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1 Bacteria-induced production of the antibacterial sesquiterpene
2 lagopodin B in *Coprinopsis cinerea*

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22
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Abstract

Fungi defend their ecological niche against antagonists by producing antibiosis molecules. Some of these molecules are only produced upon confrontation with the antagonist. The basidiomycete *Coprinopsis cinerea* induces the expression of the sesquiterpene synthase-encoding gene *cop6* and its two neighboring genes coding for cytochrome P450 monooxygenases in response to bacteria. We further investigated this regulation of *cop6* and examined if the gene product is involved in the production of antibacterials. Cell-free supernatants of axenic cultures of the Gram-positive bacterium *Bacillus subtilis* were sufficient to induce *cop6* transcription assessed using a fluorescent reporter strain. Use of this strain in a microfluidic device revealed that the *cop6* gene was induced in all hyphae directly exposed to the supernatant and that induction occurred within less than one hour. Targeted replacement of the *cop6* gene demonstrated the requirement of the encoded synthase for the biosynthesis of the sesquiterpene lagopodin B, a previously reported antibacterial compound from related species. Accordingly, lagopodin B from *C. cinerea* inhibited the growth of several Gram-positive bacteria including *B. subtilis* but not Gram-negative bacteria. Our results demonstrate that the *C. cinerea* vegetative mycelium responds to soluble compounds of a bacterial culture supernatant by local production of an antibacterial secondary metabolite.

41

42 **Introduction**

43 Saprobic fungi acquire their nutrients by secretion of hydrolytic enzymes into their substrate
44 and absorption of the hydrolysis products. These fungi have evolved various defense strategies
45 to protect these hydrolysis products from being absorbed by other microorganisms and to
46 establish a secure ecological niche (Brakhage et al., 2005). The main defense strategy used by
47 fungi is chemical defense that involves the production of antibiosis molecules such as proteins,
48 peptides or secondary metabolites (SMs). These molecules are either constitutively produced
49 or their production is induced in response to the antagonist (Spiteller, 2015; Sandargo et al.,
50 2019). It has been suggested that inducible production allows the fungus to save resources in
51 the absence of the respective antagonist. In the coprophilous model basidiomycete *Coprinopsis*
52 *cinerea*, both types of regulation for the production of antibiosis molecules have been
53 described. The antibacterial peptide copsin was produced constitutively by axenically
54 cultivated vegetative mycelium (Essig et al., 2014), whereas the expression of a paralogous
55 gene and some lysozyme-encoding genes in the same tissue were dependent on the co-
56 cultivation with bacteria (Kombrink et al., 2018).

57 The genomes of filamentous fungi are rich in gene clusters coding for biosynthetic pathways
58 of SMs with various bioactivities, yet only few of them are expressed under laboratory
59 conditions (Brakhage and Schroeckh, 2011; Chiang et al., 2013). The production of some SMs
60 is induced in co-cultures of fungi with bacteria (Cueto et al., 2001; Oh et al., 2007; Schroeckh
61 et al., 2009; Ola et al., 2013; Spraker et al., 2018) and it has been hypothesized that these SMs
62 function, depending on their concentration, either as signaling molecules or as growth
63 inhibitors in the chemical defense of these fungi against bacterial competitors and antagonists
64 (Brakhage et al., 2005; Andersson and Hughes, 2014; Netzker et al., 2015). Besides biotic
65 stress, abiotic stress can also trigger expression of silent SM gene clusters (Scherlach and
66 Hertweck, 2009; Gressler et al., 2015). However, there are only few cases where the regulation

67 of SM gene clusters involved in bacterial-fungal interactions (BFIs) was studied at a molecular
68 level (Schroeckh et al., 2009; Nützmann et al., 2011; Spraker et al., 2018). The SM gene
69 clusters of filamentous fungi include non-ribosomal peptide synthetases (NRPSs), polyketide
70 synthases (PKSs) and terpene synthases (TSs) (Lackner et al., 2012; Bills et al., 2013).
71 Genomes of Basidiomycota encode more TS genes than NRPS and PKS and homologs of
72 sesquiterpene synthase encoding genes are widespread in this phylum (Schmidt-Dannert,
73 2015). These synthases catalyze the cyclization of farnesyl pyrophosphate to different
74 compounds with diverse structures. The genome of the model basidiomycete *C. cinerea*
75 encodes for six sesquiterpene synthases (Agger et al., 2009). Only one of these genes, termed
76 *cop6*, was thought to belong to a biosynthesis gene cluster since it is flanked by two P450
77 cytochrome monooxygenase encoding genes (Agger et al., 2009). COP6 was functionally
78 characterized as an α -cuprenene synthase by heterologous expression in yeast. Expression of
79 *cop6* together with its two neighboring P450 cytochrome monooxygenases, led to the
80 production of oxygenated α -cuprenene derivatives in this heterologous system (Agger et al.,
81 2009). Based on these results, it has been suggested that *cop6* is involved in the production of
82 the antibacterial sesquiterpene lagopodin B, but so far experimental proof for this is missing
83 and no expression data in *C. cinerea* are available (Agger et al., 2009; Schmidt-Dannert, 2015).
84 Lagopodin B was isolated from the supernatant of axenic cultures of different *Coprinus*
85 species; *C. lagopus* Fries (Bollinger, 1965) and *C. cinereus* (Bu'Lock and Darbyshire, 1976)
86 and was chemically characterized in 1965 (Bollinger, 1965). These fungal species were
87 transferred to the genus *Coprinopsis* after it had become clear that the *Coprinus* type species
88 (*C. comatus*) is more closely related to parasol mushrooms (Redhead et al., 2001). Twenty
89 years after their isolation and chemical characterization, the antibacterial activity of lagopodins
90 against Gram-positive bacteria was demonstrated as part of a PhD thesis (Bastian, 1985). Later
91 on, the compounds were also shown to inhibit platelet aggregation (Lauer and Anke, 1991).

92 In a recent study, we found that the expression of the *cop6*-containing gene cluster was
93 significantly induced in a laboratory strain of *C. cinerea* upon co-culture with the Gram-
94 positive bacterium *Bacillus subtilis* NCIB 3610 and the Gram-negative bacterium *Escherichia*
95 *coli* Nissle 1917 (Kombrink et al., 2018). The terpene synthase-encoding *cop6* gene was among
96 the most highly induced genes in the entire *C. cinerea* genome. Here, we further characterized
97 the biotic and abiotic regulation of this gene cluster and demonstrate that cell-free supernatants
98 of axenic bacterial cultures are sufficient for the induction of the gene cluster. Furthermore, we
99 show that the *cop6* gene is required for the production of lagopodin B and that lagopodin B is
100 active against a variety of Gram-positive but not against Gram-negative bacteria.

101

Results

The expression of *cop6* encoding a sesquiterpene synthase is induced by a soluble compound in bacterial cell-free culture supernatant

The sesquiterpene synthase-encoding gene *cop6* (COP6, JGI protein ID 394772) of the model mushroom *Coprinopsis cinerea* (Kues, 2000) was found to be induced in co-culture with both the Gram-negative bacterium *Escherichia coli* Nissle 1917 and the Gram-positive bacterium *Bacillus subtilis* NCIB 3610 (Kombrink et al., 2018). It was suggested that *cop6* belongs to an SM gene cluster consisting of *cop6* and two adjacent genes, *cox1* (COX1, JGI protein ID 201523) and *cox2* (COX2, JGI protein ID 420898) encoding two predicted cytochrome P450 monooxygenases (Agger et al., 2009; Stajich et al., 2010) (Fig. 1A). In agreement with this hypothesis, the expression of *cox1* and *cox2* was also induced in co-culture with bacteria (Kombrink et al., 2018). In order to characterize the bacterial induction of the *cop6* gene, the promoter region of *cop6* was fused to the reporter gene *dTomato* and this construct was ectopically integrated into the genome of *C. cinerea* AmutBmut (wildtype, wt). Expression of *cop6* was assessed by cultivation of the *C. cinerea* *pcop6-dTomato* reporter strain under the same conditions as the wt strain (Kombrink et al., 2018) and analyzing the fungal whole cell protein (WCP) extract for the presence of the reporter protein dTomato by immunoblotting. As expected, the reporter gene was induced, as visualized by the presence of dTomato, in the presence of live *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610, but interestingly not in the presence of washed and UV-treated bacteria (Fig. 1B). Since saprobic bacteria and fungi feed both by osmotrophy and on some of the same nutrients (De Boer et al., 2005) we set out to test if the mere growth of bacteria and thereby depletion of nutrients could induce the expression of the sesquiterpene synthase gene *cop6*. For this purpose, half of the medium was replaced by sterile double deionized water. This starvation condition did not induce the reporter gene (Fig. 1B). In some BFIs, physical contact of bacteria with fungal hyphae is required for the induction of fungal

127 SM gene clusters (Schroeckh et al., 2009). Since *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610 was found to physically
128 interact with *C. cinerea* by binding in an end-on manner on the fungal hyphae (Stanley et al.,
129 2014) we tested if the presence of the bacteria is required for the induction of the *cop6* gene or
130 if soluble compounds produced by the bacteria are sufficient to elicit the response. For this
131 purpose, the reporter strain was co-cultivated with a methanol (MeOH) extract of bacterial cell-
132 free culture supernatant. This extract was sufficient to induce the expression of the reporter
133 gene (Fig. 1B). The water and MeOH-soluble compounds appeared to be heat stable as the cell-
134 free supernatant subjected to heat (100 °C, 10 min) retained their inducing activity. To test if
135 induction of gene expression in the presence of the MeOH-extract of the bacterial cell-free
136 culture supernatant is specific to *cop6*, analogous reporter strains, in which the expression of
137 *dTomato* is driven by promoters of other bacterially induced genes, were analyzed. The
138 induction appeared not to be specific for the terpene synthase gene *cop6* since the reporter
139 genes for the lysozyme-encoding gene *lysI* (LYS1, JGI protein ID 432813) and a gene
140 encoding a secreted protein *psp* (PSP, JGI protein ID 417969) (Kombrink et al., 2018) were
141 also induced by the MeOH-extract of the bacterial cell-free culture supernatant (Fig. S1). In
142 summary, we found that water and MeOH-soluble, heat stable compound(s) present in the
143 supernatant of axenic *B. subtilis* cultures are able to induce an antibacterial (based on the
144 antibacterial activity of LYS1 (Kombrink et al., 2018)) response in the fungus *C. cinerea*.

145

146 **Induction of *cop6* is restricted to hyphae that are directly exposed to the bacterial culture** 147 **supernatant**

148 The aforementioned analysis of fungal gene expression was conducted at colony level. Thus,
149 it was not clear whether these genes were only induced in the hyphae that were exposed to the
150 bacterial culture supernatant (local response) or whether the induction spreads also to non-
151 exposed parts of the mycelium (systemic response). Propagation of defense gene induction

152 from the area of interaction, both in acropetal and basipetal direction of specialized hyphae,
153 was reported for *C. cinerea* in response to challenge with fungivorous nematodes (Schmieder
154 et al., 2019). In order to assess the spatial distribution of *cop6* expression in *C. cinerea* upon
155 exposure to the bacterial culture supernatant, we performed the challenge of the *C. cinerea*
156 *pcop6-dTomato* reporter strain in a custom-made microfluidic device and examined the
157 fluorescence of dTomato in the single hyphae by fluorescence microscopy. We previously
158 presented two microfluidic platforms that enable the study of BFIs on a single cell (hyphal)
159 level and the exchange of a fluid surrounding fungal hyphae in a controlled and rapid manner
160 (Stanley et al., 2014). The microfluidic device used in this study combines features of the two
161 above mentioned devices (Fig. 2A). The design allowed to spatially restrict the exposure of the
162 fungus to the bacterial culture supernatant to a specific part of the mycelium, specifically the
163 hyphae within the exchange box, and, at the same time, to monitor the fluorescence of hyphae
164 outside of that area. The main features of this device were two independent growth channels,
165 i.e. one control channel and one treatment channel. Both channels are composed of an exchange
166 box and basipetal and acropetal monitoring areas with regard to growth direction of the fungal
167 hyphae. The exchange box was connected to an inlet and outlet hole and separated from the
168 basipetal and acropetal areas by seven constriction channels (Fig. 2B).
169 Importantly, growth of fungal hyphae into the microfluidic device blocked the constriction
170 channels and therefore the flow of the exchanging solution into the basipetal and acropetal
171 areas of the channel. A time-lapse experiment where the growth medium in the exchange box
172 was replaced with a fluorescein containing solution demonstrated this functionality of the
173 microfluidic device (Fig. S2). For the actual experiment, the hyphae of the reporter strain *C.*
174 *cinerea pcop6-dTomato* were grown until the constriction channels on both sides of the
175 exchange box were blocked. The culture medium within the exchange box of the treatment
176 channel was replaced with 5x concentrated MeOH-extract of the cell-free supernatant of *B.*

177 *subtilis* NCIB 3610 dissolved in *C. cinerea* minimal medium (CCMM) pH 6.4. For the control
178 channel, we replaced the culture medium with 5x concentrated MeOH-extract of CCMM pH
179 6.4 dissolved in CCMM pH 6.4. Subsequently, red fluorescence in the device was monitored
180 in a time lapse experiment with a 30-minute time interval. Fig. 2C represents the first time
181 point taken 20 minutes after addition of the cell-free culture supernatant of such a time lapse
182 experiment. The presence of dTomato was restricted to the hyphae that were directly exposed
183 to the *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610 cell-free culture supernatant in the exchange box. For
184 quantification of the dTomato-mediated fluorescence, the area covered by hyphae within the
185 exchange box and the basipetal and acropetal monitoring areas was determined by
186 segmentation of the bright field microscopy images of these areas (Fig. S3). Subsequently, as
187 a measure of fluorescence, the mean grey value (MGV) of the hyphae was compared between
188 the treatment and the control channels over time. The MGV of the hyphae within the exchange
189 box was significantly higher in the treatment channel compared to the control channel (Fig.
190 2D). In contrast, the MGV of the hyphae within the acropetal and basipetal monitoring areas
191 was not significantly different from the MGV in the same areas of the control channel for the
192 first four time points (80 min). These results suggest a restriction of the induction of the *cop6*
193 gene to hyphae that are directly exposed to the bacterial culture supernatant. No intrahyphal
194 propagation of this induction to non-exposed hyphal compartments was observed, at least not
195 within the examined time period.

196

197 ***cop6* is involved in the production of compound 1**

198 Next, we wanted to determine the biosynthesis product of COP6 in its native host. Based on
199 the heterologous expression of the *cop6* gene in the yeast *S. cerevisiae*, COP6 was functionally
200 categorized as an α -cuprenene synthase and suggested to be involved in the biosynthesis of the
201 SM lagopodin B (Agger et al., 2009). To date, however, no interdependence between

202 expression of the *cop6* gene cluster, lagopodin B production and antibacterial activity by *C.*
203 *cinerea* was demonstrated. Based on the bacterial induction of the *cop6* gene cluster, we set
204 out to determine how the fungal metabolite profile would change in co-culture with bacteria
205 compared to an axenic fungal culture and if a mass corresponding to lagopodin B with the
206 molecular formula of $C_{15}H_{18}O_4$ or other oxygenated α -cuprenene compounds would be
207 induced. For this purpose, *C. cinerea* was cultivated on glass beads in the presence and absence
208 of *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610. The supernatant of both cultures was extracted with ethyl acetate
209 (EtOAc) and the crude extract was subjected to liquid chromatography coupled to tandem mass
210 spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). In the crude extract of the co-culture, a compound (**1**)
211 corresponding to the exact mass of lagopodin B (obs. $[M+H]^+ = 263.1278$, calcd. for
212 263.1278), that was absent in the axenic fungal culture, eluted at 16.3 min (Fig. S4). In order
213 to link the activity of the *cop6* gene product to the production of compound **1**, a *C. cinerea*
214 *cop6* deletion strain was prepared by homologous recombination. Since homologous
215 recombination is a rare event in the *C. cinerea* AmutBmut wt strain, a $\Delta ku70$ variant of this
216 strain, which is deficient in non-homologous end-joining (Nakazawa and Honda, 2015), was
217 used for this purpose. The *cop6* gene was replaced by the heterologous *Pcpab* cassette (Stöckli
218 et al., 2017) (Fig. S5). LC-MS/MS analysis revealed the absence of the mass peak
219 corresponding to compound **1** in the crude extract of the *cop6* deletion strain whereas the peak
220 was present and induced in the crude extract of *C. cinerea* AmutBmut $\Delta ku70$ upon co-
221 cultivation with *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610 (Fig. 3A-B). In order to confirm the transcriptional
222 induction of the *cop6* gene cluster in these strains upon co-cultivation with *B. subtilis* NCIB
223 3610, mycelial RNA was isolated, cDNA synthesized and quantitative real-time PCR
224 performed. Another sesquiterpene synthase gene, *cop4* (COP4, JGI protein ID 30510), which
225 is not induced in the presence of bacteria (Kombrink et al., 2018), served as a negative control.
226 As positive control, the above mentioned *psp* gene coding for a secreted protein (Kombrink et

227 al., 2018) was used. The qRT-PCR results revealed that the genes of the putative *cop6* gene
228 cluster were induced in the presence of bacteria in all strains tested (Fig. 3C and S4B). The
229 correlation between production of compound **1** and induction of *cop6* upon co-cultivation with
230 bacteria suggested that the gene product of *cop6* is involved in the production of compound **1**.
231 As a first test for the antibacterial activity of compound **1**, a disk diffusion assay with the crude
232 EtOAc extracts of the different mycelial culture supernatants was performed. However, none
233 of the crude extracts showed antibacterial activity in this assay (Fig. S4C).

234

235 **The *cop6* gene cluster is also induced by abiotic stress**

236 Although co-cultivation of *C. cinerea* with *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610 on glass beads led to
237 induction of the expression of the *cop6* gene cluster and the production of compound **1**, its
238 crude extract did not show any antibacterial activity. We reasoned that the lack of antibacterial
239 activity could be due to low concentrations found in the 18 times concentrated crude extracts.
240 Since up-scaling of the used co-cultivation method was not practicable and induction of many
241 fungal SM gene clusters had been reported for both biotic and abiotic triggers (Scherlach and
242 Hertweck, 2009; Gressler et al., 2015), we tested different axenic culture conditions to produce
243 higher amounts of compound **1**. In these trials, the expression of the sesquiterpene synthase
244 gene *cop6* was monitored using the *C. cinerea* reporter strain *pcop6-dTomato*. We observed
245 that the *cop6* gene was highly expressed by culturing the mycelium in Erlenmeyer flasks
246 without agitation. Under these conditions, *C. cinerea* was growing partly as a surface mat and
247 partly as submersed mycelium (Fig. 4A). The expression of the *cop6* gene was independent of
248 the two growth temperatures tested, as dTomato production was detected in the WCP extract
249 of *C. cinerea* in the flask at 28 °C and 37 °C. As observed in the previous experiments, the
250 expression of the *cop6* gene was very low when *C. cinerea* was cultivated on glass beads (Fig.
251 4A). To test if this represents a general expression pattern of bacteria-induced genes, we

252 cultivated *C. cinerea* AmutBmut (wt) under both above described conditions, extracted RNA
253 from the mycelium, synthesized cDNA and performed qRT-PCR analysis on the genes of the
254 *cop6* gene cluster, the sesquiterpene synthase-encoding gene *cop4*, and the bacterially induced
255 genes coding for LYS1, the above mentioned secreted protein PSP and a laccase (JGI protein
256 ID 502564) (Fig. 4B). All three genes from the *cop6* gene cluster were induced in the flask
257 cultures relative to the glass bead cultures at both growth temperatures tested. However, the
258 standard deviation of the three biological replicates were quite high due to high variation of the
259 expression in the flask culture. The other three bacteria-induced genes were not induced at the
260 lower growth temperature and only slightly induced at 37°C. In summary, these results suggest
261 that the *cop6* gene cluster, in contrast to other bacterially induced genes from *C. cinerea*,
262 respond to both biotic and abiotic environmental cues.

264 **Compound 1 is antibacterial**

265 To produce more of compound **1**, we cultured the different *C. cinerea* strains in Erlenmeyer
266 flasks and prepared crude extracts by EtOAc extraction of 40 mL culture supernatant. LC-
267 MS/MS analysis confirmed the presence of compound **1** in the crude extracts of the *C. cinerea*
268 strains containing an intact *cop6* gene ($\Delta ku70$, AmutBmut, and the reporter strain *pcop6-*
269 *dTomato*) (Fig. 5A-B and S6A-B). These crude extracts were loaded onto blank disks and the
270 antibacterial activity tested on the disk diffusion assay against *B. subtilis* 168 (Fig. 5D first
271 lane). The crude extracts of the strains with an intact *cop6* gene exhibited antibacterial activity
272 against *B. subtilis* 168 and a clear inhibition zone was observed around the disks. In contrast,
273 the crude extracts of the $\Delta cop6$ strains were not active, suggesting that *cop6* is involved in the
274 production of an antibacterial compound. As mentioned above, the crude extracts prepared
275 from the bacteria-induced glass bead cultures did not show any activity (Fig. S4C). We
276 compared the amount of compound **1** in the different crude extracts by comparing the peak

277 area of the extracted ion chromatography for m/z 263.1265-263.1291 (Fig. 5C). The amount of
278 compound **1** was 6.4x, 15.9x and 39x higher for the crude extracts of the flask cultures prepared
279 from *Δku70*, the wt and the *pcop6-dTom*, respectively, compared to the crude extracts prepared
280 from the induced glass bead cultures of these strains, which is in agreement with the biological
281 activity of the different extracts (Fig. 5D compared to Fig. S4C). In our previous study, we
282 showed that both the Gram-positive bacterium *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610 and the Gram-negative
283 bacterium *E. coli* Nissle 1917 induced the expression of the *cop6* gene cluster (Kombrink et
284 al., 2018). However, the crude extracts showed antibacterial activity against *B. subtilis* NCIB
285 3610 but not against *E. coli* Nissle 1917. For a more detailed analysis of the specificity of the
286 antibacterial activity of compound **1**, the crude extracts were tested for growth-inhibitory
287 activity against a set of Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria. The extracts showed clear
288 activity against all tested Gram-positive bacteria but no detectable activity against any tested
289 Gram-negative bacteria (Fig. 5D).

291 **Antibacterial compound 1 is lagopodin B**

292 To determine the structure of antibacterial compound **1**, the crude extract was fractionated in a
293 semi-preparative scale and antibacterial activity of the fractions was determined. The active
294 fraction contained compound **1** which could be described, according to high resolution mass
295 determination (Fig. S7B) by the molecular formula of $C_{15}H_{18}O_4$ (obs. $[M+H]^+ = 263.1269$,
296 calcd. for 263.1278). 1H NMR of the purified compound was nearly identical to that reported
297 for lagopodin B (Bollinger, 1965; Bottom and Siehr, 1975; Bu'Lock and Darbyshire, 1976)
298 (Table S4). Two tautomeric forms are possible for lagopodin B, either A or tautomer B (Fig.
299 6A). Long-range 1H to ^{13}C correlations observed in the gHMBC spectrum were used to
300 differentiate between the two tautomers. Namely, H-9 and Me-11a both showed correlations
301 to a quaternary carbon C10 with a ^{13}C chemical shift of δ 108.8 ppm (Fig. S7A and Table S4).

302 Therefore, the material purified under these conditions shows the dominant presence of the
303 hemi-ketal tautomer A. We propose the C7S configuration as reported for lagopodin B. The
304 antibacterial activity of the purified compound **1** was tested using the disk diffusion assay (Fig.
305 6B) and the same antibacterial activity profile as for the crude extracts was observed.

306

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307 Discussion

308 The increasing number of available fungal genome sequences reveal the potential of fungi to
309 produce SMs (Grigoriev et al., 2011; Lackner et al., 2012; Bills et al., 2013; Sandargo et al.,
310 2019). In basidiomycete genomes, mainly terpene synthase encoding genes are found
311 (Wawrzyn et al., 2012). However, under laboratory conditions many of these SM biosynthetic
312 genes are not expressed and, thus, the exact encoded SM often remains unclear (Scherlach and
313 Hertweck, 2009). The six *C. cinerea* sesquiterpene synthases, named COP1 to COP6, were
314 functionally characterized by heterologous expression in yeast by (Agger et al., 2009). The six
315 genes are expressed at low level during axenic vegetative growth, with between 100 and 300
316 reads per kilo base per million of mapped reads (RPKM) for *cop1*, *cop2*, *cop4* and *cop5* and
317 even below 100 RPKM for *cop2* and *cop6* (Kombrink et al., 2018). The expression of only one
318 of these genes, *cop6*, together with its two neighbouring genes *cox1* and *cox2* was found to be
319 induced in co-cultivation with bacteria (Kombrink et al., 2018). These three genes were
320 suggested to be involved in the biosynthesis of the antibacterial sesquiterpene lagopodin B.
321 However, in the heterologous co-expression of *cop6* with the two monooxygenases *cox1* and
322 *cox2* only oxygenated compounds other than lagopodin B were identified (Agger et al., 2009).
323 Unfortunately, no expression data of the *C. cinerea* genes in the heterologous yeast system was
324 presented in this study and it is therefore unclear if these three genes are really involved and
325 sufficient for lagopodin B production. In our study, we provide evidence that the *cop6* gene
326 product is required for lagopodin B production in the laboratory strain of *C. cinerea* and
327 confirmation that lagopodin B shows antibacterial activity. Former evidence was recently
328 confirmed by an independent study (Masuya et al., 2019). In accordance with the previous
329 report on the antibacterial activity of lagopodins (Bastian, 1985), lagopodin B was not active
330 against the tested Gram-negative bacteria, but inhibited the growth of all tested Gram-positive
331 bacterial species, despite the variations in their cell wall structure. This activity spectrum differs

332 from the ones of the *C. cinerea* lysozymes (Kombrink et al., 2018) and cysteine-stabilized $\alpha\beta$ -
333 defensins (Essig et al., 2014; Kombrink et al., 2018) which both target the cell wall or
334 biosynthesis intermediates thereof. As a benzoquinone derivative, lagopodin B is likely to act
335 as a Michael acceptor of functionally relevant thiol groups in proteins (Nakagawa et al., 2017;
336 König et al., 2019). The difference between the susceptibilities of Gram-positive and Gram-
337 negative bacteria might be due to the different accessibility of target proteins in the two types
338 of bacteria due to the absence and presence of an outer membrane, respectively.

339 Lagopodin B was originally purified from axenic shake flask cultures of different *Coprinopsis*
340 species (Bollinger, 1965; Bastian, 1985). We purified lagopodin B from the supernatant of an
341 axenic standing flask culture of the *C. cinerea* laboratory strain AmutBmut where only part of
342 the mycelium grew submerged. In this culture setup, the expression of the *cop6* gene cluster
343 was induced as compared to the axenic glass bead culture. It is known that fungal metabolite
344 profiles can vary by using different culturing conditions (Scherlach and Hertweck, 2009). As
345 an example, starvation induced the expression of a *C. cinerea* gene coding for a nematotoxic
346 lectin (Bertossa et al., 2004). This was, however, not the case for the *cop6* gene under the
347 starvation conditions used in this study. We conclude, that, in addition to the biotic trigger, i.
348 e. the co-cultivation with bacteria, also abiotic triggers can lead to lagopodin B production.
349 However, this was not a general feature of bacteria-induced genes, as *lys1*, *psp* and a laccase
350 gene, all induced in co-culture with bacteria (Kombrink et al., 2018), were not expressed in the
351 standing flask culture. This finding could be an indication for a function of lagopodin B in
352 addition or alternatively to its role in antibiosis. For example, the compound could act as an
353 auto- or paracrine signalling molecule under axenic conditions.

354 Intriguingly, soluble compounds present in the supernatant of *B. subtilis* cultures were
355 sufficient to induce the expression of the *cop6* gene and the other tested bacteria-induced genes
356 (*lys1* and *psp*) of *C. cinerea*. The isolation and identification of the inducing compound(s) is

357 the main goal of a current follow-up study. Bacteria-derived molecules known to elicit a
358 response in fungi and, thus, candidates for the induction of antibacterial defense in *C. cinerea*,
359 are peptidoglycan fragments (Xu et al., 2008; Svahn et al., 2014), lipoteichoic acids,
360 lipopolysaccharide (Svahn et al., 2014), lipo-oligosaccharides (Ipcho et al., 2016) and bacterial
361 quorum sensing molecules (Hogan et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2004). Our results differ from the
362 ones described by Schroeckh *et al.* (Schroeckh et al., 2009) where physical contact between
363 the ascomycete *Aspergillus nidulans* and specific *Streptomyces* strains was necessary to induce
364 the expression of SM gene clusters in the fungus.

365 Interestingly, lagopodin B, as well as the previously characterized *C. cinerea* lysozymes and
366 cysteine-stabilized $\alpha\beta$ -defensins (Essig et al., 2014; Kombrink et al., 2018), were mainly active
367 against Gram-positive bacteria although both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria were
368 able to induce the *C. cinerea* antibacterial defense response. We therefore consider the
369 observed response in *C. cinerea* a general antibacterial defense response rather than a specific
370 response against Gram-positive bacteria. It remains to be seen whether any of the other
371 bacterially induced *C. cinerea* genes may contribute to the defense of this fungus against Gram-
372 negative bacteria. In this regard, we did not experimentally assess a possible selective
373 advantage of the *C. cinerea* wt strain compared to the *cop6* deletion strain in its competitiveness
374 towards Gram-positive bacteria since *C. cinerea* produces additional defense molecules against
375 this type of bacteria under these cultivation conditions (Essig et al., 2014; Kombrink et al.,
376 2018).

377 Finally, we also studied the spatial distribution of *cop6* induction within the *C. cinerea*
378 mycelium and found that the gene is only expressed in hyphae that were directly exposed to
379 the bacterial culture supernatant. This is in marked contrast to the propagation of the induction
380 of antinematode genes upon challenge of the same organism with fungivorous nematodes
381 (Schmieder et al., 2019). The difference might reflect the higher motility of nematodes

382 compared to bacteria necessitating a systemic fungal defense in order to avoid death of the
383 entire fungal colony. In contrast, bacteria are not evenly distributed in the substrate but mainly
384 occur within water-filled gaps (Young and Crawford, 2004; Crawford et al., 2005). Therefore,
385 it might suffice and be economically advantageous for the fungus if the SM gene cluster is
386 expressed only when and where its product is needed. We speculate that the local concentration
387 of the antibiotic at these induction sites is sufficient to kill bacteria whereas the concentration
388 of the antibiotic in the supernatant of a bacterially induced mycelium is not. The difference
389 between the propagation of the antinematode and antibacterial defense response might also
390 have to do with the fact that antibiosis molecules against predatory nematodes are usually kept
391 intracellular whereas antibacterials are usually secreted and thus spread in the immediate
392 environment providing another type of systemic defense (Künzler, 2018).

393 In summary, our results suggest that fungi possess sophisticated molecular mechanisms to
394 adjust their chemical defense to specific antagonists. Insight into these mechanisms will tell us
395 about the evolution of this defense system in comparison to the innate immune systems of
396 plants and animals and will allow us to characterize more fungal defense chemicals and their
397 applications in fighting plant and animal pathogens and parasites.

398

399 **Experimental Procedures**

400 **Strains and cultivation conditions**

401 Fungal and bacterial strains used in this study are summarized in Table S1. *C. cinerea* strains
402 were cultivated on solid yeast extract-maltose-glucose (YMG) medium at 37 °C in aerated,
403 dark and humid boxes. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* W303a was cultivated on yeast extract-
404 peptone-dextrose (YPD) medium and was used for homologous recombination of plasmids in
405 which case it was selected on synthetic complete dextrose without uracil (SD Ura-) medium.
406 *E. coli* DH5 α was used for cloning and maintenance of plasmids. Preparation of competent
407 cells and transformations were carried out as described by Inoue *et al.* (Inoue et al., 1990). *E.*
408 *coli* DH5 α containing plasmids was cultivated on Luria Bertani (LB) medium containing 100
409 μ g/mL ampicillin at 37 °C. The sequences of all plasmids that were PCR-generated were
410 confirmed by DNA sequencing (Microsynth). Bacterial strains used for disk diffusion assays
411 were cultivated on LB medium except for *Micrococcus luteus* which was cultivated on nutrient
412 broth (DifcoTM, Becton Dickinson).

414 **Construction of *C. cinerea* promoter-reporter fusion strains**

415 The promoter regions of the following four bacterially induced genes were fused to the reporter
416 gene dTomato: the terpene synthase encoding gene *cop6* (JGI protein ID 394772; Broad gene
417 number CC1G_03563), the lysozyme-encoding gene *lys1* (JGI protein ID 432813; Broad gene
418 number CC1G_03076) and a gene encoding a secreted protein *psp* (JGI protein ID 417969;
419 Broad gene number CC1G_08057). The region between the start codon and the 3'-UTR of the
420 upstream gene was considered as 'promoter' region. The promoter regions for *cop6*, *lys1* and
421 *psp* were PCR-amplified from *C. cinerea* AmutBmut gDNA using the primer pairs
422 P03563_f/P03563_r, P03076_f/P03076r and P08057_f/P08057_r respectively. The primers
423 contained homology regions for recombination into plasmid pMA412 (Stanley et al., 2014) to

424 exchange *pABgpdII* with the promoter regions of the bacteria-induced genes. pMA412 was
425 linearized using the restriction enzyme *ClaI*. Homologous recombination was carried out in *S.*
426 *cerevisiae* W303a as described previously (Wälti et al., 2006) and resulted in plasmid
427 pMA1069 for the *cop6* construct, pMA1070 for the *lys1* construct and pMA1074 for the *psp*
428 construct. The plasmids were transformed into *C. cinerea* AmutBmut by protoplasting of
429 mononucleate asexual spores as described in (Granado et al., 1997) for ectopic integration into
430 the *C. cinerea* genome.

431

432 **Construction of a *C. cinerea* knockout strain in *cop6***

433 The deletion of the terpene synthase *cop6* gene was carried out in the *C. cinerea* AmutBmut
434 $\Delta ku70$ strain ku3-24 27 in an analogous manner to that described in (Stöckli et al., 2017). A
435 detailed description of the procedure can be found in the supplementary information.

436

437 **Total RNA extraction and qRT-PCR analysis**

438 To monitor the expression of the terpene gene cluster under various growth conditions, RNA
439 was extracted from the fungal mycelium and cDNA was prepared as described previously
440 (Plaza et al., 2014). qRT-PCR and data analysis was performed as described by Stöckli *et al.*
441 (Stöckli et al., 2017) using the primers listed in Table S2.

442

443 **LC-MS/MS analysis**

444 Samples were analyzed on a calibrated Q Exactive mass spectrometer (Thermo Fischer
445 Scientific) coupled to a Thermo Dionex Ultimate 3000 UHPLC system (Thermo Fischer
446 Scientific). A Kinetex XB-C18 core-shell column with 2.6 μm particle size, 100 Angström
447 pore size and dimensions of 150x4.6 mm (Phenomenex) was used as the stationary phase. Two
448 buffers, buffer A (H₂O containing 0.1% FA) and buffer B (ACN containing 0.1% FA), used

449 as the mobile phase. The samples were eluted with a flow rate of 0.3 mL/min, using a gradient
450 from 0% to 5% buffer B in 2 min, from 5% to 99% buffer B in 18 min and then 99% buffer B
451 for 5 min. The column oven was set to 50 °C. Both LC and MS were controlled by XCalibur
452 2.2 SP1 software with the following parameters for MS1 (m/z range: 113-1700, resolution was
453 set to 70.000 at 200 m/z) and MS2 (resolution was set to 17.500 at 200 m/z Top10, HCD 35,
454 40, 45, with an isolation window 4 m/z).

455

456 **Disk diffusion assay**

457 To assess the antibacterial activity (bioactivity) of the crude extracts and purified compound **1**,
458 disk diffusion assays were performed. A single colony of the test organism was inoculated in
459 10 mL LB medium (37 °C, 6 h, 180 rpm) except for *P. fluorescens* and *M. luteus* (28°C, 18 h,
460 180 rpm). The bacterial culture was diluted in 8 mL prewarmed (42 °C) water agar (1%) to
461 optical density at 600 nm (OD_{600}) 0.1, poured on a LB agar plate and solidified. A sterile paper
462 filter disk (Oxoid) was loaded with 40 μ L in case of the crude extracts of the bead plates and
463 20 μ L in case of the crude extracts of the liquid cultures or 100 μ g of the purified compound
464 dissolved in MeOH, air dried and placed on the bacterial lawn. The plates were incubated
465 overnight at 28 °C.

466

467 **Assessment of gene expression using reporter strains: Immunoblotting of protein extracts**

468 *C. cinerea* reporter strains were grown on glass bead plates as described previously (Essig et
469 al., 2014) with some modifications. Briefly, an agar plug containing *C. cinerea* mycelium
470 grown on YMG agar (37 °C, 3 days) was inoculated in a Petri dish (55 mm in diameter)
471 containing 13 g borosilicate glass beads (5 mm in diameter, Sigma-Aldrich) and 5 mL of
472 CCMM pH 6.4. After incubation of the plates (28 °C, 2.5 days in the dark) either a treatment
473 solution or bacteria were added to the plates and the plates were further incubated (28 °C, 12 h

474 in the dark). Bacteria were grown in CCMM pH 6.4 to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.3, pelleted and
475 resuspended in the fungal medium to an end OD₆₀₀ of 0.1 for *E. coli* Nissle 1917 and 0.2 for *B.*
476 *subtilis* NCIB 3610. Bacteria were killed by exposure to ultra violet (UV) light as described by
477 Stanley *et al.* (Stanley et al., 2014). Cell-free supernatant was prepared from a bacterial culture
478 grown in CCMM pH 6.4 in non-buffed Erlenmeyer flasks (28°C, 24 h, 180 rpm) with a start
479 OD₆₀₀ of 0.1. The bacteria were pelleted (4 °C, 10 min, 5000 rpm), the supernatant sterilized
480 by filtration through a syringe filter (TPP, Switzerland) with a pore size of 0.22 µm and dried
481 by lyophilization. The dried cell-free supernatant was extracted with one volume of MeOH by
482 vortexing (4 °C, 12 h, 2000 rpm) and the insoluble part precipitated by centrifugation (4 °C, 15
483 min, 5000 rpm). MeOH from the soluble part was evaporated under reduced pressure and the
484 dried film resuspended in CCMM pH 6.4 15x concentrated. 400 µL of this suspension was
485 added to the bead plates. The whole cell proteins (WCPs) of the fungal mycelium were
486 extracted as described previously (Stöckli et al., 2017). WCP samples were boiled in Lämmli
487 Buffer, run on a 12% polyacrylamide gel and transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane. The
488 membrane was probed with a 1:5000 dilution of the primary dTomato antibody (anti-Red
489 Fluorescent Protein AA 234 antibody, antibodies-online GmbH) and a 1:3000 dilution of the
490 secondary antibody (horseradish peroxidase conjugated goat anti-rabbit immunoglobulin G,
491 Santa Cruz Biotechnology). Immunoblots were developed using SuperSignal West Dura
492 Extended Duration Substrate (Perbio Science) and light sensitive films (Super RX, Fujifilm).

493

494 **Assessment of gene expression using reporter strains: Fluorescence microscopy**

495 Microfluidic devices were prepared and inoculated with fungal mycelium as described
496 previously (Stanley et al., 2014) with some minor modifications. Briefly, inlet and outlet holes
497 were punched into the poly(dimethylsiloxane) (PDMS) using a precision cutter (Syneo) having
498 a cutting edge diameter of 2.49 mm. Bonding of the PDMS top layer, containing the

499 microchannels, was sealed to the glass-bottomed petri dish using a Diener ZEPTO plasma
500 cleaner (Diener electronic) under the following conditions: power 50%; coating time, 1 min.
501 The device with the fungal inoculum was incubated at 28 °C until hyphae blocked the
502 constriction channels of the exchange box, which took approximately 24 to 30 hours. For the
503 exchange of the fluid in the microfluidic platform the medium in the inlet and outlet holes was
504 removed and 10 µL of the new fluid was introduced into the inlet, incubated for 1 min,
505 removed, and again 10 µL of the new fluid added. Small differences in hydrostatic pressure
506 therefore drive the flow and enable the media surrounding the hyphae to be exchanged with
507 the new fluid. Live-cell imaging of hyphae was performed as described by Stanley *et al.*
508 (Stanley et al., 2014) except that an exposure time of 300 ms was used during epifluorescence
509 microscopy time-lapse experiments with TRITC filters. Time frame between time points was
510 30 minutes. NIS-Elements Advanced Research imaging software (Nikon) with autofocus was
511 used to synchronize long-term, multi-position, time-lapse imaging experiments. The images in
512 the ND document file were exported to Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) files using NIS-
513 Elements Viewer (version 4.20). The images were stitched using custom software and analyzed
514 using Fiji (Schindelin et al., 2012). Detailed description of image analysis can be found in the
515 supplementary data files.

516

517 **Bacterial challenge of *C. cinerea* for qRT-PCR and metabolite analysis**

518 To record the difference of the metabolite profile produced by *C. cinerea* in presence and
519 absence of bacteria *C. cinerea* was grown on glass bead plates (diameter 92 mm) as described
520 previously (Essig et al., 2014) filled with 15 mL CCMM pH 6.4. Three mycelial plugs were
521 inoculated per glass bead plate and the plates were incubated (28 °C, 3 days in a dark humid
522 environment). *B. subtilis* NCIB3610 was grown to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.3 in CCMM pH 6.4 and
523 inoculated to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.1 in the glass bead plates as described above. The co-culture and

524 the control plates without bacteria were further incubated (28 °C, 12 h in the dark). To monitor
525 the expression of the terpene gene cluster in the presence and absence of bacteria, RNA was
526 extracted from the fungal mycelium and cDNA was prepared for qRT-PCR analysis as
527 described above.

528 To analyze the metabolite profile produced by the fungus in the presence and absence of *B.*
529 *subtilis* NCIB 3610 the culture supernatant (12 mL) was extracted with EtOAc. For this
530 purpose, the culture supernatant was centrifuged (4°C, 10 min, 5000 rpm) to pellet the bacteria
531 and sterilized by filtration through a syringe filter (TPP) with a pore size of 0.22 µm and the
532 supernatant extracted (EtOAc, 2x 12 mL). The residue obtained after evaporation under
533 reduced pressure was taken up in MeOH and subjected to LC-MS/MS analysis or its
534 antibacterial activity tested on the disk diffusion assay.

535

536 **Test of different *C. cinerea* cultivation conditions for induction of bacteria-induced genes**

537 **by qRT-PCR analysis**

538 To assess the different expression of the putative defense genes under different cultivation
539 conditions, one mycelial plug of *C. cinerea* AmutBmut was inoculated either on the glass bead
540 plate (55 cm diameter) with 5 mL CCMM pH 6.4 or in a 100 mL Erlenmeyer flask containing
541 5 mL CCMM pH 6.4 and incubated (37 °C or 28 °C, 3 days in a dark humid environment,
542 without shaking). The fungal mycelium was collected, shock frozen and RNA was extracted
543 for qRT-PCR analysis as described above.

544

545 **Production of compound 1 in standing Erlenmeyer flasks**

546 To produce higher quantities of compound 1, four mycelial plugs of *C. cinerea* were inoculated
547 in 20 mL CCMM pH 6.4 in a 500 mL Erlenmeyer flask and incubated (37 °C without shaking,
548 in the dark) to allow mycelial mats form. Then 25 mL of CCMM pH 6.4 was added to the

549 flasks and they were shifted to 28°C until the culture broth appeared colored. The fungal
550 mycelium was separated from the culture broth by filtration and extracted with EtOAc (2x 40
551 mL). The crude extract was dried by evaporation under reduced pressure as described above.

552

553 **Isolation of compound 1**

554 For the purification of compound 1, 3L of culture was grown as described for the liquid culture
555 assay. The culture broth was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 1L), and the solvent was evaporated
556 under reduced pressure to give the crude extract (48 mg). The crude extract was subjected to
557 two successive HPLC runs using two buffer solutions: buffer A (H₂O with 0.1% formic acid)
558 and B (CH₃CN with 0.1% formic acid). The first run was performed on a preparative HPLC
559 using a Phenomenex Luna C18(2) column (5 µm particle size, 100 Angström pore size, and
560 dimensions of 250 x 21.2 mm), a flow rate of 21.2 mL/min, and a gradient starting at 25%
561 buffer B for 1 min and then ramped to 100% buffer B over 30 min. UV detection was set at
562 270 nm. The major peak was collected and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The
563 activity was confirmed by disk diffusion assay using *B. subtilis* 168 as the test organism. The
564 second purification step was carried out by HPLC using a Phenomenex Luna C18(2) column
565 (5 µm particle size, 100 Angström pore size, and dimensions of 250 x 10 mm), a flow rate of
566 2 mL/min, and a mobile phase of 46% buffer A and 54% buffer B for 30 min. The major peak
567 was collected and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure to give compound 1 (4.0 mg).
568 Activity was confirmed by disk diffusion assay and the remaining sample used for NMR
569 analysis.

570

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577

578 **Data Availability Statement**

579 Data is available on request from the authors.

For Peer Review

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Figure legends

Figure 1 | Induction of *C. cinerea* sesquiterpene synthase-encoding *cop6* gene by *B. subtilis*

and its cell-free culture supernatant. (A) Representation of the *C. cinerea* genomic region of the *cop6* gene cluster. *cox1* and 2 encoding cytochrome P450 monooxygenases flank the *cop6* gene coding for an α -cuprenene synthase. The arrowheads indicate the direction of transcription. (B) The promoter region of the *cop6* gene was fused to the reporter gene *dTomato*. The reporter strain was cultivated on glass beads and either co-cultivated with bacteria or their cell-free culture supernatant. WCPs were extracted from the mycelium of these cultures and 50 μ g assayed for the presence of dTomato protein with α -dTomato antibodies on 12% SDS-PAGE transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane (left panel). An identical gel was run and stained with Commassie Brilliant Blue to control for the amount of loaded protein (right panel). ctr stands for control treatment where nothing was added, H₂O for the exchange of half of the medium with sterile water, *Bs* for co-cultivation with *Bacillus subtilis* NCIB 3610, *Bs* UV for co-cultivation with UV-killed *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610 cells, *Bs* CFS for the addition of MeOH-extracted *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610 cell-free supernatant, *Bs* CFS heat for the MeOH-extracted *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610 cell-free supernatant that was heat treated (10 min, 100°C).

Figure 2 | Spatial restriction of bacterial *cop6* induction using a *C. cinerea* *pcop6-dTomato*

reporter strain. (A) Representation of the microfluidic device design highlighting its main features. (B) The enlarged region illustrates the exchange box with the seven constriction channels on each side and the fluid delivery and outlet channels. (C) 5x concentrated MeOH-extract of cell-free *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610 culture supernatant was introduced after *C. cinerea* *pcop6-dTomato* hyphae reached the acropetal monitoring area of the device. Induction of *cop6* was indirectly assessed by detection of the fluorescent protein dTomato by epifluorescence microscopy. The first time point, recorded 20 min after addition of the supernatant, of one of

the three biological replicates is shown. The bright field and fluorescence channels are merged in the left panel and the right panel represents the fluorescence channel only. Scale bar, 200 μm . (D) The mean grey value (MGV) of each area of the microfluidic device was determined as a measure of fluorescence intensity and, thus, *cop6* gene expression, using the segmentation method described in the supplementary Material and Methods. The mean and standard deviation of three independent replicates is represented (** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.06$, assessed by Welch's t-test).

Figure 3 | *cop6*-dependent production of a specific metabolite (compound 1) in *C. cinerea* upon co-cultivation with *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610. The different *C. cinerea* strains were cultivated on bead plates in the absence (-Bs) and presence of *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610 (+Bs). (A) The culture broth was extracted with EtOAc and the crude extract analyzed by LC-MS/MS. Extracted ion chromatography for m/z 263.1265-263.1291 for compound 1 with the formula $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4$ and its theoretical m/z 263.1278 (for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$) is represented. The mass of compound 1 was not observed where the gene that encodes the sesquiterpene synthase COP6 was deleted ($\Delta cop6$). (B) MS2 spectrum of compound 1 is depicted. (C) Induced expression of the *cop6* gene cluster in presence of *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610 was determined by qRT-PCR. The RNA was extracted from the same cultures and mean and standard deviation of three biological replicates are represented. A gene that codes for a secreted protein (*psp*) served as positive control, since it was also induced in presence of bacteria and *cop4* that encodes another sesquiterpene synthase as negative control since it was not induced in presence of bacteria (Kombrink et al., 2018). A dotted line is depicted at a log2 fold change of 2, which was considered as the threshold for significant expression induction. *C. cinerea* $\Delta ku70 \Delta cop6$ #1 and #2 represent two independent transformants.

Figure 4 | Expression of the *cop6* gene cluster cultivated in standing flask cultures of *C. cinerea*. (A) *C. cinerea* *pcop6-dTomato* was cultivated either on bead plates (beads) or in Erlenmeyer flasks (flask) and either at 37°C or 28°C. Expression of *cop6* was assessed indirectly by presence of the reporter protein dTomato. 50 µg of the extracted WCPs were separated on 12 % SDS-PAGE, then either stained with Commassie or transferred to nitrocellulose membrane and probed with α-dTomato antibody. (B) *C. cinerea* AmutBmut wt was cultivated the same way as described in (A) and RNA was extracted for gene expression analysis by qRT PCR. Mean and standard deviation of three biological replicates are represented. Dotted lines are depicted at a log₂ fold change of 2 and -2, which were considered as the threshold for significant expression induction and repression, respectively.

Figure 5 | Antibacterial activity of *C. cinerea* crude culture broth extracts against different Gram-positive bacteria. (A) The different *C. cinerea* strains were grown in Erlenmeyer flasks without shaking. The culture broth was extracted with EtOAc and applied for LC-MS/MS analysis. Extracted ion chromatography for *m/z* 263.1265-263.1291 for compound **1** with the formula C₁₅H₁₈O₄ and its theoretical *m/z* 263.1278 is represented. This mass was not observed in the crude extract of the *cop6* deletion strain. (B) The MS₂ spectrum showed the same fragment ions as the MS₂ spectrum from the *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610-induced crude extracts in Figure 3B. (C) The peak area of the extracted ion chromatography for *m/z* 263.1265-263.1291 for compound **1** of the different culture methods is depicted. Peak area was integrated by XCalibur 3.0 Qual Browser. Crude extracts were prepared from 40 mL of culture broth of the flask cultures (40 times concentrated) and 12 mL of the bead plate cultures (18 times concentrated). (D) Antibacterial activity was assayed by applying the crude extract on blank disks and putting them on a bacterial lawn. *Bs* 168 stands for *B. subtilis* 168, *Bs* 3610 for *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610, *Bs* W23 for *B. subtilis* W23, *Sc* for *Staphylococcus carnosus* 361, *Sa*

for *Staphylococcus aureus* 113, *Ml* for *Micrococcus luteus*, *Pf* for *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Pf-5 and *EcN* for *E. coli* Nissle 1917.

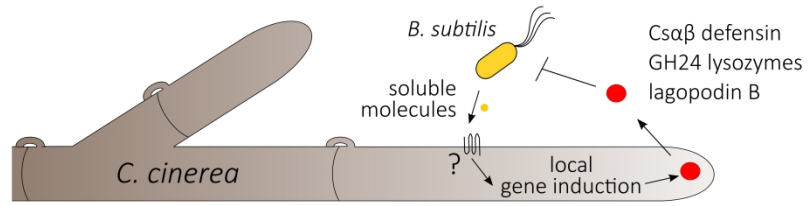
Figure 6 | Structure determination and antibacterial activity of *C. cinerea* compound 1.

(A) The two possible tautomeric forms of lagopodin B (compound 1) are depicted. (B) Antibacterial activity of the purified compound 1 was assayed by applying 100 µg on blank disks and placing them on a bacterial lawn. *Bs* 168 stands for *B. subtilis* 168, *Bs* 3610 for *B. subtilis* NCIB 3610, *Bs* W23 for *B. subtilis* W23, *Sc* for *Staphylococcus carnosus* 361, *Sa* for *Staphylococcus aureus* 113, *Ml* for *Micrococcus luteus*, *Pf* for *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Pf-5 and *EcN* for *E. coli* Nissle 1917. Blank disks containing only MeOH were used as negative control.

Abbreviated Summary

The production of secondary metabolites by microorganisms is often tightly regulated. Here, we show that the production of an antibacterial sesquiterpene by vegetative mycelium of the mushroom *Coprinopsis cinerea* is induced by soluble compounds shed from axenic cultures of the bacterium *Bacillus subtilis*. This finding implies that representatives of the fungal phylum Basidiomycota are able to sense the presence of bacterial antagonists in their environment and to mount an appropriate defense response.

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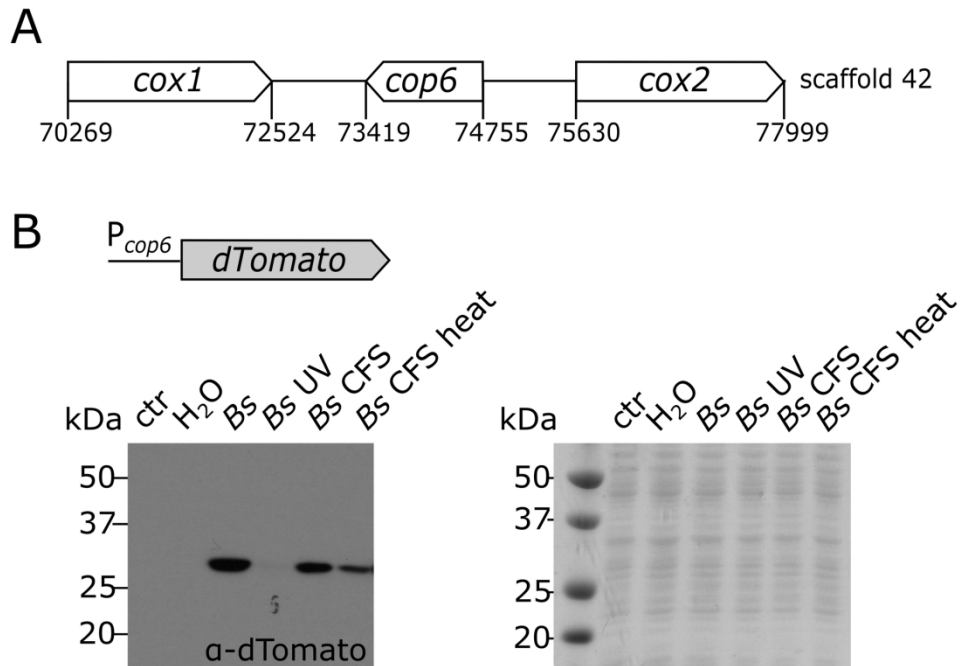


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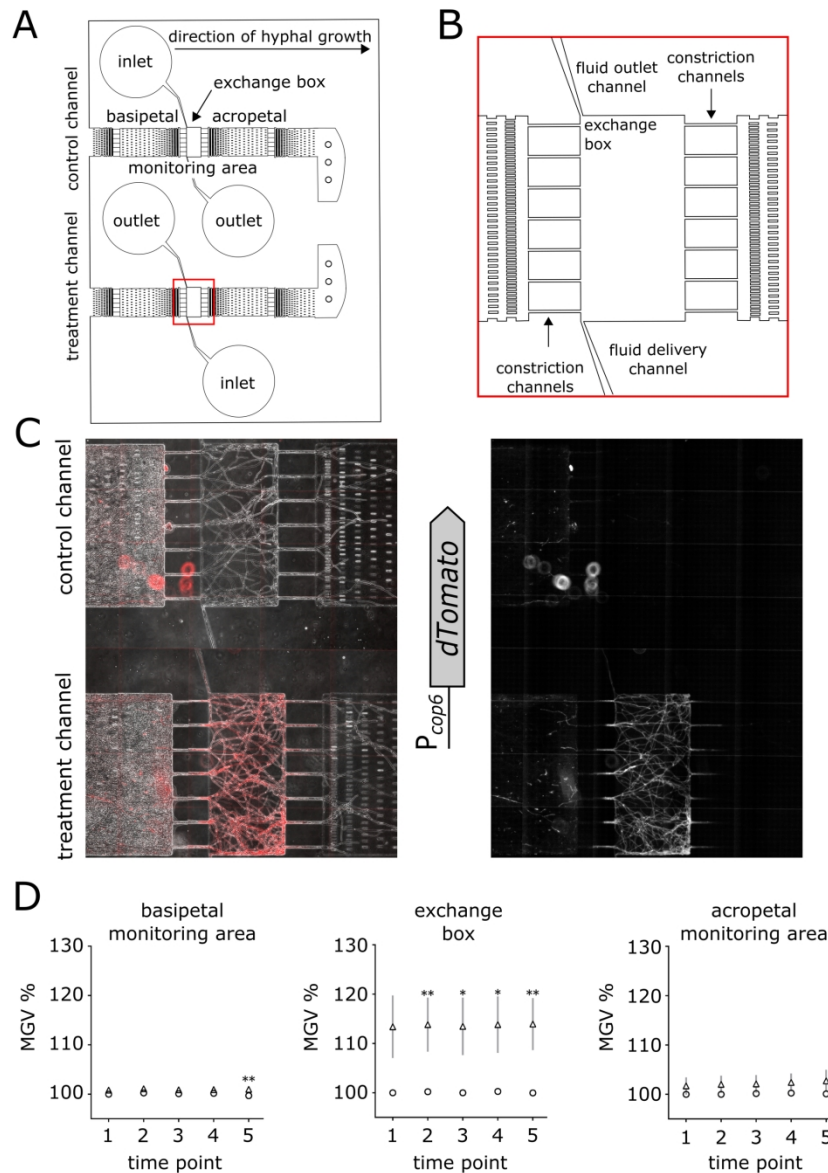


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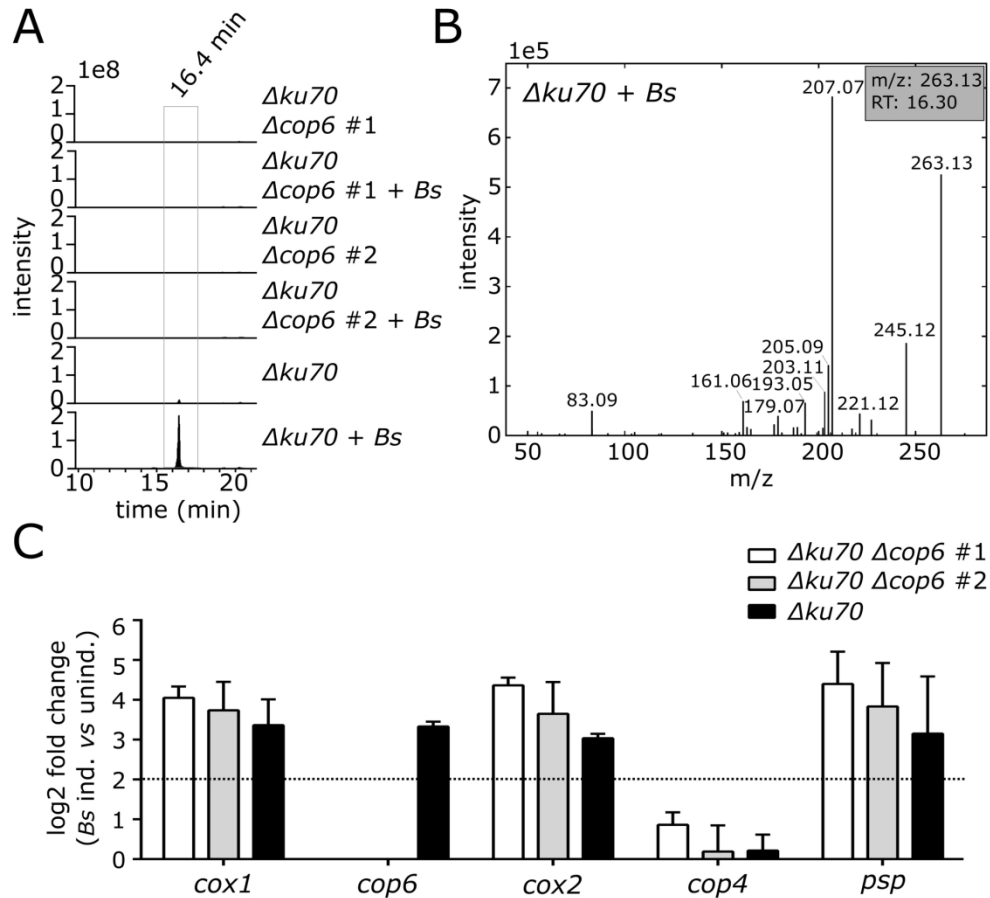


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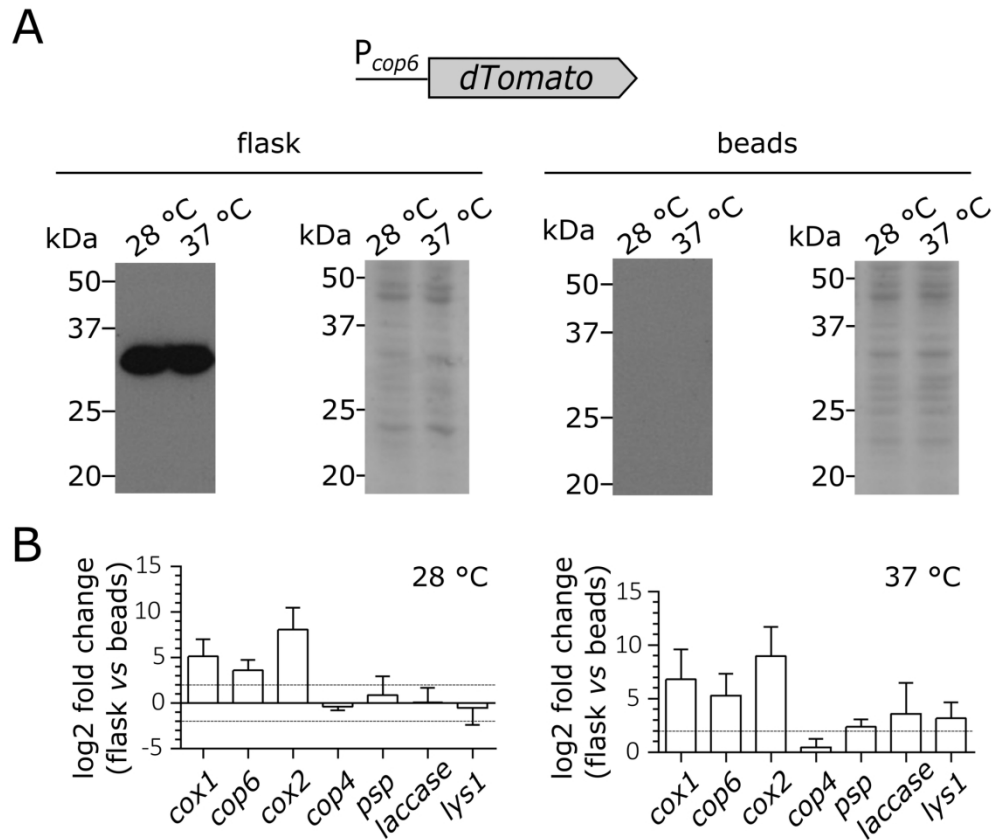


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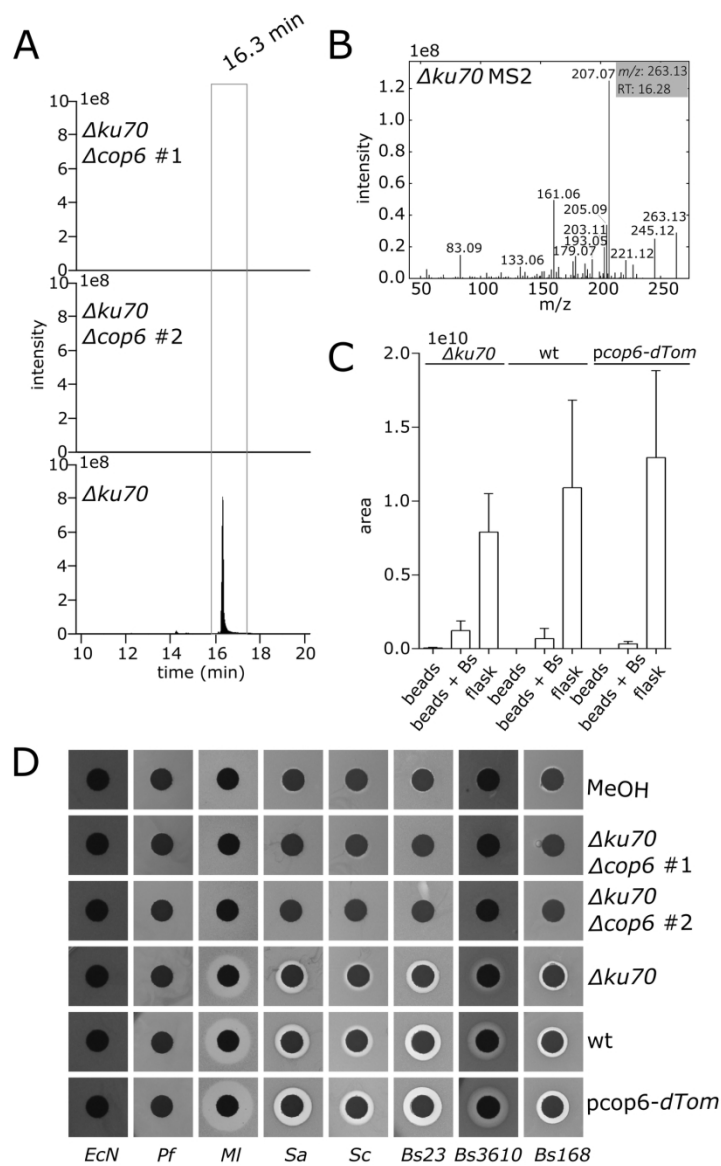


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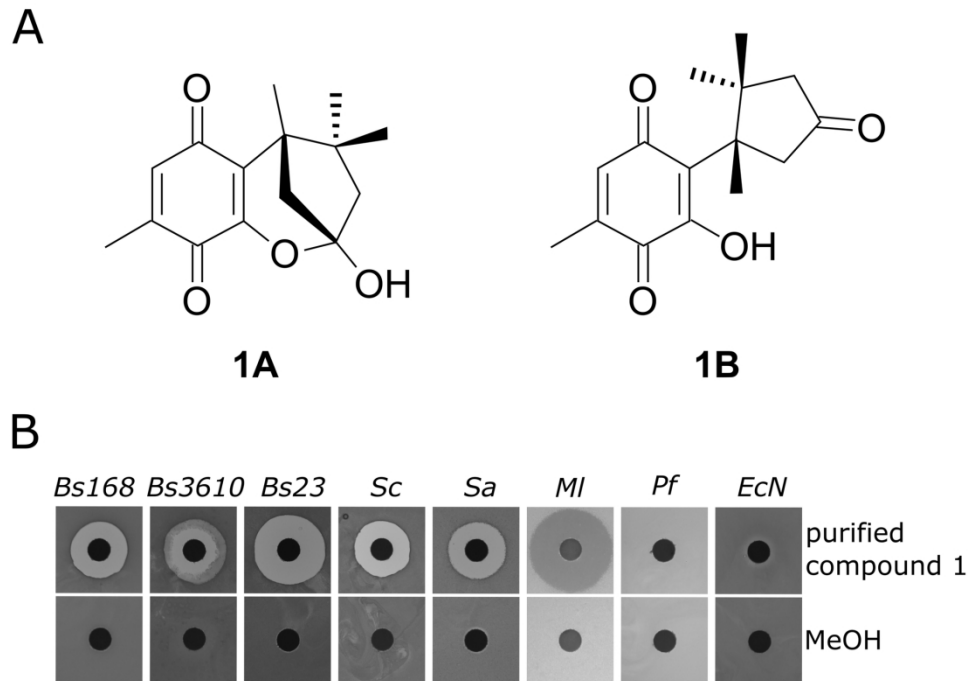


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