparison of regulatory networks in a pre-WGD yeast species (Z. bailii) and a post-WGD species (S. cerevisiae) and to gain insights into the evolution of transcriptional networks in yeasts.

**Results**

**Effect of acetic acid or copper stress in the growth of Z. bailii IST302 and derived mutant with the ZbHAA1 gene deleted.** In order to evaluate the genome-wide transcriptional changes occurring during early response of Z. bailii IST302 and of the derived deletion mutant Zbhaa1Δ to acetic acid (140 mM, pH 4.0) or CuSO\(_4\) (hereafter designated as copper) (0.08 mM, pH 4.0) stress, unadapted exponentially growing cells of the two strains were inoculated under standardized conditions (Fig. 1a,b). After 1 hour of cultivation, acetic acid (Fig. 1c,d) or copper (Fig. 1e,f) were added to the culture medium and the cells collected after 1 hour of exposure to the respective stress. The effects of these stressing conditions in the growth curves of the strains under study were characterized in detail.

The latency periods for the two strains examined when exposed to acetic acid were very distinct, with the parental strain displaying a latency period of about 10 hours while the mutant Zbhaa1Δ showed a latency period of approximately 40 hours (Fig. 1c,d). During this period of adaptation, while the concentration of viable cells did not change significantly immediately after acetic acid supplementation of the parental strain culture medium (Fig. 1d), the mutant Zbhaa1Δ cell population gradually lost viability until growth resumption after 40 hours of cultivation with acetic acid (Fig. 1d). The differences observed in the more rapid resumption of the exponential growth under acetic acid stress in the parental strain is an indication that, as previously described for Haa1 in S. cerevisiae\(^6\), ZbHaa1 plays an essential role during the period of adaptation to this stress.

Upon exposure to copper stress, in both the parental and derived mutant strains, no apparent latency phase was observed based on culture optical density (Fig. 1e), but the maximum specific growth rate of both strains decreased. Furthermore, based on the growth curves assessed by the concentration of viable cells, a latency period was identified for the mutant strain after copper supplementation, characterized by the maintenance of the concentration of viable cells (Fig. 1f). It should be noted the aggregation of cells from both strains upon copper exposure was registered by microscopic observation and this factor might have interfered with the assessment of culture optical density and colony forming units (Supplementary Fig. S1). When cultivated in either minimal or rich media, Z. bailii IST302 does not form cellular aggregates as it was previously reported\(^1\). Nevertheless, the difference in the growth curves of both strains is remarkable and an indication that ZbHaa1 also plays an essential role in adaptation and tolerance to copper stress, as observed for acetic acid-induced stress and as previously reported\(^4\).

**Transcriptional profiling of the early response of Z. bailii IST302 to acetic acid- or copper-induced stress.** The analysis of the changes occurring in the transcriptome of the parental strain when exposed to acetic acid or copper stress, compared with the control condition, led to the identification of the differently expressed genes (DEGs), using as cut-off values a Fold change > 1.50 and an FDR < 0.05. The identified genes were submitted to a Gene Ontology (GO) term enrichment analysis by running a Fisher Exact Test with Blast2GO\(^9\).

For the concentration of acetic acid tested (140 mM at pH 4.0), 297 genes were found to exhibit significant changes in the transcription levels when compared to the unstressed condition. From these genes, 66 were found to have increased mRNA levels (presumably upregulated) while 231 genes were identified as exhibiting lower mRNA levels (presumably downregulated) than the unstressed cells (Supplementary Tables S1 and S2). Regarding the parental strain, during the early adaptive response to copper stress (0.08 mM), 190 genes were identified as producing different mRNA levels when compared to the control condition. Among these, 121 genes were found to be upregulated while 69 genes were downregulated (Supplementary Tables S3 and S4).

The most prominent enriched GO terms associated with the upregulated genes during Z. bailii exposure to acetic acid stress included the “Aerobic respiration” term, which includes genes related to the “Tricarboxylic acid cycle” (homologous to S. cerevisiae ACO1, CIT1, LAT1, MDH1, SDH2 and SHH3); “Protein unfolding” (includes genes homologues of S. cerevisiae HSP26, HSP42, HSP78, HSP104 and SSA3); and “Cell wall” (includes genes homologues of S. cerevisiae ECM33 and HSP150) (Fig. 2a).

The GO term enrichment analysis regarding the downregulated genes during Z. bailii IST302 exposure to acetic acid stress revealed that the highest number of genes are associated with sequence-specific DNA binding, having several genes in common with the “DNA binding transcription factor activity” term, and including 15 transcription factors (homologous to S. cerevisiae ADR1, CAT8, CST6, GAT1, GMS1, MET32, MIG2, NDT80, NRG2, ROX1, SFL1, SOK2, YMR1, and ZAP1) (Fig. 2b). Other prominent enriched GO terms comprise plasma
and mitochondrial membrane components, for example, the GO terms “Monocarboxylic acid transmembrane transporter activity” (includes homologues of *S. cerevisiae* CRC1, MCH4 and YHL008C) and “Amino acid transmembrane transporter activity” (includes homologues of *S. cerevisiae* BAP3, CAN1, GAP1 and OPT1).

The GO term associated with the highest number of genes found to be upregulated during *Z. bailii* IST302 exposure to copper stress is “Oxidation-reduction process”. Among the 33 genes related with this GO term, are the homologues of *S. cerevisiae* genes involved in processes such as the detoxification of oxygen radicals (GRX2, HMX1, SOD1, TRX3 and TSA1), the transport of heavy metals (FET3 and FRE3), and alcoholic fermentation enzymes (ADH1 and ADH3). Furthermore, the GO term corresponding to “Proteasome-mediated ubiquitin-dependent protein catabolic process” was associated with 18 genes, most of them also associated with the ‘Regulation of mitotic cycle term’. Among these, genes homologous to *S. cerevisiae* genes coding for subunits of the 20S proteasome (PRE2–10, PUP1–3, and SCL1) were identified which suggests degradation of proteins resulting from copper-induced oxidative damage (Fig. 3a).

The most prominent GO term associated with the downregulated genes identified from *Z. bailii* IST302 exposure to copper stress is “Mitochondrion”. This term is associated with 31 genes, including 8 genes also related to the metabolism of amino acids and genes encoding mitochondrial ribosomal proteins (homologous to *S. cerevisiae* MRPI3, MRPL23, RSM26, SWS2 and YML6) (Fig. 3b).

**Transcriptional profiling of the early response of the deletion mutant Zbhaa1Δ to acetic acid- or copper-induced stress.** Sudden exposure of the *Zbhaa1Δ* deletion mutant to acetic acid stress, compared with unstressed cells, led to the identification of alterations in the transcription levels of 56 genes, one of which found to be upregulated while 55 were downregulated (Supplementary Table S5). Some of these genes have...
Figure 2. Enriched GO terms associated with the differently expressed genes in the early response to acetic acid stress. Dot plots displaying the percentage of differently expressed genes (DEGs) attributed to a GO term. (a) Upregulated genes in Z. bailii IST302 during exposure to acetic acid stress. (b) Downregulated genes in Z. bailii IST302 during exposure to acetic acid stress. The GO terms are sorted by molecular function (MF), cellular component (CC) and biological process (BP). The numeral percentages of DEGs assigned to each GO term were calculated based on the total number of upregulated (66) or downregulated (231) genes during exposure to acetic acid stress.

Figure 3. Enriched GO terms associated with the differently expressed genes in the early response to copper stress. Dot plots displaying the percentage of differently expressed genes (DEGs) attributed to a GO term. (a) Upregulated genes in Z. bailii IST302 during exposure to copper stress. (b) Downregulated genes in Z. bailii IST302 during exposure to copper stress. The GO terms are sorted by molecular function (MF), cellular component (CC) and biological process (BP). The numeral percentages of DEGs assigned to each GO were calculated based on the total number of upregulated (121) or downregulated (69) genes during exposure to copper stress.
The deletion of this gene results in the loss of mtDNA and a decreased growth rate.

The EXT1 gene led to a reduction in the mRNA levels from 15 out of the 121 genes that were activated in the early response to acetic acid exposure, and ZbHAA1 deletion mutant during exposure to acetic acid stress, and ZbHAA1 deletion mutant during exposure to copper stress, and the common DEGs between them (ZbHAA1-dependent genes).

**Identification of the ZbHaa1-dependent genes transcriptionally activated upon acetic acid or copper exposure.** The next step in the dataset analysis was the identification of the genes whose regulation is dependent on the expression of the ZbHaa1 transcription regulator, homologue of *S. cerevisiae* Haa1 transcription activator. These were selected based on the upregulated genes in the parental strain upon exposure to each stress relative to the control condition and, among these, the genes that were downregulated in the ZbHaa1 deletion mutant upon stress exposure relative to the parental strain exposed to the same stress (Fig. 4). Genes fulfilling these conditions are listed in Tables 1 and 2 for acetic acid or copper stress exposure, respectively.

**Genes activated by ZbHaa1 under acetic acid stress.** The elimination of *ZbHAA1* gene led to a reduction in the transcription levels from 17 out of the 66 genes that were activated in the early response to acetic acid exposure in the parental strain (Fig. 4, Supplementary Tables S1 and S5). This set of 17 genes are presumably regulated by the transcription factor ZbHaa1 either as direct or indirect targets (Table 1). Among these genes, three have sequence homology to *S. cerevisiae* genes reported to be directly activated by Haa1: *HSP26* (ORFs ZBIST_0079 and ZBIST_3442) and *YGP1* (ORF ZBIST_0509). Differently from *S. cerevisiae*, *Z. bailii* has four copies of *HSP26* homologues (ORFs ZBIST_0079, ZBIST_3334, ZBIST_3442 and ZBIST_4487). However, only the two aforementioned *HSP26* homologues (ORFs ZBIST_0079 and ZBIST_3442) were found to be transcriptionally activated and displayed the highest fold-change registered (Supplementary Table S1). The *Z. bailii* YGP1 homologue, putatively encoding a cell-wall related secretory glycoprotein expressed in response to nutrient limitation, may play a role in the remodeling of the cell wall structure and contribute to *Z. bailii* tolerance to acetic acid. This gene was shown to be activated by ZbHaa1 through Real Time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) in a previous study, corroborating the obtained result.

Most of the genes considered here to be *ZbHaa1*-dependent in the early response of *Z. bailii* IST302 to sudden acetic acid exposure are homologous to genes encoding chaperones or co-chaperones involved in protein folding and stabilization. Other genes include the following: *MMF1*, encoding a mitochondrial matrix factor, having a possible role in mtDNA maintenance, since the deletion of this gene results in the loss of mtDNA and a decreased growth rate; *ARR3*, encoding a metallo-H^+^ antiporter, which is mainly involved in arsenite and antimonite detoxification; *MCR1*, which codes for a mitochondrial NADH cytochrome b5 reductase, having an important role in the defense against oxidative stress, as it functions as a NADH-D-erythroascorbyl free radical reductase; and *MDH1*, coding for the mitochondrial malate dehydrogenase, which converts malate to oxaloacetate in the TCA cycle.

**Genes activated by ZbHaa1 under copper stress.** The genes whose transcriptional regulation upon copper stress is dependent on ZbHaa1 transcription factor were identified as described for acetic acid stress. Elimination of the *ZbHAA1* gene led to a reduction in the mRNA levels from 15 out of the 121 genes that were activated in the parental strain exposed to copper stress (Fig. 4, Supplementary Tables S3 and S7). These genes were classified as ZbHaa1-dependent, that is, activated either directly or indirectly by this transcription factor (Table 2). The already reported ZbHaa1 activation of the homologue of the copper-binding metallothionein encoding gene...
Table 1. ZbHaa1 regulon in Z. bailii IST302 response to acetic acid stress. (1)AA- Acetic Acid stress ZbHaa1-dependent genes in Z. bailii IST302 response to acetic acid stress. Expression values are represented as log2-fold change. Gene function descriptions were taken from Saccharomyces Genome Database (SGD).

| ORF       | S. cerevisiae Homologue | (mRNAWt) Control | (mRNAAA) | (mRNA Zbhaa1) Control | (mRNA Zbhaa1 AA) | Description                                                                 |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------------|----------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ZBIST_3442| HSP26                  | 8.74             | −3.21    |                       |                  | Small heat shock protein (sHSP) with chaperone activity                      |
| ZBIST_0079| HSP26                  | 3.33             | −2.81    |                       |                  | Small heat shock protein (sHSP) with chaperone activity                      |
| ZBIST_5024| N/A                    | 1.69             | −1.09    |                       |                  | Related to mitochondrial outer membrane protein OM45                        |
| ZBIST_4572| N/A                    | 1.24             | −1.48    |                       |                  | Related to altered inheritance of mitochondria protein 19 (AIM19), mitochondrial |
| ZBIST_3873| N/A                    | 1.22             | −1.47    |                       |                  | Related to sordose reductase homolog SOU2                                   |
| ZBIST_2207| SSA3                   | 1.22             | −1.18    |                       |                  | ATPase involved in protein folding and the response to stress               |
| ZBIST_4116| HSP42                  | 1.20             | −1.16    |                       |                  | Small heat shock protein (sHSP) with chaperone activity                      |
| ZBIST_1688| HSP104                 | 1.18             | −1.07    |                       |                  | Disaggregate; heat shock protein that cooperates with Ydj1 (Hsp40) and Sas1 (Hsp70) to refold and reactivate previously denatured, aggregated proteins |
| ZBIST_0509| YGP1                   | 1.17             | −2.38    |                       |                  | Cell wall-related secretory glycoprotein; induced by nutrient deprivation-associated growth arrest and upon entry into stationary phase |
| ZBIST_0201| MMF1                   | 1.07             | −1.65    |                       |                  | Mitochondrial protein required for transamination of isocitricine          |
| ZBIST_5112| AR3                    | 0.96             | −2.27    |                       |                  | Plasma membrane metalloid/H+ antiporter                                    |
| ZBIST_3490| N/A                    | 0.85             | −1.13    |                       |                  | Related to protein FMP16, mitochondrial                                     |
| ZBIST_4760| HSP78                  | 0.85             | −0.80    |                       |                  | Oligomeric mitochondrial matrix chaperone; cooperates with Ssc1 in mitochondrial thermostolerance after heat shock; able to prevent the aggregation of misfolded proteins as well as resolubilize protein aggregates |
| ZBIST_0039| N/A                    | 0.83             | −1.90    |                       |                  | Uncharacterized protein                                                    |
| ZBIST_2306| MCR1                   | 0.81             | −0.70    |                       |                  | Mitochondrial NADH-cytochrome b5 reductase; involved in ergosterol biosynthesis |
| ZBIST_5070| N/A                    | 0.78             | −2.10    |                       |                  | Uncharacterized protein                                                    |
| ZBIST_4902| MDH1                   | 0.78             | −0.78    |                       |                  | Mitochondrial malate dehydrogenase; catalyzes interconversion of malate and oxaloacetate; involved in the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle; phosphorylated |

CRS5 (ORF ZBIST_3713) in Z. bailii14 was herein confirmed. Among the identified ZbHaa1-dependent genes in the early response to copper (Table 2) is the ORF ZBIST_1696, putatively encoding a cation transport ATPase and the glutamate dehydrogenase Gdh3 encoding gene homologue (ZBIST_1594), important for the biosynthesis of glutathione, a hydroxyl radical scavenger26.

Genes activated by copper and acetic acid stress. The comparison of genes that were upregulated in the parental strain during the early response to acetic acid or copper stress (Supplementary Tables S1 and S3) allowed the identification of 13 genes common to these two yeast responses. Most of these genes are homologous to S. cerevisiae genes that code for chaperones or co-chaperones (HSP26, SSA3, HSP42, and HSP104) necessary for protein folding and stabilization. Other genes are the homologues of (i) TFS1, presumably encoding an anionic phospholipid binding protein, which influences the regulation of the protein kinase A (PKA) signaling pathway, being responsible for the inhibition of the vacuolar protease CPY (carboxypeptidase Y)32. Expression of TFS1 in S. cerevisiae is described to be elevated in response to oxidative stress28; (ii) ARN2, encoding an S. cerevisiae transporter required for the uptake of iron carried by the siderophore triacetylfusarinine C29; (iii) BTN2, required in S. cerevisiae for protein transport, regulation of pH and protein folding30–32; (iv) CIT1, encoding in S. cerevisiae a citrate synthase, the rate-limiting enzyme of the TCA cycle31. Furthermore, the set of genes considered to be modulated by ZbHaa1 under acetic acid or copper stress in Z. bailii were also compared. From the 17 and 15 genes found to be ZbHaa1-dependent (ORFs ZBIST_0079, ZBIST_3442, ZBIST_3713, and ZBIST_5024) (p-value ≤ 0.0001) (Supplementary Fig. S2b). Four of these genes’ promoters were those used for the in silico motif prediction. The three additional genes (ORFs ZBIST_2207, ZBIST_3490 and ZBIST_5024) that emerged from this subsequent analysis are homologues of genes considered to be directly activated by Haa116 or Cup235, that is, 4 from the 32 genes found in this work to be ZbHaa1-dependent (ORFs ZBIST_0079, ZBIST_3442, homologues of S. cerevisiae HSP26, ZBIST_0509, homologue of S. cerevisiae YGP1, and ZBIST_3713, homologue of S. cerevisiae CRS5), a putative ZbHaa1 DNA-binding motif was predicted using the Improbior algorithm. Since only 4 genes are described to be regulated by Cup2 in S. cerevisiae, and only a few genes were found in common in the S. cerevisiae Haa1 and Cup2 regulons and dependent on ZbHaa1, the final number of promoters considered for the analysis was necessarily low in order to increase the confidence in the in silico predicted motif. Among the obtained motifs (data not shown), the one with the highest score (10.742) was (A/C)GGG(A/C)G(A/G)(C/T)G(T)-3′ (Supplementary Fig. S2a). This motif was confirmed to be present in the promoter regions of seven genes found in this study to be ZbHaa1-dependent (ORFs ZBIST_0079, ZBIST_0509, ZBIST_2207, ZBIST_3442, ZBIST_3490, ZBIST_3713 and ZBIST_5024) (p-value < 0.0001) (Supplementary Fig. S2b). Four of these genes’ promoters were those used for the in silico motif prediction. The three additional genes (ORFs ZBIST_2207, ZBIST_3490 and ZBIST_5024) that emerged from this subsequent analysis are homologues of...
The mRNA levels from \( Z. \text{bailii} \) genes homologous to \( S. \text{cerevisiae} \) genes involved in the tricarboxylic-acid pathway (MDH1, ACO1, CIT1, SHH1, and SDH2), energy production (COR1, CYC1, and ATP16), protein folding and stabilization (HSP26, HSP42, HSP78, HSP104, SSA3, and BTN2), biosynthesis of ergosterol (ERG11 and MCR1), detoxification (ARN2, SPE2, and ARR3) and cell wall modulation (YGP1, ANP1, ECM33, and HSP150) were found to increase under sudden exposure to acetic acid. Taking into account the results derived from the RNA-Seq analysis, a schematic model representing the candidate processes leading to the adaptive response of \( Z. \text{bailii} \) IST302 to acetic acid stress is proposed (Fig. 5). Increased transcription levels from genes of the tricarboxylic-acid pathway is most likely an indication of acetic acid metabolization in the presence of glucose, as \( Z. \text{bailii} \) is remarkably tolerant to the yeast growth inhibitor acetic acid. The manipulation of regulatory gene network to stress and the elucidation of the regulatory network controlled by the transcription factor ZbHaa1 (homologous to \( S. \text{cerevisiae} \) Haa1 and Cup2 paralogues).

The mRNA levels from \( Z. \text{bailii} \) genes involved in iron metabolism also occurs upon weak acid stress in \( S. \text{cerevisiae} \) and \( Z. \text{parabailii} \); however, further studies are still required to understand the underlying mechanism and contribution to \( Z. \text{bailii} \) tolerance to acetic acid.

**Table 2.** ZbHaa1 regulon in \( Z. \text{bailii} \) IST302 response to copper stress. (1)Cu- Copper stress ZbHaa1-dependent genes in \( Z. \text{bailii} \) IST302 adaptation to copper stress. Expression values are represented as log2-fold change. Gene function descriptions were taken from Saccharomyces Genome Database (SGD).

| ORF   | \( S. \text{cerevisiae} \) Homologue | (mRNA Wt-Control) | (mRNA Zbhaa1-Control) | (mRNA Zbhaa1/Cu (1)) | Description                                                                 |
|-------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ZBIST_1696 | N/A                                | 4.50              | 2.09                  | 2.00      | Related to cation transport ATPase                                          |
| ZBIST_3714 | N/A                                | 4.13              | 2.36                  | 2.43      | Uncharacterized protein                                                     |
| ZBIST_3713 | CRS5                              | 2.80              | 1.22                  | 1.77      | Copper-binding metallothionein; required for wild-type copper resistance   |
| ZBIST_4639 | ZRT1                              | 2.67              | 1.16                  | 1.92      | High-affinity zinc transporter of the plasma membrane; responsible for the majority of zinc uptake; |
| ZBIST_1985 | TMT1                              | 2.09              | 1.11                  | 1.78      | Trans-aconitate methyltransferase; cytosolic enzyme that catalyzes the methyl esterification of 3-isopropylmalate |
| ZBIST_4824 | N/A                                | 1.19              | 0.89                  | 1.37      | Uncharacterized protein                                                     |
| ZBIST_3873 | N/A                                | 1.07              | 0.60                  | 1.77      | Related to sorbose reductase homolog SQU2                                 |
| ZBIST_2268 | CLB5                              | 0.92              | 1.10                  | 1.01      | B-type cyclin involved in DNA replication during S phase; activates Cdc28 to promote initiation of DNA synthesis; |
| ZBIST_1594 | GDH3                              | 0.83              | 0.77                  | 1.12      | NADP(+) dependent glutamate dehydrogenase; synthesizes glutamate from ammonia and alpha-ketoglutarate; |
| ZBIST_0903 | ADH3                              | 0.82              | 1.55                  | 1.08      | Mitochondrial alcohol dehydrogenase isozyme III; involved in the shuttling of mitochondrial NADH to the cytosol under anaerobic conditions and ethanol production |
| ZBIST_2835 | N/A                                | 0.81              | 1.36                  | 1.04      | Uncharacterized protein                                                     |
| ZBIST_4280 | GOR1                              | 0.81              | 1.33                  | 1.04      | Glyoxylate reductase; null mutation results in increased biomass after diauxic shift; |
| ZBIST_4165 | FRE3                              | 0.75              | 0.70                  | 1.14      | Ferric reductase; reduces siderophore-bound iron prior to uptake by transporters; expression induced by low iron levels |
| ZBIST_1042 | MDH2                              | 0.64              | 1.50                  | 1.23      | Cytoplasmic malate dehydrogenase; one of three isozymes that catalyze interconversion of malate and oxaloacetate; |
| ZBIST_1788 | SFC1                              | 0.63              | 0.65                  | 1.00      | Mitochondrial succinate-fumarate transporter; transports succinate into and fumarate out of the mitochonrdion; required for ethanol and acetate utilization |

**Discussion**

\( Z. \text{bailii} \) is remarkably tolerant to the yeast growth inhibitor acetic acid. The manipulation of regulatory gene networks that govern acetic acid stress tolerance in this species is essential to control acetic acid tolerance. However, this regulatory information is currently very poorly described. Herein is reported for the first time the identification of transcriptional alterations occurring during the early response of \( Z. \text{bailii} \) IST302 to acetic acid or copper stress and the elucidation of the regulatory network controlled by the transcription factor ZbHaa1 (homologous to \( S. \text{cerevisiae} \) Haa1 and Cup2 paralogues).

The mRNA levels from \( Z. \text{bailii} \) genes homologous to \( S. \text{cerevisiae} \) genes involved in iron metabolism also occurs upon weak acid stress in \( S. \text{cerevisiae} \) and \( Z. \text{parabailii} \); however, further studies are still required to understand the underlying mechanism and contribution to \( Z. \text{bailii} \) tolerance to acetic acid.
Among the \textit{Z. bailii} upregulated genes upon sudden exposure to acetic acid stress is \textit{HAL5}, encoding a putative protein kinase involved in sodium and lithium tolerance. Disruption of this gene in \textit{S. cerevisiae} leads to increased sensitivity to cations and low pH, and impairs K\textsuperscript{+} uptake, having a possible role in the regulation of the K\textsuperscript{+} transporters Trk1 and Trk2\textsuperscript{42}. Furthermore, the downregulation of the outward-rectifier potassium channel encoding gene homologue \textit{TOK1} was observed in this work. This gene is described to presumably allow outward current to flow more easily than an inward current in \textit{S. cerevisiae}\textsuperscript{43}. A study conducted in \textit{S. cerevisiae} has reported the positive influence of K\textsuperscript{+} availability in yeast tolerance to acetic acid, since cells display an increased tolerance when increasing concentrations of K\textsuperscript{+} are present in the growth medium\textsuperscript{41}. Altogether, this study suggests that \textit{Z. bailii} tolerance to acetic acid may also be improved by increasing K\textsuperscript{+} in the growth medium. Another interesting observation is the downregulation of several genes related to the biodegradation of fatty acids, such as the transcription factor \textit{ADR1}, genes involved in their transport (\textit{ANT1}, \textit{PXA1}, \textit{CRC1}, and \textit{AGP2}), peroxisomal matrix protein import (\textit{PEX4}, \textit{PEX12}, and \textit{PEX21}), and in \textit{β}-oxidation (\textit{POT1} and \textit{POX1})\textsuperscript{44}. A possible physiological reason for this downregulation can be attributed to a higher need of fatty acids availability for sphingolipids biosynthesis, found to be increased in \textit{Z. bailii} upon acetic acid stress exposure and having an impact in acetic acid tolerance\textsuperscript{11}.

The rapid response of \textit{Z. bailii} to acetic acid also suggests the reduction of mRNA levels from genes involved in cellular transport of nutrients and metals, such as phosphate (\textit{PHO84}), zinc (\textit{ZAP1}, \textit{ZRT1}, and \textit{IZH1}), ammonium (\textit{MEP3}, \textit{ATO2}, and \textit{ATO3}), purines (\textit{FCY2}), oligo-peptides (\textit{PTR2} and \textit{OPT1}) and amino acids (\textit{GAP1}, \textit{GAT1}, \textit{STP3}, \textit{BAP3}, \textit{PTR2}, \textit{UGA4}, \textit{SHH4}, \textit{BUL1}, \textit{CAN1}, and \textit{VBA1}). This is indicative of the occurrence of substantial alterations in the plasma membrane transport function. In addition, acetic acid also appears to induce genes influencing cell wall architecture in \textit{Z. bailii} such as \textit{ANP1}, \textit{ECM33}, \textit{HSP150}, and \textit{YGP1}. Changes in expression of genes involved in cell wall modulation upon acetic acid stress or low pH conditions (in particular \textit{YGP1} and \textit{HSP150}) have been reported in several studies in \textit{S. cerevisiae}\textsuperscript{16,40,45,46} and more recently in the \textit{Z. parabailii} response to lactic acid stress\textsuperscript{7}.

Regarding the adaptive response of \textit{Z. bailii} to copper stress, taking into account the results derived from the RNA-Seq analysis, a schematic model, representing the possible processes leading to this response, is proposed in Fig. 6. The association of 18 genes to the proteasome mediated ubiquitin-dependent catabolic processes indicates the occurrence of protein denaturation derived from copper toxicity. Consistent with this idea is the increased expression of 10 genes involved in protein folding and stabilization, including chaperones and co-chaperones, such as \textit{AHA1}, \textit{HCH1}, \textit{HSP26}, \textit{HSP42}, \textit{HSP104}, \textit{BAP3}, \textit{PUT4}, \textit{UGA4}, \textit{SHH4}, \textit{BUL1}, \textit{CAN1}, and \textit{VBA1}. Copper is described to be able to induce the...
formation of reactive oxygen species (ROS), which damage cellular components, such as proteins, nucleic acids, and membrane lipids, and the related cellular processes. Some of the upregulated genes found in *Z. bailii* upon sudden copper exposure are related to the transport of heavy metal ions (**ARN2**, **FET3**, **FRE3**, **SIT1**, **SOD1**, and **ZRT1**). Fet3 is described to confer copper tolerance in *S. cerevisiae* since it is able to oxidize Cu$^{+}$ into Cu$^{2+}$, consequently limiting copper uptake through the Ctr1 transporter, since copper transport by this high-affinity copper transporter in *S. cerevisiae* is dependent on the previous reduction of the extracellular copper by the metalloreductases Fre1 and Fre2. In *S. cerevisiae*, Fre3 is described to reduce siderophore-bound iron, whose uptake can be made by transporters such as Arn2 and Sit1. Oxidative stress is documented in *S. cerevisiae* to result in the oxidation of [4Fe-4S] enzymes leading to their inactivation and the displacement of iron causing further oxidative damage. The superoxide dismutase encoded by **SOD1** has a protective role on these enzymes and prevents the accumulation of iron intracellularly. The activation of iron transport system components suggested in the present work could, to a certain extent, allow the reconstitution of [4Fe-4S]-enzymes inactivated by oxidative stress and hindrance of copper uptake.

Copper stress induced the decrease in the mRNA levels from genes involved in the metabolism of amino acids, as well as genes associated with mitochondrial translation and respiration process. Previous studies have shown a decrease in the expression of genes related to the respiratory function and amino acids metabolic processes in *S. cerevisiae*, as a consequence of copper-induced oxidative stress.

It is interesting to take notice of the different number of differently expressed genes that was found to be much higher in the mutant strain during copper stress (1301) when compared with the parental (190), or during exposure to acetic acid stress (56). These differences cannot, however, be easily explained or compared, considering that, even though we tried to use concentrations that produced an equivalent toxic effect, these stresses are inherently different and lead to significantly distinct responses in *Z. bailii*. This is evident by looking at the growth curves (based on medium turbidity and CFU/mL) of the mutant strain exposed to acetic acid or copper stress (Fig. 1b,f). Moreover, the effect of copper at the genomic expression level is apparently less specific than the effect of acetic acid, presumably due to its marked effect as a ROS inducer and the unspecific oxidation of DNA, proteins, and lipids by ROS.

A putative regulatory network dependent on the transcription factor ZbHaa1, presumably involved in the activation of genes responsible for the early transcriptional response to acetic acid or copper, is proposed in Fig. 7a. The hypothesized regulatory network was based on the results from the present study, on previously described transcriptional alterations of specific ZbHaa1-dependent genes in *Z. bailii* exposed to acetic acid stress, and the information available for *S. cerevisiae* gene and genomic transcriptional regulation in the YEASTRACT database. These putative regulatory associations reveal genes described to be regulated by the *S. cerevisiae*
transcription factors Haa1 and Msn4 during weak acid stress, suggesting similarities in *S. cerevisiae* and *Z. bailii* adaptive responses (Fig. 7). From these networks it is also possible to find the ZbHaa1-dependent activation of the CRSS5 homologue, a gene described to be activated by Cup2 in *S. cerevisiae* in response to copper stress. This gene, together with the YGP1 homologue (also found in this work to be ZbHaa1-dependent), is documented to have significant alterations in the mRNA levels in *Z. bailii* under copper or acetic acid stress, respectively. This is consistent with the results herein presented reinforcing the previously reported bifunctionality of ZbHaa1 since this transcription factor was shown to be required and have regulatory functions in the adaptive response of *Z. bailii* to acetic acid and copper stress. In *S. cerevisiae*, Haa1 and Cup2 are described as having distinct and independent functions, not showing cross-regulation. The bifunctionality of ZbHaa1 could possibly be related to some traits of the protein. Specifically, ZbHaa1 has the same protein sequence length as Haa1 sharing 50% sequence identity, and displays the last Cys residue (residue 101) in the copper regulatory domain (CuRD), which is absent in Haa1, presumably allowing the formation of the polycopper cluster demonstrated to be required for Cup2 function.

The in silico search for the predicted ZbHaa1 DNA-binding motif sequence, led to the identification of the sequence 5′-(A/C)GGG(A/C)(G/A)(G/T)(G/T)-3′ with the DNA binding sequence documented for *S. cerevisiae* Haa1 (5′-(G/C)(A/C)GGG(C/G)-3′) contained within. Since three of the four *Z. bailii* promoter sequences in the motif analysis used were from the list of genes activated under acetic acid stress, this could have biased the results and the reduced number of sequences used to identify in silico the motif also limits the value of the prediction. However, both of the aforementioned decision criteria were paramount in order to increase the confidence in the results, and reflect the reduced number of genes described to be regulated by Cup2 and the similarities among the genes proposed to be directly activated by Haa1 in *S. cerevisiae* and the genes considered herein to be ZbHaa1-dependent. Overall, independently of the obtained results, further studies are required to experimentally confirm the ZbHaa1 DNA binding sequence and thus allow a better understanding of the evolutionary changes that took place in the ancestral *HAA1/CUP2* orthologue following the WGD event.

In this study, it was possible to provide novel transcriptomic information regarding the genome-wide transcriptional changes occurring in the highly acetic acid resistant *Z. bailii* IST302 early response to acetic acid or copper stress. Furthermore, the ZbHaa1-dependent regulons active under acetic acid or copper stress conditions were proposed. The information gathered in this work provides new insights regarding the mechanisms underlying ZbHaa1-dependent acetic acid response, which will be useful to guide genome manipulation to develop more robust industrial strains, potentiating *Z. bailii* as a cell factory, or to guide the rational improvement of actions involving weak acid preservatives to be taken for spoilage prevention in the food industry. This study also provides interesting information deserving further analysis regarding the evolution of transcription factors and regulatory networks in pre-WGD and post-WGD yeast species.

### Materials and Methods

#### Yeast strains and growth conditions.

The prototrophic parental strain *Zygosaccharomyces bailii* IST302 and derived deletion mutant *Zbhaa1Δ* were used. Both strains were maintained at −80 °C in appropriate media supplemented with 15% (v/v) glycerol. Prior to use, the strains were transferred onto agar plates (2% (w/v) agar) withYPD medium (1% (w/v) yeast extract (Difco), 2% (w/v) peptone (Difco), 2% (w/v) glucose (Merck)) and grown for 24 h at 30 °C to prepare the inocula. Yeast strains were batch cultured at 30 °C, with orbital agitation (250 rpm), in liquid mineral medium (MM) containing: 0.17% (w/v) yeast nitrogen base (YNB) without amino acids or (NH₄)₂SO₄ (Difco), 2% (w/v) glucose (Merck) and 0.265% (NH₄)₂SO₄ (Merck), at pH 4.0. To assess the transcriptional response to acetic acid or copper in *Z. bailii* IST302 and derived deletion mutant *Zbhaa1Δ* by RNA sequencing (RNA-Seq), extraction and purification of RNA from those strains, cultivated both in the absence of stress (C1 and C2) or exposed to acetic acid stress (Ac1 and Ac2) or copper stress (Cu1 and Cu2) was performed. Cells of the parental and *Zbhaa1Δ* derived mutant strains were cultivated in MM medium until mid-exponential phase was reached (Optical density at 600 nm 0.6 ± 0.05) and subsequently re-inoculated in three flasks for each strain (C1, Ac1, and Cu1 for *Z. bailii* IST302 parental strain and C2, Ac2, and Cu2 for *Zbhaa1Δ* derived mutant) at an initial optical density of 0.2 ± 0.01 in the same unsupplemented media. After 1 hour of growth, *Z. bailii* IST302 (sample C1) and derived deletion mutant *Zbhaa1Δ* (sample C2) cultures were collected and set as the control conditions; at this point, acetic acid (adjusted to pH 4.0) or CuSO₄ were added to the two remaining flasks of each strain culture to a final concentration of 140 mM or 0.08 mM, respectively. Acetic acid- or copper-stressed cells were harvested 1 hour after the addition of either acetic acid (samples Ac1 and Ac2, for the parental strain and *Zbhaa1Δ* strain, respectively) or copper (samples Cu1 and Cu2 for the parental strain and *Zbhaa1Δ* strain, respectively). Cells were collected by centrifugation (8000 rpm, 10 min) at 4 °C, washed twice with cold water, the pellets frozen in liquid nitrogen and then kept at −80 °C until RNA extraction.

#### RNA extraction, library preparation, and sequencing.

Three independent experiments were carried out. RNA extraction was performed using a modified hot phenol method. Purification of RNA and DNA digestion with DNases was performed using the commercial kit RNA Clean & Concentrator™-5 (Zymo Research). Purified RNA samples were subsequently checked for quality on Fragment Analyzer (Advanced Analytical). The library preparation was performed by the Genomics Unit at Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência (Oeiras, Portugal) using QuantSeq™ 3′ mRNA-Seq Library Prep Kit for Illumina (FWD) (Lexogen) and sequencing was performed in an Illumina HiSeq 3000 system at the Centre for Genomic Regulation (Barcelona), obtaining 50 bp reads toward the poly(A) tail corresponding directly to the mRNA sequence.

#### Transcriptomic data analysis.

The pipeline implemented in this work was based on Lexogen’s recommendations for Quant-Seq. 3′ mRNA data analysis. RNA-Seq analysis started with the quality trimming of the
sequences using BBDuk (from the BBTools package) and quality analysis with FastQC of the raw read files obtained. The obtained libraries had an average size of 7.9 million reads, with the smallest having 6.2 million reads and the biggest 10 million. After assuring that there were no problems or relevant biases with the data, the alignment of the raw reads with a reference sequence of Z. bailii IST302 was made. For this task, the alignment algorithm Spliced Transcripts Alignment to a Reference (STAR) was used. This algorithm allows an ultra-fast and highly accurate alignment of RNA-Seq reads to a reference genome. Following mapping of the RNA-Seq raw reads to the reference genome, the number of reads that map to a certain gene or transcript was measured making use of the script HTSeq-count, integrated in the HTSeq package, in the intersection nonempty mode. Only genes achieving at least one count per million (cpm) in at least three samples from the same condition were kept

Figure 7. Putative regulatory networks underlying ZbHaa1-dependent gene activation in response to acetic acid or copper stress in Z. bailii, and Haa1 and Cup2 gene activation in S. cerevisiae during acetic acid or copper stress, respectively. (a) ZbHaa1-dependent putative regulatory network. The model was assembled based on the RNA-Seq results obtained in this study and previous gene transcription studies in Z. bailii. The displayed regulatory associations are based on the described regulatory networks of S. cerevisiae transcription factors Haa1 and Cup2 activated during acetic acid and copper stress responses, respectively. Represented inside boxes are the genes found to be activated in response to acetic acid (red) or copper (blue) stress in a ZbHaa1-dependent manner. S. cerevisiae homologous genes are shown inside brackets. Genes proposed to be transcriptionally activated under the dependence of ZbHaa1 and whose homologue in S. cerevisiae was described to be directly activated by Haa1 are represented inside darker boxes surrounded by thicker lines. Genes considered to be activated in a ZbHaa1-dependent manner in response to both stresses are represented inside purple boxes. Previously described regulatory associations in S. cerevisiae are represented by an arrow (→). Z. bailii genes found to have stress-induced-altered transcription levels herein and in previous studies are represented by a bold arrow (→). Novel transcriptional associations are represented by a dashed arrow (→). (b) Haa1 and Cup2 putative regulatory networks. These networks were assembled based on documented proposed associations of Haa1 under acetic acid stress in S. cerevisiae (represented in red) and known targets of Cup2 under copper stress in S. cerevisiae (represented in blue). Genes proposed to be transcriptionally activated under the dependence of ZbHaa1 and whose homologue in S. cerevisiae was described to be directly activated by Haa1 are represented inside darker boxes surrounded by thicker lines. Other transcription factors presumably regulated by Haa1 and documented to regulate acetic acid-induced genes are represented inside rounded boxes. Genes identified as putative Haa1 indirect targets and whose activation is presumably dependent on unidentified transcription factors are shown associated with the transcription factor designated "?".
for further analysis. Differential gene expression analysis was performed using the Bioconductor software package edgeR, based on the negative binomial distribution\(^5\). In order to consider the differences across the samples, the trimmed mean of M-values (TMM) scaling normalization was performed. Selection of the differently expressed genes was made by keeping only the entries with an adjusted p-value or false discovery rate (FDR) below 0.05 and a fold change above 1.5-fold. Posterior Gene Ontology (GO) term enrichment analyses were performed using the Blast2GO software\(^9\), producing a custom GO annotation for Z. bailii IST302 and running the Fisher Exact Test.

**In silico prediction of ZbHaa1 DNA-binding motif.** The search for a putative ZbHaa1 motif sequence was performed using the Impromoter algorithm, which makes use of a variation of the expectation maximization algorithm\(^8\). This analysis only considered the promoter sequences of Z. bailii genes, whose transcription regulation under acetic acid or copper stress was found in this work to be ZbHaa1-dependent and that are homologues of S. cerevisiae genes previously considered to be directly activated by Haa1 or Cup2. Following these criteria, 4 from the 32 Z. bailii genes considered to be ZbHaa1-dependent upon exposure to acetic or copper stress were selected for the analysis (ORFs ZBIST_0079, ZBIST_0509, ZBIST_3442 and ZBIST_3713).

To find occurrences of the found motif in the promoters of the 32 genes considered to be ZbHaa1-dependent during the Z. bailii response to acetic acid or copper stress, the highest scored motif was used as input in the program ‘Find Individual Motif Occurrences’ (FIMO)\(^9\).

**Data Availability**

The datasets generated and analysed during the current study are available in NCBI’s Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) repository, under the accession number GSE113552.

**References**

1. Sá-Correia, I., Guerreiro, J. F., Loureiro-Dias, M. C., Leão, C. & Côrte-Real, M. *In Encyclopedia of Food Microbiology* (eds Batty, C. A. & Tortorello, M. L.) 849–855 (Elsevier Ltd, Academic Press, 2014).

2. Stratford, M. et al. Extreme resistance to weak-acid preservatives in the spoilage yeast Zygosaccharomyces bailii. *Int. J. Food Microbiol.* **166**, 126–134 (2013).

3. Palma, M., Guerreiro, J. F. & Sá-Correia, I. Adaptive Response and Tolerance to Acetic Acid in Saccharomyces cerevisiae and Zygosaccharomyces bailii: A Physiological Genomics Perspective. *Front. Microbiol.* **9**, 274 (2018).

4. Galeote, V., Bigey, F., Devillers, H., Neveuglise, C. & Dequin, S. Genome Sequence of the Food Spoilage Yeast Zygosaccharomyces bailii CULIB 2137. *Genome Announc.* **1**, e00606–e13 (2013).

5. Palma, M., Münsterkötter, M., Peça, J., Guldener, U. & Sá-Correia, I. Genome sequence of the highly weak-acid-tolerant Zygosaccharomyces bailii IST302, amenable to genetic manipulations and physiological studies. *FEMS Yeast Res.* **17** (2017).

6. Mira, N. P. et al. The Genome Sequence of the Highly Acetic Acid-Tolerant Zygosaccharomyces bailii-Derived Interspecies Hybrid Strain BA1307, Isolated From a Sparkling Wine Plant. *DNA Res.* **21**, 299–313 (2014).

7. Ortiz-Merino, R. A. et al. Transcriptional Response to Lactic Acid Stress in the Hybrid Yeast Zygosaccharomyces parabailii. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* **84**, e0294–e17 (2018).

8. Guerreiro, J. F., Mira, N. P. & Sá-Correia, I. Adaptive response to acetic acid in the highly resistant yeast species Zygosaccharomyces bailii revealed by quantitative proteomics. *Proteomics* **12**, 2303–2318 (2012).

9. Guerreiro, J. F. et al. Mitochondrial proteomics of the acetic acid -induced programmed cell death response in a highly tolerant Zygosaccharomyces bailii-derived hybrid strain. *Microb. Cell* **3**, 65–78 (2016).

10. Rodrigues, F. et al. The fate of acetic acid during glucose co-metabolism by the spoilage yeast Zygosaccharomyces bailii. *PLoS One* **7**, e52402 (2012).

11. Lindberg, L., Santos, A. X., Riezman, H., Olsson, L. & Bettiga, M. Lipidomic profiling of Saccharomyces cerevisiae and Zygosaccharomyces bailii reveals critical changes in lipid composition in response to acetic acid stress. *PLoS One* **8**, e73936 (2013).

12. Palma, M. et al. Search for genes responsible for the remarkably high acetic acid tolerance of a Zygosaccharomyces bailii-derived interspecies hybrid strain. *BMC Genomics* **16**, 470 (2015).

13. Gasch, A. P. et al. Genomic expression programs in the response of yeast cells to environmental changes. *Mol. Biol. Cell* **11**, 4241–4257 (2000).

14. Palma, M. et al. The Zygosaccharomyces bailii transcription factor Haa1 is required for acetic acid and copper stress responses suggesting subfunctionalization of the ancestral bifunctional protein Haa1/Cup2. *BMC Genomics* **18** (2017).

15. Fernandes, A. R., Mira, N. P., Vargas, R. C., Canelhas, I. & Sá-Correia, I. Saccharomyces cerevisiae adaptation to weak acids involves the transcription factor Haalp and Haalp-regulated genes. *Biochem. Biophys. Res Commun* **337**, 95–103 (2005).

16. Mira, N. P., Becker, J. D. & Sá-Correia, I. Genomic expression program involving the Haalp-regulon in Saccharomyces cerevisiae response to acetic acid. *OMICS* **14**, 587–601 (2010).

17. Mira, N. P. et al. Identification of a DNA-binding site for the transcription factor Haa1, required for Saccharomyces cerevisiae response to acetic acid stress. *Nucleic Acids Res* **39**, 6896–6907 (2011).

18. Keller, G., Ray, E., Brown, P. O. & Winge, D. R. Haalp, a protein homologous to the copper-regulated transcription factor Acc1, is a novel transcriptional activator. *J. Biol. Chem.* **276**, 38697–38702 (2001).

19. Gozt, S. et al. High-throughput functional annotation and data mining with the Blast2GO suite. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **36**, 3420–3435 (2008).

20. Cullotta, V. C., Howard, W. R. & Liu, X. F. CRISPR encodes a metallothionein-like protein in Saccharomyces cerevisiae. *J. Biol. Chem.* **269**, 25295–25302 (1994).

21. Destruelle, M., Holzer, H. & Klonowski, D. J. Identification and characterization of a novel yeast gene: the YGPI gene product is a highly glycosylated secreted protein that is synthesized in response to nutrient limitation. *Mol. Cell. Biol.* **14**, 2740–2754 (1994).

22. Oxelmark, E. et al. Mnf1p, a novel yeast mitochondrial protein conserved throughout evolution and involved in maintenance of the mitochondrial genome. *Mol. Cell. Biol.* **20**, 7784–97 (2000).

23. Maciaszczyk-Dziubinska, E., Migocka, M. & Wysocki, R. Acr3p is a plasma membrane antiporter that catalyzes As(III)/H\(^+\) exchange in yeast cell resistance to stress-induced apoptosis in stationary phase cells. *J. Biol. Chem.* **287**, 44221–33 (2012).

24. Culotta, V. C., Howard, W. R. & Liu, X. F. Yeast Mitochondrial Dehydrogenases Are Associated in a Supramolecular Complex. https://doi.org/10.1021/Bio100277R (2011).

25. Lee, Y. J., Kim, K. J., Kang, H. Y., Kim, H.-R. & Maeng, P. J. Involvement of GDH3-encoded NADP+–dependent glutamate dehydrogenase in yeast cell resistance to stress-induced apoptosis in stationary phase cells. *J. Biol. Chem.* **287**, 44221–33 (2012).

26. Caesar, R. & Blommberg, A. The stress-induced Trx1p requires NafB-mediated acetylation to inhibit carbboxypeptidase Y and to regulate the protein kinase A pathway. *J. Biol. Chem.* **279**, 38532–43 (2004).
28. Boy-Marcotte, E. et al. The heat shock response in yeast: differential regulations and contributions of the Msn2p/Msn4p and Hsf1p regulons. Mol. Microbiol. 33, 274–283 (1999).
29. Yun, C. W., Tiedeman, J. S., Moore, R. E. & Philpott, C. C. Siderophore-ion uptake in Saccharomyces cerevisiae. Identification of ferrichrome and fusarirmine transporters. J. Biol. Chem. 275, 16354–9 (2000).
30. Chattopadhyay, S. & Pearce, D. A. Interaction between Btn2p is required for localization of Rgplp: Btn2p-mediated changes in arginine uptake in Saccharomyces cerevisiae. Eukaryot. Cell 1, 606–12 (2002).
31. Chattopadhyay, S., Roberts, P. M. & Pearce, D. A. The yeast model for Batten disease: a role for Btn2p in the trafficking of the Golgi-associated vesicular targeting protein, Yil1p. Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. 302, 534–538 (2003).
32. Kama, R., Robinson, M. & Gerst, J. E. Btn2, a hook1 ortholog and potential Batten disease-related protein, mediates late endosome-Golgi protein sorting in yeast. Mol. Cell. Biol. 27, 605–21 (2007).
33. Kim, K. S., Rosenkrantz, M. S. & Guarente, L. Saccharomyces cerevisiae contains two functional citrate synthase genes. Mol. Cell. Biol. 6, 1536–42 (1986).
34. Janhunen, G., Sherman, F. & Rustchenko, E. Monosomy of a specific chromosome determines L-sorbosine utilization: a novel regulatory mechanism in Candida albicans. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 95, 5150–5 (1998).
35. Gross, C., Kelleher, M., Iyer, V. R., Brown, P. O. & Winge, D. R. Identification of the copper regulon in Saccharomyces cerevisiae by DNA microarrays. J. Biol. Chem. 275, 32310–32316 (2000).
36. Sousa, M. J., Rodrigues, F., Corte-Real, M. & Leão, C. Mechanisms underlying the transport and intracellular metabolism of acetic acid in the presence of glucose in the yeast Zygosaccharomyces bailii. Microbiology 144, 665–670 (1998).
37. Dong, Y., Hu, J., Fan, L. & Chen, Q. RNA-Seq-based transcriptomic and metabolomic analysis reveal stress responses and programmed cell death induced by acetic acid in Saccharomyces cerevisiae. Sci. Rep. 7, 42659 (2017).
38. Semchysyn, H. M., Abrat, O. B., Miedzibrodzki, J., Inoue, Y. & Lushchak, V. I. Acetate but not propionate induces oxidative stress in bakers' yeast Saccharomyces cerevisiae. Redox Rep. 16, 15–23 (2011).
39. Pan, S. et al. Endogenous lycopene improves ethanol production under acetic acid stress in Saccharomyces cerevisiae. Biotechnol. Biofuels 2018 111 11, 107 (2018).
40. Kawahata, M., Masaki, K., Fujii, T. & Iefuji, H. Yeast genes involved in response to lactic acid and acetic acid: acidic conditions caused by the organic acids in Saccharomyces cerevisiae cultures induce expression of intracellular metal metabolism genes regulated by ART1. FEBS Yeast Res 6, 924–936 (2006).
41. Mira, N. P., Palma, M., Guerreiro, J. F. & Sá-Correia, I. Genome-wide identification of Saccharomyces cerevisiae genes required for tolerance to acetic acid. Microb Cell Fact 9 (2010).
42. Mulet, J. M. et al. A novel mechanism of ion homeostasis and salt tolerance in yeast: the Ha4+ and Ha5+ protein kinases modulate the Trk1-Trk2 potassium transporter. Mol. Cell. Biol. 19, 3328–3337 (1999).
43. Loukin, S. H. & Saimi, Y. Carboxyl tail Prevents Yeast K+ Channel Closure: Proposal of an Integrated Model of TOK1 Gating. Biophys. J. 82, 781–792 (2002).
44. Hiltunen, J. K. et al. The biochemistry of peroxisomal β-oxidation in the yeast Saccharomyces cerevisiae. FEMS Microbiol. Rev. 27, 35–64 (2003).
45. Kaptyn, J. C. et al. Low external pH induces HOG1-dependent changes in the organization of the Saccharomyces cerevisiae cell wall. Mol. Microbiol. 39, 469–480 (2001).
46. Simões, T., Mira, N. P., Fernandes, A. R. & Sá-Correia, I. The Spif1 gene, encoding a glycosylphosphatidylinositol-anchored cell wall protein, plays a prominent role in the development of yeast resistance to lipophilic weak-acid food preservatives. Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 72, 7168–7175 (2006).
47. Markus, J. T & E, Martinoia. Molecular Biology of Metal Homeostasis and Detoxification. 14 (2006).
48. Shi, X., Sow, C., Romeo, A., Kosman, D. J. & Zhu, Z. Fre1p Cu2+ Reduction and Fre3p Cu+ Oxidation Modulate Copper Toxicity in Saccharomyces cerevisiae. J. Biol. Chem. 278, 50309–50315 (2003).
49. De Freitas, J. et al. Yeast, a model organism for iron and copper metabolism studies. Bio Metals 16, 185–197 (2003).
50. De Freitas, J. M., Liba, A., Meneghini, R., Valentine, J. S. & Graila, E. B. Yeast lacking Cu-Zn superoxide dismutase show altered iron homeostasis. Role of oxidative stress in iron metabolism. J. Biol. Chem. 275, 11645–9 (2000).
51. Banci, L. et al. Copper exposure effects on yeast mitochondrial proteome. J. Proteomics 74, 2522–2535 (2011).
52. Teixeira, M. C. et al. YEASTRACT: An upgraded database for the analysis of transcription regulatory networks in Saccharomyces cerevisiae. Nucleic Acids Res. 46 (2018).
53. Amin-ul Mannan, M., Sharma, S. & Ganesan, K. Total RNA isolation from recalcitrant yeast cells. Yeast Methods Protoc. 14, 166–169 (2015).
54. Robinson, M. D., McCarthy, D. J. & Smyth, G. K. edgeR: A Bioconductor package for differential expression analysis of digital gene expression data. Bioinformatics 26, 139–140 (2010).
55. Ao, W., Guadet, J., Kent, W. J., Mutumu, S. & Mango, S. E. Environmentally Induced Foregut Remodeling by PHA-4/FoxA and DAF-12/NHR. Science (80-.). 330, 1743–1746 (2004).
56. Grant, C. E., Bailey, T. L. & Noble, W. S. FIMO: scanning for occurrences of a given motif. Bioinformatics 27, 1017–1018 (2011).
