

INDEX

SUMMARY	III
RESUMEN	V
RESUM	VII
ABBREVIATIONS	IX
INTRODUCTION	1
1. Filamentous fungi: from allies to enemies.....	3
2. Impact of phytopathogenic fungi in agriculture	4
3. Threats to the antifungal arsenal.....	7
4. Antifungal proteins (AFPs) from fungi.....	10
4.1. Antimicrobial spectrum of AFPs.....	10
4.2. Diversity and structural features of AFPs.....	11
4.3. AFPs from <i>P. digitatum</i> and <i>P. expansum</i>	16
5. Mode of action of AFPs.....	21
5.1. Interaction.....	21
5.2. Internalisation and intracellular activity	24
6. Biological roles of AFPs.....	27
7. Gene editing tools in filamentous fungi.....	30
7.1. Traditional gene deletion approaches.....	31
7.2. CRISPR/Cas9 system in filamentous fungi	32
OBJECTIVES	35
CHAPTER I	39
ABSTRACT	41
MATERIALS AND METHODS	44
Strains, media and growth conditions.....	44
Improvement of <i>P. digitatum</i> genome annotation	45
RNA isolation and transcriptomic analysis	45
Generation of <i>P. digitatum</i> deletion strains	46
Quantitative Real Time-PCR (qRT-PCR)	47
Antifungal activity assays.....	47
Fruit infection assays	48
Data availability	48
RESULTS.....	48
Improvement of the functional annotation of <i>P. digitatum</i> genome....	48
Transcriptomic profiling of <i>P. digitatum</i> Δ <i>afpB</i> mutant.....	49
Large culture volumes with strong aeration result in higher apparent antifungal activity of AfpB against <i>P. digitatum</i>	51
Transcriptomic response of <i>P. digitatum</i> to AfpB	52

Index

Comparison of the transcriptomic signatures across both experiments and all conditions	54
<i>Penicillium digitatum</i> mutants in the acetoin biosynthetic pathway are more tolerant to AfpB.....	57
The gene PDIG_81760 is highly responsive to AfpB and encodes a novel protein with unusual structure.....	59
Synthetic TRP monomers from the protein encoded by PDIG_81760 modulate AfpB activity <i>in vitro</i>	61
DISCUSSION.....	63
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	68
CHAPTER I Supplementary material.....	69
CHAPTER II	83
ABSTRACT.....	85
INTRODUCTION.....	87
MATERIAL AND METHODS	88
Strains, media and culture conditions.....	88
Generation of FungalBraid vectors and fungal transformation.....	89
Western-blot analysis	90
Virulence assays on apple fruits.....	90
RNA isolation.....	90
Transcriptomic data analysis.....	91
<i>P. expansum</i> CMP-1 genome annotation	92
Quantitative reverse transcription-PCR analysis (qRT-PCR).....	92
Sensitivity assays to chemical compounds.....	92
Antifungal activity assays.....	92
RESULTS.....	93
Generation of <i>P. expansum</i> disruption mutants of the <i>afpA</i> gene.....	93
Characterization of the <i>P. expansum</i> $\Delta afpA$ mutants	94
Transcriptomic profiling of <i>P. expansum</i> parental strain and $\Delta afpA$ mutant.....	96
Identification of differentially expressed genes associated to PeAfpA production.....	101
Functional enrichment analysis of genes related to PeAfpA production.....	102
Validation of <i>afpB</i> and <i>afpC</i> gene expression by reverse transcription-quantitative PCR (qRT-PCR).....	105
DISCUSSION.....	106
CONCLUSION.....	110
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	111
CHAPTER II Supplementary material	113

CHAPTER III	125
ABSTRACT	127
BACKGROUND	129
MATERIALS AND METHODS	130
Strains and growth conditions	130
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	133
Optimization of CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing in <i>P. digitatum</i> through the disruption of genes rendering altered conidia pigmentation	135
Validation of the optimized CRISPR/Cas9 protocol by disrupting genes that are not associated with visually discernible phenotypes ...	139
CONCLUSIONS	142
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	142
CHAPTER III Supplementary material	143
CHAPTER IV	151
ABSTRACT	153
INTRODUCTION	154
MATERIAL AND METHODS	156
Strains, media, and growth conditions	156
RNA isolation and transcriptomic analysis	156
Generation of gene deletion mutants by homologous recombination	157
Generation of disruption mutants by CRISPR/Cas9	158
Growth assay in solid media	158
Sensitivity assays to stressors	159
Wettability assay	159
Antifungal activity assays	159
Orange fruit infection assays	159
PeAfpA labelling and confocal fluorescence microscopy	160
RESULTS	160
Transcriptomic analysis of <i>P. digitatum</i> in response to increasing PeAfpA concentrations	160
Functional enrichment analysis of the differentially expressed genes in response to PeAfpA treatments	163
Comparison of <i>P. digitatum</i> transcriptomic profile between PeAfpA and its self-inhibitory antifungal protein PdAfpB	166
Mutation of AFP-responsive genes in <i>P. digitatum</i>	169
Phenotypical characterization of AFP-responsive mutants	172
DISCUSSION	175
CHAPTER IV Supplementary material	181
GENERAL DISCUSSION	203

Index

1. Functional role of PeAfpA and PdAfpB in their native hosts.....	206
2. Novel insights into the regulation of <i>afp</i> genes in <i>P. digitatum</i> and <i>P. expansum</i>	210
3. Distinct modes of action of the self PdAfpB and foreign PeAfpA against <i>P. digitatum</i>	212
4. Transcriptomic profiling revealed that the fungal envelope plays a significant role in the mode of action of PeAfpA and PdAfpB against <i>P. digitatum</i>	216
5. Gene disruption analyses further support a multifaceted mode of action for both PeAfpA and PdAfpB	218
6. Future prospects.....	222
CONCLUSIONS	225
REFERENCES	229