

Aalborg Universitet

There it is! Fusarium pseudograminearum did not lose the fusaristatin gene cluster after all

Wollenberg, Rasmus Dam; Sondergaard, Teis Esben; Nielsen, Mikkel Rank; Knutsson, Simon; Pedersen, Tobias Bruun; Westphal, Klaus Ringsborg; Wimmer, Reinhard; Gardiner, Donald Max; Sørensen, Jens Laurids

Published in: **Fungal Biology**

DOI (link to publication from Publisher): 10.1016/j.funbio.2018.10.004

Creative Commons License CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

Publication date: 2019

Document Version Accepted author manuscript, peer reviewed version

Link to publication from Aalborg University

Citation for published version (APA):

Wollenberg, R. D., Sondergaard, T. E., Nielsen, M. R., Knutsson, S., Pedersen, T. B., Westphal, K. R., Wimmer, R., Gardiner, D. M., & Sørensen, J. L. (2019). There it is! *Fusarium pseudograminearum* did not lose the fusaristatin gene cluster after all. Fungal Biology, 123(1), 10-17. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.funbio.2018.10.004

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
 You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
 You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal -

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at vbn@aub.aau.dk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from vbn.aau.dk on: December 04, 2025

Accepted Manuscript

There it is! Fusarium pseudograminearum did not lose the fusaristatin gene cluster after all

Rasmus Dam Wollenberg, Teis Esben Sondergaard, Mikkel Rank Nielsen, Simon Knutsson, Tobias Bruun Pedersen, Klaus Westphal, Reinhard Wimmer, Donald Max Gardiner, Jens Laurids Sørensen

PII: \$1878-6146(18)30350-7

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.funbio.2018.10.004

Reference: FUNBIO 965

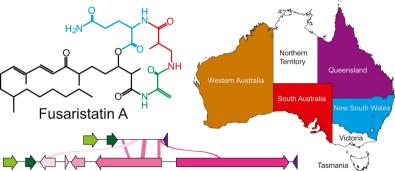
To appear in: Fungal Biology

Received Date: 8 February 2018
Revised Date: 27 August 2018
Accepted Date: 17 October 2018

Please cite this article as: Wollenberg, R.D., Sondergaard, T.E., Nielsen, M.R., Knutsson, S., Pedersen, T.B., Westphal, K., Wimmer, R., Gardiner, D.M., Sørensen, J.L., There it is! *Fusarium pseudograminearum* did not lose the fusaristatin gene cluster after all, *Fungal Biology*, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.funbio.2018.10.004.

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.





1 There it is! Fusarium pseudograminearum did not lose the fusaristatin

2	gene cluster after all.
3	Rasmus Dam Wollenberg ¹ , Teis Esben Sondergaard ¹ , Mikkel Rank Nielsen ² , Simon Knutsson ² ,
4	Tobias Bruun Pedersen ² , Klaus Westphal ¹ , Reinhard Wimmer ¹ , Donald Max Gardiner ³ , Jens
5	Laurids Sørensen ^{2,*}
6	
7	¹ Department of Chemistry and Bioscience, Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark.
8	
9	² Department of Chemistry and Bioscience, Aalborg University, Esbjerg, Denmark.
10	
11	³ Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) Agriculture and Food,
12	Queensland Bioscience Precinct, Brisbane, Australia.
13	
14	* Corresponding author: Jens Laurids Sørensen e-mail: jls@bio.aau.dk. Aalborg University Esbjerg,
15	Department of Chemistry and Bioscience, Niels Bohrs Vej 8, 6700 Esbjerg, Denmark
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	

Summar	y
Juliliui	J

Fusarium pseudograminearum is a significant pathogen of cereals in arid regions worldwide and has the ability to produce numerous bioactive secondary metabolites. The genome sequences of seven F. pseudograminearum strains have been published and in one of these strains, C5834, we identified an intact gene cluster responsible for biosynthesis of the cyclic lipopeptide fusaristatin A. The high level of sequence identity of the fusaristatin cluster remnant in strains that do not produce fusaristatin suggests that the absence of the cluster evolved once, and subsequently the resulting locus with the cluster fragments became widely dispersed among strains of F. pseudograminearum in Australia. We examined a selection of 99 Australian F. pseudograminearum isolates to determine how widespread the ability to produce fusaristatin A is in F. pseudograminearum. We identified 15 fusaristatin producing strains, all originating from Western Australia. Phylogenetic analyses could not support a division of F. pseudograminearum into fusaristatin producing and nonproducing populations, which could indicate the loss has occurred relatively recent.

- Keyword: Secondary metabolites; polyketides; non-ribosomal peptides; Fusarium Crown Rot;
- 36 evolution

Introduction

37

38	Fusarium pseudograminearum is the primary cause of Fusarium crown rot (FCR) of wheat and
39	barley in the arid cereal growing regions of the world including Australia (Burgess et al. 2001),
40	Southern Europe (Balmas 1994), Northern Africa (Gargouri et al. 2011), South Africa (Lamprecht
41	et al. 2006), China (Ji et al. 2016; Li et al. 2012; Xu et al. 2017) and the United Stated of America
42	(Smiley et al. 2005). The disease is one of the most severe in cereals in Australia with yearly
43	economic losses of approximately 100 million Australian dollars (Murray and Brennan 2009, 2010).
44	F. pseudograminearum is heterothallic (Aoki and O'Donnell 1999b; Summerell et al. 2001) and was
45	initially recognized as a population within the F. graminearum species group (Group 1) based on
46	cultivation and its inability to form homothallic perithecia (Burgess et al. 1975; Francis and Burgess
47	1977). Later, the two species were formally segregated by molecular analyses (Aoki and O'Donnell
48	1999a) and further sequence analyses suggested that F. pseudograminearum is a single globally
49	occurring species (Scott and Chakraborty 2006), while F. graminearum can be divided into more
50	than 16 phylogenetically distinct species (Aoki et al. 2012; O'Donnell et al. 2000). F. graminearum
51	is involved in Fusarium head blight (FHB) in cereals, a disease which F. pseudograminearum has
52	only been observed to cause in Australia (Backhouse et al. 2004) and China (Ji et al. 2016). Both
53	species are known producers of the trichothecene mycotoxin deoxynivalenol (and derivatives) and
54	of the mycoestrogen zearalenone (Sydenham et al. 1991).
55	Comparative analyses of the first genome sequenced strains of <i>F. graminearum</i> (NRRL 31084) and
56	F. pseudograminearum (CS3096) revealed only minor differences in the composition of polyketide
57	synthases (PKSs) and non-ribosomal peptide synthetases (NRPSs) (Hansen et al. 2015). The two
58	strains differ, however, in their ability to produce polyketide lipopeptides: in their ability to produce
59	two polyketide lipopeptides: F. graminearum NRRL 31084 produces fusaristatin A but not W493,

60	while F. pseudograminearum CS3096 produces W493 but not fusaristatin A (Figure 1; (Sørensen
61	et al. 2014a)).
62	Biosynthesis of W493 and fusaristatin A are suggested to follow similar routes starting with
63	production of a partially reduced polyketide which serves as a substrate for a NRPS that catalyzes
64	the condensation of the polyketide and amino acids before the compounds are released by
65	cyclization (Sørensen et al. 2014a). The key enzymes involved in biosynthesis of W493 are PKS32,
66	which produces a reduced polyketide (C ₁₄) chain and NRPS40, which catalyzes condensation of six
67	amino acids (threonine, alanine, alanine, glutamine, tyrosine and valine/isoleucine (W493-A/
68	W493-B)). Fusaristatin biosynthesis is initiated by production of a reduced polyketide (C ₂₄) by
69	PKS6 prior to incorporation of three amino acids (dehydroalanine, β-aminoisobutyric acid and
70	glutamine) by NRPS7.
71	The fusaristatin gene cluster has also been identified in the more distantly related Botrytis
72	fuckeliana, Cochliobolus heterostrophus and Pyrenophora teres (Sieber et al. 2014). Following the
73	first genome release of a F. pseudograminearum strain, six additional strains were published
74	(Gardiner et al. 2017; Moolhuijzen et al. 2013). In one of these strains, CS5834, we identified the
75	intact fusaristatin gene cluster and the aim of the current study was to determine how common this
76	cluster is in F. pseudograminearum and whether its presence or absence arose from a gain or loss
77	event.

79	Materials and methods
80	Fungal strains
81	Ninety-nine strains of F. pseudograminearum were obtained from the CSIRO collection in Brisbane
82	Australia. These strains were isolated from four different Australian states; New South Wales (42
83	strains), Queensland (18 strains), South Australia (4) and Western Australia (35).
84	
85	Fusaristatin gene cluster analyses
86	The available genome sequences of seven F. pseudograminearum strains (CS3096, CS3220,
87	CS3270, CS3427, CS3487, CS5834 and RBG5266) were screened for presence of the fusaristatin
88	gene cluster using the published gene cluster from F. graminearum (Sørensen et al. 2014a).
89	Remnant fragments of the fusaristatin gene cluster were identified though BlastN analyses (Altschul
90	et al. 1990) using the fusaristatin gene cluster from F. pseudograminearum CS5834 against the
91	whole-genome sequence (WGS) database of the six other F. pseudograminearum strains.
92	
93	Analyses of W493-B and fusaristatin A production
94	For secondary metabolite analyses the 99 F. pseudograminearum strains were cultivated on solid
95	yeast extract sucrose (YES) agar medium (Sørensen and Sondergaard 2014) and corn meal agar
96	(CM; corn meal 60 g/L, ZnSO $_4$ x 7 H $_2$ O 10 mg/L, CuSO $_4$ x 5 H $_2$ O 5 mg/L, agar 20 g/L) medium for
97	two weeks in the dark at 25 °C. The extraction of secondary metabolites were performed as
98	previously described (Smedsgaard 1997). The resulting extracts were analyzed on a Hitachi Elite
99	LaChrom HPLC system equipped with a 150 x 4.6 mm Ascentis Xpress 2.7 μm phenyl-hexyl
100	column (Sigma-Aldrich, USA) and coupled to a high resolution mass spectrometer (compact qTOF,
101	Bruker, Germany) with an electrospray source using a 3:97 flowsplitter. 40 μL extract was

102	separated using a flow of 1 mL/min with a linear water-acetonitrile gradient, with both eluents
103	buffered with 0.1% formic acid. The gradient started at 10% acetonitrile and reached 100% in 20
104	min, which was held for 5 min.
105	
106	Determination of presence or absence of the fusaristatin gene cluster
107	The fungal strains were cultivated in 30 mL liquid Czapek dox (Sigma-Aldrich) medium prior to
108	DNA extraction. The cultivated fungi were filtered through sterile MiraCloth (Calbiochem®) and
109	ground in liquid nitrogen before genomic DNA was extracted with the DNeasy® Plant Mini Kit
110	(Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) (Droce et al. 2013). The isolated genomic DNA served as template in a
111	polymerase chain reaction (PCR) targeting PKS6 with primers PKS6conFw (5'-3': CTG TTG TTG
112	GCA TGA GTT GC) and PKS6conRv (5'-3': TGG CCC ATG CGA GGA TAC TG), which
113	amplify a 1751 bp product in strains with intact PKS6 and 1564 bp product in strains with PKS6
114	remnants. The PCR reactions were performed in 50 µL volume using the Phusion Hot Start II DNA
115	Polymerase (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to manufactures protocol. The resulting PCR
116	products were run on 1% agarose gels with 1 kbp plus DNA ladder (Thermo Fisher Scientific).
117	
118	Phylogenetic analyses of F. pseudograminearum strains
119	For phylogenetic analyses the primers PHO1 (5'-3': ATC TTC TGG CGT GTT ATC ATG) and
120	PHO6 (5'-3': GAT GTG GTT GTA AGC AAA GCC C) were used to amplify a fragment of the
121	Phosphate permease gene (FPSE_11047 in F. pseudograminearum CS3096) (Scott and
122	Chakraborty 2006) by PCR. The PCR products were purified with the QIAquick PCR purification
123	kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) and sequenced at Eurofins Genomics (Ebersberg, Germany) using
124	the forward primer PHO1. The sequences were aligned with by multiple alignment using fast

125	fourier transform (MAFFT) at the T-REX web server (Boc et al. 2012). The a	lignments were
126	analysed with CLC main workbench (CLC Bio, Qiagen, Germany) using maximum	likelihood with
127	1000 bootstraps and visualized with EvolView (http://evolgenius.info/evolview)	(Zhang et al.
128	2012).	

129

130 Whole-Genome Sequencing

With minor modifications, genomic DNA was extracted from strains CS3894, CS3900, CS5541, 131 CS7093, CS7108, CS7081, CS7088, CS7065 and CS7060 using the FastDNATM SPIN kit for Soil 132 (MP Biomedicals, USA). Following clean-up with Agencourt AMPure XP beads (Beckman 133 Coulter, USA), 2 µg DNA was used as input for the SQK-LSK8 ligation sequencing kit protocol 134 (NBE_9006_v103_revQ_21Dec2016). The protocol was modified to allow for barcoding with the 135 Native Barcoding Kit (EXP-NBD103, Oxford Nanopore Technologies, UK) directly following the 136 137 end-prep step and for downstream compatibility with sequencing on the PromethION alfa/beta sequencer (Oxford Nanopore Technologies, UK). Briefly, 10 µL Native barcode (NB01-NB9) was 138 139 mixed with 30 µL end-prepped DNA mix (2 µg DNA), 10 µL nuclease-free water, 40 µL Ultra II 140 ligation master mix (New-England Biolabs, USA), 1 µL ligation enhancer (New-England Biolabs, 141 USA) and incubated at room temperature for 10 minutes before being further processed according to the PromethION SQK-LSK9 protocol (GDLE_9056_v109_revE_02Feb2018). Approximately 142 143 600 ng of pooled DNA was loaded onto a primed FLO-PRO001 flow-cell (Oxford Nanopore 144 Technologies, UK) and sequenced on the PromethION alfa/beta sequencer with live base-calling 145 enabled. Approximately 60 Gbp reads were demultiplexed and trimmed in Porechop version 0.2.3 146 and subsequently mapped to the reference genome of F. pseudograminearum CS3096 (Gardiner et 147 al. 2017) in CLC Genomics Workbench version 9.5.5 (CLC Bio, Qiagen, Germany). Consensus 148 sequences from the complete genes of beta-tubulin (FPSE_03337), translation elongation factor 1-

149	alfa (FPSE_11980), trichothecene 3-O-acetyltransferase (FPSE_11049), ammonia-ligase
150	(FPSE_11050) and phosphate permease (FPSE_11047) were finally extracted for phylogenetic
151	analysis (O'Donnell et al. 2000). The alignment was executed with MUSCLE (Edgar 2004). A few
152	nucleotides (1-3 pr. sequence) resulting in non-sense mutation were excluded from the final
153	alignments to eliminate Nanopore sequencing-biases (in some homopolymeric nucleotide-region).
154	The alignments were fused and analysed using the same approach as for the phosphate permease
155	gene. CANU version 1.7 was used to assemble the genome of CS3894 with default settings
156	(genome size set at 36 gbp) (Koren et al. 2017).
157	
158	Results and discussion
159	The fusaristatin cluster is conserved in F. pseudograminearum CS5834

The predicted fusaristatin cluster in F. pseudograminearum CS5834 was initially compared to the

published clusters in F. graminearum and F. avenaceum (Sørensen et al. 2014a; Sørensen et al.

2014b). The comparison showed that the hypothetical proteins are of comparable length and

identity (Table 1) suggesting that the gene cluster is also functional in F. pseudograminearum

CS5834. Based on their phylogenetic relationship (Kristensen et al. 2005; O'Donnell et al. 2013) it

was not surprising that a higher identity was observed to F. graminearum (94-98 %) than to F.

Further analyses of the available Fusarium genome sequences revealed that the fusaristatin gene

cluster is present with conserved synteny in F. pseudograminearum CS5834, F. graminearum, F.

culmorum, F. meridionale, F. asiaticum, F. langsethiae, F. acuminatum and F. avenaceum (Figure

2). The flanking genes were, however, different in F. avenaceum and F. acuminatum compared to

the other Fusarium species, indicating that the cluster is present in a different genomic location

160

161

162

163

164

165

166

167

168

169

170

171

avenaceum (73-86 %).

these two species. The identical location of the fusaristatin cluster in F. pseudograminearum CS5834 and the majority of other Fusarium species suggests that CS5834 did not acquire the cluster through horizontal gene transfer. This in turn suggests that the fusaristatin cluster was present in F. pseudograminearum after it diverged from other fusaria but was subsequently lost. To further investigate the nature of the loss, we examined the genomic region between the flanking genes of the fusaristatin gene cluster by which five conserved remnant fragments (88-95 % sequence identity) of the cluster could be found in all six F. pseudograminearum strains (Figure 2A). One of the fragments (R1; 897 bp) originates from a predicted aminotransferase gene (BN849 0052070), three other fragments (R2-R4; 120, 446 and 273 bp, respectively) originate from PKS6 (BN849_0052040) while a fifth fragment (R5; 407 bp) originates from NRPS7 (BN849 0052030). To illustrate that the fragments originate from PKS6 the three remnant fragments of PKS6 in F. pseudograminearum CS3096 were translated into amino acid sequences and aligned against the functional PKS6 of F. pseudograminearum CS5834 (Figure 2B). In these alignments, a high sequence identity was observed for the three fragments as R2 had 90% (60 amino acids), R3 had 89% (148 amino acids) and R4 had 82% identity (91 amino acids). The presence of conserved remnant fragments suggests that the missing fusaristatin gene cluster is a result of a deletion event in a common ancestor.

189

190

191

192

193

194

195

172

173

174

175

176

177

178

179

180

181

182

183

184

185

186

187

188

Fusaristatin-producing F. pseudograminearum strains are geographically co-localized

The distribution of the fusaristatin-producing ability in Australian *F. pseudograminearum* strains was further investigated through chemical analyses of the 99 strains, which originated from five different states (New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia). The analyses showed that while nearly all strains (except CS3002 and CS5897) were able to produce W493-B only 15 strains produced fusaristatin when cultivated on solid YES or CM medium (**Table**

196	2). The ability to produce fusaristatin seemed to be geographically confined, because all 15
197	fusaristatin A-producing strains were isolated from Western Australia. Although a slight decrease in
198	W493-B levels was observed in the fusaristatin A producers, this difference was not significant
199	(P>0.05; Supplementary Figure 1).

200

201

202

203

204

205

206

207

208

209

210

211

212

213

214

215

216

217

218

219

Fusaristatin producing isolates do not form a unique lineage

The phosphate permease gene was partially sequenced (807 of 1851 bp) to investigate whether fusaristatin-producing and nonproducing strains constitute phylogenetically distinct lineages of F. pseudograminearum. Assumedly, this locus is inherited independently of the fusaristatin gene cluster, as they are located on two different chromosomes. The phosphate permease gene is located near the middle of chromosome IV, while the fusaristatin gene cluster is located near and end of chromosome II. Phylogenetic analyses of the resulting sequences resulted in a tree with two major clades (Figure 3A), separated by 26 variable sites (3%). The first clade contained the majority of the strains isolated from New South Wales (40/42) and Queensland (16/18). Three nonproducers of fusaristatin A from Western Australia were also present in clade I, while the remaining thirty-two strains were located in the second clade. This second clade consisted of two different sequence types, sharing 805 of 807 nucleotides and contained both fusaristatin producers and nonproducers without any signs of segregation. In a further attempt to achieve a phylogenetic separation of fusaristatin producers and nonproducers, we performed a multiplexed genome sequencing of four producers (CS5541, CS7108, CS7081, and CS7060) and five nonproducers (CS3894, CS3900, CS7065 CS7088, CS7093). In addition to the phosphate permease gene, sequences of five genes were extracted (β-tubulin, translation elongation factor 1α, trichothecene 3-O-acetyltransferase and ammonia-ligase) and used to generate an additional phylogenetic tree. The resulting tree failed to separate fusaristatin producers and

220	nonproducers, although this combination of genes has previously been used to separate F .
221	graminearum into different phylogenetic species (Figure 3C). Due to the inadequacy of this
222	multigene approach, future studies could focus on full genome analyses in order to determine
223	whether producers and nonproducers of fusaristatin can be separated into two groups.
224	The lack of fusaristatin production in a strain does not necessarily mean that the strain does not
225	have a functional fusaristatin gene cluster, because lack of production can also be caused by too low
226	production levels or repression under the tested conditions. A PCR based strategy was used to
227	determine the presence or absence of a functional PKS6 yielding predicted products of 1751 bp in
228	strains with an intact PKS6 and 1564 bp in strains with PKS6 remnant fragments. Thus, the two
229	fragments are markers for the two alternative alleles of the locus (i.e., an intact and a deleted gene
230	cluster) based on available genome sequence data. The results showed that the PCR of the 15
231	fusaristatin producing strains resulted in amplified fragments of the expected size for the intact and
232	functional PKS6 (Figure 3B). The PCR fragments for all the nonproducing strains, except CS3894,
233	were smaller, which corresponds to the presence of the PKS6 remnant region. The slightly larger
234	PCR fragment in CS3894 was investigated further using the full genome sequence of CS3894,
235	which showed that overall the sequence was very similar to the nonproducing CS3096 remnant
236	region with the exception of an additional 100 bp (Supplementary Figure 2) which accounts for
237	the intermediate size of the band observed for this isolate (Figure 3B).
238	Together the molecular analyses suggests that the presence of the fusaristatin gene cluster is
239	reflected to some extend in the phylogenetic analyses of genes used in the present study. However,
240	the genes do not contain sufficient variation to segregate the strains into clades reflecting the ability
241	to produce fusaristatin A. A phylogenetic analysis of F. pseudograminearum based on the
242	phosphate permease, reductase, translation elongation factor- 1α and β -tubulin genes concluded that
243	F. pseudograminearum is a single monophyletic species (Scott and Chakraborty 2006). The high

sequence conservation within F. pseudograminearum is also reflected in the RNA polymerase II
largest (RPB1) and second largest subunit (RPB2) genes, which have been successfully used for
separating closely related Fusarium species (O'Donnell et al. 2013). In these genes CS3096 and
CS5834 share high sequence identity (1604/1606 and 901/902).
The loss of the fusaristatin gene cluster in <i>F. pseudograminearum</i> could represent an evolutionary
development where the compound is not needed for spread and survival. Biosynthesis of huge
proteins, like PKS6 and NRPS7, represent a significant energy cost for the fungus; thus, losing the
redundant gene cluster can result in an improved fitness.
One of the reasons for losing the fusaristatin gene cluster could be due to an overlapping mode of
action for W493 and fusaristatin A, which is not an unlikely scenario given their similar
biosynthetic background and structural similarities. The high level of identity of the sequence of the
remnant fusaristatin cluster in strains CS3096, CS3220, CS3270, CS3427, CS3487 and RBG5266
suggests that presence a deletion event occurred in one strain or lineage of the fungus rather than
multiple times in multiple strains or lineages. However, the presence of the additional region in
CS3894 suggests that some modifications has occurred locus where the fusaristatin gene cluster was
lost. Understanding when this loss event occurred may provide some indication of the evolutionary
reason for the absence of the cluster in most strains. The climatic conditions (and native grass
populations) in WA can be drastically different to the eastern states of Australia. The restricted
geographic location of isolates containing the fusaristatin cluster may suggest different evolutionary
pressures exist in WA but the widespread (and overlapping) presence of isolates carrying the cluster
loss in the same location and the absence of obvious lineages are contrary to this scenario.
Although Fusarium crown rot has likely been present in WA for a long time, it has only recently
emerged as a significant economic impediment to wheat production in this area (Murray and
Brennan 2009). Further complicating our understanding of the evolutionary pressures that have

268	shaped the F. pseudograminearum genome is the likelihood that F. pseudograminearum, like
269	F. graminearum, has not co-evolved with wheat (Lofgren et al. 2018) and can be considered an
270	opportunistic pathogen of wheat. Thus, it will be extremely challenging to pinpoint the reason for
271	loss of the cluster or even whether maintaining the clusters provides some advantage in the WA
272	environment.
273	
274	Acknowledgements
275	The study was funded by the Danish Research Council, Technology and Production (grant no.
276	4005-00204B) and the Novo Nordisk Foundation (NNF15OC0016028 and NNF15OC0016186).
277	The collection of isolates used in this study was funded in various projects by the Australian Grain
278	Research and Development and Research Corporation and CSIRO. Isolate RBG5266 was a kind
279	gift from the Royal Botanic Gardens of Sydney.
280	The authors wish to thank laboratory trainees Belinda Sandvang Jensen and Karoline Andersen for
281	extracting DNA and Camilla Juel Høj for extracting secondary metabolites from F .
282	pseudograminearum. The NMR laboratory at Aalborg University is supported by the Obel,
283	SparNord and Carlsberg Foundations.
284	
285	References
286 287	Altschul SF, Gish W, Miller W, Myers EW, Lipman DJ, 1990. Basic local alignment search tool. <i>Journal of Molecular Biology</i> 215 , 403-410.
288 289 290	Aoki T, O'Donnell K, 1999a. Morphological and molecular characterization of <i>Fusarium pseudograminearum</i> sp nov., formerly recognized as the Group 1 population of <i>F. graminearum</i> . <i>Mycologia</i> 91 , 597-609.
291 292 293	Aoki T, O'Donnell K, 1999b. Morphological characterization of <i>Gibberella coronicola</i> sp. nov., obtained through mating experiments of <i>Fusarium pseudograminearum</i> . <i>Mycoscience</i> 40 , 443-453.

294												
295	Aoki T, Wa	rd TJ,	Kistler	HC,	O'Donnell	K,	2012.	Systematics,	phylogeny	and	trichothecene	mycotoxir
296	potential of	Fusari	ium hea	d blig	ght cereal p	ath	ogens.	. JSM Mycotox	kins 62 , 91-1	.02.		

297

298 Backhouse D, Abubakar AA, Burgess LW, Dennisc JI, Hollaway GJ, Wildermuth GB, Wallwork H, Henry FJ, 299 2004. Survey of Fusarium species associated with crown rot of wheat and barley in eastern Australia. Australasian Plant Pathology **33**, 255-261.

300

301

302 Balmas V, 1994. Root rot of wheat in Italy caused by Fusarium graminearum group I. Plant Disease 78, 317.

303

304 Boc A, Diallo AB, Makarenkov V, 2012. T-REX: a web server for inferring, validating and visualizing 305 phylogenetic trees and networks. *Nucleic Acids Research* **40**, W573-W579.

306

307 Burgess LW, Backhouse D, Summerell BA, Swan LJ, 2001. Crown rot of wheat, in: Summerell BA, Leslie JF, 308 Backhouse D, Bryden WL, Burgess LW (eds), Fusarium. APS Press, St Paul, MN, USA, pp. 271-294.

309

310 Burgess LW, Wearing AH, Toussoun TA, 1975. Surveys of fusaria associated with crown rot of wheat in 311 eastern Australia. Australian Journal of Agricultural Research 26, 791-799.

312

313 Droce A, Sørensen JL, Giese H, Sondergaard TE, 2013. Glass bead cultivation of fungi: Combining the best of 314 liquid and agar media. Journal of Microbiological Methods 94, 4.

315

316 Edgar RC, 2004. MUSCLE: multiple sequence alignment with high accuracy and high throughput. Nucleic 317 *Acids Research* **32**, 1792-1797.

318

319 Francis RG, Burgess LW, 1977. Characteristics of two populations of Fusarium roseum 'Graminearum' in 320 Eastern Australia. Transactions of the British Mycological Society 68, 421-427.

321

322 Gardiner DM, Benfield AH, Stiller J, Stephen S, Aitken K, Liu C, Kazan K, 2017. A high-resolution genetic map 323 of the cereal crown rot pathogen Fusarium pseudograminearum provides a near-complete genome 324 assembly. Molecular Plant Pathology 19, 217-216.

325

326 Gargouri S, Mtat I, Kammoun LG, Zid M, Hajlaoui MR, 2011. Molecular genetic diversity in populations of 327 Fusarium pseudograminearum from Tunisia. Journal of Phytopathology 159, 306-313.

328

329 Hansen FT, Gardiner DM, Lysøe E, Fuertes PR, Tudzynski B, Wiemann P, Sondergaard TE, Giese H, Brodersen 330 DE, Sørensen JL, 2015. An update to polyketide synthase and non-ribosomal synthetase genes and 331 nomenclature in Fusarium. Fungal Genetics and Biology 75, 20-29.

332

333 Ji LJ, Kong LX, Li QS, Wang LS, Chen D, Ma P, 2016. First report of Fusarium pseudograminearum causing 334 Fusarium head blight of wheat in Hebei Province, China. Plant Disease 100, 220-220.

335

336 Koren S, Walenz BP, Berlin K, Miller JR, Bergman NH, Phillippy AM, 2017. Canu: scalable and accurate long-337 read assembly via adaptive k-mer weighting and repeat separation. Genome Research 27, 722-736.

338 339 340 341	Kristensen R, Torp M, Kosiak B, Holst-Jensen A, 2005. Phylogeny and toxigenic potential is correlated in Fusarium species as revealed by partial translation elongation factor 1 alpha gene sequences. <i>Mycological Research</i> 109 , 173-186.
342 343 344 345	Lamprecht SC, Marasas WFO, Hardy MB, Calitz FJ, 2006. Effect of crop rotation on crown rot and the incidence of <i>Fusarium pseudograminearum</i> in wheat in the Western Cape, South Africa. <i>Australasian Plant Pathology</i> 35 , 419-426.
346 347 348	Li HL, Yuan HX, Fu B, Xing XP, Sun BJ, Tang WH, 2012. First report of <i>Fusarium pseudograminearum</i> causing crown rot of wheat in Henan, China. <i>Plant Disease</i> 96 , 1065-1065.
349 350 351 352	Lofgren LA, LeBlanc NR, Certano AK, Nachtigall J, LaBine KM, Riddle J, Broz K, Dong Y, Bethan B, Kafer CW, Kistler HC, 2018. <i>Fusarium graminearum</i> : pathogen or endophyte of North American grasses? <i>New Phytologist</i> 217 , 1203-1212.
353 354 355	Moolhuijzen PM, Manners JM, Wilcox SA, Bellgard MI, Gardiner DM, 2013. Genome sequences of six wheat-infecting <i>Fusarium</i> species isolates. <i>Genome announcements</i> 1.
356 357 358	Murray GM, Brennan JP, 2009. Estimating disease losses to the Australian wheat industry. <i>Australasian Plant Pathology</i> 38 , 558-570.
359 360 361	Murray GM, Brennan JP, 2010. Estimating disease losses to the Australian barley industry. <i>Australasian Plant Pathology</i> 39 , 85-96.
362 363 364 365	O'Donnell K, Kistler HC, Tacke BK, Casper HH, 2000. Gene genealogies reveal global phylogeographic structure and reproductive isolation among lineages of Fusarium graminearum, the fungus causing wheat scab. <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America</i> 97 , 7905-7910.
366 367 368 369 370	O'Donnell K, Rooney AP, Proctor RH, Brown DW, McCormick SP, Ward TJ, Frandsen RJN, Lysøe E, Rehner SA, Aoki T, Robert V, Crous PW, Groenewald JZ, Kang S, Geiser DM, 2013. Phylogenetic analyses of RPB1 and RPB2 support a middle Cretaceous origin for a clade comprising all agriculturally and medically important fusaria. <i>Fungal Genetics and Biology</i> 52 , 20-31.
371 372 373	Scott JB, Chakraborty S, 2006. Multilocus sequence analysis of <i>Fusarium pseudograminearum</i> reveals a single phylogenetic species. <i>Mycological Research</i> 110 , 1413-1425.
374 375 376 377	Sieber CMK, Lee W, Wong P, Munsterkotter M, Mewes HW, Schmeitzl C, Varga E, Berthiller F, Adam G, Guldener U, 2014. The <i>Fusarium graminearum</i> genome reveals more secondary metabolite gene clusters and hints of horizontal gene transfer. <i>PloS one</i> 9 .
378 379 380	Smedsgaard J, 1997. Micro-scale extraction procedure for standardized screening of fungal metabolite production in cultures. <i>Journal of Chromatography A</i> 760 , 264-270.

381

382 383	Smiley RW, Gourlie JA, Easley SA, Patterson LM, 2005. Pathogenicity of fungi associated with the wheat crown rot complex in oregon and Washington. <i>Plant Disease</i> 89 , 949-957.
384 385 386 387	Summerell BA, Burgess LW, Backhouse D, Bullock S, Swan LJ, 2001. Natural occurrence of perithecia of Gibberella coronicola on wheat plants with crown rot in Australia. <i>Australasian Plant Pathology</i> 30 , 353-356.
388 389 390	Sydenham EW, Marasas WFO, Thiel PG, Shephard GS, Nieuwenhuis JJ, 1991. Production of mycotoxins by selected Fusarium graminearum and F. crookwellense isolates. Food Additives and Contaminants 8, 31-41.
391 392 393	Sørensen JL, Sondergaard TE, 2014. The effects of different yeast extracts on secondary metabolite production in Fusarium. <i>International Journal of Food Microbiology</i> 170 , 55-60.
394 395 396 397 398	Sørensen JL, Sondergaard TE, Covarelli L, Fuertes PR, Hansen FT, Frandsen RJN, Saei W, Lukassen MB, Wimmer R, Nielsen KF, Gardiner DM, Giese H, 2014a. Identification of the biosynthetic gene clusters for the lipopeptides fusaristatin A and W493 B in <i>Fusarium graminearum</i> and <i>F. pseudograminearum</i> . <i>Journal of Natural Products</i> 77 , 2619-2615.
399 400 401 402	Sørensen LQ, Lysøe E, Larsen JE, Khorsand-Jamal P, Nielsen KF, Frandsen RJN, 2014b. Genetic transformation of <i>Fusarium avenaceum</i> by <i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i> mediated transformation and the development of a USER-Brick vector construction system. <i>BMC Molecular Biology</i> 15 , 15.
403 404 405	Xu F, Song YL, Wang JM, Liu LL, Zhao K, 2017. Occurrence of Fusarium crown rot caused by <i>Fusarium pseudograminearum</i> on barley in China. <i>Plant Disease</i> 101 , 837-837.
406 407 408	Zhang H, Gao S, Lercher MJ, Hu S, Chen W-H, 2012. EvolView, an online tool for visualizing, annotating and managing phylogenetic trees. <i>Nucleic Acids Research</i> 40 , W569-W572.
409	
410	
411	
412	

413	Figure legends
414	Figure 1. Structures of W493-B and fusaristatin A highlighting the reduced polyketide (black) and
415	peptide (colored) parts.
416	
417	Figure 2. Comparative analysis of the fusaristatin gene cluster and remnant fragments in <i>Fusarium</i> .
418	A. Illustration of the intact cluster in F. pseudograminearum CS5834 (BN849_0052030 -
419	BN849_0052070) and seven other Fusarium species. Only five remnant fragments (R1-R5) are
420	present in F. pseudograminearum CS3096, CS3220, CS3487, CS3270, CS3427 and RBG5266. B .
421	Predicted amino acid sequence of regions corresponding to PKS6 fragments R2 - R4 in F.
422	pseudograminearum strains CS3096 (lacks intact cluster) and CS5834 (has intact cluster). Amino
423	acids are represented by standard single-letter abbreviations, and two letters stacked one on top of
424	the other indicate a difference in the sequence of the two strains.
425	
426	Figure 3 . Molecular analyses of the <i>F. pseudograminearum</i> strains. A . Phylogenetic analyses of the
427	99 F. pseudograminearum strains (orange: Western Australia; red: South Australia; blue: New
428	South Wales; purple: Queensland) and of selected genome sequenced Fusarium strains with F. poae
429	strain 2516 as outgroup. Numbers indicate bootstrap values from 1000 replications. B . 1% agarose
430	gels visualizing the PCR products for determining the presence (\bullet) and absence (\bullet) of PKS6 of
431	strains located in clade II. C. Multi-locus phylogeny of 16 F. pseudograminearum isolates with and
432	without the fusaristatin gene cluster. Numbers indicate bootstrap values from 1000 replications.
433	
434	Supplementary figure 1. Production of W493-B by Fusarium pseudograminearum strains
435	collected in New South Wales (NSW), Queensland (QLD) and Western Australia (WA). Strains

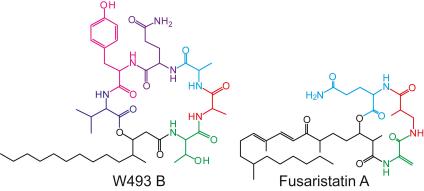
436	from WA have been divided in fusaristatin producers (+) and nonproducers (-). The box plot
437	illustrate minimum and maximum; first and third quartile and mean peak areas.
438	
439	Supplementary Figure 2 . Alignment of <i>F. pseudograminearum</i> CS3096 and CS3894 in the region
440	where the fusaristatin gene cluster has been lost. A highlighted 100 bp region is present in CS3894,
441	but absent in CS3096.

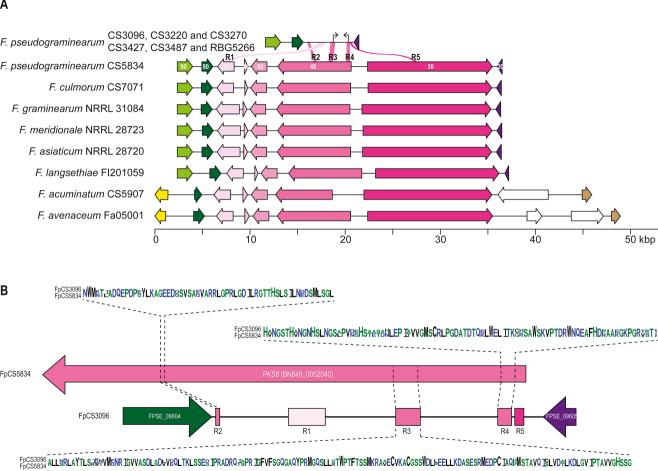
Table 1. Description of genes in the fusaristatin cluster in *F. pseudograminearum* CS5834 and comparison (% identity on amino acid level) to *F. graminearum* NRRL 31084 and *F. avenaceum* Fa05001.

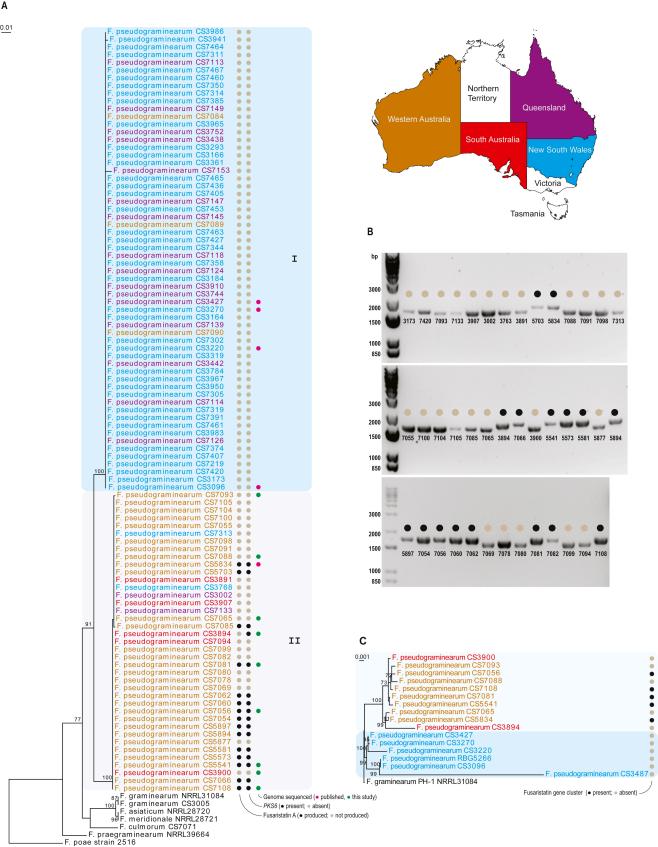
F. pseudograminearum	Length	Function	F. graminearum	F. avenaceum
BN849_0052030	4355 aa	Non-ribosomal peptide synthetase	FGSG_08209 (94%)	FAVG1_08708 (73%)
BN849_0052040	2554 aa	Polyketide synthase	FGSG_08208 (98%)	FAVG1_08709 (84%)
BN849_0052050	520 aa	Cytochrome P450 monooxygenase	FGSG_08207 (98%)	FAVG1_08710 (86%)
BN849_0052060	138 aa	Hypothetic protein	FGSG_08206 (96%)	FAVG1_08711 (79%)
BN849 0052070	511 aa	Aminotransferase	FGSG 08205 (96%)	FAVG1 08712 (78%)

Table 2. Production^a of W493-B and Fusaristatin A (Fst A) by *F. pseudograminearum* strains collected from New South Wales (NSW), Queensland (QLD), South Australia (SA) and Western Australia (WA).

Straina	W493-B ^b	Fst A ^b	Location	State	Strain	W493-B	Fst A	Location	State
CS3096	•		Moree	NSW	CS7114	•		Bowenville	QLD
CS3164	•		Ourindi	NSW	CS7118	•		Marmaduaz	ÒLD
CS3166	•		Qurindi	NSW	CS7124	•		Hannaford	QLD
CS3173	•		Ourindi	NSW	CS7126	•		Hannaford	OLD
CS3184	•		Bladeville	NSW	CS7133	•		Toobeak	ÒLD
CS3220	•		Liverpool Plains	NSW	CS7139	•		Toobeak	QLD
CS3270	•		Liverpool Plains		CS7145	•		Wyaga	OLD
CS3293	•		Boggabri	NSW	CS7147	•		Wyaga	ÔLD
CS3319	•		Boggabri	NSW	CS7149	•		Warra	ÒLD
CS3361	•		Bellata	NSW	CS7153	•		Warra	QLD
CS3768	•		North Stat	NSW					
CS3784	•		North Stat	NSW	CS3891	•		Foolunga Street	SA
CS3941	•		Cooper Creek K	NSW	CS3894	•		Foolunga Street	SA
CS3950	•		Cooper Creek K	NSW	CS3900	•		Angus Valley	SA
CS3965	•		9 Miles Road	NSW	CS3907	•		Angus Valley	SA
CS3967	•		9 Miles Road	NSW	0,50,0,			1 Ingus , une	511
CS3983	•		Livingstone Farm		CS5541	•	•	Stockdale	WA
CS3986	•		Livingstone Farm	NSW	CS5573	•	A	Stockdale	WA
CS7291	•		Nombi 1	NSW	CS5588	•	•	Tammin	WA
CS7302	•		Spring Ridge 1	NSW	CS5703	•	•	Tammin	WA
CS7305	•		Spring Ridge 1	NSW	CS5834	•	•	Tammin	WA
CS7311	•		Nombi 1	NSW	CS5877			Farm 3	WA
CS7313	•		Nowbi 1	NSW	CS5894	•	•	Jerramungub	WA
CS7319	•		Spring Ridge 2	NSW	CS5897		7 • •	Jerramungub	WA
CS7344	•		Nowbi 2	NSW	CS7054	•		Lake Grace	WA
CS7350	•		Nowbi 2	NSW	CS7055	•	•	Boxwood Hill	WA
CS7358	•		Tambar Springs	NSW	CS7056	•	•	Boxwood Hill	WA
CS7374	•		Tambar Springs	NSW	CS7060	•	•	Lake Grace	WA
CS7374 CS7385	•		Spring Ridge 3	NSW	CS7062	•	•	Lake Grace	WA
CS7391	•		Spring Ridge 3	NSW	CS7065	•	•	Mettler	WA
CS7405	•		Spring Ridge 3	NSW	CS7066	•	•	Wellstead	WA
CS7407	•		Bladeville	NSW	CS7069	•	•	Wellstead	WA
CS7407	•		Spring Ridge 5	NSW	CS7078	•		Lake Grace	WA
CS7427			Spring Ridge 5 Spring Ridge 5	NSW	CS7078 CS7080			Lake Grace	WA WA
CS7427 CS7436	•		Spring Ridge 3	NSW	CS7080 CS7081	•	•	Carnamagh	WA
CS7453			Spring Ridge 2 Spring Ridge 6	NSW	CS7081 CS7082		•	Lake King	WA WA
CS7460	•		Werris Creek	NSW	CS7082 CS7084	•		Lake King	WA
CS7461			Werris Creek	NSW NSW	CS7084 CS7085		•	Lake King	WA
CS7461 CS7463	•		Kelvin	NSW NSW	CS7085 CS7088	•	•	Lake King Lake King	WA WA
	-								WA WA
CS7464	•		Kelvin	NSW	CS7089	•		Grasspatch	
CS7465	•		Caroona 4 Caroona 4	NSW NSW	CS7090	•		Grasspatch	WA WA
CS7467	•		Caroona 4	MON	CS7091	•		Grasspatch	
CC2002				OLD	CS7093	•		Grasspatch	WA
CS3002			W:1 D	QLD	CS7094	•		Grasspatch	WA
CS3427	•		Wilga Downs	QLD	CS7098	•		Grasspatch	WA
			Wilga Downs	QLD	CS7099	•		Salmon Gums	WA
CS3438	•		C 1: 1:	OLD	007100				
CS3442	•		Coondiwindi	QLD	CS7100	•		Salmon Gums	WA
CS3442 CS3744	•		Kentare	QLD	CS7104	•		Salmon Gums	WA
CS3442 CS3744 CS3752	•		Kentare Kentare	QLD QLD	CS7104 CS7105	•		Salmon Gums Lake Grace	WA WA
CS3442 CS3744	•		Kentare	QLD	CS7104	•	•	Salmon Gums	WA







Highlights

Ancestral *Fusarium pseudograminearum* strains produced fusaristatin

Fusaristatin-producing *F. pseudograminearum* are confined to Western Australia

Remnant fragments of fusaristatin cluster was found in non-producers