

Biosynthesis of antifungal and antibacterial polyketides by *Burkholderia gladioli* in coculture with *Rhizopus microsporus*.

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[Details](#)



Abstract

Fungi-bacteria interactions can impact the course of fungal infection and biotechnological use. The mucoralean fungus *Rhizopus microsporus*, traditionally used in food fermentations (tempe and sufu), is frequently accompanied by *Burkholderia gladioli* pv. *cocovenenans*. When producing tempe bongkreik, the bacterial contamination can lead to lethal food-related intoxications caused by the respiratory toxin bongkreikic acid. To unveil the metabolic potential of the fungus-associated bacterium, we sequenced its genome, assigned secondary metabolite biosynthesis gene clusters and monitored the metabolic profile under various growth conditions. In addition to the bongkreikic acid biosynthesis gene cluster we found gene clusters coding for the biosynthesis of toxoflavin and a complex polyketide. The orphan polyketide synthase gene cluster was activated under conditions that emulate tempe production, which enabled isolation and structure elucidation of four members of the enacyloxin family of antibiotics, out of which one is new. Moreover, we found that the fungus positively influences the growth of the bacteria and dramatically increases bongkreikic acid production in stationary culture, which inhibits the growth of the fungus. These results

showcase the context-dependent formation of antifungal and antibacterial agents at the fungal-bacterial interface, which may also serve as a model for scenarios observed in mixed infections.

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