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Functional phenotyping of filamentous fungi from a Biological Resource Center: application to the bioremediation of creosote-treated wood.

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Background

CIRM-CF is a Biological Resource Center (BRC) preserving and offering to the scientific community more than 3,000 fungal strains mainly involved in plant biomass transformation. To provide users with useful information on strains, we launched a large-scale functional phenotyping program to assess their degradation potential towards industrial and recalcitrant compounds (synthetic dyes, lignocellulose-derived compounds and plastic polymer). With over 1,200 strains now characterized, we can draw up a functional map to guide the selection of fungal taxa to be tested for biotechnological applications (PMID: 34267314). Here, we proposed to take advantage of this open data, to screen effective strains under solid-sate fermentation for the bioremediation of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in creosote-treated wood.

Strains selection

Based on their abilities to degrade azo dyes¹, and their biotope of origin, we selected 42 fungal strains (and species) from the Biological Resource Center CIRM-CF to test their potentiel in cresosote-treated wood bioremediation.

-Solid State Fermentation of creosote-treated wood







-Results

The selected strains were screened for their ability to grow in SSF on



Among them, 11 had observable

Creosote

lelecom poles (pine wood)

Railroad ties (oak wood)

Environmental pollution

Experimental design

	Oak	Pine		Oak wood Pi
Abiotic control	Duplicate	Duplicate		
Non creosoted	Duplicate	Duplicate		
Creosoted 10 % creosote oil	Duplicate	Duplicate		Solid State Fermentation model wood substra
Observation and growth	comparison	of fungal	Preculture in liquid medium 2% malt medium	Inoculum ≈ 1% (w/w) + 5g
PAHs degradation	n (UPLC-UV-	CAD-MS)	~7-12 days	25°C, 90% humidity for 2

We prepared two models of creosote-treated wood, from oak and pine chips, in order to setup boxed-SSF assays for the screening of efficient strains.



Conclusions

We proposed to use the functional phenotyping of the CIRM-CF collection, to select efficient strains in the bioremediation of creosote-treated wood, in order to make end-life wood (railroad ties and telecom poles) recyclable again. From the CIRM-CF, we selected for the screening 42 strains able to decolorize two azo dyes (RB5 and BB41), ability often related to lignin-degrading enzymes². Among them, we showed that 11 strains had been able to grow and/or to survive on creosote-treated wood, and 3 strains seem efficiently degrade PAHs. So we have shown that large-scale phenotyping of the CIRM-CF collection has been a useful tool in pre-selecting strains for a dedicated application: the bioremediation of creosote-treated wood. Noteworthy, all of the efficient strains in SSF

assays for PAHs degradation had also shown strong capacity to decolorize BB41, but not always the RB5. This suggests that BB41 decolorization could be an accurate way to select effictive fungal strains for the transformation of aromatics compounds from plant biomass or pollutants in the bioeconomy.

2. Chen H. Recent advances in azo dye degrading enzyme research. Curr Protein Pept Sci. 2006 Apr;7(2):101-11. doi: 10.2174/138920306776359786. PMID: 16611136; PMCID: PMC5863238.



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in the creosoted wood in comparison with the abiotic controls, suggesting for these

fungi some kind of biosorption mechanisms preventing volatilization of the PAHs.