Carbon assimilation profiles of mucoralean fungi show their metabolic versatility

Julia Pawłowska1, Alicja Okrasinska1, Kamil Kisło1, Tamara Aleksandrzak-Piekarczyk2, Katarzyna Szatraj2, Somayeh Dolatabadi3 & Anna Muszewska2

Most mucoralean fungi are common soil saprotrophs and were probably among the first land colonisers. Although Mucoromycotina representatives grow well on simple sugar media and are thought to be unable to assimilate more complex organic compounds, they are often isolated from plant substrates. The main goal of the study was to explore the effects of isolation origin and phylogenetic placement on the carbon assimilation capacities of a large group of saprotrophic Mucoromycotina representatives (i.e. Umbelopsidales and Mucorales). Fifty two strains representing different Mucoromycotina families and isolated from different substrates were tested for their capacity to grow on 99 different carbon sources using the Biolog phenotypic microarray system and agar plates containing selected biopolymers (i.e. cellulose, xylan, pectin, and starch) as a sole carbon source. Although our results did not reveal a correlation between phylogenetic distance and carbon assimilation capacities, we observed 20 significant differences in growth capacity on specific carbon sources between representatives of different families. Our results also suggest that isolation origin cannot be considered as a main predictor of the carbon assimilation capacities of a particular strain. We conclude that saprotrophic Mucoromycotina representatives are, contrary to common belief, metabolically versatile and able to use a wide variety of carbon sources.

Although plant tissues are the most common carbon source on the earth's surface, their carbon is hardly accessible for heterotrophic organisms because it is mainly present in the form of complex polymers. The main components of plant cell walls (representing up to 70% of the biomass) are polysaccharides – cellulose, hemicellulose and pectin. Among them, cellulose is the most ubiquitous and may constitute up to 30% of the mass of primary plant walls and up to 98% of the mass of secondary plant cell walls1.

Fungi have evolved to possess a number of mechanisms that allow them to decompose organic plant debris3 and thus play a central role in carbon cycling as they are the most efficient degraders of plant biomass. A popular hypothesis that widespread coal deposition during the Carboniferous Period was caused by a temporal lag between the evolution of abundant lignin production in woody plants and the subsequent evolution of lignin-degrading fungi has been rejected by Nelsen et al.3. However, it is widely accepted that lignocellulolytic enzymes evolved relatively late, only within the ancestors of Agaricomycetes (Basidiomycota), ca. 350 Mya4,5. Nevertheless, fungi probably established mutualistic symbiosis with the first land plant lineages already in Ordovician (ca. 450 Mya) and these first land plants’ partners most likely belonged to Mucoromycota phylum6.

The phylum encompass zygospore-forming fungi that share a common mainly plant-related nutritional mode. It comprises three subphyla: Glomeromycotina (obligatory endomycorrhizal fungi), Mortierellomycotina, and Mucoromycotina. Mucoromycotina is, according to current knowledge, the most diverse group, comprising three orders: Endogonales, Umbelopsidales and Mucorales. While Endogonales representatives are mainly obligatory plant symbionts8, the remaining two orders (Umbelopsidales and Mucorales) are mainly ubiquitous plant related soil saprotrophs (and there are only rare examples of opportunistic pathogens from immunocompromised patients8–11)

1 Department of Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, Faculty of Biology, Biological and Chemical Research Centre, University of Warsaw, Zawirki i Wigury 101, 02-089, Warsaw, Poland. 2 Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Pawinskiego 5A, 02-106, Warsaw, Poland. 3 Faculty of Engineering, Sabzevar University of New Technology, Sabzevar, Iran. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to A.O. (email: alis.ok@biol.uw.edu.pl)
In general, fungi obtain nutrients by secreting hydrolytic enzymes into their surroundings and absorbing the digested compounds. They rely mainly on the presence of hydrolytic enzymes and transporter proteins which mediate the translocation of molecules across cell membranes. Therefore, a profile of potential nutrition capacities defines the role of the fungus in its environment and thus it can be assumed that the fungal lifestyle is reflected by the repertoire of secreted enzymes and possessed transporters.

Saprotrophic Mucoromycotina representatives are commonly called “sugar fungi” as they grow well on simple sugar media, but in contrast to ascomycetes and basidiomycetes they are thought to be unable to assimilate more complex organic compounds such as cellulose and lignin. On the other hand, recent papers conclude that Mucor representatives are able to produce polymer-degrading enzymes, e.g., amylases, xylanases, steroid 11α-hydroxylases, phytases, proteases, and lipases. Moreover, the existing knowledge of the physiological capacities of saprotrophic Mucoromycotina representatives is still limited to a few well-studied taxa (e.g., fung-growth.org). Nevertheless, an experiment using a large number of representative taxa and measuring their direct ability to grow on different carbon sources could unambiguously determine whether saprotrophic Mucoromycotina representatives are only “sugar fungi” or much more versatile.

The main goal of the study was to use carbon assimilation capacities to explore the effects of isolation origin and phylogenetic placement on enzyme production by a large group of saprotrophic Mucoromycotina representatives (i.e., Umbelopsidales and Mucorales). Carbon utilisation profiles were assessed using phenotypic microarrays and the screening of enzymatic capacities was performed on polymer containing agar plates. We used this information to verify the hypothesis that the carbon assimilation properties depend on strain isolation origin rather than on its phylogenetic placement.

### Results

#### Usage of simple carbon substrates.

The carbon assimilation profiles of 52 Mucorales strains were obtained by screening on Biolog microplates and are summarised in Fig. 1. None of the analysed strains were able to use all 95 carbon sources. On average, 60 substrates were absorbed per strain, i.e., approx. 63%. The number of substrates used by particular strains ranged from 27 (for Benjaminiella poitrasii and Mycotypha microspora) to 89 (for Saksenaea oblongispora). Only 6 carbon sources (α-D-glucose, D-ribose, D-xylose, L-alanine, sebacic acid and N-acetyl-D-glucosamine) were used by all strains and all of them grew fastest on N-acetyl-D-glucosamine. The capacity to use the remaining 89 substrates differed between the studied strains. Each of the 95 tested carbon sources was used by at least ten of the analysed strains. All of the studied fungal strains grew the fastest on amino acids which are known to constitute the main nutritional source for the majority of fungi. Furthermore, monosaccharides were in general metabolised faster than more complex carbohydrates.

#### Growth capacity on selected biopolymers.

All 36 tested strains exhibited a capacity to grow on oat xylan as a sole carbon source, but only 25 of them were able to use cellulose (Fig. 1). The smallest number of strains (i.e. 10 out of 36) were able to grow on apple pectin as the only carbon source. It is noteworthy that all
three representatives of Umbelopsidales were able to grow only on xylan. The capacities of the remaining strains to grow on starch, pectin and cellulose was strain dependent and was not correlated with isolation origin nor with phylogenetic placement.

Factors shaping carbon usage capacities. Principal Component Analysis (Fig. 3) showed that phylogenetic placement (as family assignment) can explain the variability in the carbon assimilation profiles between the analysed fungi better than their isolation origin. The Kruskal–Wallis H test revealed significant differences ($p < 0.05$) in the usage of 6 carbon sources between groups of fungi isolated from different substrates and in the usage of 20 carbon sources between different family representatives (Supplementary Table S3).

Figure 2. Carbon source utilisation by fungal strains represented as interquartile ranges of AUC values. Bar in the middle of the box represents the median and its colour indicates substrate type. Whiskers indicate the most extreme data point which is no more than 1.5 times the interquartile range from the box. Numbers in parentheses determine number of strains which were able to grow on a particular substrate.
Although the results of a Mantel test did not reveal a statistically significant correlation between phylogeny and carbon assimilation capacities (r = 0.15; p = 0.10), we identified carbon sources which are used differently by distinct phylogenetic groups (Fig. 4). The representatives of the Umbelopsidaceae family grew efficiently on several carbohydrates (α-D-lactose, D-melibiose, lactulose, α-methyl-D-galactoside, β-methyl-D-galactoside, sucrose, palatinose, stachyose, D-raffinose and maltitol), but were not able to grow on plant-related biopolymers such as cellulose, pectin or starch. Although the representatives of Lichtheimiaceae and Cunninghamellaceae used some of the abovementioned carbohydrates more efficiently than other families, there was no clear pattern differentiating the families. Some abilities to assimilate carbon sources were shared by Umbelopsidaceae and Lichtheimiaceae (e.g. α-D-lactose), others were characteristic of Umbelopsidaceae and Cunninghamellaceae (e.g. usage of alaninamide) whereas stachyose and D-raffinose were used by all three families (see Fig. 4). Interestingly, Mucoraceae representatives used carbohydrates less efficiently than fungi from other families but the majority of them (14 out of 18) were able to grow on cellulose as a sole carbon source.

**Transporter genes.** The percentage of proteome which is occupied by transporter genes (from groups described in Schwartz et al.20; major facilitator superfamily – MFS_1: PF07690, MFS_1_like: PF12832, MFS_2: PF13347, ABC transporters – ABC_tran: PF00005, ABC_membrane: PF00664, PDR_CDR: PF06422, and other sugar transporters – Sugar_tr: PF00083) was compared between 19 available genomes of Mucorales representatives (see Supplementary Table S5 for genome data and transporter counts). This analysis revealed that the representatives of Lichtheimiaceae and Cunninghamellaceae family were characterised by a higher average number of sugar transporters and major facilitator superfamily 1 (MFS1) transporters in their membranes which may explain their more efficient growth on carbohydrates as the sole carbon source.

**Discussion**

The main aim of this study was to explore the largely undescribed metabolic properties of Mucoromycotina. Since fungi display a great diversity of carbon assimilation capacities, we screened a collection of 72 strains of saprotrophic Mucoromycotina on Biolog phenotypic microarrays. Although this method enabled a rapid generation of large datasets, the repeatability of the results for some strains was low and led to the exclusion of some strains from the final analysis. The lack of efficient sporulation of some strains was probably the main reason for the high variability of the results, as previously reported by Baldrian et al.21. Another problem is that the most ubiquitous plant polysaccharides, such as cellulose and pectin, are not represented in Biolog FF microplates (https://biolog.com). Therefore, additional experiments on agar plates were also performed according to methods previously described by Farrow22 and Vermelho and Couri23. Combining information from Biolog FF microplates with additional experiments on plates made it possible to get sufficient data for further comparisons between carbon utilisation capacities of different fungal strains.

Fungi generally utilise carbohydrates through the production of carbohydrate hydrolytic enzymes secreted into the environment, which digest large organic molecules into smaller molecules which can then be absorbed as nutrients24. Several studies have already demonstrated a strong relationship between the repertoire of carbohydrate active enzymes (CAZymes, http://www.cazy.org25) in fungal genomes and their saprotrophic lifestyle26–28. However, this capacity is probably crucial mainly for organisms which degrade large organic molecules.

Saprotrophic Mucoromycotina representatives are commonly thought to be unable to assimilate more complex organic compounds such as cellulose and lignin14. For example, the analysis of the genome of *Rhizopus oryzae* revealed that it possesses pathways for the degradation of easily digestible plant cell wall saccharides, but it is unable to degrade cellulose26. In our study, several saprotrophic Mucoromycotina representatives, including *Rhizopus*, were able to grow on cellulose as a sole carbon source. This inconsistency could probably be explained by the fact that mucoralean cellulolytic enzymes can differ from their well-known Dikarya homologs and therefore are hard to detect in standard genome annotation procedures.

On the other hand, the cellulolytic activity was not detected in fungi from the Umbelopsidaceae family, which used simple carbohydrates more efficiently. However, fungi from this group are often isolated from woody
substrates, such as *Umbelopsis* representatives which are well-known late wood colonisers.\(^2^9\). Therefore, rather than degrading complex substrates, they probably feed on substrates which were decomposed by other organisms.\(^3^0\). Although there is currently no proteome data available for any Umbelopsidaceae representative, it is certain that for such a group of organisms membrane transporters would be of crucial value.

Schwartze *et al.*\(^2^0\) observed several expansions in genes coding of transporters in the *Lichtheimia corymbifera* genome. Our results are consistent with this finding, as the representatives of Lichtheimiaaceae, Cunninghamellaceae and Syncephalastraceae were characterised by a higher number of protein-coding genes for membrane transporters and by more efficient growth on simple carbohydrates.

As expected, monosaccharides were generally metabolised faster than complex carbohydrates. The monosaccharide which was used the fastest was D-xylose, which is a pentose type sugar, first isolated from wood. All tested saprotrophic Mucoromycotina strains were also able to grow on xylan as a sole carbon source. These results reveal that xylan degradation capacity is much more widespread within Mucoromycotina representatives than

---

**Figure 4.** Utilisation of carbon sources for which the difference between groups was statistically significant in Kruskal-Wallis H test \((p < 0.05\). Grouping is done either by fungal families or substrate of origin. Utilisation is represented as interquartile ranges of AUC values with bar in the middle of the box representing median and whiskers indicating the most extreme data point which is no more than 1.5 times the interquartile range from the box.
previously thought and it indirectly proves their affinity for plant relations, set as a characteristic of this group by Spatafora et al.

Although Eichlerova et al. and Baldrian et al. showed that closely related fungal strains also reveal high similarity in enzyme production, they concluded that fungal ecophysiology is the main factor shaping fungal enzymatic capacities. In our study, the isolate substrate influence was best represented in D-Glucuronic acid usage which was metabolised more efficiently by strains isolated from dung. D-Glucuronic acid is a sugar acid derived from glucose, which is present in urine and therefore, the ability of dung-originating fungi to use it as a carbon source is not surprising.

As dung and soil are heterogeneous substrates, they are populated by both plant and animal related fungi. This diversity of organisms associated with organic debris is expected to show differences in carbon usage preferences (as can be seen on Fig. 3b). For example, although many fungi are known to be able to use uronic acids as a sole carbon source, the pathways for their catabolism are understudied. The first fungal metabolic pathway of uronic acids has been described only recently in Aspergillus niger (Ascomycota). The catabolic D-glucuronate pathway in this organism differs fundamentally from the pathways known from bacteria or animals. As uronic acids are typical for mucoralean cell walls, D-glucuronic acid usage and catabolic pathway responsible for degrading it is a particularly interesting in case of Mucoromycota representatives. Moreover, the ability to degrade or modify them can influence the competitiveness of a particular fungus.

Although phylogenetic placement seems to be a reliable predictor of carbon assimilation capacities for Umbelopsidaceae, Lichtheimiaceae, and Cunninghamellaceae, this dependency cannot be seen for Mucoraceae. It can likely be explained by the heterogeneity of this family. Mucor is the largest and the most variable genus among the whole Mucoromycotina. This variability is also reflected in the carbon assimilation capacities of its representatives and therefore makes it more difficult to draw any conclusions on this group’s traits similarity at the species, genus or family level.

The results of the study have revealed that neither phylogenetic distance nor strain isolation origin determines carbon assimilation capacities of saprotrophic Mucoromycotina representatives (i.e. Umbelopsidales and Mucorales). However, several significant differences in the growth capacity on specific carbon sources were observed between the representatives of different families. Most importantly, our results show that saprotrophic Mucoromycotina representatives are metabolically versatile and are able to use a wide variety of carbon sources including biopolymers of plant origin.

Materials and Methods

Isolates and culturing. 72 strains belonging to 62 species of Mucorales and Umbelopsidales were provided by the Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute, Utrecht, Netherlands. Fungi were incubated for 10 days on different culture media (MEA, OA, CMA, PDA) and in different temperatures according to the recommendations received from the Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute culture collection. The culture conditions are indicated in Supplementary Table S1. The identity of all strains was confirmed by the sequencing of the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region and with standard morphological identification procedures.

Determination of assimilation profiles for simple carbon substrates. Phenotypic microarray plates for filamentous fungi, FF (Biolog Inc., USA) were used to test the capacity of all 72 strains to grow on 95 different carbon sources (Supplementary Table S3) and one negative control – no carbon source added. Carbon sources for filamentous fungi, FF (Biolog Inc., USA) were used to test the capacity of all 72 strains to grow on 95 different carbon sources including biopolymers of plant origin.

Determination of growth capacity on selected biopolymers. 36 strains of well sporulating cultures were tested for their capacity to grow on cellulose, xylan, starch and pectin as a sole carbon source. All samples were first cultured on MEA at 25 °C for one week and then they were transferred onto screening agar plates. The medium for all tests contained: 3 g of NH4NO3, 1 g of KH2PO4, 0.5 g of MgSO4 · 7H2O, 0.5 g of KCl, 15 g of agar, 1000 ml of water. This medium was used as a negative control. For screening experiments, the medium was supplemented with 1% of cellulose powder, 0.5% of oat xylan powder, 1% of starch powder, or 10% of apple pectin respectively. Amylase activity was verified using 10% iodine to visualise the hydrolysis zone. All tests were done in three replicates.

Data analysis. The average usage of each carbon source tested on Biolog FF microplates was represented as medians and ranges of AUC values in boxplot (Fig. 2). For 52 tested fungal strains, the metabolic capacity to grow on a particular substrate was represented as a heatmap of binary data (Fig. 1). The principal component analysis for all tested isolates was performed using prcomp function on Pearson correlation matrices with centring set to...
true. The phylogenetic placement (considered as family assignment according to Hoffmann et al.\textsuperscript{10}) and strain isolation origin were used to explore factors shaping carbon usage capacities (Fig. 3). Finally, the significance of particular carbon utilisation capacity between different family representatives and between strains isolated from different substrates were calculated using the Kruskal–Wallis H test (also called one-way ANOVA on ranks) as the data did not fit a normal distribution pattern (Supplementary Table S3). Boxplots, representing the median AUC value of all fungi belonging to a particular group (ie. family or origin) growing on a particular carbon source, were drawn only for those substrates for which the difference in usage either by different families (only for families represented by more than one strain) or different trophic groups was statistically significant in the Kruskal-Wallis H test (p < 0.05) (Fig. 4). The correlation between phylogenetic distance and carbon assimilation dissimilarity matrices (Bray-Curtis) was calculated using the Mantel test (10000 permutations; Pearson correlation). All analyses were performed in R\textsuperscript{37} (including packages ggfortify v0.4.1\textsuperscript{38}, vegan v2.4.2\textsuperscript{39} and ape v5.2\textsuperscript{40}).

**Phylogenetic tree.** To assess phylogenetic relationships between strains, we used publicly available nucleotide sequences of 18S rRNA gene, ITS fragment and 28S rRNA gene for each species used in the study (see Supplementary Table S4 for NCBI identifiers of sequences used). Alignments for each marker were done independently using the MAFFT v7 algorithm with –auto option\textsuperscript{41}. The best-fitting evolution model was established for the alignment of each marker independently using modellst- ng\textsuperscript{42}. Alignments were then trimmed with tri- nailing -automated1 function and concatenated afterwards. For constructing the phylogenetic tree we used raxml-HPC v.8.2.4\textsuperscript{43}, substitution model GTRGAMMAIX (as it was the best model for all three markers accord- ing to modellst- ng), and 1000 bootstrap replicates.

**Transporter annotation.** Few Mucorales strains have their genomes and predicted proteomes deposited in the NCBI genome database\textsuperscript{44}. All 19 available Mucorales proteomes were downloaded in April 2018 from the aforementioned database and searched using pfam_scan.pl as a wrapper for HMMER with e-value threshold of 0.001 against the whole PFAM 31 database\textsuperscript{45}. Pfam_scan.pl resolves overlapping hits and provides unambiguous protein domain architecture annotation. The transporter families mentioned by Schwartze et al.\textsuperscript{20} (MFS, ABC and other sugar transporters) were selected and compared between strains from different substrates and between different family representatives.

**Data Availability** All raw data generated for this study are available in Supplementary Table 1.

**References**

1. McCann, M. & Carpita, N. Designing the deconstruction of plant cell walls. *Curr. Opin. Plant Biol.* 11, 314–320 (2008).
2. Kendrick, B. Fungi and the history of mycology. *E LS* (2001).
3. Nelsen, M. P., DiMichele, W. A., Peters, S. E. & Boyce, C. K. Delayed fungal evolution did not cause the Paleozoic peak in coal production. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 113, 2442–2447 (2016).
4. Floudas, D. et al. The Paleozoic Origin of Enzymatic Lignin Decomposition Reconstructed from 31 Fungal Genomes. *Science* 336, 1715–1719 (2012).
5. Lutzoni, F. et al. Contemporaneous radiations of fungi and plants linked to symbiosis. *Nat. Commun.* 9, 5451 (2018).
6. Field, K. J., Pressel, S., Duckett, J. G., Rimington, W. R. & Bidartondo, M. I. Symbiotic options for the conquest of land. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* 30, 477–486 (2015).
7. Spatafora, J. W. et al. A phyllum-level phylogenetic classification of zygomycete fungi based on genome-scale data. *Mycologia* 108, 1028–1046 (2016).
8. Desirò, A. et al. Multigene phylogeny of Endogonales, an early diverging lineage of fungi associated with plants. *IMA Fungus* 8, 245–257 (2017).
9. Voigt, K. & Wustemeyer, J. Phylogeny and origin of 82 zygomycetes from all 54 genera of the Mucorales and Mortierellales based on combined analysis of actin and translation elongation factor EF-1 genes. 113–120 (2001).
10. Hoffmann, K. & et al. The family structure of the Mucorales: a synoptic revision based on comprehensive multigene–genealogies. *Persoonia - Mol. Phylogeny Evol. Fungi* 30, 57–76 (2016).
11. Voigt, K., Vaas, L., Stielow, B. & de Hoog, G. S. The zygomycetes in a phylogenetic perspective. *Persoonia - Mol. Phylogeny Evol. Fungi* 30, 1–4 (2013).
12. Savory, F. R., Milner, D. S., Miles, D. C. & Richards, T. A. Ancestral Function and Diversification of a Horizontally Acquired Oomycete Carboxylic Acid Transporter. *Mol. Biol. Evol.* 1–14, https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msy082 (2018).
13. Muszewskas, A. et al. Fungal lifestyle reflected in serine protease repertoire. *Sci. Rep.* 7, 9147 (2017).
14. Heseltine, C. W. & Ellis, J. J. Mucorales. In *The fungi. An advanced treatise. (eds. Ainsworth, G. C., Sparrow, F. K. & Sussman, A. S.)* 4B, 187–217 (Academic Press, 1973).
15. Voigt, K. et al. Genetic and Metabolic Aspects of Primary and Secondary Metabolism of the Zygomyces. *in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ed. Hofmeister, D.)* 361–385, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-27790-5_15 (Springer International Publishing, 2016).
16. Krisch, J., Tako, M., Papp, T. & Vagvolgyi, C. Characteristics and potential use of β-glucosidases from Zygomyces. 891–896 (2010).
17. Pawlowska, J. et al. Preliminary studies on the evolution of carbon assimilation abilities within Mucorales. *Fungal Biol.* 120, 752–765 (2016).
18. Schwarz, P. et al. Molecular identification of fungi found on decomposed human bodies in forensic autopsy cases. *Int. J. Legal Med.* 129, 785–791 (2015).
19. Gournas, C., Prevost, M., Krammer, E.-M. & Andre, B. Function and Regulation of Fungal Amino Acid Transporters: Insights from Predicted Structure. in *Yeast Membrane Transporters* (eds. Ramos, J., Sychrová, H. & Kischisch, M.) 892, 69–106 (Springer International Publishing, 2016).
20. Schwartze, V. U. et al. Gene Expansion Shapes Genome Architecture in the Human Pathogen Lichtheimia corymbifera: An Evolutionary Genomics Analysis in the Ancient Terrestrial Mucorales (Mucoromycotina). *PLoS Genet.* 10, e1004496 (2014).
21. Baldrian, P. et al. Production of extracellular enzymes and degradation of biopolymers by saprotrophic microfungi from the upper layers of forest soil. *Plant Soil* 338, 111–125 (2011).
22. Farrow, W. M. Tropical Soil Fungi. *Mycologia* 46, 632–646 (1954).
23. Vermelho, A. B. & Couri, S. Methods to Determining Enzymatic Activity. (Benthem Science Publishers, 2015).
24. Chen, W., Xie, T., Shao, Y. & Chen, F. Phylogenomic Relationships between Amylolytic Enzymes from 85 Strains of Fungi. *PLoS ONE* 7, e49679 (2012).
25. Cantarel, B. L. et al. The Carbohydrate-Active EnZymes database (CAZy): an expert resource for Glycogenomics. Nucleic Acids Res. 37, D233–D238 (2009).
26. Battaglia, E. et al. Carbohydrate-active enzymes from the zygomycete fungus Rhizopus oryzae: a highly specialized approach to carbohydrate degradation depicted at genome level. BMC Genomics 12, 38 (2011).
27. Martinez, D. et al. Genome, transcriptome, and secretome analysis of wood decay fungus Postia placenta supports unique mechanisms of lignocellulose conversion. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 106, 1954–1959 (2009).
28. Martin, F. et al. The genome of Laccaria bicolor provides insights into mycorrhizal symbiosis. Nature 452, 88–92 (2008).
29. Richardson, M. The ecology of the Zygomycetes and its impact on environmental exposure. Clin. Microbiol. Infect. 15, 2–9 (2009).
30. Purahong, W. et al. Life in leaf litter: novel insights into community dynamics of bacteria and fungi during litter decomposition. Mol. Ecol. 25, 4059–4074 (2016).
31. Eichlerová, I. et al. Enzymatic systems involved in decomposition reflects the ecology and taxonomy of saprotrophic fungi. Fungal Ecol. 13, 10–22 (2015).
32. Kuivanen, J., Sugai-Guérios, M. H., Arvas, M. & Richard, P. A novel pathway for fungal D-glucuronate catabolism contains an L-idonate forming 2-keto-L-gulonate reductase. Sci. Rep. 6, 26329 (2016).
33. Bartnicki-Garcia, S. Cell Wall Chemistry, Morphogenesis, and Taxonomy of Fungi. Annu. Rev. Microbiol. 22, 87–108 (1968).
34. Wallner, G. et al. DNA barcoding in Mucorales: an inventory of biodiversity. Persoonia - Mol. Phylogeny Evol. Fungi 30, 11–47 (2013).
35. de Hoog, G. S., Guarro, J., Gene, J. & Figueras, M. J. Atlas of Clinical Fungi. 3rd ed.: cd-rom. (2009).
36. Preston-Mafham, J., Boddy, L. & Randerson, P. F. Analysis of microbial community functional diversity using sole-carbon-source utilisation profiles – a critique. FEMS Microbiol. Ecol. 42, 1–14 (2002).
37. R Core Team. R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing. (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, 2017).
38. Tang, Y., Horikoshi, M. & Li, W. ggfortify: Unified Interface to Visualize Statistical Result of Popular R Packages. R J. 8, 478–489 (2016).
39. Oksanen, J. et al. vegan: Community Ecology Package (2008).
40. Paradis, E., Claude, J. & Strimmer, K. APE: Analyses of Phylogenetics and Evolution in R language. Bioinformatics 20, 289–290 (2004).
41. Katoh, K. & Standley, D. M. MAFFT Multiple Sequence Alignment Software Version 7: Improvements in Performance and Usability. Mol. Biol. Evol. 30, 772–780 (2013).
42. Kozlov, A. M., Darriba, D., Flouri, T., Morel, B. & Stamatakis, A. RAxML-NG: A fast, scalable, and user-friendly tool for maximum likelihood phylogenetic inference, https://doi.org/10.1101/447110 (Bioinformatics, 2018).
43. Stamatakis, A. RAxML version 8: a tool for phylogenetic analysis and post-analysis of large phylogenies. Bioinformatics 30, 1312–1313 (2014).
44. NCBI Resource Coordinators. Database Resources of the National Center for Biotechnology Information. Nucleic Acids Res. 45, D12–D17 (2017).
45. Finn, R. D. et al. The Pfam protein families database: towards a more sustainable future. Nucleic Acids Res. 44, D279–D285 (2016).

Acknowledgements
We thank Grit Wältner for her insight and comments about the manuscript. This work was supported by the National Science Centre, Poland, under Grants Nos 2015/17/D/NZ8/00778 and 2017/25/B/NZ8/00473 to Julia Pawłowska.

Author Contributions
J.P. conceived the idea of the study. T.A.P. and K.S. performed Biolog experiments. J.P. performed the experiments on agar plates. A.M. performed genomic analysis. A.O. performed phylogenetic analysis. A.O., J.P. and K.K. performed data analysis. J.P., A.O., S.D. and A.M. wrote the manuscript.

Additional Information
Supplementary information accompanies this paper at https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-48296-w.

Competing Interests: The authors declare no competing interests.

Publisher’s note: Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

© The Author(s) 2019