

A timetree of Fungi dated with fossils and horizontal gene transfers

Received: 28 December 2024

Accepted: 13 August 2025

Published online: 1 October 2025



Lénárd L. Szánthó^{1,2,13}, Zsolt Merényi^{3,13}, Philip Donoghue⁴,
Toni Gabaldón^{5,6,7,8}, László G. Nagy^{3,9}✉, Gergely J. Szöllősi^{1,2}✉ &
Eduard Ocaña-Pallarès^{5,6,10,11,12}✉

Dating the tree of Fungi has been challenging due to a paucity of fossil calibrations and high taxonomic diversity of the group. Here we reconstructed and dated a comprehensive phylogeny comprising 110 fungal species, utilizing 225 phylogenetic markers and accounting for across-site compositional heterogeneity in amino acid sequences. To address uncertainties in fungal dating, we sampled chronograms from four relaxed molecular clock analyses, each integrating distinct sets of calibrations and relative time-order constraints. The first analysis used a core set of 27 calibrations alongside 17 relative constraints derived from fungi-to-fungi horizontal gene transfer events. Three further analyses extended this core set with additional timing information identified in our reevaluation of the evolution of pectin-specific enzymes in Fungi. Our timetree, integrating analytic uncertainties, suggests older ages for crown Fungi (1,401–896 Ma) than recently reported, providing a minimum age for ancient interactions involving fungi and the algal ancestors of embryophytes in terrestrial ecosystems (1,253–797 Ma). This supports a protracted gap between the onset of these interactions and the rise of modern land plants. Altogether, our study provides a refined timescale for fungal diversification and a temporal framework for future investigations into early interactions involving fungi and the algal ancestors of embryophytes.

The fungal kingdom is composed of an extensive diversity of organisms that evolved to inhabit nearly all of Earth's ecosystems¹. Fungi are involved in key ecological interactions that were probably important during the early evolution of complex life². Among other hypotheses, it has been proposed that fungi and plants colonized land as mutualistic partners, paving the way for the radiation of macroscopic life in terrestrial habitats^{3,4}.

Fungi exhibit diverse morphologies⁵, lifestyles⁶ and complexity levels⁷, the best known of which are filamentous and

mushroom-forming fungi and yeasts, most of which belong to the sub-kingdom Dikarya. Fungi, however, also contain several 'early-diverging' non-Dikarya phyla, including Zoopagomycota, Mucoromycota, Olpidiomyota, Blastocladiomycota and Chytridiomycota¹. While less studied than Dikarya, these phyla and their ancestors experienced some of the most important events in fungal evolution, including the origin of multicellular hyphae⁸, terrestrialization(s) and the loss(es) of a flagellum^{9,10}, and the transition from a phagotrophic feeding strategy

¹Model-Based Evolutionary Genomics Unit, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University, Okinawa, Japan. ²HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research, Institute of Evolution, Budapest, Hungary. ³HUN-REN Biological Research Center, Institute of Biochemistry, Synthetic and Systems Biology Unit, Szeged, Hungary. ⁴Bristol Palaeobiology Group, School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK. ⁵Institute for Research in Biomedicine, The Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, Barcelona, Spain. ⁶Barcelona Supercomputing Centre, Barcelona, Spain. ⁷Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies, Barcelona, Spain. ⁸Centro de Investigación Biomédica En Red de Enfermedades Infecciosas, Barcelona, Spain. ⁹Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea. ¹⁰Department of Biological Physics, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary. ¹¹Institut de Biologia Evolutiva, CSIC–Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain. ¹²Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain. ¹³These authors contributed equally: Lénárd L. Szánthó, Zsolt Merényi. ✉e-mail: lnagy@fungeonomelab.com; gergely.szollosi@oist.jp; ed3716@gmail.com

Group	Preferred habitat	Feeding strategy	Septate hyphae	Spitzenkörper	Fruiting bodies	Flagellum
Ascomycota (Dikarya)	Terrestrial	Osmotrophy	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Basidiomycota (Dikarya)	Terrestrial	Osmotrophy	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mucoromycota (including Glomeromycotina)	Terrestrial	Osmotrophy	Rare	No	Rare	No
Zoopagomycota	Terrestrial	Osmotrophy	Rare	Rare	No	No
Olpidium	Aquatic and terrestrial	Osmotrophy	No	No	No	Yes
Blastocladiomycota	Aquatic	Osmotrophy	Rare	Rare	No	Yes
Chytridiomycota	Aquatic	Osmotrophy	Rare	No	No	Yes
Aphelida	Aquatic	Endobiotic phagotrophy	No	No	No	Yes
Rozellida	Aquatic	Endobiotic phagotrophy	No	No	No	Yes
Microsporidia	Aquatic and terrestrial	Intracellular parasite	No	No	No	No
Nucleariidea	Aquatic	Phagotrophy	No	No	No	No

Fig. 1 | Features of main fungal groups (coloured) and of the sister relatives of fungi. We defined Fungi as the clade including the coloured groups, as they are characterized by an absorptive/filamentous specialized osmotrophic lifestyle that distinguishes them from their closest relatives in the tree of life (non-coloured groups). Silhouettes are from PhyloPic (see Supplementary Information section 6 for credit and license details).

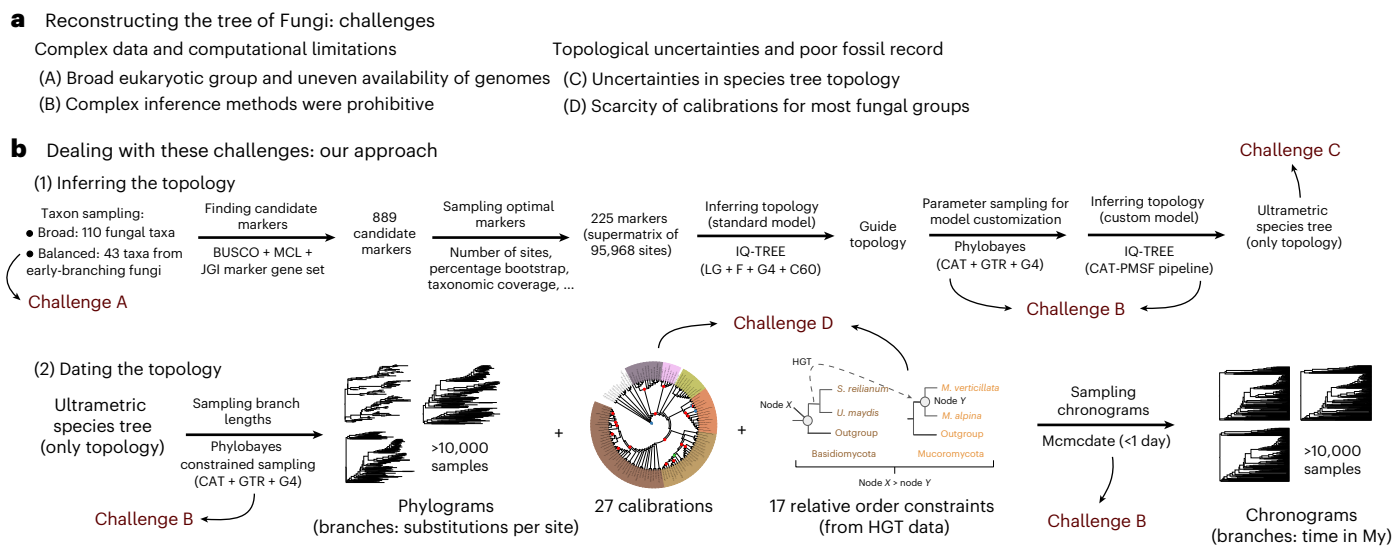


Fig. 2 | Reconstructing a dated ToF. **a**, Main challenges. **b**, A summary of the methodological workflow executed to deal with these challenges and produce the 'Default' set of chronograms. See the main text and Methods for further details.

to osmotrophy¹¹. Osmotrophy unites Dikarya with the early-diverging non-Dikarya phyla¹², and we use it as a defining feature of Fungi that leaves Aphelida, Rozellida, Microsporidia and Nucleariidea as the closest relatives of Fungi in the tree of life^{12–14} (Fig. 1).

The evolution of non-Dikarya phyla has been the subject of intense study. As a result, their phylogenetic relationships are relatively well known^{9,12–16}, with the exception of a few hard-to-resolve relationships, which seem to be sensitive to methodological choices¹⁷. Aside from the phylogenetic relationships, establishing a dated phylogeny of Fungi is crucial to understand when major clades originated or how interactions between fungi and other lineages shaped the biosphere.

Main challenges in dating the ToF

The reconstruction of a dated tree of Fungi (ToF) is confronted by four major challenges (Challenges A–D; Fig. 2a). From a taxonomic standpoint, the availability of genomic data has historically been skewed towards Dikarya¹⁸, leaving some early-diverging phyla underrepresented in genomic databases (Challenge A, although substantial progress has been achieved thanks to initiatives such as the '1000 Fungal Genomes Project'¹⁹). In addition, dating a broad and diverse phylogeny constitutes a difficult computational endeavour. While researchers have developed tools to accelerate molecular dating analyses for large

phylogenetic datasets²⁰, these often use simplified models that cannot account for complex protein sequence properties, such as amino acid site compositional heterogeneity^{21,22} (Challenge B). Furthermore, deep phylogenetic relationships are not yet fully resolved¹⁷, including: (1) whether Chytridiomycota¹² or Blastocladiomycota¹⁵ is the sister group to the rest of the fungi; (2) the position of the flagellated group Olpidiomyco⁹, which is critical to understanding whether terrestrial fungal groups originated from one or multiple terrestrialization events; and (3) the placement of the genus *Basidiobolus*, which has been variably positioned near Mucoromycota¹⁶ or Zoopagomycota¹⁵ (Challenge C). Finally, fungal fossils are scarce, especially for unicellular groups that diverged before Dikarya. This issue is compounded by previous studies largely relying on a narrow set of calibration points, such as *Paleopyrenomycites*, with limited exploration of additional fossils^{23,24} (Challenge D). Aiming to address these challenges, we implemented a comprehensive methodological workflow that integrates cutting-edge phylogenetic and molecular dating techniques (Fig. 2b).

Results

A broad and diverse taxon sampling

To achieve a phylogenetically broad and taxonomically diverse ToF (addressing Challenge A), we utilized publicly available data from the

1000 Fungal Genomes Project¹⁹ to gather a genomic taxon sampling of 110 fungal species, including 43 from non-Dikarya fungal groups, plus an additional 43 non-fungal taxa, enabling us to contextualize the ToF within a broader diversity of eukaryotes (see taxon sampling in Fig. 3). We combined three distinct strategies to collect a total of 889 phylogenetic protein markers from the downloaded genomic data (see ‘Candidate marker set’ section in Methods). We then selected 225 markers based on optimal metrics screening (see ‘Filtering the marker set’ section in Methods), and the selected markers were aligned and concatenated into a supermatrix comprising 95,968 protein amino acid sites and 153 taxa. This supermatrix provided the molecular data to reconstruct a dated ToF by means of a two-step process (Fig. 2b): (1) inference of the ToF (the phylogenetic relationships between the species) and (2) the datation of the ToF.

Dealing with topological uncertainties

For the first step of the process, reconstructing the topology of the ToF, modelling amino acid site compositional heterogeneity (the fact that protein sites evolve under non-homogeneous compositional constraints) has been shown to be crucial in solving deep phylogenetic relationships^{22,25–31}. Among the available implemented models to handle this, the CAT model³³ has proven to be useful to solve complex scenarios of long branch attraction^{21,28–30,32–34}. However, CAT is computationally costly and only available in a Bayesian framework (Phylobayes software)^{35,36}. Among the alternative approaches explored (Methods), we used the CAT-PMSF pipeline²² (where PMSF is posterior mean site frequencies), which allows inference of amino acid preferences at each site without the computational overhead of a full Bayesian inference across tree topologies. We also used a complementary species tree reconstruction analysis using the software ASTRAL³⁷ to better capture topological uncertainty in the ToF. The CAT-PMSF tree (Extended Data Fig. 1) but not the ASTRAL tree (Extended Data Fig. 2) shows *B. meristosporus* grouped with Zoopagomycota, as expected based on its taxonomic classification³⁸. Meanwhile, Chytridiomycota branched as a sister group to the rest of Fungi in both trees, consistent with the most recently published ToFs that also used site-heterogeneous models^{12,13,16,17}. Finally, the placement of the flagellated fungi *O. bornovanus* was unresolved, also in the ASTRAL topology.

To clarify the position of *O. bornovanus* in relation to the non-flagellated terrestrial fungi, we tested five alternative topologies using two different approaches. Two of these topologies were rejected on the basis of approximately unbiased (AU) tests³⁹ applied to the concatenated matrix ($P < 0.05$), while a further two were dismissed using a phylogenetic reconciliation approach⁴⁰, which analysed 38,837 gene families (see Methods for details). Only the topology in which *Olpidiomyces* branched as the sister group to the terrestrial fungal clade composed by Dikarya + Mucoromycota + Zoopagomycota was not rejected. We thus consider the recovered monophyly of the non-flagellated terrestrial fungi as the most likely topology. This agrees with recent findings⁹ and supports the hypothesis that these groups share a common ancestor that transitioned from an aquatic to a terrestrial environment, potentially losing the flagellum as a result of this shift^{9,10}.

A core set of calibrations and HGT-derived relative constraints

After having inferred a topology for the ToF (CAT + PMSF topology, with *O. bornovanus* positioned as sister to terrestrial fungal groups;

Fig. 3), the next step was to date it. As a source of timing information to date the tree (Challenge D), we first established, as described below, a core set of calibrations as well as relative constraints derived from horizontal gene transfer (HGT) data.

Compiling a broad and reliable set of calibrations is critical for relaxed molecular clock analyses providing local checks on rate variation⁴¹. To this end, we derived an initial set of 17 fossil-based calibration points for the fungal clade following the best practice principles⁴² (calibrations 1–4 and 6–18; Supplementary Information section 1). In Metazoa and Embryophyta, maximum age calibrations (maxima) can be established on the basis of absence data, qualified by taphonomic outgroup controls that demonstrate that in-group representatives would be preserved if they existed; this is possible because most lineages of animals and plants have a structured and predictable fossil record⁴³. By contrast, fungal vegetative structures fossilize very poorly and their fossil record is, for the most part, unstructured and unpredictable. We could, however, transfer the maximum constraint on the age of Embryophyta to three fungal nodes based on their phylogenetic and ecological association with the land plant crown clade. First, we transferred the maximum age proposed for crown Embryophyta⁴⁴ to crown Endogonales⁴⁵ (*Jingerdemannia flammicorona* + *Endogone* sp. clade, calibration 5) and to crown Glomeromycotina⁴⁶ (*Gigaspora* sp. + *Glomus cerebriforme* clade, calibration 7B). This was based on the observation that representatives of both groups are involved in complex and ancient symbiotic associations with embryophytes, suggesting that they probably originated after the emergence of Embryophyta (see Supplementary Information section 1 for details). We also used the maximum age calibration for crown Embryophyta to the *Cadophora* sp. + *Tolypocladium inflatum* clade within Dikarya (calibration 20) on the basis of a HGT event from within Embryophyta to this clade (Supplementary Information section 2). This HGT event was identified on the basis of a systematic and conservative screening of potential HGT cases involving Embryophyta and Fungi (Methods). Apart from the mentioned calibrations, all of which calibrate nodes within Fungi, we also included calibration 19 (a maximum for the root of the tree), and calibrations 21–24, which calibrate other eukaryotic nodes (Supplementary Information section 1). Overall, this set includes 27 calibrations for 24 nodes (3 nodes have both maximum and minimum age calibrations, 19 of the calibrated nodes are from Fungi).

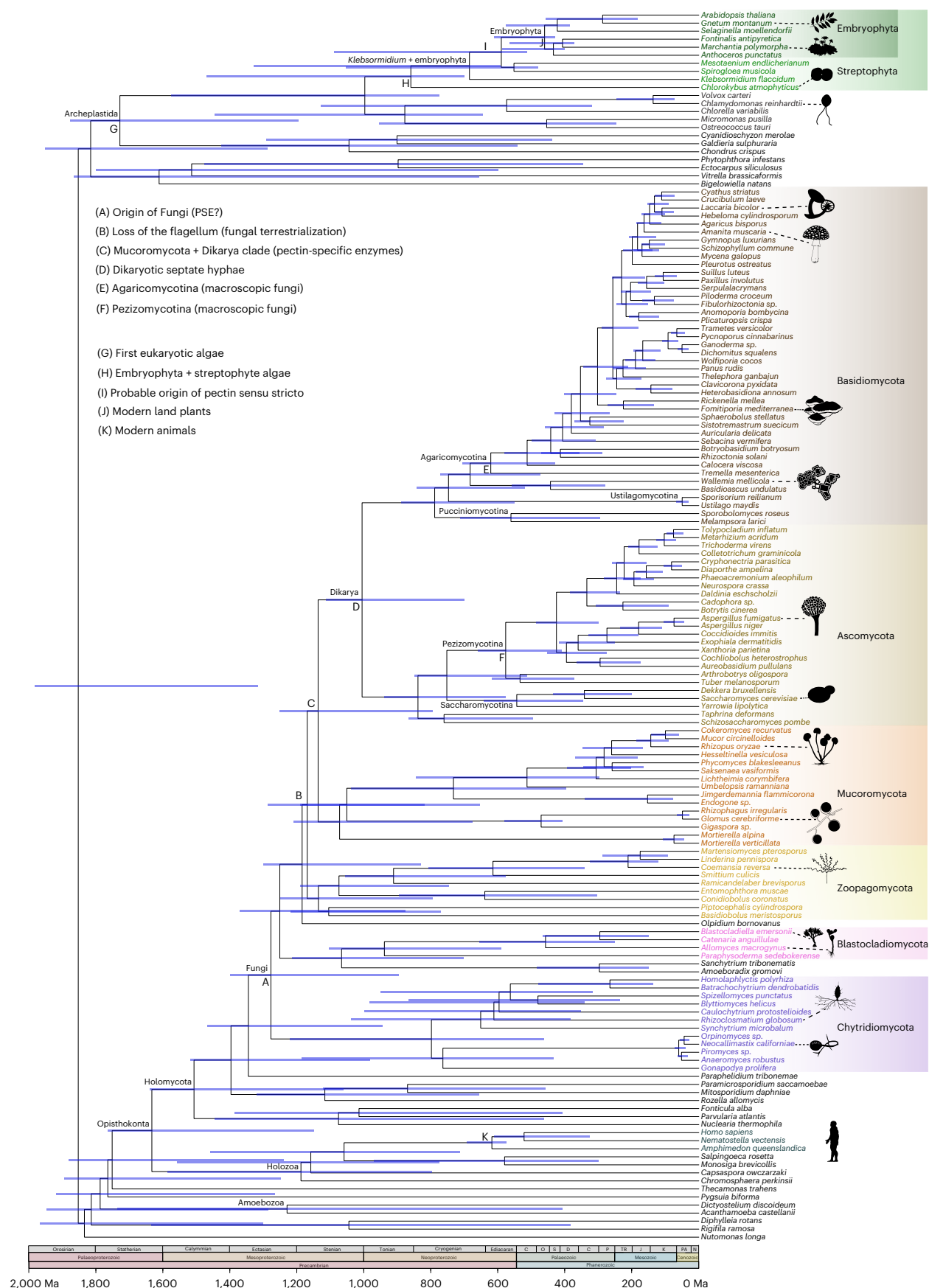
Beyond these 24 calibration points, this core set incorporated 17 relative constraints inferred from a second HGT screen, this time exploring HGTs involving distantly related fungal groups. This allowed us to identify 19 fungi-to-fungi HGTs (Supplementary Information section 3) from which we inferred 17 relative time-order constraints based on non-repetitive HGT information. Relative time-order constraints establish older and younger relationships between nodes in the tree based on the principle that the parent node of the lineage identified as the HGT donor must be older than the descendant node of the lineage identified as the receptor of the HGT event^{47–49}.

Accelerated chronogram sampling based on sophisticated methods

Once we inferred the topology of the ToF and obtained the core set of timing information described above, we used MCMCdate^{50,51} to date the tree. This tool performs relaxed molecular clock analyses from a precomputed set of phylogram data (trees with branch lengths

Fig. 3 | A dated ToF, including 110 fungi and 43 representatives from other eukaryotic groups. Four chronogram sets were produced: ‘Default’ (based on a core set of 24 calibration points and 17 relative constraints), and three other chronogram sets that incorporated calibrations and relative constraints based on plausible scenarios related to the evolutionary history of pectin and pectin specific-enzymes (PSE) in Fungi (see Fig. 4). To be conservative and to account for node age uncertainty, the branch lengths of this figure correspond to mean divergence times from ‘Default’, while node age bars show the oldest and the

lowest among the 95% high posterior density (HPD) credibility interval values retrieved from the four chronogram sets reconstructed. Consensus chronograms obtained separately from each of these four analyses are available in the extended data Figs 3, 6, 7 and 8. Supplementary Fig. 2 includes cumulative probability distributions for node ages. Supplementary Data includes more detailed information on node age probabilities and pairwise node age orderings to complement the summary HPD data displayed in this figure. Silhouettes are from PhyloPic (see Supplementary Information section 6 for credit and license details).



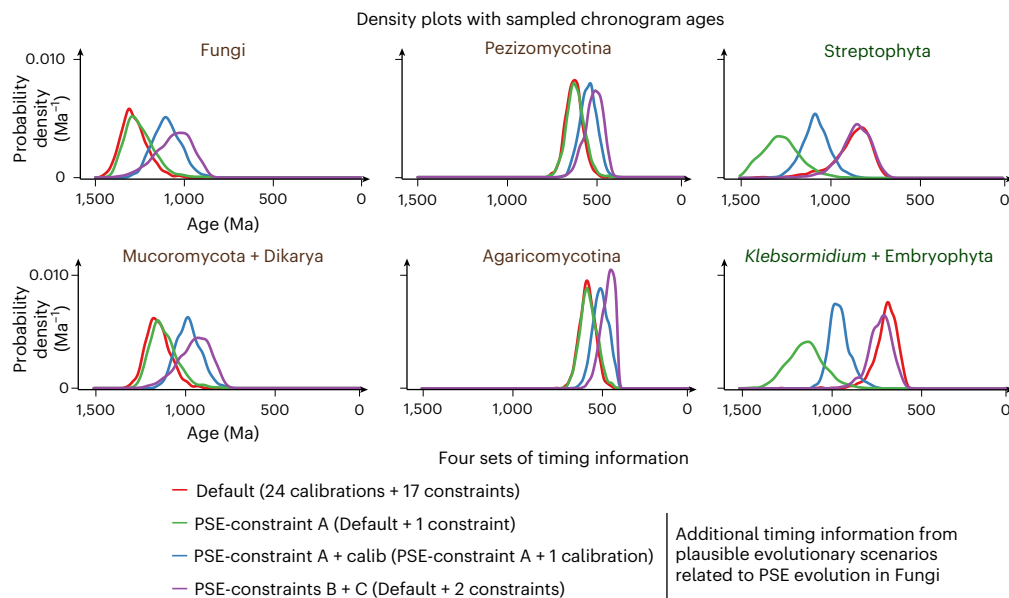


Fig. 4 | Distribution of sampled node ages (Ma) based on four distinct sets of sampled chronogram data, each corresponding to a relaxed molecular clock analysis that was run under a specific set of calibrations and relative constraints (see main text). All nodes correspond to the last common ancestors of the named groups (see Fig. 3 for a phylogenetic context). ‘Default’ analysis was done based on the core set of 24 calibration points and 17 relative constraints

(see ‘A core set of calibrations and HGT-derived relative constraints’ section). For information on ‘PSE-constraint A’ and ‘PSE-constraint A + calib’, see ‘Exploring a relative constraint involving streptophytes and early terrestrial fungi’ section. For information on ‘PSE-constraints B + C’, see ‘Exploring relative constraints involving embryophytes with macroscopic terrestrial fungi’ section.

representing substitutions per site), from which Mcmcdate takes less than a day on a standard laptop to complete the analysis. This allowed us to overcome the computational constraints of large-scale dating (Challenge B) and also to perform preliminary analyses to evaluate the impact of methodological variables (see details in Supplementary Information section 5). For example, we evaluated whether modeling across-site compositional heterogeneity (for example, with CAT), which is more computationally expensive than the typically used site homogeneous models, also has an impact for branch length estimation as it has for the inference of the topology^{21,28–30,32–34}. We found that, at least for the employed methodology, using CAT to sample input phylogram data for Mcmcdate had a substantial impact on the sampled node ages, more than, for example, exchanging the autocorrelated for the uncorrelated rates clock model (Supplementary Information section 5-Fig. 1). In this regard, posterior predictive simulations showed that using CAT for phylogram sampling led to a better modelling of the input alignment than not using it (Supplementary Information section 5-Table 1). We also observed that CAT led to chronogram sets with lower variance in node age (Supplementary Information section 5-Fig. 3). Altogether, we decided to use phylograms sampled under the CAT model for the definitive dating analyses. In addition, to provide information that could be valuable for future studies, we assessed whether the number of sites in the input alignment has an impact on branch length estimation. We found that, despite some increase in node age variance (Supplementary Information section 5-Fig. 3), 10,000 randomly subsampled sites from the full phylogenetic marker set (which is one order of magnitude larger) would have been sufficient to get consistent node ages, whereas 5,000 sites would not have been (Supplementary Information 5-Figs. 1, 5 and 6). Finally, progressively subsampling sites from either the slowest- or fastest-evolving markers had less impact on the estimated ages than changing the clock model or omitting the use of CAT (Supplementary Information section 5-Fig. 1).

We continued the exploratory analyses described above, next testing the impact of the core set of 27 calibrations and 17 relative constraints on the resulting ages. We found that the ages retrieved by using this core set (‘Default’ analysis; Extended Data Fig. 3) were

substantially older than the ages retrieved from an alternative analysis done by using only the least possible calibration information (‘Only root calibration’ analysis; Extended Data Fig. 4a). This trend probably stems from the influence of the 21 minimum age calibrations (minima; Extended Data Fig. 5a,b), whereas the maximum age calibrations (maxima) in this core set had a more localised effect on the retrieved ages (Extended Data Fig. 5c,d). Given the uncertainty on the informativity of the maxima available in the core set, in the next sections we aimed to explore the incorporation of additional timing information to finally produce a timetree of Fungi that accounts for this uncertainty (Fig. 3).

Reevaluating the pectin-related maximum age calibration

A strategy to mitigate the lack of maxima extracted from palaeontological evidence is to retrieve calibration information from molecular data. In particular, Chang et al. (2015)⁵² and Chang et al. (2021)⁹ imposed a soft maxima of 750 million years ago (Ma) and 850 Ma, respectively, on the last common ancestor of Chytridiomycota + Dikarya (LCA-Chytridiomycota + Dikarya, which in our phylogeny corresponds to the last common ancestor of Fungi, LCA-Fungi). Chang et al. (2015)⁵² imposed this calibration based on inference of an ancestral expansion in LCA-Chytridiomycota + Dikarya of enzymes specifically involved in pectin degradation (pectin-specific enzymes, PSE). Pectins are matrix polysaccharides of the cell walls of plants and are involved in controlling growth, cell wall porosity and expansion, among other important functions^{53,54}. Rather than being restricted to Embryophyta, some streptophyte algal relatives of land plants also have pectins related to those found in embryophytes^{54–56}. Based on the increase of PSE content found in LCA-Chytridiomycota + Dikarya, Chang et al. (2015)⁵² hypothesized that this early fungus should have been younger than the last common ancestor of streptophytes with pectin cell walls. Accordingly, they imposed a maximum (750 Ma) for LCA-Chytridiomycota + Dikarya based on published age inferences for Streptophyta. Chang et al. (2021)⁹ applied this same topological calibration but constrained it to 850 Ma.

Given the impact this maximum age calibration has for the time-scale of fungal evolution, we revisited the evolutionary history of PSE in Fungi, previously done by Chang et al. (2015)⁵², in the light of

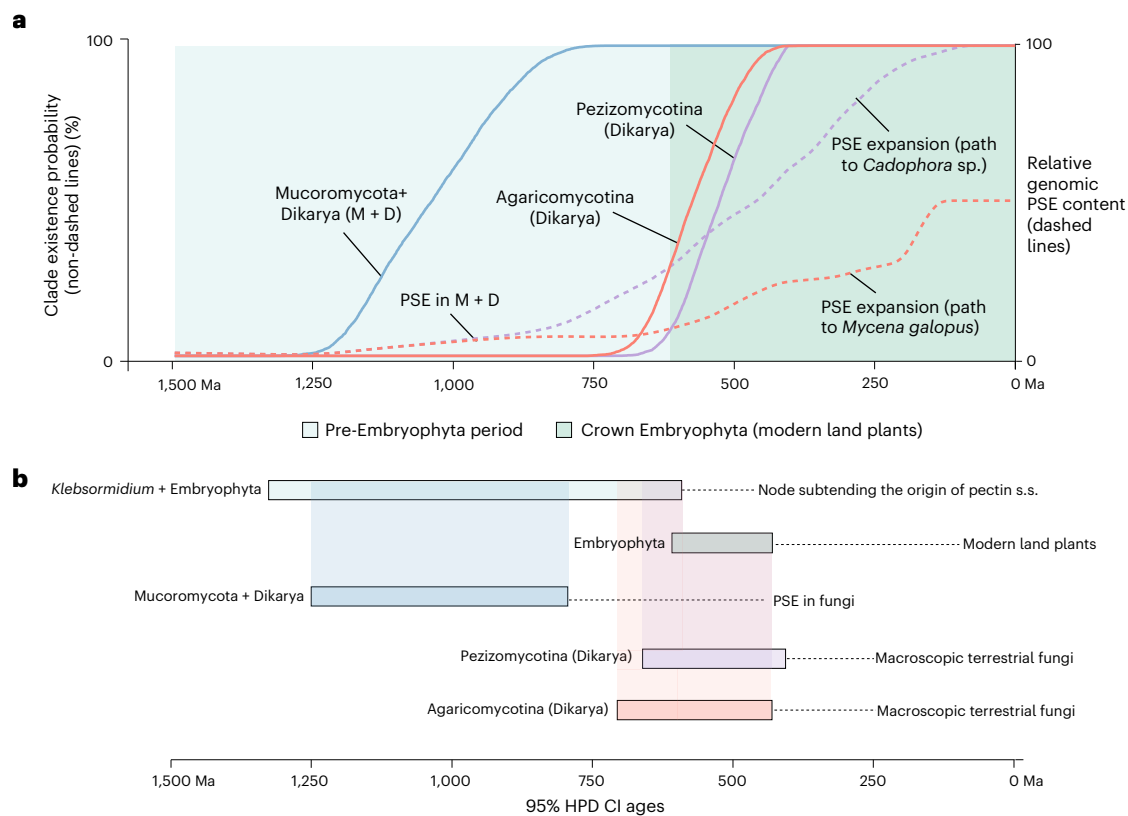


Fig. 5 | Evolutionary trajectory of PSE in Fungi. a, Expansion of PSE in the ancestral path to macroscopic terrestrial fungi. The right axis (dashed lines) shows the relative PSE copy number in the ancestral paths leading to *Cadophora* sp. (Pezizomycotina) and *Mycena galopus* (Agaricomycotina), the two species showing the largest PSE content in both groups of macroscopic fungi. See Methods for details on how PSE content per My was computed. The left axis shows the percentage of chronograms in which each fungal clade (non-dashed lines) is found to be older than a certain age. Plausible Streptophyta partners for terrestrial fungi over time are shown based on the 95% HPD CI values

retrieved for the Streptophyta nodes as shown in **b**. **b**, The 95% HPD credible interval (CI) of sampled ages from the four chronogram sets obtained by relaxed molecular clock analyses based on distinct sets of calibrations and relative constraints (Fig. 4). The 95% HPD CI information was retrieved from Fig. 3. *Klebsormidium* + Embryophyta is the node subtending the branch in which classic pectin/pectin sensu stricto (pectin s.s.) probably originated (see ‘Exploring a relative constraint involving streptophytes and early terrestrial fungi’ section).

a more comprehensive genome dataset. For this, we reconstructed ancestral gene content of PSE families, including methods that account for HGT. As a justification of modelling HGT when reconstructing ancestral gene content for PSE, a manual screening of the PSE phylogenies revealed 17 instances of HGT (Supplementary Information section 4). When we used HGT-aware methods for ancestral gene content reconstruction, we did not recover PSE presence in LCA-Chytridiomycota + Dikarya (Supplementary Information section 4). Instead, the oldest fungal ancestor for which all the reconstruction methods detected PSE content was the last common ancestor of Mucoromycota + Dikarya (LCA-Mucoromycota + Dikarya). Given the lack of support by the HGT-aware method for PSE presence in LCA-Chytridiomycota + Dikarya, we refrained from using the pectin-related maximum age calibration as used in previous studies. Instead, we performed a series of additional datation analyses, each incorporating distinct sets of timing information inferred from our evolutionary reconstruction of PSE evolution in Fungi. For that, we took advantage of MCMCdate implementing relative constraints in the relaxed molecular clock analysis.

Exploring a relative constraint involving streptophytes and early terrestrial fungi

The first relative constraint tested, implemented in the ‘PSE-constraint A’ condition (Fig. 4), covers the possibility that LCA-Mucoromycota + Dikarya could have been younger than

Klebsormidium + Embryophyta, the node subtending the branch in which classic pectin/pectin sensu stricto probably originated. By classic pectin, we refer to pectin cell wall fractions with similar polysaccharide profiles to the pectin cell wall fractions of embryophytes, based on homogalacturonan with calcium-bridged α -(1→4)-GalA residues as main pectic fraction, and which have been shown to be hydrolysed in endopolygalacturonase-mediated digestion assays^{57,58}. The relative constraint is justified on our inference of ancestral gene content of PSE families in LCA-Mucoromycota + Dikarya that, based on recent works, seem to digest only the pectin cell wall fractions of those streptophyte groups that diverged later than *Klebsormidium* from the lineage path leading to Embryophyta (see ‘A PSE-related relative age constraint’ in Supplementary Information section 4 for a detailed justification of this relative constraint).

We expected ‘PSE-constraint A’ to be informative as, in the initial dating scheme (‘Default’ in Fig. 4), LCA-Mucoromycota + Dikarya (1,138 Ma; Extended Data Fig. 3) was found to be substantially older than the *Klebsormidium* + Embryophyta node (686 Ma). Accordingly, incorporating this relative constraint resulted in a substantially older age for *Klebsormidium* + Embryophyta (1,129 Ma; Fig. 3 and Extended Data Fig. 6). By contrast, the age of LCA-Mucoromycota + Dikarya remained almost identical (1,107 Ma), as well as the age of the rest of Fungi (Extended Data Fig. 4b).

We next tested ‘PSE-constraint A + calib’, aiming to cover the possibility that our taxon sampling and calibration set, conceived to

reconstruct and date the ToF, may be limited to provide accurate age estimates for the Streptophyta side of the tree. The 'PSE-constraint A + calib' condition extends 'PSE-constraint A' by incorporating a soft maximum age calibration for the *Klebsormidium* + Embryophyta node based on age estimates provided for this node in the bibliography. Among recently published timescaled phylogenies including a broad sampling of Streptophyta, Harris et al. (2022)⁵⁰ incorporated a rich set of timing information, including novel fossil calibrations and a relative constraint. As a conservative soft maximum calibration for *Klebsormidium* + Embryophyta, we set the upper bound of the credibility interval reported by Harris et al. (2022)⁵⁰ for the *Arabidopsis* + *Klebsormidium* clade (927 Ma according to the supplementary data provided in this study). 'PSE-constraint A + calib' (Extended Data Fig. 7) resulted in younger ages for LCA-Mucoromycota + Dikarya and LCA-Fungi (Fig. 4), as well as for more internal nodes of the tree (Extended Data Fig. 4c). Younger ages than in 'PSE-constraint A' were also estimated for the *Klebsormidium* + Embryophyta, consistent with the implemented calibration, as well as for the parent node of this node, LCA-Streptophyta (Fig. 3).

Exploring relative constraints involving embryophytes with macroscopic terrestrial fungi

Finally, we also tested the 'PSE-constraints B + C' condition. This covers the possibility that the main expansions of PSE content in terrestrial Fungi may have occurred in response to the emergence of Embryophyta as an ecologically dominant streptophyte lineage in terrestrial settings. From the early PSE content inherited from LCA-Mucoromycota + Dikarya (Fig. 5a), two main PSE expansions occurred in terrestrial fungi. On the one hand, a gradual and longstanding expansion trajectory started in *Yarrowia lipolytica* + *Cadophora* sp. (Supplementary Table 5), the parent node of LCA-Pezizomycotina. Pezizomycotina is one of the two major groups of terrestrial macroscopic Fungi. On the other hand, a second expansion occurred in concomitance to the emergence of Agaricomycotina, the second major clade of macroscopic terrestrial fungi. Within Agaricomycotina, the expansion of PSE content started in *Calocera viscosa* + *Mycena galopus* (Supplementary Table 6), the descendant node of LCA-Agaricomycotina. Both Agaricomycotina and Pezizomycotina are well represented by species with lifestyles related to embryophytes, either as symbionts (for example, mycorrhiza and lichens), plant pathogens or decomposers of plant material^{59,60}. It is plausible that PSE expansions in both groups may correspond to gene content adaptations to the establishment of embryophytes as an ecologically relevant lineage in terrestrial settings. Based on that, the 'PSE-constraints B + C' condition incorporates two soft relative constraints forcing the nodes in which the onset of both PSE expansions were detected (*Y. lipolytica* + *Cadophora* sp. and *C. viscosa* + *M. galopus*) to be younger than LCA-Embryophyta. 'PSE-constraints B + C' (Extended Data Fig. 8) led to younger ages in Fungi than in the 'Default' condition, not only for Agaricomycotina and Pezizomycotina but also for the most internal nodes including LCA-Mucoromycota + Dikarya and LCA-Fungi (Fig. 4 and Extended Data Fig. 4d). However, in contrast to 'PSE-constraint A' and 'PSE-constraint A + calib', the ages of the most internal nodes of Streptophyta (*Klebsormidium* + Embryophyta and LCA-Streptophyta) remained similar to the 'Default' condition (Fig. 4).

A timescale of fungal diversification

The ages retrieved by the 'PSE-constraint A', 'PSE-constraint A + calib' and 'PSE-constraints B + C' cover a series of plausible scenarios related to our evolutionary reconstruction of PSE evolution in Fungi. While the scenarios represented by each of these conditions are certainly hypothetical, we consider them plausible enough to extend the age ranges obtained in the 'Default' analysis (Extended Data Fig. 3) by incorporating the chronogram data sampled under the other three datation analyses (Extended Data Figs. 6–8). We present a timeline for fungal diversification based on our extended, conservative age estimates (Fig. 3). The eukaryotic supergroup Opisthokonta diverged into

Holozoa (the clade containing animals) and Holomycota (the clade containing Fungi) between 1,767 Ma and 1,151 Ma. Within Holomycota, the lineage leading to Fungi separated from the lineage leading to *Paraphelidium tribonemae* (Aphelida)—a group of endobiotic, phagotrophic algae parasites—between 1,470 Ma and 945 Ma. The emergence of crown Fungi marked the first major divergence in extant fungal diversity, with the Chytridiomycota and the Blastocladiomycota + Sanchytriomycota clades branching off from the main fungal line between 1,401 Ma and 896 Ma and between 1,374 Ma and 877 Ma, respectively.

Within Chytridiomycota, Chytridiomycetes, characterized by coenocytic thallus and rhizoids, diverged between 1,222 Ma and 462 Ma from the lineage leading to Neocallimastigomycetes (*Orpinomyces* sp. + *Anaeromyces robustus* clade, 72–40 Ma, anaerobic symbionts found in ruminant digestive systems). Blastocladiomycota, a group of saprotrophs and aquatic parasites (1,106–591 Ma), diverged from the branch leading to Sanchytriomycota, a clade of chytrid-like parasites with amoeboid zoospores and reduced flagella (*Amoeboradix gromovi* + *Sanchytrium tribonematis* clade, 484–150 Ma), between 1,217 Ma and 705 Ma.

A subsequent divergence occurred between 1,303 Ma and 831 Ma, when Olpidiomycota, an obligate zoosporic endoparasite, split from the clade comprising non-flagellated terrestrial fungi—the Zoopagomycota + Mucoromycota + Dikarya clade. Within this clade, Zoopagomycota and Mucoromycota have largely overlapping age ranges (1,252–796 Ma and 1,213–678 Ma, respectively) and diversified before Dikarya (1,114–701 Ma). Zoopagomycota encompasses lineages with predominantly non-plant-related lifestyles, while Mucoromycota includes Glomeromycotina (*Gigaspora* sp. + *Rhizophagus irregularis* clade, 580–408 Ma) and Endogonales (*Endogone* sp. + *Jimgerdemannia flammicorona* clade, 340–76 Ma), both of which form complex symbiotic relationships with land plants.

From Dikarya, the most extensively studied fungal group, the Ascomycota and Basidiomycota clades originated between 940 Ma and 577 Ma and between 889 Ma and 550 Ma, respectively. These two groups exhibit considerable phenotypic diversity, spanning unicellular yeasts in Saccharomycotina (*Yarrowia lipolytica* + *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* clade, 643–347 Ma) and Wallemiomycotina (*Wallemia mellicola* + *Basidioascus undulatus* clade, 559–279 Ma), to complex multicellular fungi in Pezizomycotina (661–409 Ma) and Agaricomycotina (706–430 Ma).

Discussion

We applied a comprehensive methodological framework to address the challenges of reconstructing and dating the evolutionary history of Fungi, a deep eukaryotic lineage (Fig. 2). This approach enabled the reconstruction of a timetree of Fungi (Fig. 3), incorporating extensive taxon sampling of 153 taxa (110 fungi and 43 other eukaryotes), phylogenetic information from 225 protein markers and substitution models that account for site-specific amino acid compositional heterogeneity^{33,35}. Site-heterogeneous models were used for both phylogeny inference and species tree dating. To overcome the computational bottleneck of dating with site-heterogeneous models, we utilized the Mmcdate software^{50,51}, which performs relaxed molecular clock analyses on precomputed phylograms (trees with branch lengths representing substitutions per site). Once phylograms are generated, sampling chronograms (trees with branch lengths expressing divergence times) takes less than one day on a standard laptop. This allowed us to benchmark distinct methodological variables. We found that, at least for our dataset and for our methodological workflow, sampling chronograms by accounting for site compositional heterogeneity had a larger impact than, for example, the choice of the molecular clock model used for the relaxed molecular clock analyses. We also concluded that 10,000 randomly subsampled amino acid sites would have been sufficient to produce consistent results with the ages obtained from the full phylogenetic marker set, which is of one order of magnitude larger. This offers

a pathway to accelerate even more the chronogram sampling process without compromising accuracy. Finally, site-homogeneous models are much less computationally demanding than site-heterogeneous models, and as such, they allow reconstructing and dating very large phylogenies (for example, see alternative timetree with 662 species in Supplementary Fig. 1). However, site-homogeneous models can offer a poorer fit and a worse modelling of the amino acid diversity in the input alignment, as we observed for our 153-taxa dataset for which we could benchmark site-homogeneous versus site-heterogeneous models (Supplementary Information section 5-Table 1).

Our core set of timing information includes 27 absolute age calibrations (6 maxima—5 excluding the root calibration—and 21 minima for 24 calibrated nodes, including 19 nodes from Fungi). This is a substantial increase compared with previously published timetrees of Fungi (for example, 13 calibrated fungal nodes in Lutzoni et al. (2018)⁶¹ and 8 in Chang et al. (2019)⁶²). Our core set of timing information also includes 17 relative time-order constraints informed by a conservative fungi-to-fungi HGT screening. These 17 relative constraints, reflecting speciation order between nodes, reduced node age uncertainty across the phylogeny (Supplementary Information section 5-Figs. 8 and 9). Regarding the core set of calibrations, sensitivity analyses confirmed the informativity of the 21 minima, which led to a generalized increase in node ages. By contrast, the five maxima did not have a global impact on the timescale, suggesting that these may not have been sufficiently informative. Given this uncertainty, we aimed to extend our analyses by incorporating additional timing information. Following Chang et al. (2015)⁵², we re-examined the evolutionary history of PSE with HGT considerations, resulting in three additional sets of calibrations and relative constraints (Fig. 4), each representing a plausible scenario related to PSE evolution in Fungi.

The age ranges shown in Fig. 3 integrate the uncertainties inherent in the four different sets of calibrations and relative constraints used (Fig. 4). Aggregating node age uncertainty leads to broader uncertainty ranges (Extended Data Fig. 9). Notwithstanding this, we emphasize the conservative age ranges in Fig. 3, as they illustrate the complexities of dating eukaryotic lineages with a limited fossil record, particularly compared with animals or plants (but see Supplementary Fig. 2 and Supplementary Data for more specific information on node age probability distributions). Based on Fig. 3, we provided a timeline for fungal diversification (see ‘A timescale of fungal diversification’ section in the Results), starting from the split between the lineage leading to fungi and the lineage leading to animals (Opisthokonta, 1,767–1,152 Ma; for an alternative timescale more especially focused in the whole Opisthokonta supergroup, we refer to ref. 17, and for alternative timescales of Fungi, we refer to refs. 9,61).

How old are Fungi? The age range retrieved for crown Fungi (1,401–896 Ma; Fig. 3), as well as the age ranges reported by Chang et al. (2021)⁹ and Lutzoni et al. (2018)⁶¹ (–980–650 Ma and –950–715 Ma, respectively, based on the figures shown in these studies), are compatible with the potential fungal identity of recently reported fossils dated to 1,010–890 Ma (ref. 63) and 810–715 Ma (ref. 64). However, our timescale is also compatible with older—although more uncertain—fungal fossils, such as the specimens described by Hermann and Podkovyrov⁶⁵ (1,025–1,015 Ma) and, more generally, with the possibility that bona fide fungal fossils from the Mesoproterozoic (1.6–1.0 Ga) could be reported in future studies (LCA-Fungi is >1 Ga in 88.5% of our chronograms; Supplementary Fig. 2 and Supplementary Data). It is important to clarify that the discussed fossils were not included among our calibrations because we considered their assignment to crown Fungi plausible but not unequivocal. At the same time, we acknowledge that temporal compatibility between fossil and clade ages is not in itself evidence of affinity.

Our results also have implications concerning ancient fungi–algae interactions preceding the emergence of crown embryophytes. Previously hypothesized based, for example, on comparative timescale information (for example, ref. 61), following ref. 52 (see ‘Reevaluating

the pectin-related maximum age calibration’ and ‘Exploring a relative constraint involving streptophytes and early terrestrial fungi’ sections in the Results), our findings on PSE evolution and aggregated chronogram data (Fig. 5) provide evidence for such interactions and suggest a minimum age for early interactions involving ancestral streptophytes and Fungi (1,253–797 Ma, LCA-Mucoromycota + Dikarya), predating by hundreds of million years the emergence of modern land plants (LCA-Embryophyta, 612–431 Ma). This is supported by our inference of ancestral PSE content in LCA-Mucoromycota + Dikarya, indicating that this fungus presented specific enzymes to degrade pectin. Chang et al. (2015)⁵² inferred PSE content also in LCA-Chytridiomycota + Dikarya, an older fungal ancestor. However, we did not recover PSE content in this ancestor when HGT-aware methods were used.

Altogether, the reported timescale (Fig. 3) adds more weight to the reinterpretation of the Mesoproterozoic and early Neoproterozoic, not as a ‘boring billion’ (1.8–0.8 Ga)⁶⁶, but as an important interval in which eukaryote lineages diversified^{67–70}. This episode is not especially well documented by the fossil record, and the record that exists is challenging to interpret^{69,70}. As such, it is important to use molecular approaches to see through the gaps in the fossil record. Concerning the emergence of macroscopic eukaryotes—such as plants, animals or some fungi—after the not so ‘boring billion’, attempts have been made to establish a causal link between the origin of complex multicellularity and Cryogenian Snowball Earth events^{71,72}. Regarding Fungi, if the emergence of complex multicellularity in Pezizomycotina and Agaricomycotina roughly coincided with the last common ancestor of both groups, LCA-Agaricomycotina (706–430 Ma) and LCA-Pezizomycotina (660–409 Ma), then these could have originated either during or after the Cryogenian Snowball Earth events (–720 – 635 Ma (ref. 72)), but not before them.

LCA-Mucoromycota + Dikarya, an ancestral fungus in which we identified PSE content, is an early representative of the major clade of terrestrial fungal groups (Fig. 3). Given this, and given also that streptophyte algae share some adaptations found in embryophytes to terrestrial life^{73,74}, we consider it plausible that early interactions involving LCA-Mucoromycota + Dikarya and streptophyte algae occurred in terrestrial settings or in freshwater–terrestrial interfaces, possibly in primitive microbial communities resembling modern biological soil crusts or microbial mats⁷⁵. During the protracted gap between the onset of these interactions and the emergence of crown embryophytes, early fungi and streptophytes may have coexisted as mere ecosystem partners, or may have already been involved in complex symbiotic interactions³. Fossil evidence for such hypothetical interactions remains elusive (the oldest unequivocal fossils representing mycorrhizae and lichen associations are from –400 Ma (refs. 76–78), already from the Embryophyta period). Further work is needed in characterising ecological interactions involving extant fungi and streptophyte algae⁷⁹ to better understand how these two lineages may have interacted before the rise of embryophytes, and how important these interactions may have been for the terrestrialization process of both eukaryotic groups. To our knowledge, beyond co-occurrences⁸⁰ (for example, streptophytes have been found in the microbiome of lichens, but never in the role of the main algal partner⁷⁶), as well as some lineages of fungi and some fungal relatives being able to parasitise^{81,82} and to feed on streptophyte algae⁸³, no complex symbiosis involving fungi and streptophyte algae has been reported in modern microbial interactions. Altogether, our study provides a refined timescale of the diversification process of Fungi, offering also a temporal framework for future investigations concerning early interactions involving fungi and the algal ancestors of embryophytes in terrestrial ecosystems.

Methods

Taxon sampling

We constructed a protein sequence dataset including 110 fungal species (+12 outgroup species, see below), hereafter referred to as original_dataset (Supplementary Table 1, this dataset was extended later

to incorporate a total of 153 species; see 'Incorporation of additional taxon sampling into the species tree' section). These species were selected to maximize the most balanced possible representation of every major fungal group (detailed below) and also the inclusion of representatives from clades for which fossil data are less scarce. In particular, original_dataset includes 42 Basidiomycota, 25 Ascomycota, 15 Mucoromycota (including 3 Glomeromycotina), 9 Zoopagomycota, 1 Olpidiomyota, 12 Chytridiomycota and 6 Blastocladiomycota, including also 2 Sanchytriomycota species. In addition, 12 non-fungal species from the Amorphea division of eukaryotes were also included as outgroups for phylogeny rooting purposes (Supplementary Table 1). Outgroup selection was to a great extent based on the species included in one of the latest published ToFs at the time this project started¹³.

Candidate marker set

For the inference of the species tree, marker genes were selected from three different methodological sources: (1) we started grouping original_dataset sequences into clusters using MCL v.14-137⁸⁴ with an inflation value of 2, using $-\log_{10}$ -transformed E-values as a similarity metric. E-values were retrieved from an all-against-all alignment of all original_dataset sequences with BLASTP⁸⁵ (v.2.10.1+) using the following parameters: [-evalue 1e-3 -soft_masking yes -max_target_seqs 1000]. From the resulting clusters, we initially selected as potential markers those that were single-copy—that is, clusters without duplicated sequences at the species level. We next allowed clusters to become single-copy after eliminating terminal duplications. For this, a preliminary alignment (MAFFT⁸⁶ v.7.313-linsi) and gene tree reconstruction (FastTree⁸⁷ 2.1.11, phylogenetic model: WAG) were performed. We selected and eliminated terminal duplications only from those gene trees where all duplicated proteins of a species formed a monophyletic clade using a custom-made script⁸⁸ (<https://github.com/zsmerenyi/compaRe/blob/main/Terminaldupdet.zip>). (2) We performed a hidden Markov model (HMM)-based search by running BUSCO⁸⁹ v.3.0.2 on the fungal profiles (fungi_odb9) over our original_dataset. Only 'Complete' and 'Fragmented' proteins were considered. (3) Finally, we ran an HMM search on original_dataset using HMMER 3.3.2⁹⁰ and the HMM profiles from the Joint Genome Institute 1086 marker gene set⁶² as a query (https://github.com/1KFG/Phylogenomics_HMMs/tree/master/HMM/JGI_1086). For (3), we considered only the best matches for each species (ordered by E-value and full score), using the E-value cut-off $<1 \times 10^{-5}$ for the full alignment. Also, for each HMM query, we identified the most represented MCL clusters among the target sequences, and excluded from the target set all the original_dataset sequences grouped in other MCL clusters. Then, to prevent the inclusion of saturated markers, we removed those candidate markers from the three methodological sources showing average amino acid alignment distance ≥ 1.5 using the WAG model of the function dist.ml from the phangorn package⁹¹. Also, we eliminated candidates containing potential ancestral paralogues with the same method as in ref. 88. Finally, we also excluded clusters if (1) they were represented by <25 species and (2) if they included repeated sequences from other clusters (in such a case, we prioritized first the markers obtained from MCL clusters, and then those obtained from the Joint Genome Institute marker gene set over those obtained from the BUSCO dataset). This altogether led to a set of 839 markers representing a total of 261,382 amino acid sites (candidate marker set). For each of these candidate markers, we aligned the corresponding sequences using MAFFT and trimmed the resulting alignments with trimAl⁹² 1.2rev59 using the -gappyout option. A preliminary gene tree was constructed from each candidate marker using IQ-TREE⁹³ v.1.6.12 (LG + G4 model, 1,000 optimized ultrafast bootstraps) to compute the metrics needed to select the definitive marker set (see below).

Filtering the marker set

Because we recovered more markers than needed for our target of approximately 100,000 amino acid sites, we discarded from the

candidate set those markers that exhibited suboptimal metrics (low number of sites, low bootstrap values, high tip-to-root distance and high tip-to-root covariance⁹⁴). In particular, we discarded candidate markers that met any of the following criteria: (1) a number of sites lower than that of 66% of the candidates, (2) UFBoot support values lower than those of 66% of the candidates, (3) tip-to-root distance metrics higher than those of 75% of the candidates, and (4) tip-to-root covariance metrics higher than those of 75% of the candidates. Moreover, we retained only those candidate markers found in at least $\geq 50\%$ of Dikarya taxa, $\geq 50\%$ of other fungal groups and $\geq 50\%$ of outgroup sequences. This altogether led to a definitive set of 225 markers representing a total of 97,487 amino acid sites (definitive marker set), which were concatenated into a sole file (Data/MSAs/original_concatenate.phy).

Species tree inference and selecting the most supported topology

We performed a first inference of the species tree using the software IQ-TREE and the LG + F + G4 + C60 model, which allows modelling compositional and rate heterogeneity between sites in the alignment. This analysis took 6 days and 5.5 h on 48 central processing unit (CPU) threads of Intel Xeon 4116 @ 2.1 GHz CPUs. Using C60 provided a markedly better model fit (C60 + LG + G4 + F, Bayesian information criterion score 23,863,331) than site-homogenous alternatives (LG + G4 + F, Bayesian information criterion score 24,389,728), underscoring the importance of using site-heterogeneous models for supermatrix-based species tree inferences. While the resulting tree (Supplementary Fig. 3) from this first round of inference showed an overall reasonably congruent topology with recent publications in the bibliography (for example, refs. 13,16), three main potentially conflicting topologies were identified: (1) Blastocladiomycota being the first branch within Fungi instead of Chytridiomycota; (2) *Basidiobolus meristosporus* (Zoopagomycota) branching with Mucoromycota; and (3) *Olpidium bornovanus* (found to be the closest relatives of non-flagellated fungal groups in ref. 9) branching within a clade of non flagellated Fungi. Aiming to recover a more congruent topology, we used a more complex model such as the CAT + GTR + G4 model available in Phylobayes^{21,33}. As running this complex model with our dataset would have been computationally impractical, we used the recently developed approach CAT-PMSF²². CAT-PMSF could be simplified as a two-step process. First, site-specific stationary distributions are sampled by running Phylobayes under the CAT + GTR + G4 using the LG + F + G4 + C60 topology as guide topology (the method has been proven to be robust to the chosen topology²³). For this, we ran two Phylobayes chains for more than 20,000 generations each, and site-specific stationary distributions (amino acid exchangeabilities and site-state frequencies) were sampled after chain convergence assessment (burn-in 10,000). This analysis took 37 days on 240 CPU threads of Intel Xeon 4116 CPU @ 2.1 GHz for each chain. Then, we performed a species tree inference with IQ-TREE using the PMSF approach⁹⁵, combining the sampled amino acid exchangeabilities and site-state frequencies with the G4 model (Extended Data Fig. 1). This analysis took 11 h using 16 CPU threads of Intel Xeon Silver 4116 CPU @ 2.1 GHz. To corroborate our choice of the CAT-PMSF over the LG + F + G4 + C60 topology, we conducted a model adequacy test as described by ref. 96. We simulated 100 parametric bootstraps using AliSim⁹⁷ implemented in IQTree⁹³ v.2.4.0 with the same model specifications used to infer the species trees and then comparing the across-sites amino acid diversity of the simulated samples with the original data. We measured a 18-fold lower Z score (4.95) for the CAT-PMSF model than for the LG + F + G4 + C60 (Z score -89.26), supporting our decision to use the topology inferred by CAT-PMSF in the downstream analysis. The scripts and input files for generating parametric bootstrap samples and calculating the Z scores are available in Data/Model_adequacy_tests.zip.

To clarify the position of *Olpidium bornovanus* (Obor), we performed two separate rounds of AU topology tests³⁹ based on two alternative approaches. The first approach, the most standard one,

consisted of running five rounds of the CAT + PMSF analysis but constraining each time the inference to a given topological hypothesis (1) *Obor* branching as sister group to Mucoromycota, (2) *Obor* branching as sister group to Mucoromycota + Dikarya, (3) *Obor* branching as sister group to Zoopagomycota, (4) *Obor* branching as sister group to Mucoromycota + Dikarya and (5) *Obor* branching as sister group to Mucoromycota + Zoopagomycota + Dikarya (Supplementary Table 7). Topologies (1) and (4) were rejected with the AU test (AU-test *P* values 0.000751 and 4.47×10^{-118} ; Supplementary Table 7). We then submitted the three remaining topologies to the second approach, which consisted of running three runs of gene-tree species-tree reconciliation with the software ALE⁹⁸, each run using one of the three surviving topologies as species tree, and always the same set of optimized ultrafast-bootstrap replicates sampled for each gene family (one gene family per MCL cluster). (To sample ultrafast-bootstrap replicates for each MCL cluster, we followed the same approach as we did to produce gene trees for the MCL clusters that were among the candidate marker set; see ‘Candidate marker set’ section above.) We retrieved the likelihood values from the *uml_rec* files produced by ALE for each gene family (a total of 38,824 likelihood values for each ALE run), and used the AU test to test whether some of the remaining topologies can be rejected. The logic for performing this test was the following. ALE reconciles every gene family with the species tree and outputs a likelihood value. A more realistic species tree can be expected to result in fewer discordances with gene trees, leading to improved likelihood values. For each of the three tested topologies, we had a total of 38,824 likelihood values. Analogously, each of these can be seen as if they were the likelihood values corresponding to alignment sites representing each of the three topologies to be tested. Based on AU-test results performed with CONSEL⁹⁹ v.0.20, we could reject topologies (2) and (3) (AU-test *P* values 1.00×10^{-6} and 2.00×10^{-5} ; Supplementary Table 7), leaving topology (5) as the only non-rejected topology. We thus used the phylogenetic tree reconstructed during the constrained inference of topology (5) with the CAT-PMSF model as the topology from which to produce chronogram data.

Calibrations and HGT-derived relative time-order constraints

Justification of the node age calibrations used in this study can be found in Supplementary Information section 1. This section also includes a justification of the maximum age calibration inferred from a broad-scale exploration of the HGT events from Embryophyta to Fungi (see Supplementary Information section 2 for details on how this HGT exploration analysis was done). Regarding HGT-derived relative time order constraints, the methodology and the HGT events based on which relative constraints were established are detailed in Supplementary Information section 3. The retrieved node ages are robust to the possibility that some relative constraint may have introduced erroneous relative node order information (Supplementary Fig. 4).

Reevaluating the evolutionary history of PSE in Fungi

To infer ancestral PSE presence in Fungi, which could have implications to calibrate the maximum age of Fungi⁵², we reevaluated the evolutionary history of PSE in Fungi. See Supplementary Information section 4 for details on these analyses.

Incorporation of additional taxon sampling into the species tree

The reconstruction of PSE evolution (Supplementary Information section 4) showed evidence of ancestral interactions involving Fungi and the algal ancestors of embryophytes. To further explore the codiversification of both groups, we incorporated ten additional taxa from the Streptophyta side of eukaryotes. We also incorporated 21 additional taxa from other eukaryotic groups for a broader representation of intermediate lineages branching between Fungi and Streptophyta (Supplementary Table 2). Given this expanded taxon sampling, our original species tree—used to guide the phylogram sampling process

required for chronogram reconstruction (see below)—had to be extended to incorporate the phylogenetic relationships of the additional taxa, based on existing bibliographic references^{50,100,101} (Fig. 3). We also had to extend the concatenate alignment using the following strategy. (1) We built HMM profiles for each of the 225 definitive markers (those that were used to reconstruct the species tree with the original taxon sampling of 122 species). We used this set of HMM profiles to scan a concatenate of FASTA sequences for the 31 extended taxon sampling. Positive hits for each marker (candidate sequences to be incorporated) were considered for step 3. (2) We used Diamond¹⁰² v.2.0.14.152 [-e 1.0E-03 --more-sensitive --masking 1] to align that same FASTA concatenate against a large dataset including the original 122 set of species, as well as a large representation of non-eukaryotic taxa (to ensure the exclusion of potential prokaryote contaminant sequences). (3) We filtered the candidate sequences and incorporated only those for which the best Diamond hit corresponded to a member of the marker set being used. The candidate marker FASTA files were thus extended with the sequences from the 31 extended taxon sampling that passed this filter. (4) To generate the final concatenate alignment, the extended candidate markers were aligned with MAFFT [-linsi], alignments were trimmed with trimAl [-gappyout], and the trimmed alignments were concatenated into a FASTA file that included 153 taxa and 95,968 amino acid sites (Data/MSAs/extended_concatenate.phylip).

Chronogram inference

We used Phylobayes^{21,33} mpi v.1.8b to sample phylograms (branch lengths) for the chronogram sampling process. In particular, two chains were run for more than 11,000 generations using the CAT + GTR + G4 model (‘CAT’ stands for stick-breaking Dirichlet process mixture, ‘GTR’ for amino acid exchangeabilities estimated from the data and ‘G4’ for discrete gamma distribution of rates across sites with four categories). The phylogram sampling process was accelerated by constraining the sampling of branch lengths to a fixed species tree topology (Fig. 3). A burn-in of the first 5,000 generations was considered after chain convergence assessment. Post burn-in resulted in two sets of 6,390 phylograms per chain. In total, this analysis took 22 days on 192 threads of Intel Xeon 4116 CPU @ 2.1 GHz for each chain. We next used MCMCdate^{50,51} v.1.0.0.0 software to sample chronograms based on the sampled phylograms, using the auto-correlated lognormal model and the full covariance matrix to approximate the likelihood calculation. We arbitrarily chose the phylograms from the first chain as input for MCMCdate, because an exploration made revealed very minor differences between chronogram sets obtained from four distinct MCMCdate runs (two runs per phylogram set—chain 1 and chain 2; Supplementary Table 4). The MCMC sampler was run for 8,000 iterations after a burn-in of 4,930 iterations, sampling a timetree for every 10 iterations. Each MCMCdate run took <1 day on a standard computer. Data files from each chronogram analysis (‘Default’, ‘PSE-constraint A’, ‘PSE-constraint A+calib’ and ‘PSE-constraints B + C’) are available in Data/Chronograms. For hard bound and soft bound calibrations (Supplementary Information section 1), we allowed, respectively, 0.01% and 3% of the probability mass to fall outside the corresponding age boundary. In the case of the constraints, the probability mass allowed to fall outside was 2.5%.

Dating PSE content expansions

PSE content over time in the ancestral paths leading to *Cadophora* sp. (Pezizomycotina) and *Mycena galopus* (Agaricomycotina) were computed by crossing information on (1) ancestral PSE content (Supplementary Tables 5 and 6) with (2) branch existence probability over time. In particular, PSE content for every million year (My) time unit was computed with a weighted mean in which every branch in the evolutionary path towards the target species (either *Cadophora* sp. or *M. galopus*) had an influence on each My unit according to a specific weight determined by the relative frequency of chronograms

supporting the existence of that branch lineage in the given My time unit. All chronograms sampled in the process of constructing the consensus chronogram shown in Fig. 3 (Data/Chronograms) were used for this purpose.

Reporting summary

Further information on research design is available in the Nature Portfolio Reporting Summary linked to this article.

Data availability

Data are available via figshare at <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.28046594> (ref. 103). Source data are provided with this paper.

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Acknowledgements

J. Longcore is thanked for valuable discussions on the placement of the fossil *Rhizophyditis matryoshkae*. The authors also thank the three reviewers for their contribution to the peer review of this work. We are grateful for the help and support provided by the Scientific Computing and Data Analysis section of Core Facilities at OIST. This project was supported by the János Bolyai Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to Z.M. (grant no. BO/00269/24/8). L.L.S., G.J.S. and E.O.-P. received funding from the European Research Council under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement no. 714774). P.D. was funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (grant nos BB/T012773/1 and BB/Y003624/1), the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (grant no. 10.37807/GBMF9741), the Leverhulme Trust (grant nos. RF-2022-167 and RPG-2020-199) and the John Templeton Foundation (grant no. 62220; the opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the John Templeton Foundation). T.G. acknowledges support from the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (grant nos PID2021-126067NB-I00, CPP2021-008552, PCI2022-135066-2 and PDC2022-133266-I00), cofounded by ERDF 'A way of making Europe', as well as support from the Catalan Research Agency (AGAUR) (grant no. SGR01551), European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant no. ERC-2016-724173); Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (grant number GBMF9742); 'La Caixa' foundation (grant no. LCF/PR/HR21/00737) and Instituto de Salud Carlos III (IMPACT grant nos.

IMP/00019 and CIBERINFEC CB21/13/00061- ISCIII-SGEFI/ERDF). L.G.N. was supported by the National Research Development and Innovation Office (grant no. OTKA 142188) and the European Research Council (grant no. 101086900). E.O.-P. acknowledges support from FJC2021-046869-I funded by MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by European Union NextGenerationEU/PRTR, as well as from the *Beatriz de Pinós* programme (BP 2022, file number BP 00075). This work is part of the grant RYC2023-042807-I, funded by MICIU/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by the ESF+. The project that gave rise to these results received also the support of a fellowship from the La Caixa Foundation (ID 100010434). The fellowship code is 'LCF/BQ/PI24/12040009'.

Author contributions

Conceptualization: E.O.-P., G.J.S. and L.G.N. Methodology: E.O.-P., G.J.S., L.G.N., L.L.S., Z.M., P.D. and T.G. Investigation: E.O.-P., G.J.S., L.G.N., L.L.S., Z.M., P.D. and T.G. Visualization: E.O.-P., L.L.S. and Z.M. Funding acquisition: E.O.-P., G.J.S. and L.G.N. Project administration: E.O.-P., G.J.S. and L.G.N. Supervision: E.O.-P., G.J.S. and L.G.N. Writing—original draft: E.O.-P., L.L.S., Z.M., G.J.S., L.G.N., P.D. and T.G. Writing—review and editing: E.O.-P., L.L.S., Z.M., G.J.S., L.G.N., P.D. and T.G.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

Extended data is available for this paper at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-025-02851-z>.

Supplementary information The online version contains supplementary material available at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-025-02851-z>.

Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to László G. Nagy, Gergely J. Szöllösi or Eduard Ocaña-Pallarès.

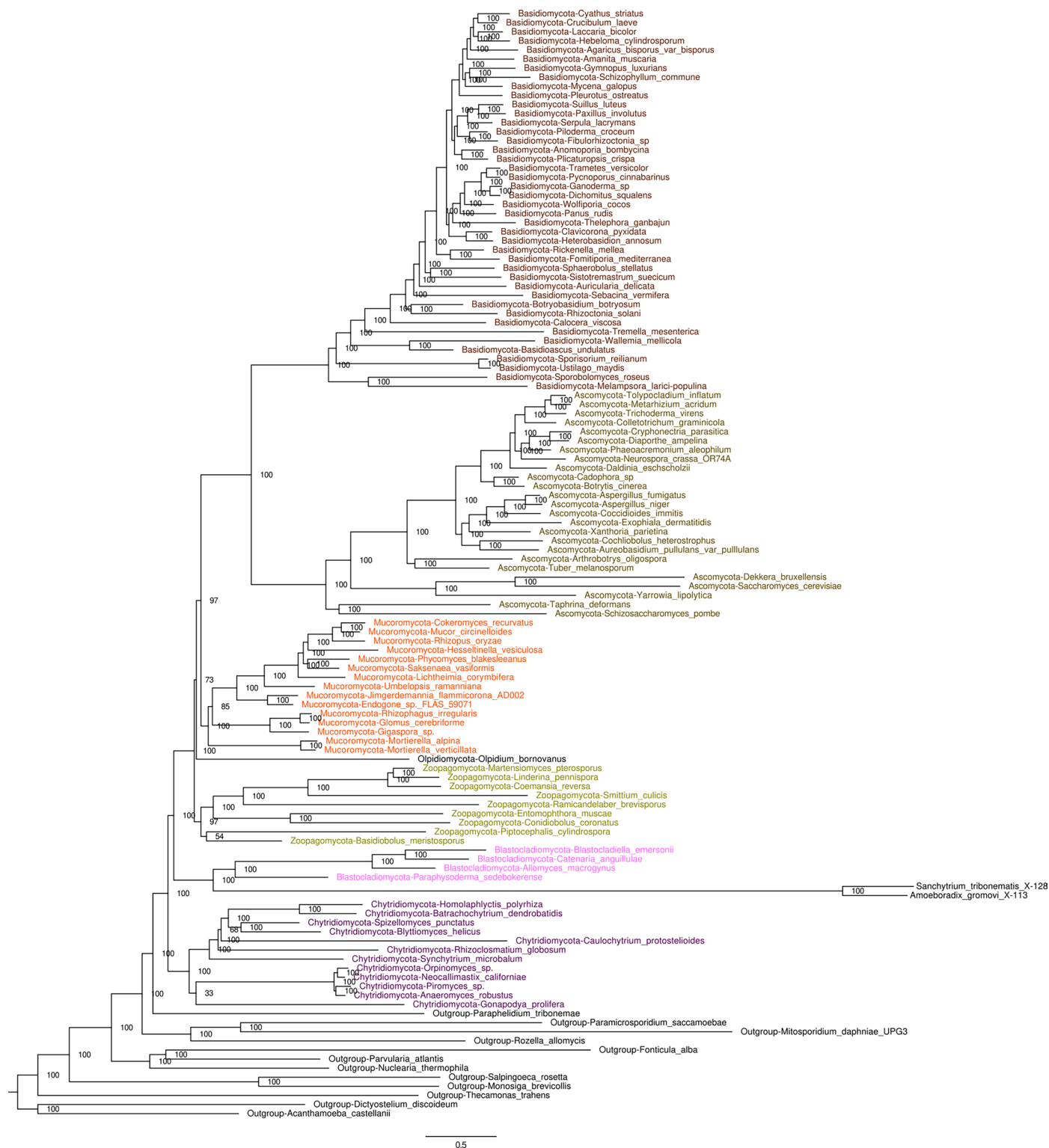
Peer review information *Nature Ecology & Evolution* thanks Iker Irisarri and the other, anonymous, reviewer(s) for their contribution to the peer review of this work. Peer reviewer reports are available.

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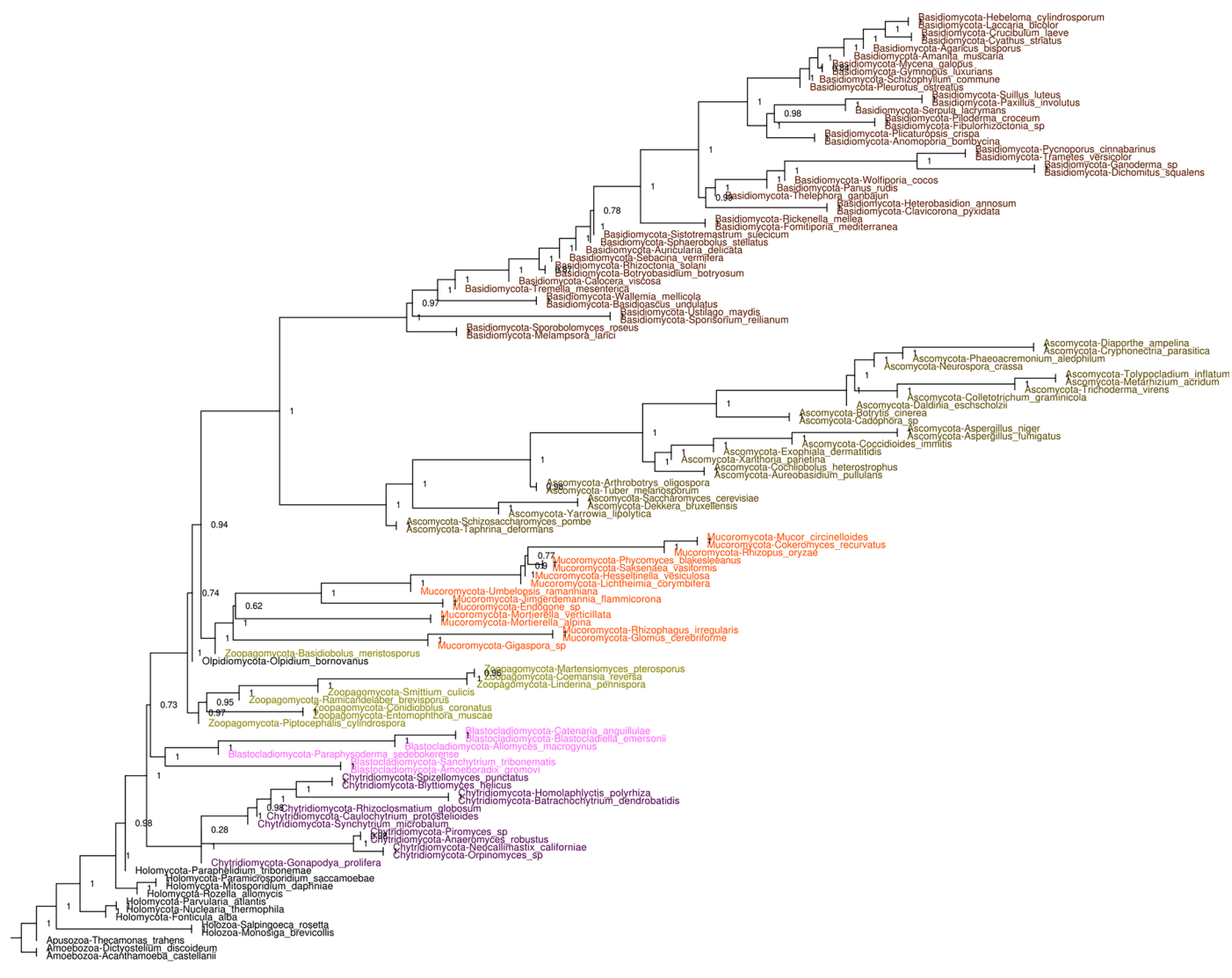
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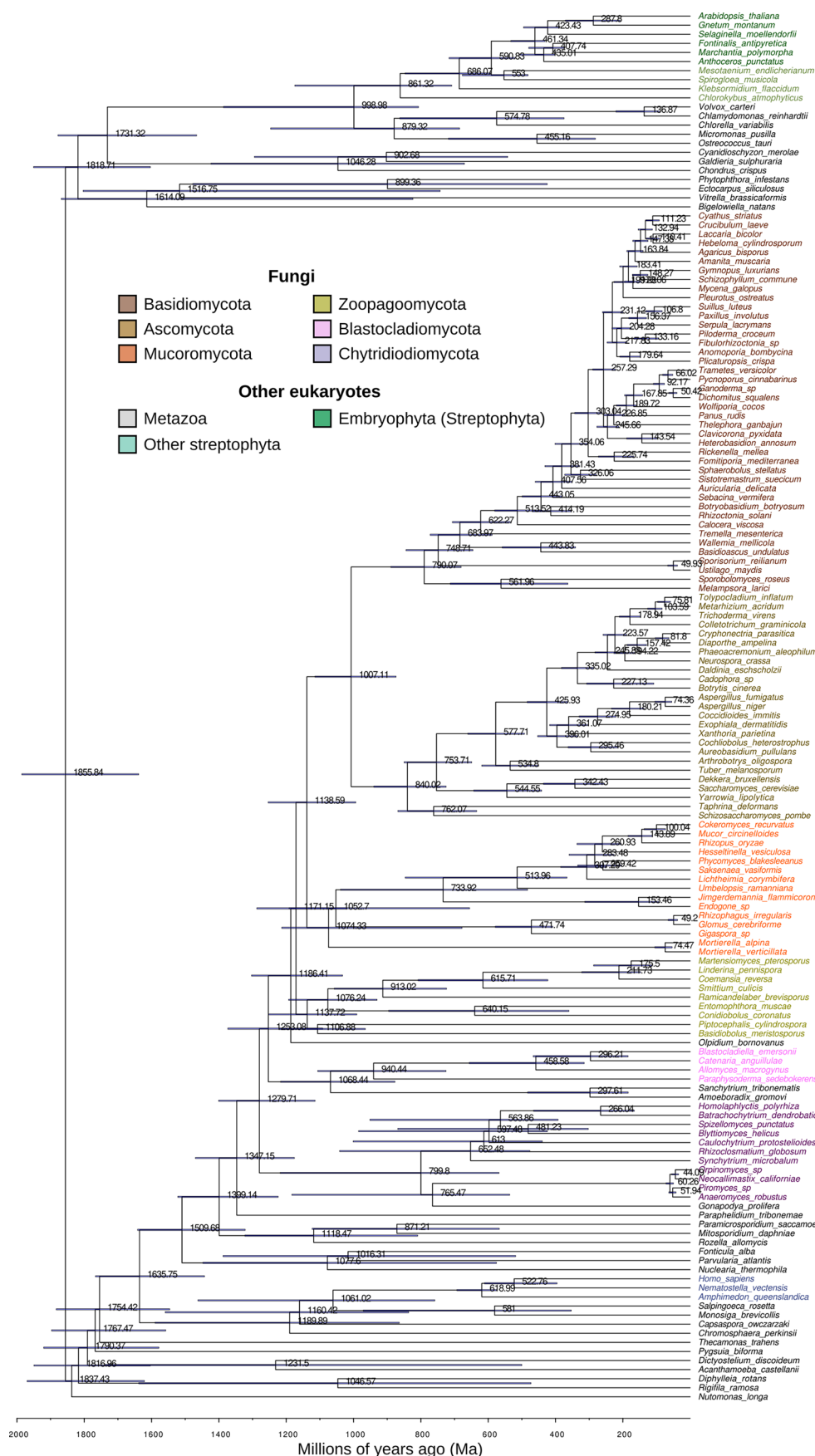


Extended Data Fig. 1 | Phylogenetic tree of the original dataset of 122 taxa, reconstructed with a dataset of 97,487 amino acid sites, reconstructed by means of the CAT-pmsf pipeline. (see Main text and Methods). Ultrafast bootstrap support values are shown in nodes. The root of the tree was set in the split of the tree separating Amoebozoa from the rest of the tree.



Extended Data Fig. 2 | Species tree topology reconstructed by coalescent methods (ASTRAL). In contrast to the concatenate approach from the main analysis, to run ASTRAL, we first run Phylobayes (CAT + GTR + G4 model) on the trimmed multiple sequence alignment of each of our 225 phylogenetic markers. We then run Phylobayes bpcomp to compute a consensus with branch supports by pooling the trees of all the runs obtained. The retrieved topologies (1 per gene

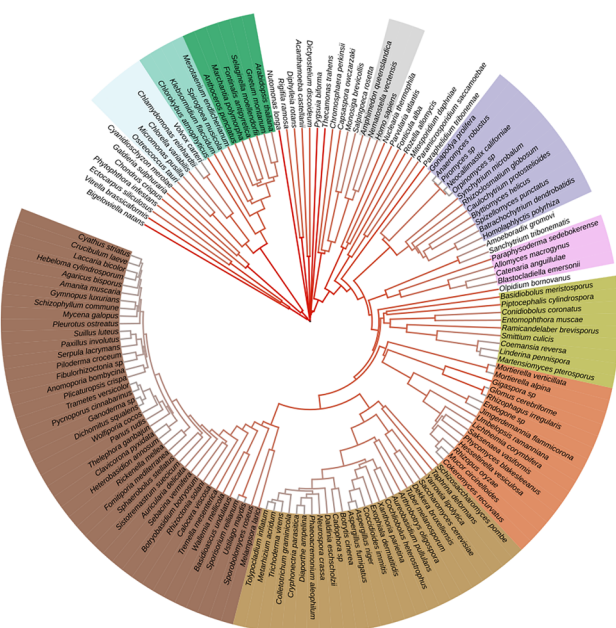
tree) were put together into a single text file used as input to run ASTRAL version 5.7.8 with the default settings (ASTRAL annotates branches by default with the posterior probability values obtained for the main resolution). As in Strasser et al. 2022 (Current Biology, Volume 32, Issue 16, Pages 3628–3635.e3), before running ASTRAL, branches with bipartition support below 10% were collapsed as recommended by the developers.



Extended Data Fig. 3 | Consensus chronogram reconstruction based on the core set of timing information ('Default' analysis). Chronograms were sampled with relaxed molecular clock software Mmcdate (see Main text and methods). Mean node age values and node age 95% HPD credibility intervals are both shown.

A

'Default' ages - 'Only root calibration' ages

**Fungi**

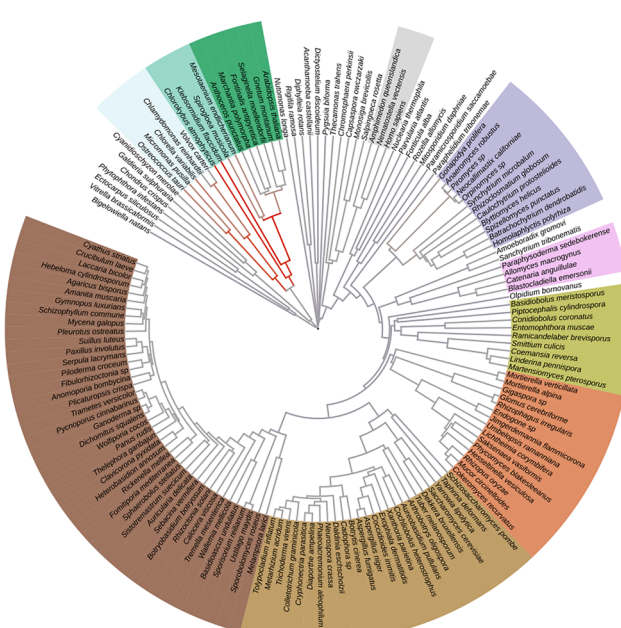
- Basidiomycota
- Ascomycota
- Mucoromycota
- Zoopagomycota
- Blastocladiomycota
- Chytridiomycota

Other eukaryotes

- Metazoa
- Embryophyta (Streptophyta)
- Other streptophyta
- Chlorophyta

B

'PSE-A' ages - 'Default' ages

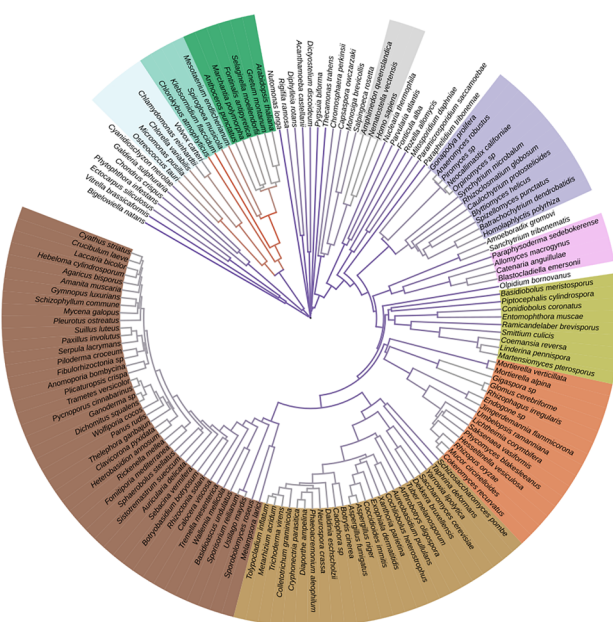
**Difference in mean age**

+ 450 Ma

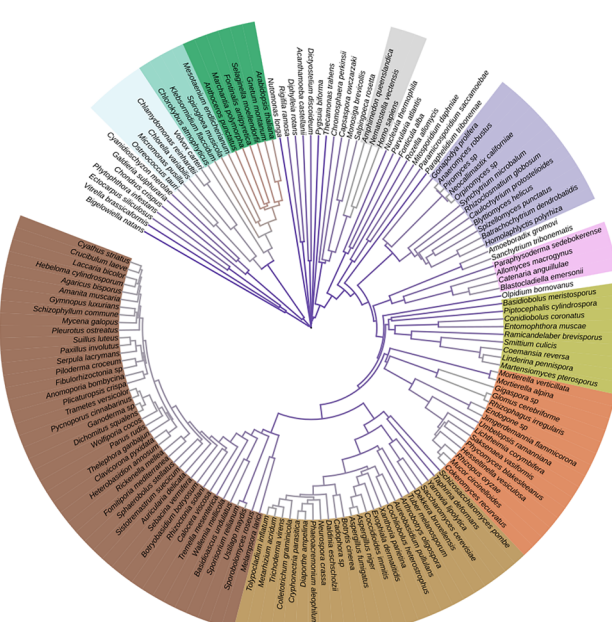
- 450 Ma

C

'PSE-A+calib.' ages - 'Default' ages

**D**

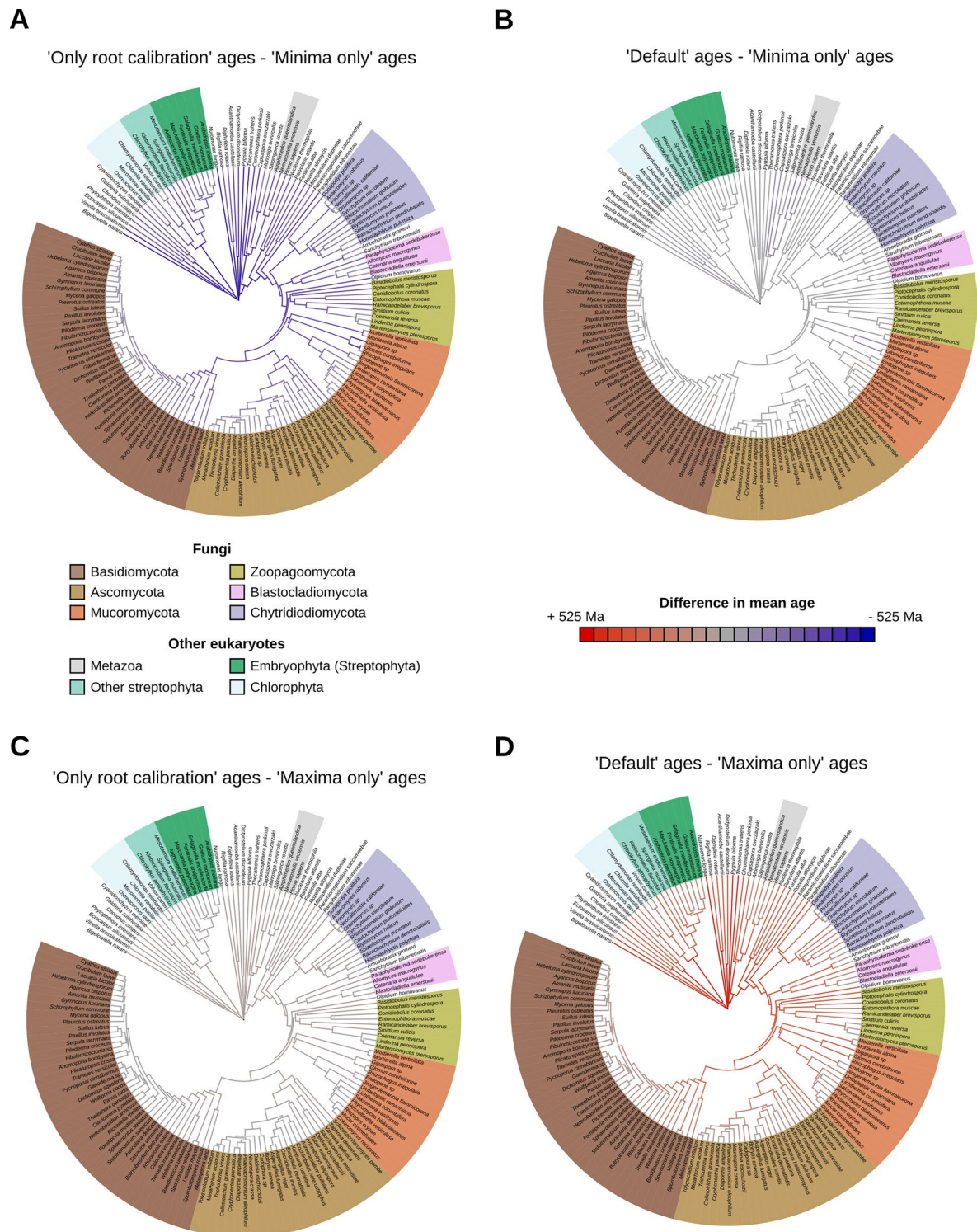
'PSE-B+C' ages - 'Default' ages



Extended Data Fig. 4 | See next page for caption.

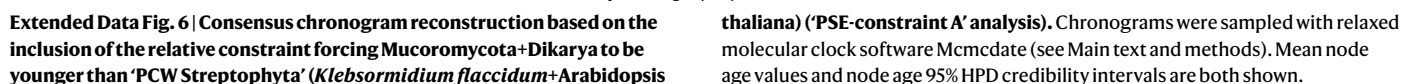
Extended Data Fig. 4 | Branch length color representation of mean age differences between selected pairs of compared chronograms. For every chronogram comparison, for example ‘Default’ ages - ‘Only root calibration’ ages in panel **a**, we subtracted the mean ages found in the second chronogram to the mean ages found in the first chronogram. See panels **b**, **c** and **d** for further

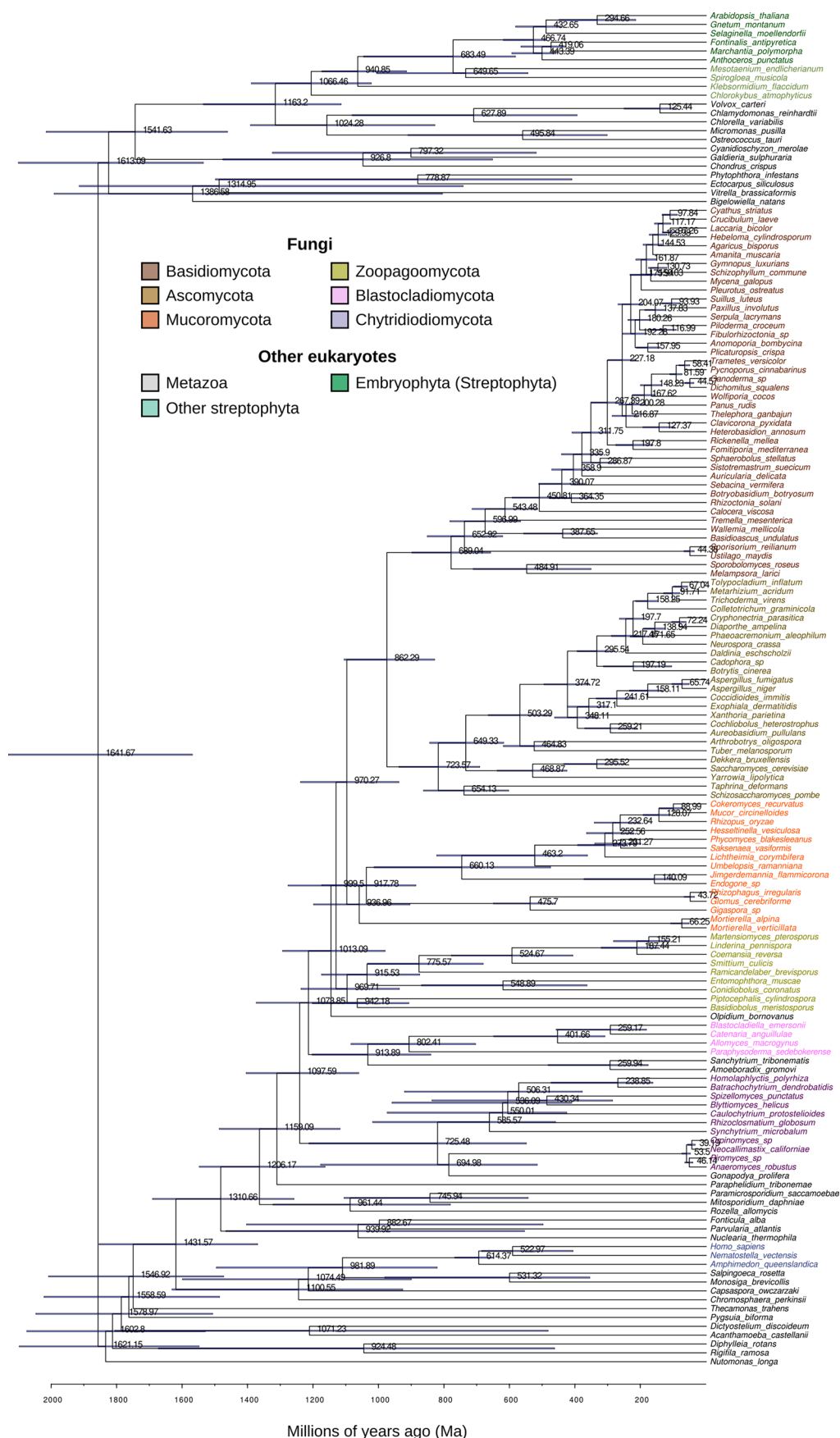
comparisons. The chronogram represented (topology and relative branch lengths) in each case is the second among the two chronograms compared (for example, ‘Only root calibration’ in the case of panel **a**). Branches are colored with a gradient corresponding to the difference in mean age retrieved in each comparison for the node subtending the branch.



Extended Data Fig. 5 | Branch length color representation of mean age differences between selected pairs of compared chronograms. For every chronogram comparison, for example 'Default' ages - 'Only root calibration' ages in panel **a**, we subtracted the mean ages found in the second chronogram to the mean ages found in the first chronogram. See panels **b**, **c** and **d** for further comparisons. The chronogram represented (topology and relative branch lengths) in each case is the first among the two chronograms compared (for

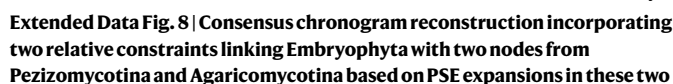
example, 'Only root calibration' in the case of panel **a**). Branches are colored with a gradient corresponding to the difference in mean age retrieved in each comparison for the node subtending the branch. 'Default' condition corresponds to a relaxed molecular clock analysis done with the 21 minimum age calibrations (minima) and the 6 maximum age calibrations (maxima), and 'Only root calibration' corresponds to a relaxed molecular clock analysis done with just the maximum age calibration for the root.



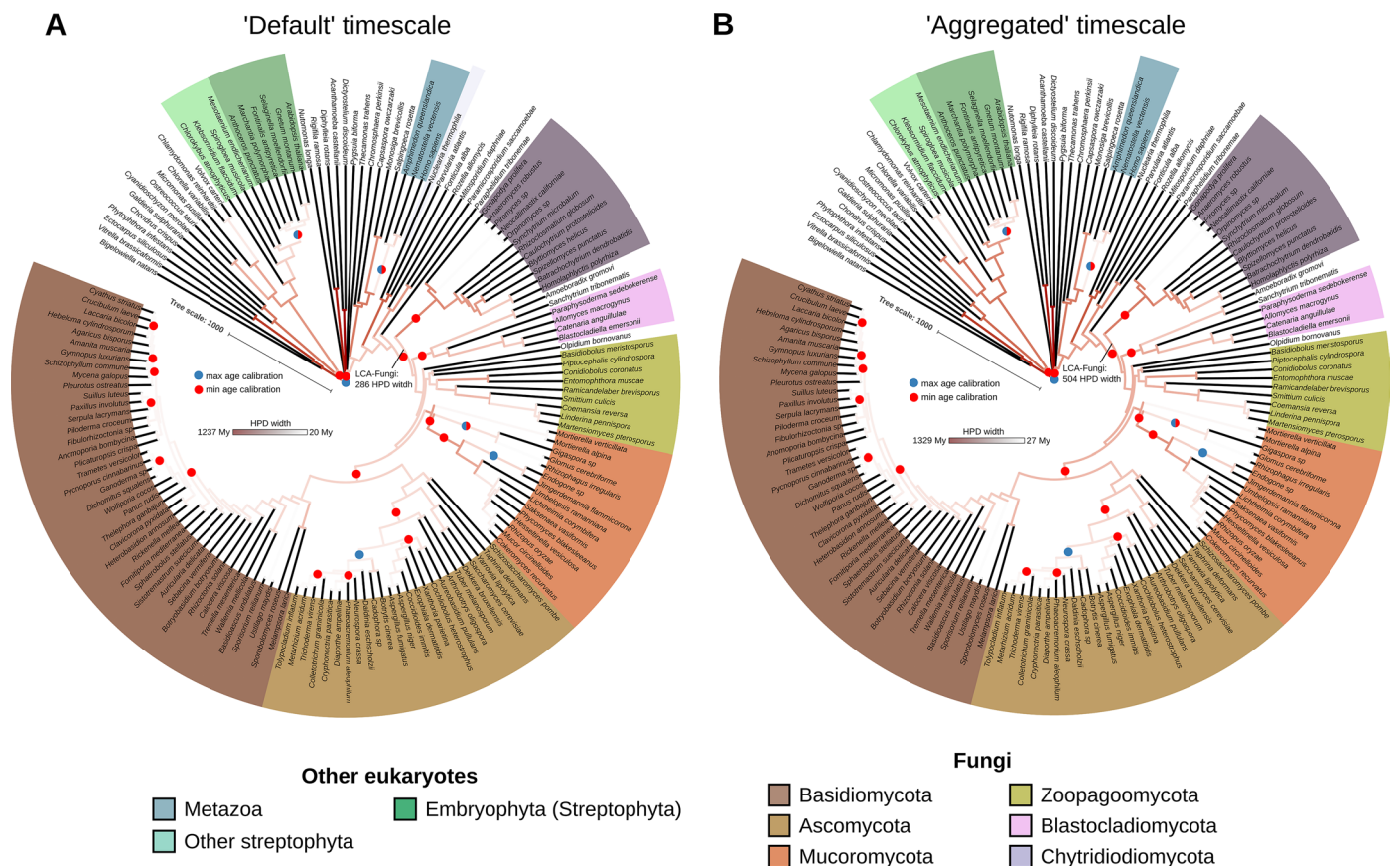


Extended Data Fig. 7 | Consensus chronogram reconstruction using the 'PSE-constraint A', but also incorporating as soft. maximum age calibration of 928 Ma to 'PCW Streptophyta' (*Klebsormidium flaccidum*+*Arabidopsis thaliana*) based on Harris. et al. 2022 results ('PSE-constraint A+calib'

analysis). Chronograms were sampled with relaxed molecular clock software MCMCdate (see Main text and methods). Mean node age values and node age 95% HPD credibility intervals are both shown.



groups ('PSE constraints B + C', see Main text). Chronograms were sampled with relaxed molecular clock software MCMCdate (see Main text and methods). Mean node age values and node age 95% HPD credibility intervals are both shown.



Extended Data Fig. 9 | Distribution of node age uncertainty in our dataset.

Distribution of node age uncertainty in our dataset based on the chronograms obtained from (a) the 'Default' dating condition and (b) from the four dating conditions ('Default', 'PSE constraint A', 'PSE constraint A+calib', 'PSE constraints B + C'). Branch colors are proportional to the HPD width of the immediate node descending from the branch. HPD width corresponds to the absolute difference between the two boundaries of the 95% HPD node age credibility intervals. Branches also include information on which nodes contain calibration information. Branch lengths are equivalent to those shown in Fig. 3. The nodes

with the highest age uncertainty are found outside Fungi and lack calibration information. The ages of these nodes are of limited interest for this study. Within Fungi, age uncertainty is much less reduced, although Chytridiomycota and some branches from Mucoromycota would be particularly benefited if further calibration information could be incorporated in future studies. The rest of fungal nodes present less node age uncertainty (for example, 286 My of HPD size for LCA-Fungi, see panel a). Aggregating uncertainty from four different dating analyses necessarily leads to broader uncertainty ranges (for example, 504 My of HPD size for LCA-Fungi, see panel b).

Reporting Summary

Nature Portfolio wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Portfolio policies, see our [Editorial Policies](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a	Confirmed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> The exact sample size (<i>n</i>) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided <i>Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> A description of all covariates tested
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. <i>F</i> , <i>t</i> , <i>r</i>) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and <i>P</i> value noted <i>Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's <i>d</i> , Pearson's <i>r</i>), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection	Genomic data was manually collected from online repositories, no software was used for this purpose.
Data analysis	Only open source software was used for data analysis: BLASTP v2.10.1+, MCL clustering software v14-137, SciPy 1.10.1, statsmodels 0.13.5, eggNOG-mapper v2.0.1, MAFFT v7.407, trimAl 1.2rev59, Phylobayes-MPI v1.8, Phylobayes 4.1c, Python 3.8.20, DIAMOND v0.9.24, IQ-TREE v1.6.12, ALE 1.0, ETE toolkit v3

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

- All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:
- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
 - A description of any restrictions on data availability
 - For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our [policy](#)

Protein sequences of the species used in this study were download from the GenBank public databases (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/protein/>), Uniprot (<https://www.uniprot.org/>)

www.uniprot.org), JGI genome database (<https://genome.jgi.doe.gov/portal/>) and Ensembl genomes (<https://www.ensembl.org>). The supporting data files of this study are available in Figshare (<https://figshare.com/s/c08efaba6bfdcd242d06>)

Research involving human participants, their data, or biological material

Policy information about studies with [human participants or human data](#). See also policy information about [sex, gender \(identity/presentation\), and sexual orientation](#) and [race, ethnicity and racism](#).

Reporting on sex and gender

Use the terms sex (biological attribute) and gender (shaped by social and cultural circumstances) carefully in order to avoid confusing both terms. Indicate if findings apply to only one sex or gender; describe whether sex and gender were considered in study design; whether sex and/or gender was determined based on self-reporting or assigned and methods used. Provide in the source data disaggregated sex and gender data, where this information has been collected, and if consent has been obtained for sharing of individual-level data; provide overall numbers in this Reporting Summary. Please state if this information has not been collected. Report sex- and gender-based analyses where performed, justify reasons for lack of sex- and gender-based analysis.

Reporting on race, ethnicity, or other socially relevant groupings

Please specify the socially constructed or socially relevant categorization variable(s) used in your manuscript and explain why they were used. Please note that such variables should not be used as proxies for other socially constructed/relevant variables (for example, race or ethnicity should not be used as a proxy for socioeconomic status). Provide clear definitions of the relevant terms used, how they were provided (by the participants/respondents, the researchers, or third parties), and the method(s) used to classify people into the different categories (e.g. self-report, census or administrative data, social media data, etc.) Please provide details about how you controlled for confounding variables in your analyses.

Population characteristics

Describe the covariate-relevant population characteristics of the human research participants (e.g. age, genotypic information, past and current diagnosis and treatment categories). If you filled out the behavioural & social sciences study design questions and have nothing to add here, write "See above."

Recruitment

Describe how participants were recruited. Outline any potential self-selection bias or other biases that may be present and how these are likely to impact results.

Ethics oversight

Identify the organization(s) that approved the study protocol.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

☒ Life sciences ☐ Behavioural & social sciences ☐ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf](https://www.nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf)

Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Sample size

We gathered a dataset including complete species proteomes as predicted from published genome sequences (proteome dataset), consisting of 1,363,672 protein sequences from 86 eukaryotic species. Adequate sample size was determined based on the need of including a sufficiently diverse but at the same time taxonomically-balanced representation of the different eukaryotic groups represented, particularly those corresponding to the osmogroups (Fungi: 17, Teretosporea: 9, Pseudofungi: 9, Labyrinthulea: 4). This sum of 39 genomes from the osmogroups was complemented with 47 genomes from other eukaryotes outside the osmogroups, particularly from the eukaryotic lineages branching between the osmogroups in the eukaryotic tree of life. The size of the taxon sampling used in this study (86 genomes) is in the same scale than the taxon samplings used in similar studies (e.g., 69 genomes in <https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.26036.005>, 72 genomes in <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-12085-w>, 83 genomes in <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-05110-4>)

Data exclusions

The use of proteome datasets derived from genome projects was prioritised over proteome predictions derived only from transcriptome data. Proteomes from transcriptomic projects were only used for groups with very few genomic data available (e.g., Glaucophyta); to expand the representation of certain osmogroups (e.g., Teretosporea); or to sample clades which branch close to the osmogroups in the eukaryotic phylogeny (e.g., Opalazoa). Our dataset does not include data from species from outside the Amorphea and Diaphoretickes divisions of eukaryotes. This is because these major eukaryotic divisions encompass all four osmogroups. Furthermore, due to computational constraints, we prioritised proteome data from a broad and balanced taxonomic representation of these to eukaryotic divisions. Finally, sampling of eukaryotic groups outside these two eukaryotic divisions is poorly represented and in many cases the phylogenetic position of these taxa with respect to Amorphea and Diaphoretickes is poorly resolved. The purpose of this study was to explore gene content changes that occurred near the emergence of the osmogroups and during their diversification. As such, gene content changes which occurred before the Amorphea and Diaphoretickes division are out of the scope of this study.

Replication

Download data sources, software, software versions and software parameters are specified with detail in the Methods section, to enable all analyses to be reproduced or built upon as needed. Note that all analyses are done with bioinformatics methods and hence the reproducibility of the results is guaranteed as long as the the same data, software versions and software parameters are used.

Randomization	This work reports phylogenetic and comparative genomics analyses. As it is standard for the field, the robustness of the inferences was assessed using bootstrap support values and posterior probabilities
Blinding	Blinding was not relevant to the study design, because this was a phylogenetic and comparative genomics analysis of all the available data (that is, the experimental design did not involve allocating data to groups).

Behavioural & social sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description	Briefly describe the study type including whether data are quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods (e.g. qualitative cross-sectional, quantitative experimental, mixed-methods case study).
Research sample	State the research sample (e.g. Harvard university undergraduates, villagers in rural India) and provide relevant demographic information (e.g. age, sex) and indicate whether the sample is representative. Provide a rationale for the study sample chosen. For studies involving existing datasets, please describe the dataset and source.
Sampling strategy	Describe the sampling procedure (e.g. random, snowball, stratified, convenience). Describe the statistical methods that were used to predetermine sample size OR if no sample-size calculation was performed, describe how sample sizes were chosen and provide a rationale for why these sample sizes are sufficient. For qualitative data, please indicate whether data saturation was considered, and what criteria were used to decide that no further sampling was needed.
Data collection	Provide details about the data collection procedure, including the instruments or devices used to record the data (e.g. pen and paper, computer, eye tracker, video or audio equipment) whether anyone was present besides the participant(s) and the researcher, and whether the researcher was blind to experimental condition and/or the study hypothesis during data collection.
Timing	Indicate the start and stop dates of data collection. If there is a gap between collection periods, state the dates for each sample cohort.
Data exclusions	If no data were excluded from the analyses, state so OR if data were excluded, provide the exact number of exclusions and the rationale behind them, indicating whether exclusion criteria were pre-established.
Non-participation	State how many participants dropped out/declined participation and the reason(s) given OR provide response rate OR state that no participants dropped out/declined participation.
Randomization	If participants were not allocated into experimental groups, state so OR describe how participants were allocated to groups, and if allocation was not random, describe how covariates were controlled.

Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description	Briefly describe the study. For quantitative data include treatment factors and interactions, design structure (e.g. factorial, nested, hierarchical), nature and number of experimental units and replicates.
Research sample	Describe the research sample (e.g. a group of tagged <i>Passer domesticus</i> , all <i>Stenocereus thurberi</i> within Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument), and provide a rationale for the sample choice. When relevant, describe the organism taxa, source, sex, age range and any manipulations. State what population the sample is meant to represent when applicable. For studies involving existing datasets, describe the data and its source.
Sampling strategy	Note the sampling procedure. Describe the statistical methods that were used to predetermine sample size OR if no sample-size calculation was performed, describe how sample sizes were chosen and provide a rationale for why these sample sizes are sufficient.
Data collection	Describe the data collection procedure, including who recorded the data and how.
Timing and spatial scale	Indicate the start and stop dates of data collection, noting the frequency and periodicity of sampling and providing a rationale for these choices. If there is a gap between collection periods, state the dates for each sample cohort. Specify the spatial scale from which the data are taken
Data exclusions	If no data were excluded from the analyses, state so OR if data were excluded, describe the exclusions and the rationale behind them, indicating whether exclusion criteria were pre-established.
Reproducibility	Describe the measures taken to verify the reproducibility of experimental findings. For each experiment, note whether any attempts to repeat the experiment failed OR state that all attempts to repeat the experiment were successful.
Randomization	Describe how samples/organisms/participants were allocated into groups. If allocation was not random, describe how covariates were controlled. If this is not relevant to your study, explain why.
Blinding	Describe the extent of blinding used during data acquisition and analysis. If blinding was not possible, describe why OR explain why

Blinding *blinding was not relevant to your study.*

Did the study involve field work? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Field work, collection and transport

Field conditions *Describe the study conditions for field work, providing relevant parameters (e.g. temperature, rainfall).*

Location *State the location of the sampling or experiment, providing relevant parameters (e.g. latitude and longitude, elevation, water depth).*

Access & import/export *Describe the efforts you have made to access habitats and to collect and import/export your samples in a responsible manner and in compliance with local, national and international laws, noting any permits that were obtained (give the name of the issuing authority, the date of issue, and any identifying information).*

Disturbance *Describe any disturbance caused by the study and how it was minimized.*

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems

n/a	Involved in the study
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Antibodies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Eukaryotic cell lines
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Palaeontology and archaeology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals and other organisms
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical data
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Dual use research of concern
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Plants

Methods

n/a	Involved in the study
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ChIP-seq
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow cytometry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MRI-based neuroimaging

Antibodies

Antibodies used *Describe all antibodies used in the study; as applicable, provide supplier name, catalog number, clone name, and lot number.*

Validation *Describe the validation of each primary antibody for the species and application, noting any validation statements on the manufacturer's website, relevant citations, antibody profiles in online databases, or data provided in the manuscript.*

Eukaryotic cell lines

Policy information about [cell lines and Sex and Gender in Research](#)

Cell line source(s) *State the source of each cell line used and the sex of all primary cell lines and cells derived from human participants or vertebrate models.*

Authentication *Describe the authentication procedures for each cell line used OR declare that none of the cell lines used were authenticated.*

Mycoplasma contamination *Confirm that all cell lines tested negative for mycoplasma contamination OR describe the results of the testing for mycoplasma contamination OR declare that the cell lines were not tested for mycoplasma contamination.*

Commonly misidentified lines (See [ICLAC](#) register) *Name any commonly misidentified cell lines used in the study and provide a rationale for their use.*

Palaeontology and Archaeology

Specimen provenance *Provide provenance information for specimens and describe permits that were obtained for the work (including the name of the issuing authority, the date of issue, and any identifying information). Permits should encompass collection and, where applicable, export.*

Specimen deposition *Indicate where the specimens have been deposited to permit free access by other researchers.*

Dating methods

If new dates are provided, describe how they were obtained (e.g. collection, storage, sample pretreatment and measurement), where they were obtained (i.e. lab name), the calibration program and the protocol for quality assurance OR state that no new dates are provided.

☐ Tick this box to confirm that the raw and calibrated dates are available in the paper or in Supplementary Information.

Ethics oversight

Identify the organization(s) that approved or provided guidance on the study protocol, OR state that no ethical approval or guidance was required and explain why not.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Animals and other research organisms

Policy information about [studies involving animals](#); [ARRIVE guidelines](#) recommended for reporting animal research, and [Sex and Gender in Research](#)

Laboratory animals

For laboratory animals, report species, strain and age OR state that the study did not involve laboratory animals.

Wild animals

Provide details on animals observed in or captured in the field; report species and age where possible. Describe how animals were caught and transported and what happened to captive animals after the study (if killed, explain why and describe method; if released, say where and when) OR state that the study did not involve wild animals.

Reporting on sex

Indicate if findings apply to only one sex; describe whether sex was considered in study design, methods used for assigning sex. Provide data disaggregated for sex where this information has been collected in the source data as appropriate; provide overall numbers in this Reporting Summary. Please state if this information has not been collected. Report sex-based analyses where performed, justify reasons for lack of sex-based analysis.

Field-collected samples

For laboratory work with field-collected samples, describe all relevant parameters such as housing, maintenance, temperature, photoperiod and end-of-experiment protocol OR state that the study did not involve samples collected from the field.

Ethics oversight

Identify the organization(s) that approved or provided guidance on the study protocol, OR state that no ethical approval or guidance was required and explain why not.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Clinical data

Policy information about [clinical studies](#)

All manuscripts should comply with the ICMJE [guidelines for publication of clinical research](#) and a completed [CONSORT checklist](#) must be included with all submissions.

Clinical trial registration

Provide the trial registration number from ClinicalTrials.gov or an equivalent agency.

Study protocol

Note where the full trial protocol can be accessed OR if not available, explain why.

Data collection

Describe the settings and locales of data collection, noting the time periods of recruitment and data collection.

Outcomes

Describe how you pre-defined primary and secondary outcome measures and how you assessed these measures.

Dual use research of concern

Policy information about [dual use research of concern](#)

Hazards

Could the accidental, deliberate or reckless misuse of agents or technologies generated in the work, or the application of information presented in the manuscript, pose a threat to:

No	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Public health
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> National security
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Crops and/or livestock
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystems
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Any other significant area

Experiments of concern

Does the work involve any of these experiments of concern:

No	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate how to render a vaccine ineffective
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Confer resistance to therapeutically useful antibiotics or antiviral agents
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance the virulence of a pathogen or render a nonpathogen virulent
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase transmissibility of a pathogen
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Alter the host range of a pathogen
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Enable evasion of diagnostic/detection modalities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Enable the weaponization of a biological agent or toxin
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Any other potentially harmful combination of experiments and agents

Plants

Seed stocks	Report on the source of all seed stocks or other plant material used. If applicable, state the seed stock centre and catalogue number. If plant specimens were collected from the field, describe the collection location, date and sampling procedures.
Novel plant genotypes	Describe the methods by which all novel plant genotypes were produced. This includes those generated by transgenic approaches, gene editing, chemical/radiation-based mutagenesis and hybridization. For transgenic lines, describe the transformation method, the number of independent lines analyzed and the generation upon which experiments were performed. For gene-edited lines, describe the editor used, the endogenous sequence targeted for editing, the targeting guide RNA sequence (if applicable) and how the editor was applied.
Authentication	Describe any authentication procedures for each seed stock used or novel genotype generated. Describe any experiments used to assess the effect of a mutation and, where applicable, how potential secondary effects (e.g. second site T-DNA insertions, mosaicism, off-target gene editing) were examined.

ChIP-seq

Data deposition

- ☐ Confirm that both raw and final processed data have been deposited in a public database such as [GEO](#).
- ☐ Confirm that you have deposited or provided access to graph files (e.g. BED files) for the called peaks.

Data access links <i>May remain private before publication.</i>	For "Initial submission" or "Revised version" documents, provide reviewer access links. For your "Final submission" document, provide a link to the deposited data.
Files in database submission	Provide a list of all files available in the database submission.
Genome browser session (e.g. UCSC)	Provide a link to an anonymized genome browser session for "Initial submission" and "Revised version" documents only, to enable peer review. Write "no longer applicable" for "Final submission" documents.

Methodology

Replicates	Describe the experimental replicates, specifying number, type and replicate agreement.
Sequencing depth	Describe the sequencing depth for each experiment, providing the total number of reads, uniquely mapped reads, length of reads and whether they were paired- or single-end.
Antibodies	Describe the antibodies used for the ChIP-seq experiments; as applicable, provide supplier name, catalog number, clone name, and lot number.
Peak calling parameters	Specify the command line program and parameters used for read mapping and peak calling, including the ChIP, control and index files used.
Data quality	Describe the methods used to ensure data quality in full detail, including how many peaks are at FDR 5% and above 5-fold enrichment.
Software	Describe the software used to collect and analyze the ChIP-seq data. For custom code that has been deposited into a community repository, provide accession details.

Flow Cytometry

Plots

Confirm that:

- ☐ The axis labels state the marker and fluorochrome used (e.g. CD4-FITC).
- ☐ The axis scales are clearly visible. Include numbers along axes only for bottom left plot of group (a 'group' is an analysis of identical markers).
- ☐ All plots are contour plots with outliers or pseudocolor plots.
- ☐ A numerical value for number of cells or percentage (with statistics) is provided.

Methodology

Sample preparation

Describe the sample preparation, detailing the biological source of the cells and any tissue processing steps used.

Instrument

Identify the instrument used for data collection, specifying make and model number.

Software

Describe the software used to collect and analyze the flow cytometry data. For custom code that has been deposited into a community repository, provide accession details.

Cell population abundance

Describe the abundance of the relevant cell populations within post-sort fractions, providing details on the purity of the samples and how it was determined.

Gating strategy

Describe the gating strategy used for all relevant experiments, specifying the preliminary FSC/SSC gates of the starting cell population, indicating where boundaries between "positive" and "negative" staining cell populations are defined.

- ☐ Tick this box to confirm that a figure exemplifying the gating strategy is provided in the Supplementary Information.

Magnetic resonance imaging

Experimental design

Design type

Indicate task or resting state; event-related or block design.

Design specifications

Specify the number of blocks, trials or experimental units per session and/or subject, and specify the length of each trial or block (if trials are blocked) and interval between trials.

Behavioral performance measures

State number and/or type of variables recorded (e.g. correct button press, response time) and what statistics were used to establish that the subjects were performing the task as expected (e.g. mean, range, and/or standard deviation across subjects).

Acquisition

Imaging type(s)

Specify: functional, structural, diffusion, perfusion.

Field strength

Specify in Tesla

Sequence & imaging parameters

Specify the pulse sequence type (gradient echo, spin echo, etc.), imaging type (EPI, spiral, etc.), field of view, matrix size, slice thickness, orientation and TE/TR/flip angle.

Area of acquisition

State whether a whole brain scan was used OR define the area of acquisition, describing how the region was determined.

Diffusion MRI

☐ Used

☐ Not used

Preprocessing

Preprocessing software

Provide detail on software version and revision number and on specific parameters (model/functions, brain extraction, segmentation, smoothing kernel size, etc.).

Normalization

If data were normalized/standardized, describe the approach(es): specify linear or non-linear and define image types used for transformation OR indicate that data were not normalized and explain rationale for lack of normalization.

Normalization template

Describe the template used for normalization/transformation, specifying subject space or group standardized space (e.g. original Talairach, MNI305, ICBM152) OR indicate that the data were not normalized.

Noise and artifact removal

Describe your procedure(s) for artifact and structured noise removal, specifying motion parameters, tissue signals and physiological signals (heart rate, respiration).

Volume censoring

Define your software and/or method and criteria for volume censoring, and state the extent of such censoring.

Statistical modeling & inference

Model type and settings

Specify type (mass univariate, multivariate, RSA, predictive, etc.) and describe essential details of the model at the first and second levels (e.g. fixed, random or mixed effects; drift or auto-correlation).

Effect(s) tested

Define precise effect in terms of the task or stimulus conditions instead of psychological concepts and indicate whether ANOVA or factorial designs were used.

Specify type of analysis: ☐ Whole brain ☐ ROI-based ☐ Both

Statistic type for inference

Specify voxel-wise or cluster-wise and report all relevant parameters for cluster-wise methods.

(See [Eklund et al. 2016](#))

Correction

Describe the type of correction and how it is obtained for multiple comparisons (e.g. FWE, FDR, permutation or Monte Carlo).

Models & analysis

n/a | Involved in the study

☐☐ Functional and/or effective connectivity☐☐ Graph analysis☐☐ Multivariate modeling or predictive analysis

Functional and/or effective connectivity

Report the measures of dependence used and the model details (e.g. Pearson correlation, partial correlation, mutual information).

Graph analysis

Report the dependent variable and connectivity measure, specifying weighted graph or binarized graph, subject- or group-level, and the global and/or node summaries used (e.g. clustering coefficient, efficiency, etc.).

Multivariate modeling and predictive analysis

Specify independent variables, features extraction and dimension reduction, model, training and evaluation metrics.