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2 **Site-directed mutagenesis of the 1,3- β glucan synthase catalytic
3 subunit of *Pneumocystis jirovecii* and susceptibility assays suggest its
4 sensitivity to caspofungin**

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11 **Running title:** Sensitivity of the *P. jirovecii* Gsc1 to caspofungin

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16

17 **Abstract** (248 252 words)

18 The echinocandin caspofungin inhibits the catalytic subunit Gsc1 of the enzymatic complex
19 synthetizing 1,3- β glucan, an essential compound of the fungal wall. Studies in rodents showed
20 that caspofungin is effective against *Pneumocystis* asci. However, its efficacy against asci of
21 *Pneumocystis jirovecii*, the species infecting exclusively humans, remains controversial. The aim
22 of this study was to assess the sensitivity to caspofungin of the *P. jirovecii* Gsc1 subunit, as well
23 as of those of *Pneumocystis carinii* and *Pneumocystis murina* infecting respectively rats and mice.
24 In absence of an established *in vitro* culture method for *Pneumocystis* species, we used functional
25 complementation of the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae gsc1* deletant. In the fungal pathogen *Candida*
26 *albicans*, mutations leading to amino acid substitutions in Gsc1 confer resistance to caspofungin.
27 We introduced the corresponding mutations into the *Pneumocystis gsc1* genes using site-
28 directed mutagenesis. In spot dilution tests, the sensitivity to caspofungin of the complemented
29 strains decreased with the number of mutations introduced, suggesting that the wild-type
30 enzymes are sensitive. The minimum inhibitory concentrations of caspofungin determined by E-
31 test® and Yeastone® for strains complemented with *Pneumocystis* enzymes (respectively 0.125
32 and 0.12 microg/ml) were identical to those upon complementation with the enzyme of *C.*
33 *albicans* for which caspofungin presents low MICs. However, they were lower than the MICs upon
34 complementation with the enzyme of the resistant species *Candida parapsilosis* (0.19 and 0.25).
35 Sensitivity levels of Gsc1 enzymes of the three *Pneumocystis* species were similar. Our results
36 suggest that *P. jirovecii* is sensitive to caspofungin during infections, as *P. carinii* and *P. murina*.

37 **Keywords:** echinocandins, drug sensitivity, drug resistance, heterologous functional
38 complementation.

39 Main text: 3554 words

40 **INTRODUCTION**

41 The *Pneumocystis* genus comprises fungal species that colonize the lungs of mammals (1-4). Each
42 of them displays strict host specificity for a single mammalian species. The species infecting
43 humans is *Pneumocystis jirovecii*, an opportunistic pathogen that can cause fatal pneumonia
44 [Pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP)] if not treated. The most effective drug against *P. jirovecii* is
45 currently cotrimoxazole, a combination of sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim, two inhibitors of
46 enzymes that are involved in the folic acid biosynthesis pathway. However, potential resistance
47 is emerging due to the selection of strains carrying specific mutations in the active site of the
48 targets of both molecules (5-9). Moreover, cotrimoxazole can cause important side effects in
49 some patients, such as intolerance and toxicity. For these reasons, it is crucial to find new drugs
50 to treat PCP.

51 Echinocandins constitute an alternative class of antifungal drugs to consider for the
52 treatment of PCP. This class includes caspofungin (CAS), anidulafungin, and micafungin. They are
53 cyclic hexapeptides with fatty acyl side chains and act as non-competitive inhibitors of the
54 catalytic subunit Gsc1 of the 1,3- β glucan synthase enzymatic complex (10). The decrease of the
55 β -glucan synthesis results in the loss of cell integrity and rigidity that can lead to cell lysis. β -
56 glucan molecules are components of the cell wall that are homopolymers of β -1,3 linked
57 D-glucose with β -1,6 linked D-glucose side chains present in minority. The Gsc1 protein of
58 *Pneumocystis carinii*, the species infecting rats, was first reported to be inhibited by the
59 compound L-733,560, a molecule structurally close to echinocandins (11), but never used
60 clinically. More recently, Cushion *et al.* (12) reported the efficacy of the echinocandins

61 (caspofungin, micafungin, and anidulafungin) in reducing cysts number within the lungs of the
62 host. Recently, we identified and functionally ascertained the function of the Gsc1 subunit of
63 *P. jirovecii* using complementation of the orthologous gene of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (13). The
64 presence of a unique *gsc1* gene in the genome of *P. jirovecii*, as in that of *P. carinii*, further
65 suggests that the Gsc1 subunit is a potential interesting drug target to fight PCP.

66 In *S. cerevisiae*, the 1,3- β glucan synthase catalytic subunit is encoded by two different
67 genes, *GSC1* and *GSC2*. A third paralog, *GSC3*, is also present but it is involved only during
68 sporulation. The two subunits *GSC1* and *GSC2* are functionally redundant, but their expression is
69 differentially regulated. The expression of *GSC1* is constitutive and responsible for the cell wall
70 synthesis during the vegetative growth, while that of *GSC2* is induced by glucose deprivation or
71 pheromones and is also involved in cell wall synthesis during sporulation. *GSC1* and *GSC2* genes
72 have an essential overlapping function, *i.e.*, only disruption of both genes is lethal. Importantly,
73 the *GSC2* gene can replace the function of the *GSC1* gene during vegetative growth in the case of
74 loss by mutation or deletion (14). The *S. cerevisiae* strain with a deletion of the *GSC1* gene shows
75 a reduced and impaired growth in presence of CAS (15) or anidulafungin (16), but not of
76 micafungin (16). On the other hand, the *S. cerevisiae* wild type shows a normal growth in
77 presence of low doses of CAS and anidulafungin, but its growth is severely impaired in presence
78 of micafungin. These observations showed that the *S. cerevisiae* Gsc1 and Gsc2 subunits have
79 different sensitivities to each echinocandin despite that their identity at the amino acids
80 sequence level is as high as 87% over the whole protein, with 81 and 94% identity at the level of
81 the 1,3- β glucan synthase domains 1 and 2, respectively (Table 1). To our knowledge, the
82 polymorphisms responsible for these different sensitivity have not been determined so far.

83 Spontaneous mutants resistant to echinocandins were initially isolated in *S. cerevisiae* and
84 *Candida albicans* (17-19). Rare clinical isolates of *C. albicans* were also found to be resistant (20,
85 21). A specific substitution of a serine in position 645 to a proline (S645P) was identified in all
86 spontaneous and most clinical resistant *C. albicans* isolates (21). It is localized within a highly
87 conserved region of the Gsc1 protein in which other mutations conferring resistance to CAS were
88 also identified in *C. albicans* (21). This “Hot Spot no. 1” of mutations starts at residue 641 and
89 ends at residue 649 of *C. albicans* Gsc1. A second but less relevant hotspot of mutations
90 conferring resistance has been identified in another region of the enzyme, from residue 1357 to
91 residue 1364. The S645P substitution has been most frequently observed, a phenylalanine to
92 serine substitution in position 641 (F641S) being the second most frequent substitution (22).The
93 mutation corresponding to the *C. albicans* S645P substitution introduced by site-directed
94 mutagenesis was found to confer reduced susceptibility to CAS *in vitro* to the mould *Aspergillus*
95 *fumigatus* (23, 24).

96 Although demonstrated to reduce efficiently the ascospores during *P. carinii* and *P. murina*
97 infections (10, 12, 25-28), the efficacy of CAS against *P. jirovecii* remains controversial. Indeed,
98 clinical reports documented the clearance of PCP treated with CAS alone (29-31), or used in
99 combination with cotrimoxazole (32-36) or clindamycin (37). However, failures of CAS treatment
100 were also described (38, 39). Despite the generally high conservation of active sites among
101 orthologous enzymes, one cannot exclude that the sensitivity to CAS may vary among *P. jirovecii*
102 and the two *Pneumocystis* species infecting rodents because these species are relatively distant
103 from each other (20% of mean divergence at nucleotide level in genomic coding sequences, 40).
104 The *P. jirovecii* Gsc1 subunit bears 90 and 91% identity with those of *P. carinii* and *P. murina*,

105 respectively (Table 1). At the level of the 1,3- β glucan synthase domains 1 and 2, *i.e.*, the active
106 sites, the identities are from 94 to 97%. These values are comparable to those between the Gsc1
107 and Gsc2 subunits of *S. cerevisiae* (see above), which present drastically different sensitivities to
108 the different echinocandins.

109 The aim of the present study was to determine if the Gsc1 subunit of *P. jirovecii* is sensitive
110 to the echinocandin CAS, as those of *P. carinii* and *P. murina*. To investigate the issue, we analysed
111 the level of sensitivity of *S. cerevisiae* strains functionally complemented by the expression of the
112 wild-type or mutated enzymes of the three *Pneumocystis* species.

113 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

114 **Strains and growth conditions.** Y05251 is a *S. cerevisiae* haploid strain in which the 1,3- β glucan
115 synthase catalytic subunit gene *GSC1* (also called *FKS1*) was deleted (*MATa his3Δ0 leu2Δ0*
116 *met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 YLR342w::kanMX4*). It was obtained from Euroscarf (European *S. cerevisiae*
117 Archive for Functional Analysis [<http://www.euroscarf.de>]). The strain, named the *gsc1* deletant
118 hereafter, exhibits an impaired growth in the presence of low doses of CAS (14). The parental
119 strain of the *gsc1* deletant is BY4741 (*MATa his3Δ1 leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 uraΔ0*), and was also
120 obtained from Euroscarf (hereafter named wild-type, WT). The latter was used as a control in the
121 sensitivity tests and in MIC assays. Strains were grown on complete yeast extract-peptone-
122 dextrose (YPD) medium (1% wt/vol Difco yeast extract, 2% Difco peptone, 2% glucose).

123 Single colonies of *Candida albicans* (ATCC 10231) and *Candida parapsilosis* (*sensu stricto*,
124 *i.e.*, group I of the *C. parapsilosis* complex; ATCC 22019) were streaked on Sabouraud medium
125 (0.5% wt/vol casein peptone, 0.5% meat extract peptone, 2% glucose), and then grown on
126 minimal solid yeast nitrogen base (YNB) medium (0.67% wt/vol yeast nitrogen base, 2% glucose,
127 2% Gibco agar) supplemented with a complete supplement mixture (CSM, MP Biomedicals). *C.*
128 *albicans* and *C. parapsilosis* were chosen because CAS presents respectively low and high MICs
129 for them.

130

131 **Cloning of the fungal *gsc1* genes.** To identify the *P. murina* *gsc1* gene, the *P. carinii* Gsc1 protein
132 (ID Q9HEZ4) was used as query sequence in BLASTp search against *P. murina* proteome at
133 <http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>. A single putative ortholog was detected (locus tag
134 PNEG_03180). The *P. murina* gene sequence encoding the Gsc1 protein was then retrieved from

135 the European Nucleotide Archive (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena>). The cloning of the *P. jirovecii* and
136 *S. cerevisiae gsc1* genes was previously described (13). Since the *P. carinii* and *P. murina gsc1*
137 genes include each three introns, their cDNAs were synthesized and cloned into the p416GPD
138 vector (41) by GeneCust Europe (Ellange Luxemburg). Their size without introns is respectively
139 5835 bps and 5847 bps.

140 To perform a control of sensitivity of our heterologous expression model, the *GSC1* genes
141 of *C. albicans* (GenBank D88815) and *C. parapsilosis* (EU221325) were amplified by PCR from
142 yeast genomic DNA extracted as described previously (42). The detailed procedures of PCR
143 amplification using the proofreading high-fidelity Expand polymerase (Roche Diagnostics) and
144 cloning were described previously (43). Their sizes are respectively 5694 and 5730 pbs. PCR
145 primers and conditions are listed in Tables S1 and S2. Because these primers were intended for
146 oriented cloning, they were designed to create unique restriction sites at ends of the PCR
147 products. After the PCR reactions, the products were extracted using the QIAquick gel extraction
148 kit (Qiagen, Basel, Switzerland). For cloning each *Candida GSC1* gene into the p416GPD
149 expression vector, the double restriction described in Table S1 were used.

150

151 **Site-directed mutagenesis.** The *Gsc1* protein sequences of *C. albicans* (UniProt ID O13428), *S.*
152 *cerevisiae* (P38631), *P. jirovecii* (L0PD34, locus tag PNEJI1_001061), *P. carinii* (Q9HEZ4), *P. murina*
153 (M7P3D9, locus tag PNEG_03180), and *C. parapsilosis* (A9YLC3) were aligned using T-Coffee (44).
154 This alignment allowed determining the positions within the *Pneumocystis* genes corresponding
155 to the mutations F641S and S645P conferring resistance to CAS in *C. albicans* (Fig. 2; alignment
156 of the complete proteins is shown in Fig. S1). To perform site-directed mutagenesis, two different

157 kits were used. The QuikChange II XL Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit (Agilent Technologies) was
158 used to create the mutation in the *P. jirovecii* *gsc1* gene leading to the substitution of the serine
159 at position 718 of the Gsc1 protein into a proline (S718P). The Q5 Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit
160 (BioLabs) was used to introduce the F714S/S718P double substitution in *P. jirovecii*, the S715P
161 substitution in *P. carinii*, and the S719P substitution in *P. murina*. Mutagenesis were performed
162 according to manufacturers' instructions. Minipreparations of plasmid DNA were subsequently
163 carried out (45). In order to verify the presence of the desired mutations, an internal segment of
164 the *gsc1* genes was amplified and subsequently sequenced. Primers for mutagenic reactions and
165 PCR amplifications are listed in Table S1. Mutagenesis amplification reactions and PCR conditions
166 are described in Table S2. Sequencing of both strands was performed using to the two primers
167 used for amplification, as well as the BigDye Terminator DNA sequencing kit and ABI PRISM 3100
168 automated sequencer (both from PerkinElmer Biosystems).

169

170 **Transformation of the *S. cerevisiae* *gsc1* deletant.** Transformation with plasmids containing the
171 *P. jirovecii* *gsc1* or the *S. cerevisiae* *GSC1* gene were previously described (13). The *S. cerevisiae*
172 *GSC1* gene could not be cloned in the p416GPD plasmid because of restriction sites issues, but
173 into p415GPD (leu marker instead of ura). The recombinant p416GPD plasmids containing the
174 *Pneumocystis* mutated *gsc1* alleles, as well as the *C. albicans* or *C. parapsilosis* *GSC1* gene were
175 introduced into the *gsc1* deletant by transformation for uracil prototrophy using the one-step
176 method (46). Transformants were selected on solid YNB medium supplemented with CSM (MP
177 Biomedicals) lacking uracil. In order to be used as controls in the sensitivity tests and in the MIC
178 assays, the *gsc1* deletant and the WT were transformed with the empty p416GPD plasmid. Three

179 transformants clones of each constructed strain were randomly chosen and purified by growth
180 on the same selective medium.

181

182 **Test of complementation and susceptibility to caspofungin.** Before studying the sensitivity to
183 echinocandins, we had to assess the function of the *P. carinii* and the *P. murina* *gsc1* genes, as
184 we previously carried out for the *P. jirovecii* *gsc1* gene (13). Functional complementation of the
185 *gsc1* deletant was proven by the spot dilution test on YNB selective medium lacking uracil and
186 supplemented with or without 150 ng/ml CAS (Fluka, Chemie AG). CAS appeared sensitive to
187 temperature variation in our hands. Consequently, the medium was cooled down to 54°C before
188 adding CAS. In addition, Petri dishes containing CAS were stored at room temperature, but not
189 at 4°C. The concentration of CAS used in our experiments was selected after several trials. To that
190 aim, transformant isolates carrying the *P. carinii* *gsc1* or *P. murina* *gsc1* gene were grown
191 overnight in selective medium YNB supplemented with CSM lacking uracil to avoid the loss of the
192 plasmid. Cells were then diluted at an optical density (OD) at 540 nm of 0.1 in NaCl 0.9% wt/vol
193 (ca. 7.5×10^5 cells/ml). Four serial 10-fold dilutions in NaCl 0.9% were prepared, and 3 µl of each
194 dilution were spotted on the medium. Spots were observed after 3 to 4 days of incubation at
195 30°C. The same procedure assessed the functionality and sensitivity to CAS of the strains
196 complemented with the mutated *gsc1* alleles. The sensitivity to micafungin could not be studied
197 because the *gsc1* deletant had no phenotype to complement on this drug, i.e., the Gsc2 subunit
198 is resistant. Anidulafungin could also not be studied because, for underdetermined reasons, the
199 results were not reproducible in our hands.

200

201 **MIC assessment using E-test®.** Assays were performed according to manufacturer's instructions.
202 Each strain was grown overnight in selective medium YNB + CSM lacking uracil, or leucine for *S.*
203 *cerevisiae* GSC1 gene, and then adjusted in NaCl 0.9 % to an OD540=0.2 (~1.5 x 10⁶ cells/ml). One
204 hundred microliters of this dilution was spread on fresh YNB solid medium + CSM lacking uracil
205 or leucine. A single strip of E-test caspofungin (Biomérieux) was then applied on each petri dish.
206 MICs were read after 2 days of incubation at 30°C, or 35°C for the *Candida* species. The MIC was
207 defined as the concentration at which no growth was observed on both sides of the E-test strip.

208

209 **MIC assessment using Sensititre YeastOne®.** Assays were performed according to
210 manufacturer's instructions, except that the incubation time was increased from 24 to 48 h for
211 all *S. cerevisiae* strains because of their low growth rate. Each strain was grown overnight in
212 selective medium YNB, then adjusted in NaCl 0.9 % to an OD540=0.2 (ca. 1.5 x 10⁶ cells/ml).
213 Twenty microliters of this dilution were then diluted into 11 ml of YeastOne® inoculum broth in
214 order to obtain ca. 3 x 10³ cells/ml. One hundred microliters was then transferred into each well
215 of a YeastOne® plate (Thermofisher Scientific). Plates were observed and MICs determined after
216 24 or 48 h of incubation at 30°C, or 35°C for the *Candida* species. MIC was defined as the first
217 well in which no pellet of cells was observable.

218 **RESULTS**

219 **Functional ascertainment of the *P. carinii* and *P. murina* *gsc1* genes by complementation of the**
220 ***S. cerevisiae* *gsc1* deletant.** We identified a single Gsc1 protein within the *P. murina* proteome
221 by a homology search using the Gsc1 protein of *P. carinii* as the query sequence. To ascertain the
222 function of the *P. carinii* and *P. murina* *gsc1* genes, recombinant plasmids expressing them were
223 introduced into the *S. cerevisiae* *gsc1* deletant. The identities of the Gsc1 proteins studied
224 relatively to that of *S. cerevisiae* are given in Table S3. Serial dilution of the transformed strains
225 were spotted on medium containing or not CAS (spot dilution test, Fig. 1). The deletion of the
226 *GSC1* gene in *S. cerevisiae* causes a paradoxical effect, i.e., an increased susceptibility to CAS,
227 though the target of CAS is absent (15). This is due to the replacement of Gsc1 by Gsc2, an enzyme
228 that is more sensitive to CAS (14). On the other hand, this replacement allows the growth of the
229 deletant strain on medium without CAS. On medium supplemented with CAS, a complete
230 restoration of the wild-type growth was observed in presence of the control *S. cerevisiae* *GSC1*
231 gene, but not in the presence of the empty vector (*S. cerevisiae* *gsc1* deletant + empty plasmid,
232 Fig. 1). A partial restoration was observed in the presence of the *P. carinii* or *P. murina* gene, as
233 we previously reported for *P. jirovecii* and reproduced here (Fig. 1). These observations
234 demonstrated that the expression of *P. carinii* and *P. murina* *gsc1* genes rescued the function of
235 the deleted *S. cerevisiae* *GSC1* gene, ascertaining their function. In order to investigate the
236 sensitivity to CAS of the three *Pneumocystis* enzymes, we used site-directed mutagenesis to
237 introduce mutations that correspond to those conferring resistance in other fungi.

238

239 **Sensitivity to CAS of the *S. cerevisiae* strains complemented with the *Pneumocystis Gsc1***
240 **mutated proteins.** Mutants resistant to echinocandins carrying mutations F641S and S645P
241 within the hotspot no. 1 of Gsc1 have been described in the pathogenic fungus *C. albicans* (17-
242 21). The sequences of this hotspot of mutations of the *P. jirovecii*, *P. carinii*, and *P. murina* Gsc1
243 protein were aligned with those of *C. albicans*, *S. cerevisiae*, and *C. parapsilosis* (Fig. 2; alignment
244 of the complete proteins is shown in Fig. S1). This alignment identified the positions in the three
245 *Pneumocystis gsc1* genes corresponding to the *C. albicans* F641S and S645P substitutions. Site-
246 directed mutagenesis was used to introduce one or two mutations encoding the corresponding
247 substitutions within the *gsc1* gene of *P. jirovecii*, *P. carinii*, or *P. murina* (the polymorphisms
248 introduced at the nucleotide sequence level are described in Table S1).

249 The partial restoration of the wild-type growth on CAS observed with the *P. jirovecii* Gsc1
250 enzyme increased in presence of one mutation (S718P compared to wild-type, Fig. 1), and
251 increased more upon introduction of the two mutations simultaneously (S718P + F714S
252 compared to S718P and wild-type). Similarly, the partial restoration with the *P. carinii* or *P.*
253 *murina* enzyme increased in presence of a single mutation (S715P and S719P compared to their
254 respective wild-type). This increase of complementation efficiency corresponds to a decrease of
255 sensitivity to CAS. This demonstrated that the three wild-type *Pneumocystis* enzymes present a
256 certain level of sensitivity to CAS.

257

258 **Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) assessment using E-test® and Sensititre YeastOne®.**
259 We determined the MICs of CAS for the *S. cerevisiae* WT and complemented *gsc1* deletant

260 strains. To assess the sensitivity of the two methods, we also analysed *C. albicans* and
261 *C. parapsilosis*, as well as the *S. cerevisiae* *gsc1* deletant complemented with the *GSC1* gene of
262 these two *Candida* species. CAS presents low MICs for the former *Candida* species, whereas it
263 presents high MICs for the latter (47, 48). The natural high MICs for *C. parapsilosis* are due to a
264 polymorphism at the end of the hotspot no. 1 that has not been observed in *C. albicans* so far
265 (49; proline to serine in position 660, Fig. 2). According to Espinel-Ingroff et al (47) and Canton et
266 al (48), the MICs of CAS for *C. parapsilosis* that we obtained were below the epidemiological
267 cutoff values for both E-test and YeastOne methods (0.5 versus 4 and 0.5 versus 2 µg/ml,
268 respectively). The MICs for *C. albicans* we obtained were also below the epidemiological cutoff
269 values of wild-type isolates (0.38 versus 0.5 and 0.12 versus 0.25 µg/ml, respectively). In
270 agreement with the spot dilution tests described here above, we observed using both E-test®
271 and YeastOne® a decreased MIC for the *S. cerevisiae* *gsc1* deletant compared to the WT
272 (respectively 0.125 and 0.12 versus 0.250 and 0.25 µg/ml; Table 2; the E-test results are shown
273 in Fig. S3). All *S. cerevisiae* strains complemented with the *Pneumocystis* wild-type or mutated
274 genes had MICs identical to those of the *gsc1* deletant (0.125 for E-test and 0.12 for Yeastone).
275 The increase of MIC of CAS conferred by the mutations introduced was not detected using E-test
276 or YeastOne. Thus, these methods are less sensitive than the spot dilution test used above since
277 the latter always allowed detection of this decrease in several experiments. The MIC values for
278 *C. albicans* whole cells using E-test® and YeastOne® were similar to those for the *S. cerevisiae* WT
279 strain (0.380 and 0.12 versus 0.250 and 0.25), whereas, consistently with its reported high MICs,
280 *C. parapsilosis* had higher MICs also in our hands using both methods (0.500 and 0.50). The
281 increased MICs for *C. parapsilosis* was also detected using both methods upon heterologous

282 expression of its Gsc1 subunit in *S. cerevisiae* (respectively 0.190 and 0.25 versus 0.125 and 0.12
283 for *C. albicans* Gsc1), despite that MICs were systematically lower using heterologous expression
284 than whole cells. Using the heterologous expression system, the wild-type *Pneumocystis* Gsc1
285 subunits had identical MICs than the *C. albicans* Gsc1 (0.125 and 0.12), whereas *C. parapsilosis*
286 Gsc1 presented higher MICs (0.190 and 0.25). These observations suggested that the sensitivity
287 level to CAS of the three *Pneumocystis* enzymes is similar to that of *C. albicans*, which presents
288 low MICs of CAS.

289

290 **DISCUSSION**

291 Because of the absence of an *in vitro* culture method, sensitivity to CAS cannot be performed
292 directly on whole *Pneumocystis* cells. A study reported the effects of echinocandins against *P.*
293 *murina* and *P. carinii* using suspension and biofilm culture methods (50). Unfortunately, these
294 methods are not established for *P. jirovecii*. Consequently, we studied the Gsc1 enzymes of three
295 *Pneumocystis* species in the heterologous system of expression of *S. cerevisiae*. We used site-
296 directed mutagenesis to introduce into the *Pneumocystis* enzymes the substitutions
297 corresponding to those conferring resistance to CAS in *C. albicans*. This revealed that, despite the
298 divergence among their active sites, the three *Pneumocystis* Gsc1 enzymes present low MICs of
299 CAS, and this to a similar level. Because CAS has been demonstrated to be effective in reducing
300 *P. carinii* and *P. murina* ascospores during infections (12, 27), this observation suggested that CAS could
301 also be effective against *P. jirovecii*. Moreover, MICs determination showed that the level of
302 sensitivity of *Pneumocystis* Gsc1 was similar to that of the *C. albicans* enzyme, suggesting that

303 the sensitivity of the *Pneumocystis* enzymes is at a level that is usable clinically. It is of course
304 difficult to translate our results obtained at the enzyme level to the whole cell level. Nevertheless,
305 Gsc1 is a cell surface enzyme that is easily reachable by drugs, and thus more likely to behave
306 similarly among the three *Pneumocystis* species. A structural difference of the cell wall could
307 induce varying sensitivity to CAS of the Gsc1 subunit among the three *Pneumocystis* species.
308 However, there is presently no obvious reasons to think that the wall of *P. jirovecii* is different
309 from those of *P. carinii* and *P. murina*. The efficacy of echinocandins, and specifically of CAS, to
310 treat *P. jirovecii* infections remain controversial, and accordingly the American drug and
311 European medical agencies do not advise their use for that purpose. Our results bring new
312 arguments in favor of the use of this class of antifungals for the treatment of PCP, suggesting the
313 need to implement clinical trials in humans. Finally, our results support the high relevance of the
314 animal models as tools to understand the effect of CAS on the human pathogen *P. jirovecii*.

315 Studies in animal models showed that echinocandins provoke the disappearance of *P.*
316 *carinii* and *P. murina* ascospores but not of the trophic forms, probably because the latter cells have no
317 or little cell wall made of 1,3- β glucan (12). Thus, the treatment did not eradicate the infection,
318 and its cessation resulted in the repopulation in ascospores from the remaining trophic cells.
319 Consequently, it is likely that CAS is useful only if used in combination with another therapy
320 targeting trophic forms, or both cellular forms such as cotrimoxazole. CAS inhibited efficiently
321 the dissemination of the pathogen in animal models (12), which is consistent with the fact that
322 ascospores are believed to be the transmission particles (12, 50).

323 In conclusion, our results demonstrate that the human pathogen *P. jirovecii* Gsc1 enzyme
324 is sensitive to caspofungin, similarly to the enzymes of the animal pathogens *P. carinii* and *P.*

325 *murina*. This suggests that echinocandins might be a good alternative to treat PCP in humans
326 when used in combination with an established treatment. The use of echinocandins to fight
327 *Pneumocystis* infections deserves further investigation.

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333

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479 **LEGENDS**

480 **FIG 1.** Sensitivity to caspofungin (CAS) of *S. cerevisiae* WT and functionally complemented *gsc1*
481 deletant strains using the spot dilution test. The complementing genes expressed on plasmid,
482 wild-type or encoding the indicated amino acid substitution, are described on the left. The
483 growth of the *S. cerevisiae* deletant strain on medium without CAS is due to the activity of the
484 orthologous gene *GSC2*, that replaces the function of the deleted *GSC1* gene. Log dilution of a
485 suspension of cells at ca. 7.5×10^5 /ml were spotted on minimal selective medium without (left)
486 or with (right) 150 ng/ml of CAS, and incubated for 3 days at 30°C. The most concentrated
487 suspension is on the left. The complementing gene was expressed on plasmid p416GPD except
488 that of *S. cerevisiae* on p415GPD because of restriction sites issues. Minimal selective medium
489 YNB supplemented with CSM without uracil was used to select for p416GPD, while YNB
490 supplemented with CSM without leucin was used to select p415GPD. Three independent isolates
491 of each strain were analyzed, one representative isolate is shown here.

492

493 **FIG 2.** Multiple-sequence alignment of the region encompassing the hot spot no. 1 of mutations
494 of Gsc1 proteins. T-Coffee was used (44). The identical, strongly, and weakly conserved residues
495 are indicated by asterisks, double points, and single points, respectively. Dashes indicate gaps.
496 The hot spot no. 1 of mutations (21) is shown above the alignment by the dashed line. Residues
497 F641 and S645 conferring CAS resistance in *C. albicans* and the corresponding residues in the
498 other proteins are in bold. The natural resistance of *C. parapsilosis* is due to the polymorphism

499 P660A at the end of the same hotspot of mutations. The alignment of the complete proteins is
500 show in Figure S1.

501 **SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL**502 **Table S1.** Oligonucleotide primers used for mutagenesis reactions and PCR amplifications

503

504 **Table S2.** Conditions of mutagenesis and PCR reactions

505

506 **Table S3.** Sequence identity (%) of the *S. cerevisiae* Gsc1 protein to the ortholog proteins studied
507 in the complementation assays and MIC determinations

508

509 **Fig. S1.** Multiple sequence alignment of Gsc1 proteins of relevant fungi. T-Coffee was used (44).510 The identical, strongly, and weakly conserved residues are indicated by asterisks, double points,
511 and single points, respectively. Dashes indicate gaps. The hot spots no. 1 (21) and 2 (49) of
512 mutations, as well as the 1,3- β glucan synthase domains 1 and 2, are indicated above the
513 alignment. Residues F641 and S645 conferring CAS resistance in *C. albicans* and the
514 corresponding residues in the other proteins are shown in bold. The natural resistance of *C.*
515 *parapsilosis* is due to a polymorphism at the end of the hotspot no. 1 (P660A).

516

517 **Fig. S2.** Multiple sequence alignment of *S. cerevisiae* Gsc proteins. The Uniprot accession
518 numbers of Gsc1, Gsc2, and Gsc3 are respectively P38631, P40989, and Q04952. T-Coffee was
519 used (44). The identical, strongly, and weakly conserved residues are indicated by asterisks,
520 double points, and single points, respectively. Dashes indicate gaps. The 1,3- β glucan synthase
521 domains 1 and 2 are indicated above the alignment.

522 **Fig S3.** E-test determination of the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of caspofungin (CAS)
523 for the *S. cerevisiae* WT and functionally complemented *gsc1* deletant strains, as well as for
524 *Candida* species. One hundred microliters of a suspension of cells at ca. 1.5×10^6 cells/ml were
525 spread on minimal selective medium lacking uracil, or lacking leucin for the *S. cerevisiae GSC1*
526 gene. The CAS E-test strip was deposited, and the plate was incubated at 30°C, or 35°C for the
527 *Candida* species. The concentration at which no growth was observed on both sides of the E-test
528 strip was defined as the MIC.

TABLE 1. Sequence identity (%) of Gsc proteins to their orthologs and paralogs

		Whole protein	1,3- β glucan synthase domain 1	1,3- β glucan synthase domain 2
<i>P. jirovecii</i> Gsc1 ^a to	<i>P. carinii</i> Gsc1 ^a	90	94	97
	<i>P. murina</i> Gsc1 ^a	91	95	96
	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> Gsc1 ^a	59	70	73
<i>S. cerevisiae</i> Gsc1 ^b to	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> Gsc2 ^b	87	81	94
	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> Gsc3 ^b	51	57	60

^a Alignment of these proteins is shown in Figure S1.

^b Alignment of these proteins is shown in Figure S2.

TABLE 2. Minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of caspofungin (CAS) for the *S. cerevisiae* WT and functionally complemented *gsc1* deletant strains, as well as for *Candida* species ^a

Strain		MIC ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	MIC ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)
	E-test	YeastOne	
<i>S. cerevisiae</i> WT + empty plasmid		0.250	0.25
<i>S. cerevisiae</i> <i>gsc1</i> deletant + empty plasmid		0.125	0.12
<i>S. cerevisiae</i> <i>gsc1</i> deletant + plasmid +	<i>S. cerevisiae GSC1</i>	0.250	0.25
	<i>P. jirovecii gsc1</i> wild-type	0.125	0.12
	S718P	0.125	0.12
	S718P + F714S	0.125	0.12
	<i>P. carinii gsc1</i> wild-type	0.125	0.12
	S715P	0.125	0.12
	<i>P. murina gsc1</i> wild-type	0.125	0.12
	S719P	0.125	0.12
	<i>C. albicans GSC1</i>	0.125	0.12
	<i>C. parapsilosis GSC1</i>	0.190	0.25
<i>C. albicans</i>		0.380	0.12
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>		0.500	0.50

^a One isolate among three of each complemented strain was chosen randomly for analysis. One out of two experiments that gave similar results is reported here. Although obtained using various methods that have various sensitivities, the MIC values previously published correspond roughly to ours for *S. cerevisiae* WT (0.25 versus 0.03-0.4; 15, 16, 21) and *gsc1* deletant (0.12-0.125 versus 0.0015-0.1; 15, 16, 21), as well as for *C. albicans* (0.12-0.380 versus 0.12-0.25; 22, 47) and *C. parapsilosis* (0.50 versus 0.25-8; 47-49).

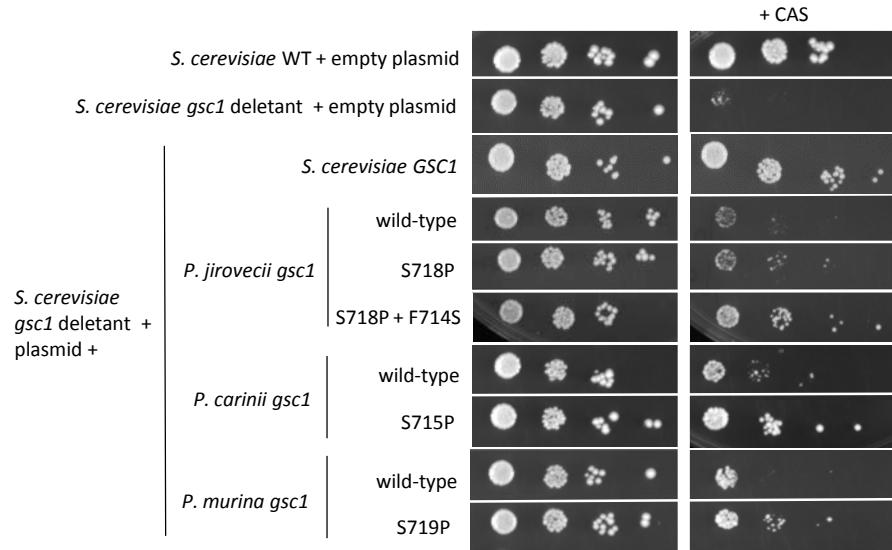


FIG 1.

<i>C. albicans</i>	611	NYIKLKGLDMWMSYLLWFLVFLAKLVESYFF L TLS S LRDPIRNLSTMTR-CVGEVWYKDIVCRNQAKIVLGL	681
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	609	AFAPLHGLDRWMSYLVWVTVFAAKYSESYY F LVL S LRDPIRILSTTAMR-CTGEYWVGAVLCKVQPKIVLGL	679
<i>A. fumigatus</i>	644	SFPR LHGN DMWMSYGLWVCVFGAKLAESYFF L TLS S FKDPIRILSPMQIHQCAGVKYIGNVLCHKQPQILLGL	715
<i>P. jirovecii</i>	684	NFAKLKGNDLWLSYGLWIAVFACKFAESYFF L SL S LRDPIRYLNNTMTIG-HCGIRYLGSILCPYQAKITLGI	754
<i>P. carinii</i>	681	NFAKLKGNDLWLSYGLWIAVFACKFAESYFF L SL S LRDPIRYLNNTMTIG-HCGIRYLGSSLCPYQAKITLGI	751
<i>P. murina</i>	685	NFAKLKGNDLWLSYGLWIAVFACKFAESYFF L SL S LRDPIRYLNNTMTIG-HCGIRYLGSALCPYQAKITLGI	755
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	622	NFVKLRLDMWMSYLLWVLVFLAKLVESYFF L TLS S LRDAIRNLSKTTMR-CTGEVWYGDIVCRQQAKIVLGL	692
	:	* : * * : * : * : * . * * . * * : * : * . * * . * . : * : * : * : * . : * * :	

FIG 2.

TABLE S1. Oligonucleotide primers used for mutagenesis reactions and PCR amplifications^a

Experiment	Target ^b	Primer	5'-3' nucleotide sequence	Fragment amplified size (bp)	Description
S718P single substitution introduction	<i>Pj gsc1</i>	Pjgsc1t2152cStart Pjgsc1t2152cEnd	TAGGATCTCGCAGAGGAAGAGATAGAAAAAAAGTATGATTCTGCA ^{c, d} TGCAGAACATCATACTTTCTATCTCTCCTCGAGATCCTA ^{b, c}	11564	<i>Pj gsc1</i> position 2124 to 2167 containing the T2152C substitution (S718P in the protein)
S718P + F714S substitutions introduction	<i>Pj gsc1</i>	Pjgsc1t2141c/t2152cStart	CTCTT C CTCTGCGAGATCCTATTAG ^e	11564	<i>Pj gsc1</i> position 2147 to 2171 containing the T2152C substitution (S718P in the protein)
		Pjgsc1t2141c/t2152cEnd	ATAGAGAAAAGTATGATTCTGCAAAC ^{c, e}		<i>Pj gsc1</i> position 2121 to 2146 containing the T2141C substitution (F714S in the protein)
Control mutagenesis	<i>Pj gsc1</i> internal fragment	Pjgsc1control mutation A Pjgsc1control mutation B	CTCCATGGAAACCGAACCTC TATTTTCTCCAAGGCGTCC	511	<i>Pj gsc1</i> position 1880 to 1894 <i>Pj gsc1</i> position 2372 to 2391
S715P single substitution introduction	<i>Pc gsc1</i>	Pcgsc1t2143cStart	CTTGTCCTT C TTTGAGAGATC ^{c, e}	11413	<i>Pc gsc1</i> position 2133 to 2155 containing the T2143C substitution (S715P in the protein)
		Pcgsc1t2143cEnd	AAGAAATAGGATTCTGCAAATTG ^e		<i>Pc gsc1</i> position 2109 to 2132
Control mutagenesis	<i>Pc gsc1</i> internal fragment	Pcgsc1 control mutation A Pcgsc1 control mutation B	TGCTCCATGGAAACCGAACATGTTAG TGACCTAGCGACTGAACAAATAG	471	<i>Pc gsc1</i> position 1869 to 1892 <i>Pc gsc1</i> position 2318 to 2340
S719P single substitution introduction	<i>Pm gsc1</i>	Pmgsc1t2155cStart Pmgsc1t2155cEnd	CTTGTCCTT C TTTGAGAGATC ^{c, e} AAGAAATAGGATT C AGCAAAC ^e	11625	<i>Pm gsc1</i> position 2145 to 2167 containing the T2155C substitution (S719P in the protein) <i>Pm gsc1</i> position 2124 to 2144
Control mutagenesis	<i>Pm gsc1</i> internal fragment	Pmgsc1 control mutation A Pmgsc1 control mutation B	GGAAACCGAACATGTCAGCGGTC GATCTGGCAGACAACAAATAG	462	<i>Pm gsc1</i> position 1889 to 1905 <i>Pm gsc1</i> position 2330 to 2351
Gene oriented cloning	<i>Ca GSC1</i>	CaGSC1 Smal start CaGSC1 Clal end	CG <u>CCCCGGG</u> ATGTCGTATAACGATAATAATAATC ^f CCCCC <u>CATCGATT</u> AACTCTGAATGGATTGTAG ^f	5715	<i>Ca GSC1</i> first 22 nt, Smal restriction site is underlined <i>Ca GSC1</i> last 23 nt, Clal restriction site is underlined

Gene oriented cloning	<i>Cp GSC1</i>	CpGSC1 Spel start CpGSC1 Sall end	GCG <u>A</u> CTAGTATGTCGTATAACGATAACAAAC ^f CCCCCG <u>T</u> CGACTTATCTGAACGCATTCTGTAG ^f	5751	<i>Cp GSC1</i> first 21 nt, Spel restriction site is underlined <i>Cp GSC1</i> last 20 nt, Sall restriction site is underlined
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^a Primers were synthesized by Microsynth (Balgach, Switzerland).

^b *Pj*, *P. jirovecii*; *Pc*, *P. carinii*, *Pm*, *P. murina*; *Ca*, *C. albicans*; *Cp*, *C. parapsilosis*.

^c Bold residues represent the nucleotide to be substituted.

^d Designed with the QuikChange Primer Design Program (<http://www.agilent.com/genomics/qcpd>).

^e Designed with the NEBaseChanger program (<http://nebasechanger.neb.com/>).

^f These primers include the underlined restriction sites for oriented cloning and three or six upstream bases allowing restriction.

TABLE S2. Conditions of mutagenesis and PCR reactions

Experiment	Target ^a	Initial denaturation		Denaturation		Annealing		Elongation		Final extension	
		sec	°C	sec	°C	sec	°C	sec	°C	sec	°C
S718P single substitution introduction ^b	<i>Pj gsc1</i>	60	95	50	95	50	60	700	68	420	68
S718P + F714S substitutions introduction ^c	<i>Pj gsc1</i>	30	98	10	98	30	56	360	72	120	72
Control mutagenesis ^d	<i>Pj gsc1</i> internal fragment	180	94	30	94	30	57	40	72	600	72
S715P single substitution introduction ^c	<i>Pc gsc1</i>	30	98	10	98	30	57	360	72	120	72
Control mutagenesis ^d	<i>Pc gsc1</i> internal fragment	180	94	30	94	30	63	40	72	600	72
S719P single substitution introduction ^c	<i>Pm gsc1</i>	30	98	10	98	30	57	360	72	120	72
Control mutagenesis ^d	<i>Pm gsc1</i> internal fragment	180	94	30	94	30	60	60	72	600	72
Gene oriented cloning ^e	<i>Ca GSC1</i>	180	94	25	94	30	57	360	68	360	72
Gene oriented cloning ^e	<i>Cp GSC1</i>	180	94	25	94	30	52	360	68	360	72

^a *Pj*, *P. jirovecii*; *Pc*, *P. carinii*; *Pm*, *P. murina*, *Ca*, *C. albicans*; *Cp*, *C. parapsilosis*.

^b Using the Quickchange II XL Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit (Agilent Technologies).

^c Using the Q5 Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit (BioLabs).

^d Amplification using the proofreading high-fidelity Expand polymerase (Roche Diagnostics), 35 cycles.

^e Amplification using the Kapa Long Range HotStart polymerase (kappa Biosystem), 35 cycles.

TABLE S3. Sequence identity (%) of the *S. cerevisiae* Gsc1 protein to the ortholog proteins studied in the complementation assays and minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) determinations^a

<i>S. cerevisiae</i> to		Whole protein	1,3- β glucan synthase domain 1	1,3- β glucan synthase domain 2
	<i>P. jirovecii</i>	59	69	70
	<i>P. carinii</i>	59	71	70
	<i>P. murina</i>	59	71	70
	<i>C. albicans</i>	72	80	80
	<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	71	76	81

^a Alignment of Gsc1 proteins is shown in Figure S1.

FIG S1.

<i>C. albicans</i>	1 MSYNDNNNHYD---PNQQGGMPPHQG-----	24
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	1 MNTDQ---QPYQGQTDTQGP-----	18
<i>P. jirovecii</i>	1 MSQR---QHYD---DSYPSQTDPYYADNGYNNAFDHGSSYAPEGYDHQGAYHMPMEYGQEYYDEGYDNGQVP	66
<i>P. carinii</i>	1 MSQQ---QHYD---DSYGGQONGGGYGEHSYDNTGFNNNGSYGSVY-EQGGYYGPEYGOEYYDE-YDGGGAM	64
<i>P. murina</i>	1 MSQQ---QHYD---ESYPGQNGPYYGEHGYZGNNSGFNNNGSYASGVYDEQGEYYAPEYGQEYYDE-YDGGVM	65
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	1 MSYNDNNHNYD---PNQQGGGVP-----	21
	* . : * :	.
<i>C. albicans</i>	25 GEGY-YQ-----QQYDDMGQQ--P-HQQDYDYPNAQ-----YQQQPYDMDGYQDQA--NYG	69
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	19 GNGQSQE-----QDYDQYQGOLYPSQADGYYPDNPVAAGTEADMYGQCPPNESYDQDYTNGEYY	76
<i>P. jirovecii</i>	67 YDAR-AFDMYSPSDDAYYRQENAYYDYPAD--AYATDVYDPYGM-----PIADQHPLQYFQDHGNY-MY	126
<i>P. carinii</i>	65 YNGQ-GHEMYNSGEEGYYRQEEGYYDYPQD--GYVGDTY--GI-----KKDILRGNGYFQGQDEYYTY	122
<i>P. murina</i>	66 YDGQ-GREMYNGGEDGYYRQEDRYYDYPQD--AYIADTYDPYGV-----PMADQRPLQYFEGQDEYHMY	126
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	22 NDGY-YQQPYDMNQQQQQQQQPQYDDMNQQ--P-QHQDYYDPNAQ-----YHQQPYDMDGYNDPN--YQG	80
	: . : * : . . * . * :	.
<i>C. albicans</i>	70 GQPMNAQGYNADPEAFSDFSYGGQTGPGYDQYGT-----QYT-PSQMSYGG	116
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	77 GQPPN-M-AAQDGENFSDFSSYGP-PGTPGYDSYGG-----QYT-ASQMSYGE	120
<i>P. jirovecii</i>	127 NRKGKRRGSSEGSEAFSDFTMRSDMARAEEFDAYGRFDEQYRSYAPSTESLNQMASR-RGYYPDSSQISYTG	197
<i>P. carinii</i>	123 DRKGKRRGSSEASESETFSDFTMRSMDMVRAAEYDSYGRFDERYRSYEPSTESLNQMASRQRGYRP-DSQISYTG	193
<i>P. murina</i>	127 DRKGKRRGSSEGSETFSDFTMRSMDMARAEEFDSYGRFDERYRSYGPSTESLNQMASRQRGYRP-DSQISYTG	197
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	81 GHPMNAQGYNADPEAFSDFSYNGQAPGTPGYDQYGT-----QYT-PSQMSYGG	127
	: . : * * * : . . * . * : * * * :	***:***
<i>C. albicans</i>	117 DPRSSGASTPIYGGQGQGYDPTQ--FNMSNLPPAWSADPQAPIKIEHIEDIFIDLTKFGFQRDSMRNMF	186
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	121 P-NSSGTSTPIYGNY---DPNAI-AMALPNEPYPAWTADSQSPVSIEQIEDIFIDLTKRLGFQRDSMRNMF	186
<i>P. jirovecii</i>	198 N-RSSGASTPVYGMEY---NQAAMMTSARSREPYPATAENQIPISKEEIEDIFIDLTKFGFQRDSMRNMY	265
<i>P. carinii</i>	194 N-RSSGASTPIYGMY---NQAAMMTSARSREPYPWTAEENQIPISKEEIEDIFIDLTKFGFQRDSMRNMY	261
<i>P. murina</i>	198 N-RSSGASTPIYGMY---NQAAMMTSARSREPYPATAENQIPVSKEEIEDIFIDLTKFGFQRDSMRNMY	265
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	128 DPRSSGASTPIYGVQGQGYDPTQ--FQVSSNLPPAWSADPQAPIKIEHIEDIFIDLTKFGFQRDSMRNMF	197
	: * * : * * * : * * * * : * * * * : * * * * : * * * * : * * * * : * * * * :	*****:*****:
<i>C. albicans</i>	187 DYFMTLLDSRSSRMSPAQALLSLHADYIGGDNANYRKWYFSSQQDLDLSGFANMTLGKIGRKARKASKKS	258
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	187 DHFMVLLDSRSSRMSPQALLSLHADYIGGTANYKKWYFAAQQLDMDEIGFRNMSLGLKLSRKARKAKKKNK	258
<i>P. jirovecii</i>	266 DHMMVLLDSRASRMTPNQALLSLHADYIGGDNANYRNWYFAAQQLDLDDAVGFSNMDFEK-NKKTNHSQKFSK	336
<i>P. carinii</i>	262 DHMMVLLDSRASRMTPNQALLSLHADYIGGDNANYRNWYFAAQQLDLDDAVGFSNMDLDK-NRKSNSYSQKSSK	332
<i>P. murina</i>	266 DHMMVLLDSRASRMTPNQALLSLHADYIGGDNANYRNWYFAAQQLDLDDAVGFSNMDLGK-NRKSNSYSQKSSK	336
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	198 DYFMTLLDSRSSRMSPAQALLSLHADYIGGDNANYRKWFSSQQDLDLTLGFANMTLGKIGRKARKASKKS	269
	: * : * . * * * : * * * * : * * * * : * * * * : * * * * : * . : * : * . : * . * . *	*****:*****:
<i>C. albicans</i>	259 KARKAAEEHGQDVDALANELEGDSLEAAEIRWKAKMNSLTPEEVRLDLALYLLIWGEANQVRFTPECLCYI	330
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	259 KAMEEANP--EDTEETLNKIEGDNSELADFRWKAKMNQLSPLERVRHIALYLICWGEANQVRFTAECLCFI	328
<i>P. jirovecii</i>	337 S-QKNT----TAKDILQALESDNPLESAYRWKTKCSQMSQYDRARELA LYLLCWGEANQVRFTPECLCFI	402
<i>P. carinii</i>	333 KFQKNS---ASKSILQALDGDNSLESAYRWKTRCTQMSQYDRARELA LYLLCWGEANQVRFTPECLCFI	399
<i>P. murina</i>	337 KFQKNS---ASKNILQALDGDNSLESAYRWKTRCTQMSQYDRARELA LYLLCWGEANQVRFTPECLCFI	403
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	270 KARKAAEEHGQDVDALANELEGDSLEAAEIRWKAKMNTLPEEVRLDIALYLLIWGEANQVRFTPECLCYL	341
	: . : . : . : : * . * : * * : * * : . : : * . : * : * : * . : * . : * . : * . * .	*****:*****:
	1,3- β glucan synthase-domain 1	
<i>C. albicans</i>	331 YKSATDYLNSPLCQQRQEPPVPEGDYLNRVITPLYRFIRSQVYEIYDGRFVKREKDHNKVIGYDDVNQLFWYP	402
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	329 YKCALDYLDSPLCQQRQEPMPEGDFLNRVITPIYHFRNQVYEIVDGRFVKRERDHNKIVGYDDLNQLFWYP	400
<i>P. jirovecii</i>	403 FKCANDYLNSPQCQAMVEPVPEGSYLNIDITPLYIYMRDQGYEIINGRYVRRERDHNKIIIGYDDINQLFWYS	474
<i>P. carinii</i>	400 FKCANDYLNSPQCQAMVEPAPEGSYLNDVITPLYAYMRDQGYEIINGRYVRRERDHNKIIIGYDDINQLFWYP	471
<i>P. murina</i>	404 FKCANDYLNSPQCQAMVEPAPEGSYLNDVITPLYTMRDQGYEIINGRYVRRERDHNKIIIGYDDINQLFWYP	475
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	342 YKTAVDYLESPLCQQRQEPPVPEGDYLNRVITPLYRFLRSQVYEIYEGRFVKREKDHNKVIGYDDVNQLFWYP	413
	: * * : * * * * : * * * . : * : * * : * * : * : * : * * * : * * * : * * * : * * * : * * * :	*****:*****:

<i>C.albicans</i>	1050	VYSALIDGHCEMLENGRRRPKFVRVQLSGNPILGDGKSDQNHN	HAVIFHRGEYIQLIDANQDNYLEECLKIRSV	1121
<i>S.cerevisiae</i>	1047	IYSALIDGHCEILDNGRRRPKFVRVQLSGNPILGDGKSDQNHN	HALIFYRGEYIQLIDANQDNYLEECLKIRSV	1118
<i>P.jirovecii</i>	1096	IYSSLIDGYSEIMEDGRRRPKFRIQLSGNPILGDGKSDQNHN	AIIIFYRGEYIQLIDANQDNYLEECLKIRSV	1167
<i>P.carinii</i>	1120	IYSSLIDGYSEIMENGKRRPKFRIQLSGNPILGDGKSDQNHN	AIIIFYRGEYIQLIDANQDNYLEECLKIRSV	1191
<i>P.murina</i>	1124	IYSSLIDGYSEIMENGKRRPKFRIQLSGNPILGDGKSDQNHN	AIIIFYRGEYIQLIDANQDNYLEECLKIRSV	1195
<i>C.parapsilosis</i>	1061	VIYSSLIDGHCEMLENGRRRPKFVRVQLSGNPILGDGKSDQNHN	AIIIFHRGEYIQLIDANQDNYLEECLKIRSV	1132
	*****:	*****:	*****:	*****:
<i>C.albicans</i>	1122	LAEFEEMNVEHVNPYAPNLKSED	-NNTKKDPVAFLGAREYIFSEN	1192
<i>S.cerevisiae</i>	1119	LAEFEELNVEQVNPyAPGLRYEE	-QTTNHPVAVGAREYIFSEN	1188
<i>P.jirovecii</i>	1168	LAEFEEMSPLLEEFPYNPNE	-KVNNPVA	1234
<i>P.carinii</i>	1192	LAEFEEMTPTEESPYNPNE	-SATNPV	1258
<i>P.murina</i>	1196	LAEFEEMTPIESPYNPNE	-SAANPV	1262
<i>C.parapsilosis</i>	1133	LAEFEELNVEHVNPySPDLKSENPLHEKKAPV	-AAGKEQTGTLFARTLAQIG	1204
	*****:	**	*****:	*****:
<i>C.albicans</i>	1193	GKLHYGHPDFLNATFMLTRGGVSKAQKGLHLN	EDIYAGMNAMMRGGIKHCEYYQC	1264
<i>S.cerevisiae</i>	1189	GKLHYGHPDFINATFMTTRGGVSKAQKGLHLN	EDIYAGMNAMLRGGIKHCEYYQC	1260
<i>P.jirovecii</i>	1235	GKLHYGHPDFLNGPFMTRGGVSKAQKGLHLN	EDIYAGMTALLRGGRGIKHCEYYQC	1306
<i>P.carinii</i>	1259	GKLHYGHPDFLNGPFMTRGGVSKAQKGLHLN	EDIYAGMTALLRGGRGIKHCEYYQC	1330
<i>P.murina</i>	1263	GKLHYGHPDFLNGPFMTRGGVSKAQKGLHLN	EDIYAGMTALLRGGRGIKHCEYYQC	1334
<i>C.parapsilosis</i>	1205	GKLHYGHPDFLNATFMLTRGGVSKAQKGLHLN	EDIYAGMNAMMRGGIKHCEYYQC	1276
	*****:	***	*****:	*****:
	1,3-β glucan synthase domain 2			
<i>C.albicans</i>	1265	KIGAGMGEQMLSREYFYLGQLPLDRFLS	FYYGHPGFHINNLF	1336
<i>S.cerevisiae</i>	1261	KIGAGMGEQMLSREYYYLGTQLPVDRL	FYTAAHPGFHINNLF	1332
<i>P.jirovecii</i>	1307	KVGTGMGEQMLSREYYYLGTQLPDRFLS	FYYAHPGFHINNLF	1378
<i>P.carinii</i>	1331	KVGTGMGEQMLSREYYYLGTQLPDRFLS	FYYAHPGFHINNLF	1402
<i>P.murina</i>	1335	KVGTGMGEQMLSREYYYLGTQLPDRFLS	FYYAHPGFHINNLF	1406
<i>C.parapsilosis</i>	1277	KIGAGMGEQMLSREYYYLSTQLPDRFLS	FYYGHPGFHINNLF	1348
	*****:	***	*****:	*****:
	Hot spot 2			
<i>C.albicans</i>	1337	DVPVTDVLYPFGCYNIAPAVDWIRRT	LSIFIVFFFISIPLVVQELIERGVWKAFQRFVRHFISMSPFFEV	1408
<i>S.cerevisiae</i>	1333	NKPKTDVLPV	ICGCNFQPAVDWVRRY	1404
<i>P.jirovecii</i>	1379	GQPITDPFLPVG	CYSLAPVLDWIKRSIISIFIVFFIAFIPLVVQELTERGVWRAS	1450
<i>P.carinii</i>	1403	GQPITDPFLPVG	CYSLAPVLDWIKRSIISIFIVFFIAFIPLVVQELTERGVWRAS	1474
<i>P.murina</i>	1407	GQPITDPFLPVG	CYSLAPVLDWIKRSIISIFIVFFIAFIPLVVQELTERGVWRAS	1478
<i>C.parapsilosis</i>	1349	DVPVTDVLYPFGCYNIAPAVDWIRRT	LSIFIVFFFISIPLVVQELIERGVWKACQRFVRHFISMSPFFEV	1420
	***:	***:	***:	***:
<i>C.albicans</i>	1409	VAQIYSSSVFTD	LTVG GARYISTGRGFATSRIPFSILY	1480
<i>S.cerevisiae</i>	1405	AGQIYSSALLSD	LAIGGARYISTGRGFATSRIPFSILY	1476
<i>P.jirovecii</i>	1451	VSIQIYANSLLQNL	AFGGARYIGTGRGFATTRIPFSILF	1522
<i>P.carinii</i>	1475	VSIQIYANSLLQNL	AFGGARYIGTGRGFATTRIPFSILF	1546
<i>P.murina</i>	1479	VSIQIYANSLLQNL	AFGGARYIGTGRGFATTRIPFSILF	1550
<i>C.parapsilosis</i>	1421	VAQIYSSSVFTD	LTVG GARYISTGRGFATSRIPFSILY	1492
	***:	***:	***:	***:
<i>C.albicans</i>	1481	ASLSALMFSPFIFNPHQFAWEDFF	LTDYRDFIRWLSRGNTKWHRN	1552
<i>S.cerevisiae</i>	1477	ASLSSLIFAPFVFNPHQFAWEDFF	LTDYRDFIRWLSRGNNQYHRN	1548
<i>P.jirovecii</i>	1523	VSVLALCICPFIFNPHQFSWT	DDFFVYREFIRWLSRGNSRSHAN	1594
<i>P.carinii</i>	1547	VSVLALCISPFIFNPHQFSWT	DDFFVYREFIRWLSRGNSRSHAN	1618
<i>P.murina</i>	1551	VSVLALCISPFIFNPHQFSWT	DDFFVYREFIRWLSRGNSRSHAN	1622
<i>C.parapsilosis</i>	1493	ASLSSLMFSPFIFNPHQFAWEDFF	IDYRDFIRWLSRGNTKWHRN	1564
	.*:	:*:	***:	***:
<i>C.albicans</i>	1553	AGDASRAHRSNVL	FADFLPTLIYTAGLYVAYTFINA	1624
<i>S.cerevisiae</i>	1549	AGDASRAHRTN	LIAMEIIPCAIYAGCFIAFTF	1612
<i>P.jirovecii</i>	1595	SGDIPRAGFNNVFF	SEIVGPLILVLSLPFC	1663
<i>P.carinii</i>	1619	SGDIPRAGFNSVFF	SEIVGPMILVLLSLVPYC	1687
<i>P.murina</i>	1623	SGDIPRAGFNSVFF	SEIVGPMILVLLSLVPYC	1691
<i>C.parapsilosis</i>	1565	AGDASRAHRSNVL	FADFLPTLIYTAGLYVAF	1636
	*****:	*****:	*****:	*****:

<i>C. albicans</i>	1625	DMGCLGVCLAMACCAGPMLGLCCKKTGAVIAGVAHVAVIVHIIFFIVMWVTEGFNFARLMLGIATMIYVQR	1696
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	1613	NLGVLFFCMGMSCCSGPLFGMCCKKTGSVMAGIAHVAVIVHIAFFIVMWVLESFNFVRMLIGVVTCIQCQR	1684
<i>P. jirovecii</i>	1664	NALVAFVFFGMACCMGPILTIICCKKFGAVLATISHAIAVIVLVAFFEVLFLEGWSFSKTIILGLVLMISLQR	1735
<i>P. carinii</i>	1688	NAMVAFVFFGMACCMGPILTIICCKKFGAVLATISHAIAVIVLVTFFEVLFLEGWSFSKTIILGLVLMISLQR	1759
<i>P. murina</i>	1692	NAMVAFVFFGMACCMGPILTIICCKKFGAVLATISHAIAVIVLVTFFEVLFLEGWSFSKTIILGLVLMISLQR	1763
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	1637	DCGVLFGCVGMMACCPMMGLCCKKTGAVIAGIAHVIVFIVMFVMEGFNFARMLLGFATMIYVQR	1708
	:*:***: * :**** .: * : ***: : * * : * : * . * : * * . * * *	*
<i>C. albicans</i>	1697	LLFKFLTLCLTREFKNDKANTAFWTGKWyNTGMGMAFTQPSREFVAKIIEMSEFAGDFVLAHIIILFCQLP	1768
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	1685	LIFHCMTALMLTREFKNDHANTAFWTGKWyKGGMGYMAWTQPSRELTAKVIELSEFAADFVLGHVILICQLP	1756
<i>P. jirovecii</i>	1736	AFLKMLTIMILTREFKHDGSNLAWWTGRWYSNNLGVHAMSQAREFVCKVIELSLFAADFCLGHLLLFIITP	1807
<i>P. carinii</i>	1760	AFLKMLTIMILTREFKHDGSNLAWWTGRWYSNNLGVYAMSQAREFVCKVIELSLFAADFCLGHLLLFIITP	1831
<i>P. murina</i>	1764	AFLKMLTIMILTREFKHDGSNLAWWTGRWYSNNLGVYAMSQAREFVCKVIELSLFAADFCLGHLLLFIITP	1835
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	1709	LLPKFLTLAFLTREFKNDKANTAFWTGKWyNTGMGMAFTQPSREFVAKIVEMSEFAGDFMLAHIIILFCQLP	1780
	:	...: * :*****: * : * :****: * .: * : * : * : * : * . * : * : * : * : * :	*
<i>C. albicans</i>	1769	FIFIPLVDRWHSMMLFWLKPSRLIRPPIYSLKQARLRKRMVRKYCVLYFAVLILFIVIIIVAPAVASGQIPVD	1840
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	1757	LIIPKIDKFHSIMLFWLKPSRQIRPPIYSLKQTRLRKRMVKYCPLYFLVLAIFAGCIIGPAVASAKIH-	1827
<i>P. jirovecii</i>	1808	IILAIPYIDRWHSMLLFWLRLRPSRQIRPPIYSLKQNKLRKRIVRRYATLFFGLFLFLMIILVPAVGHSKFPK-	1878
<i>P. carinii</i>	1832	IILAIPYIDRWHSMLLFWLRLRPSRQIRPPIYSLKQNKLRKRIVRRYATLFFGLFLFLMIILVPALGHSKFPK-	1902
<i>P. murina</i>	1836	IILAIPYIDRWHSMLLFWLRLRPSRQIRPPIYSLKQNKLRKRIVRRYATLFFGLFLFLMIILVPALGHSKFPK-	1906
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	1781	IILAVPLIDRWHSMLLFWLKPSRLIRPPIYSLKQARLRKRMVRKYVTLYFAVLLFVIIIAAPAAAGSIKVD	1852
	:	: * :*:****:*****: * : * :****: * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * : * :	*
<i>C. albicans</i>	1841	QFANIGGSGSIADGLFQPRNVSNNDTGHRPKTYTWSYLSTRFTGTTTPYSTNPFRV	1897
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	1828	HIGDS--LDGVVHNLFQPINTTNNDTG-Q----MSTYQSHYYTHTPSLKTWSTI-K	1876
<i>P. jirovecii</i>	1879	SLNNIPAL--KNLGLIQPSNDPRGATGRTTRPANSNGTYKMFT-----	1919
<i>P. carinii</i>	1903	SLNNIAFL--KNLGLIQPSNDPRGATGRTTRPGNSNGTYKLFY-----	1944
<i>P. murina</i>	1907	SLNNIAFL--KNLGLIQPSNDPRGATGRTTRPGNSNGTYKLFY-----	1948
<i>C. parapsilosis</i>	1853	QFADIGSKGSIAYGLFQPRNVSNNDTGPTNRPKSYTWSYLSEKYSGHTTAYSTNAF-R	1909
	:	: * :** * ... ** :*	*

FIG S2.

Gsc1	1649	VAVIVHIAFFIVMWVLESFNFVRMLIGVVTCIQCQRLIFHCMTALMLTREFKNDHANTAFWTGKWKYKGGMGYMAW	1723
Gsc2	1668	IAVVVHIVFFIVMWVLEGFSFVRMLIGVVTCIQCQRLIFHCMTVLLLTREFKNDHANTAFWTGKWKYSTGLGYMAW	1742
Gsc3	1560	FSVLVYLLDFELMWFLQGWNFTRTLILLITCINMHILFKVFPTTIFLTREYKNNKAHLAWNGKWKYNTGMGWSII	1634
		.*:.*: * :**.*:.*.* ** :***: : :*: :*.:.***:***:; *:.*.***..*:;	
Gsc1	1724	TQPSRELTAKVIELSEFAADFVLGHVILICQLPLIIIPKIDKFHSIMLFWLKPSRQI-RPPIYSLKQTRLRKRVMV	1797
Gsc2	1743	TQPTRELTAKVIELSEFAADFVLGHVILIFQLPVICIPKIDKFHSIMLFWLKPSRQI-RPPIYSLKQARLRKRVMV	1816
Gsc3	1635	LQPIREYFVKIMESSYFAADFFLGHFLLFIQTPILLPFIDYHTMVLFWMNPRSIIAHKRILTRQRALRSRIV	1709
		** ** .*: * * *****.***.: * :* : * ** :***:***: * * : * : * : ** ** .*:*	
Gsc1	1798	KKYCSLYFLVLAIFAGCIIGPAVASAKIHKHIGDSLGV-VHNLFQPINTNNNDTSQMSTYQSHYYTHTPSLKT	1871
Gsc2	1817	RRYCSLYFLVLIIFAGCIVGPAVASAHPVKDLSGLTGT-FHNLVQPRNVSNNDTGSQMSTYKSHYYTHTPSLKT	1890
Gsc3	1710	SKYFSLYFVMLGVLLFMLIAPPFAGDFVSS-PQELLEGTLFEGIFQPNNQNNDTGPN---	1780
		:* ****: * : : .*. *. : . . * . . :.** * *****: * * * *: *	
Gsc1	1872	WSTIK 1876	
Gsc2	1891	WSTIK 1895	
Gsc3	1781	FRTVA 1785	
		. *	

FIG S3.

