

# *Trichoderma* species as biocontrol agents

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**Monika Schmoll**  
Health and Environment Department  
Bioresources

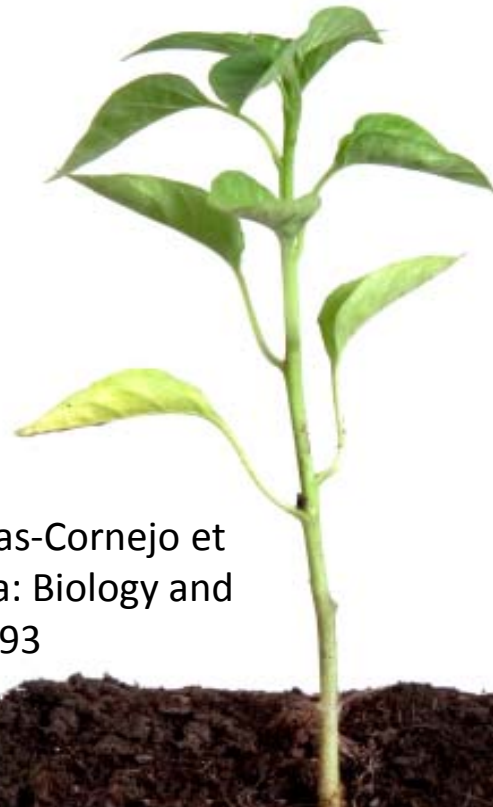
# Department Health and Environment Bioresources



**University and  
Research Center Tulln (UFT)**



# *Trichoderma* spp. influence and interact with plants



*Trichoderma* spp.

communicate with plants  
induce systemic resistance  
parasitize fungal pathogens

can grow as endophytes

modified from: Contreras-Cornejo et al., 2013 in *Trichoderma: Biology and Applications*, pp 173 - 193

Sugars  
Lipids  
Amino acids

Enzymes, peptaibols,  
auxin or auxin-like  
compounds, Sm1 peptide

*Trichoderma*



# *Trichoderma* spp. improve plant health and vigour

Resistance to  
abiotic stress

Increased  
photosynthesis  
and carbohydrate  
metabolism

Priming and defence

Systemic and airborne signals:  
jasmonic acid , salicylic acid,  
volatiles

**Improvements in:  
Lateral root development, root  
hair growth, uptake of minerals**



# How do *Trichoderma* spp. achieve improvement of plant health and vigour?

**GENOMICS**

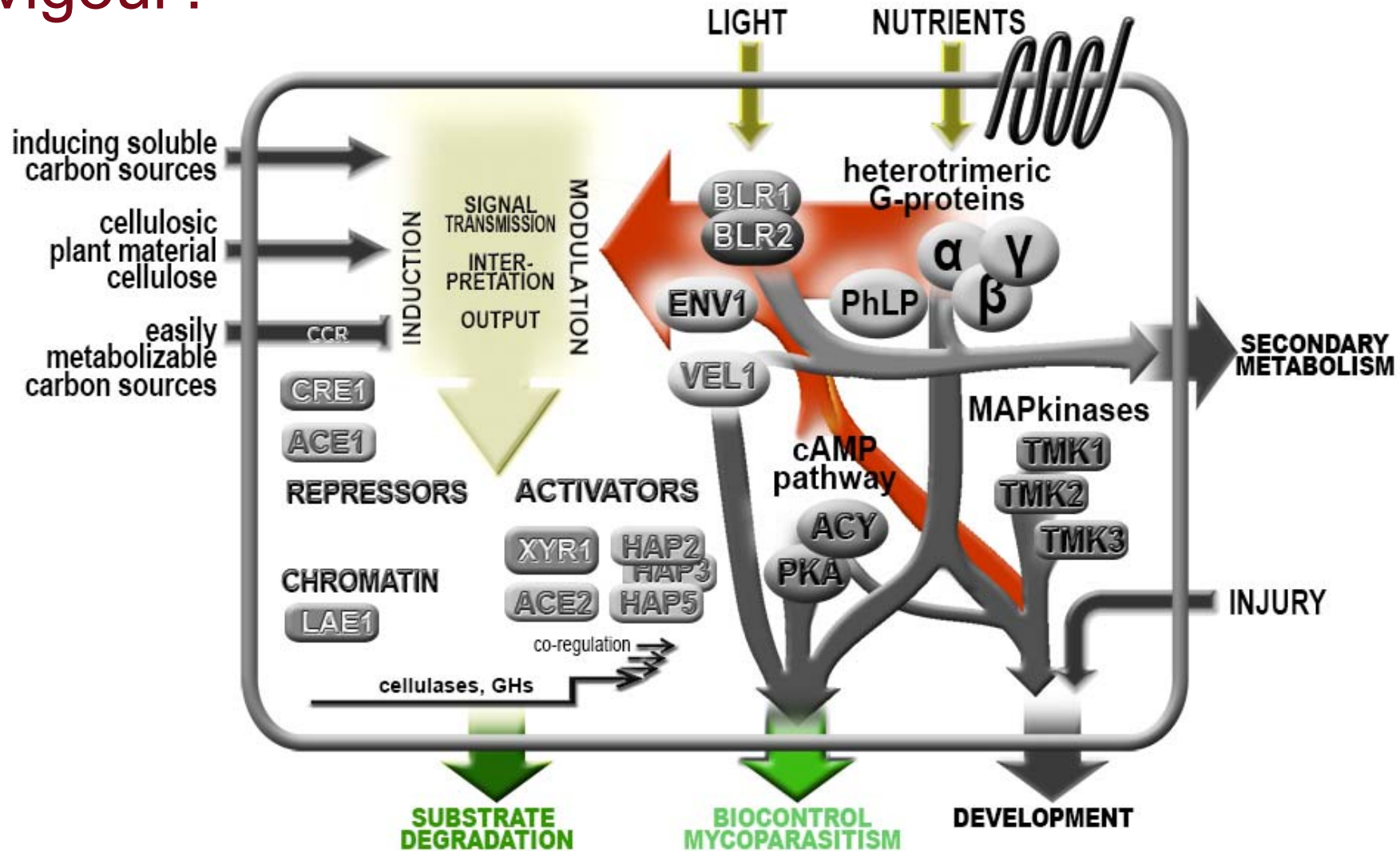
**SIGNALING**



**What are the requirements in the genome of the fungus?**

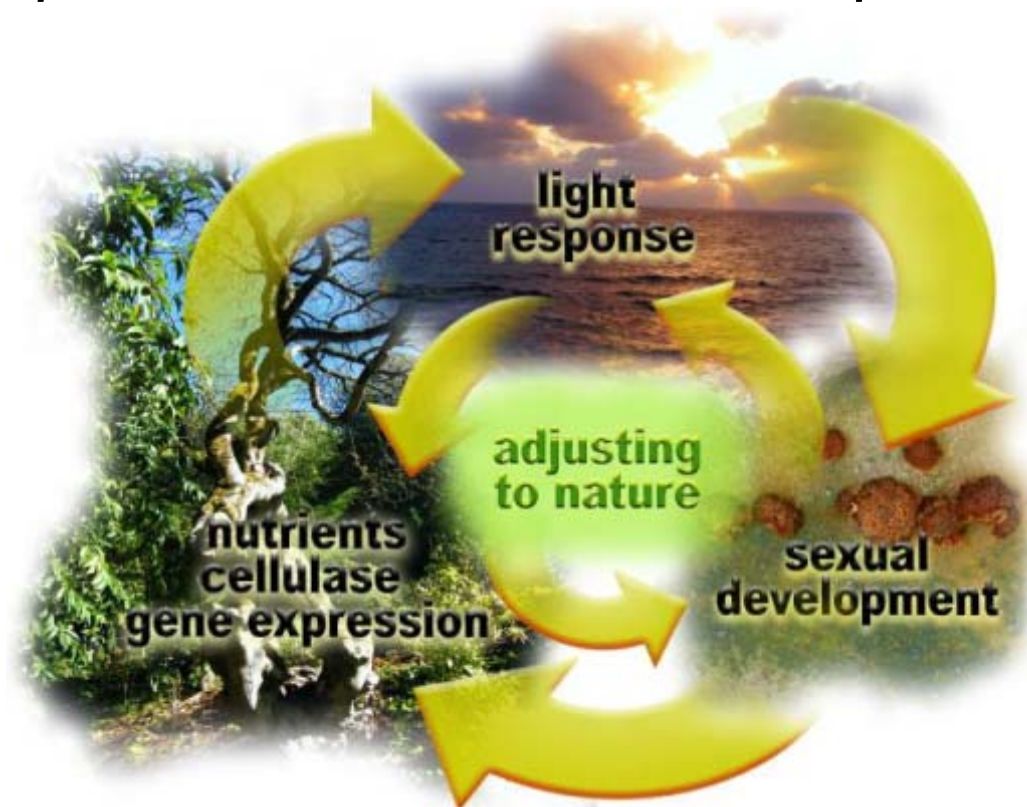
**How does sensing and reception of environmental and plant signals work?**

# How do *Trichoderma* spp. achieve improvement of plant health and vigour?



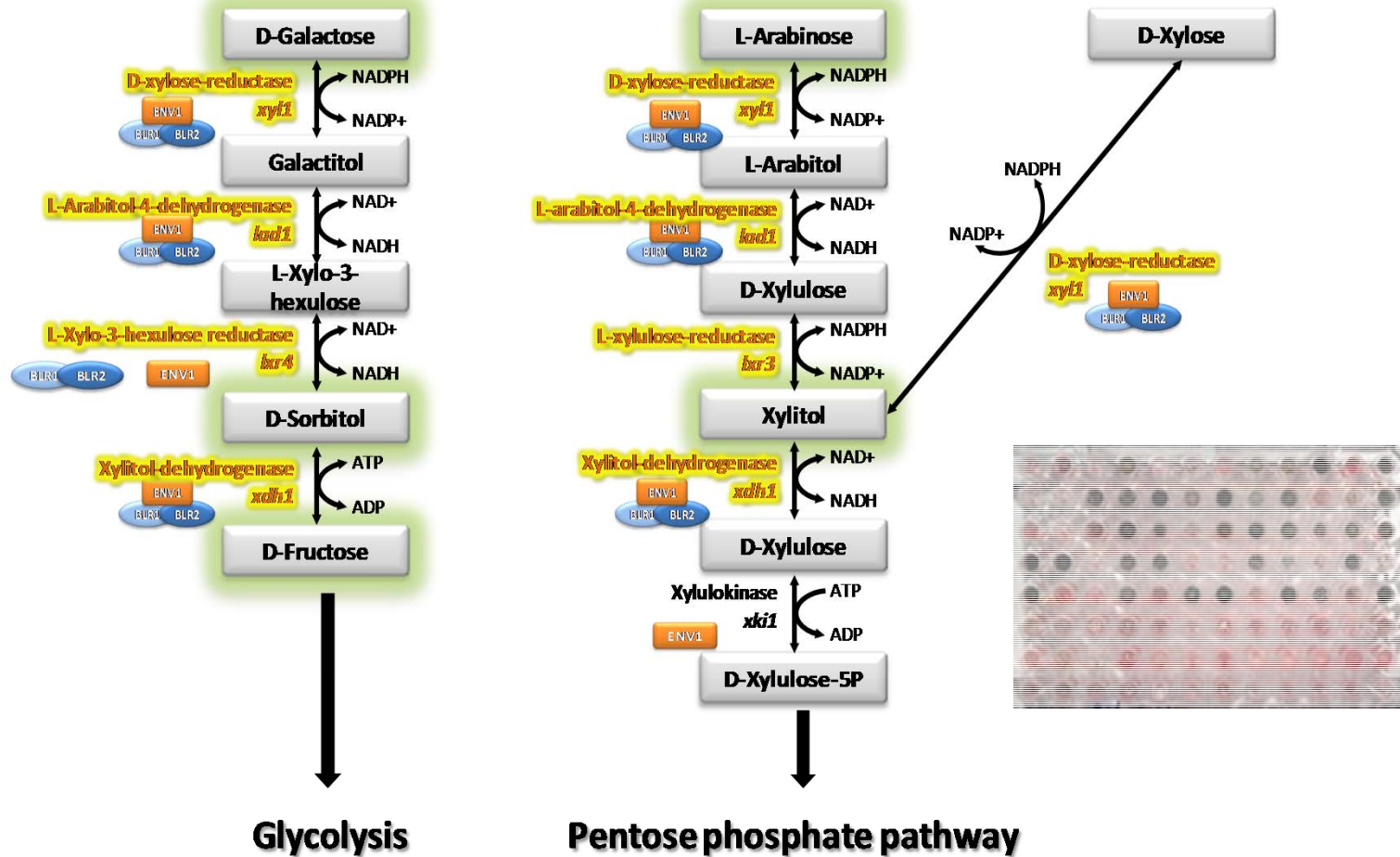
# Fundamental determinants of life

*Rotation of earth – night and day*  
*Requirement for nutrients and reproduction*



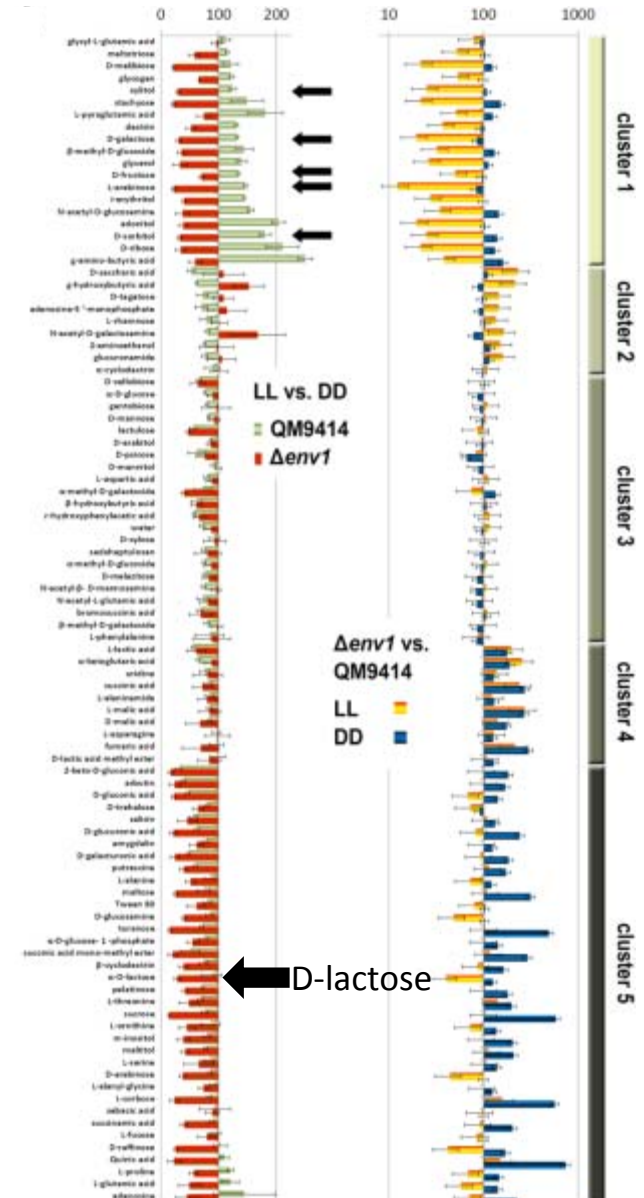
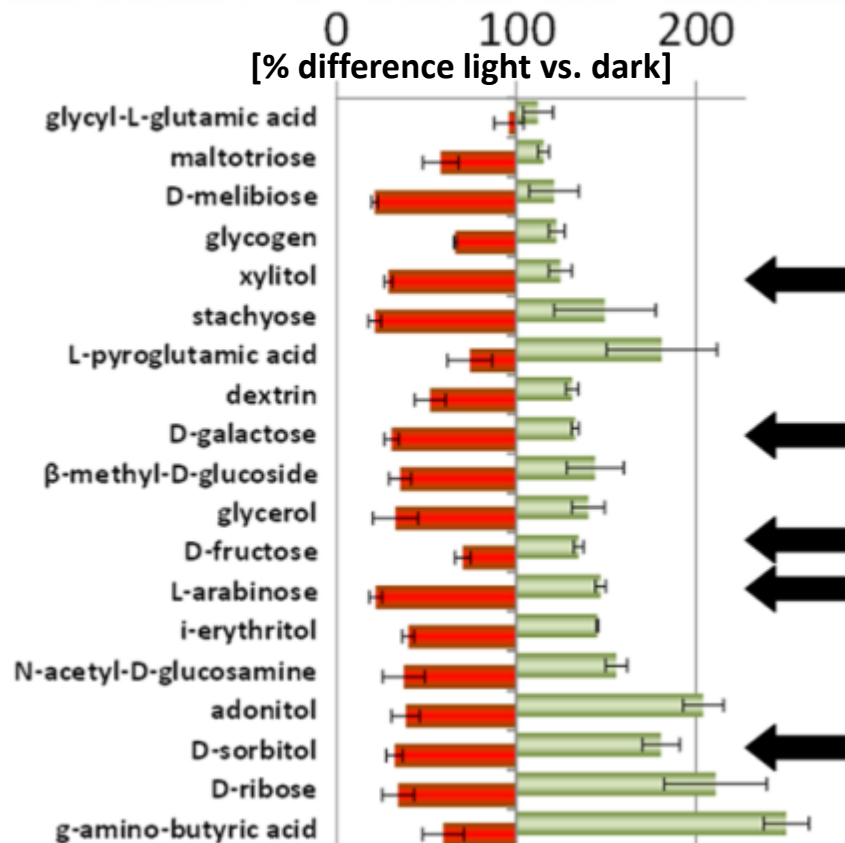
***Competition in the ecological niche***  
*Successful adaptation to a given habitat*

# The light signalling machinery influences plant cell wall degradation

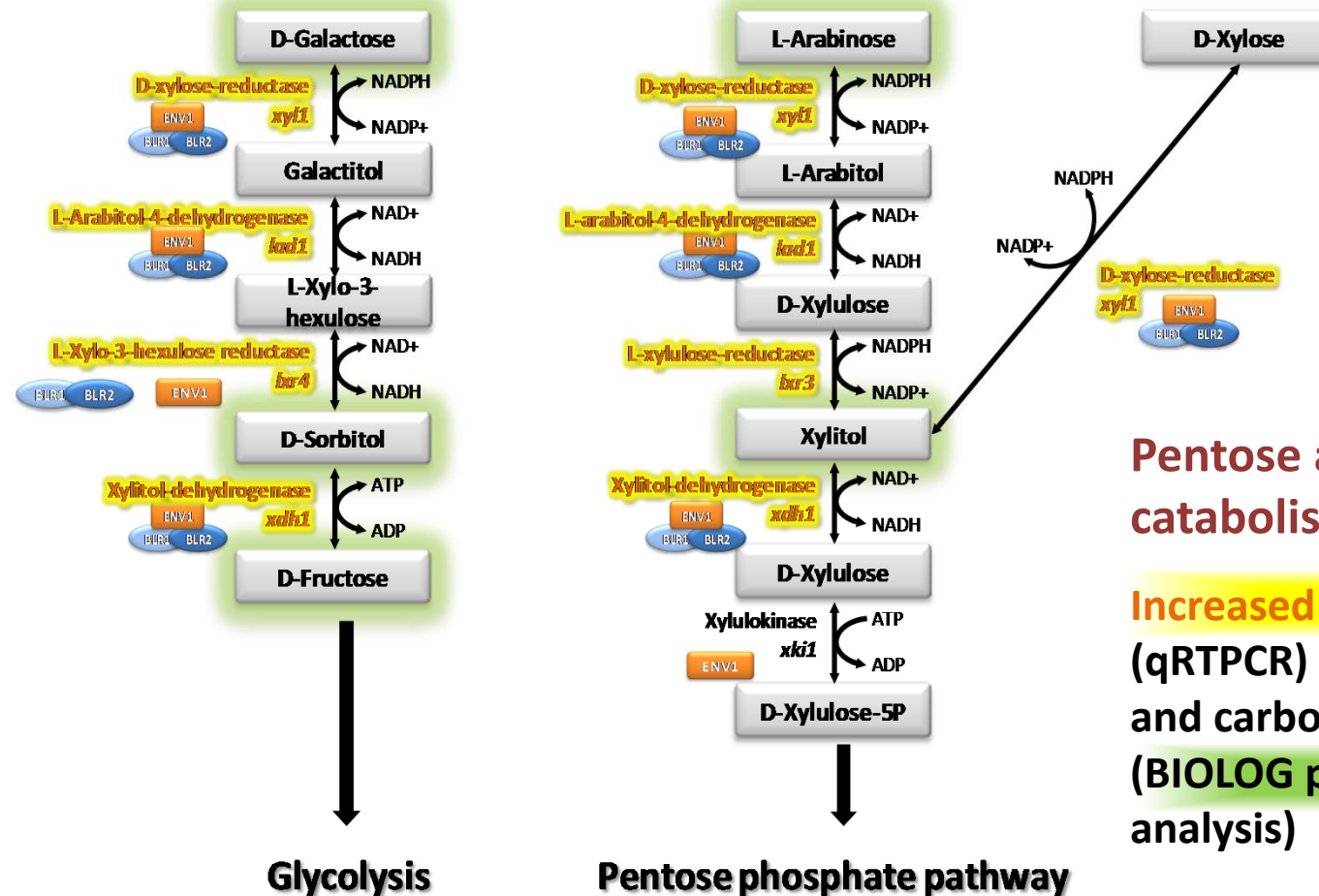




# The light signalling machinery influences plant cell wall degradation



# The light signalling machinery influences plant cell wall degradation



Pentose and D-galactose catabolism in light

Increased transcript levels (qRT-PCR) and carbon utilization (BIOLOG phenotype analysis)

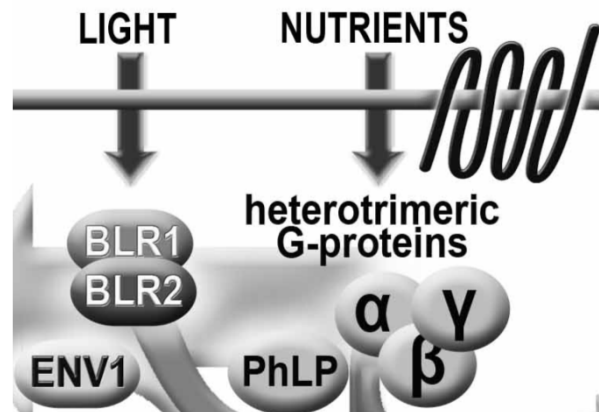
Transcript levels of all highlighted enzymes are positively influenced by light.

*xyf1*, *lad1*, *xdh1* are targets of BLR1-BLR2-ENV1 in light, *lxr4* is a target of BLR1-BLR2, but is controversially regulated in dependence of ENV1. *lxr3* is influenced by light but most probably not via BLR1-BLR2 or ENV1 in light, but is a target of ENV1 in darkness. *xki1* is a target of ENV1 in light.

# Gene regulation patterns on different carbon sources and in mutants

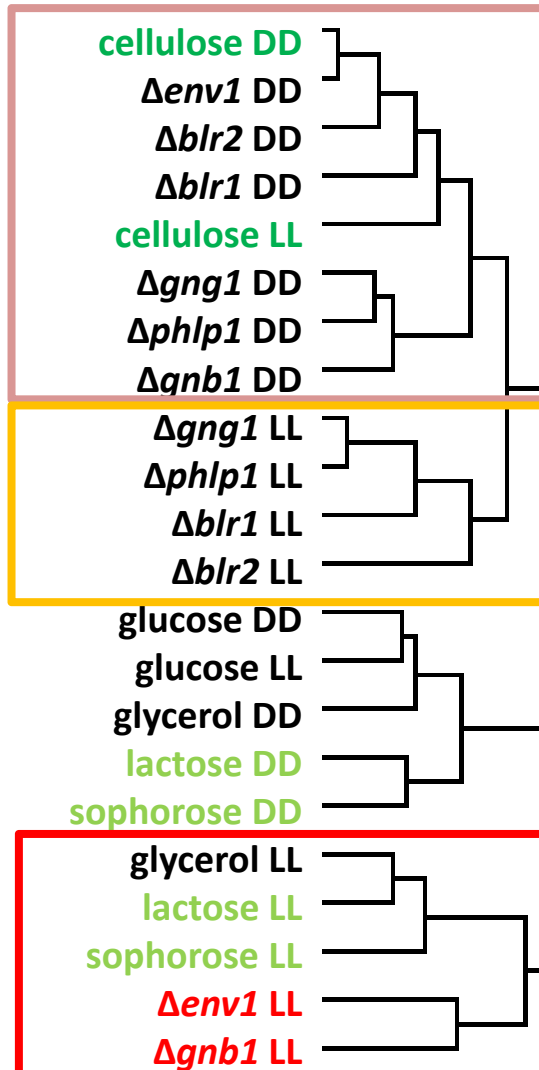
## SENSING

### G-PROTEIN COUPLED RECEPTORS



Is there a difference in sensing?

How similar are the transcript patterns of G-protein coupled receptors?

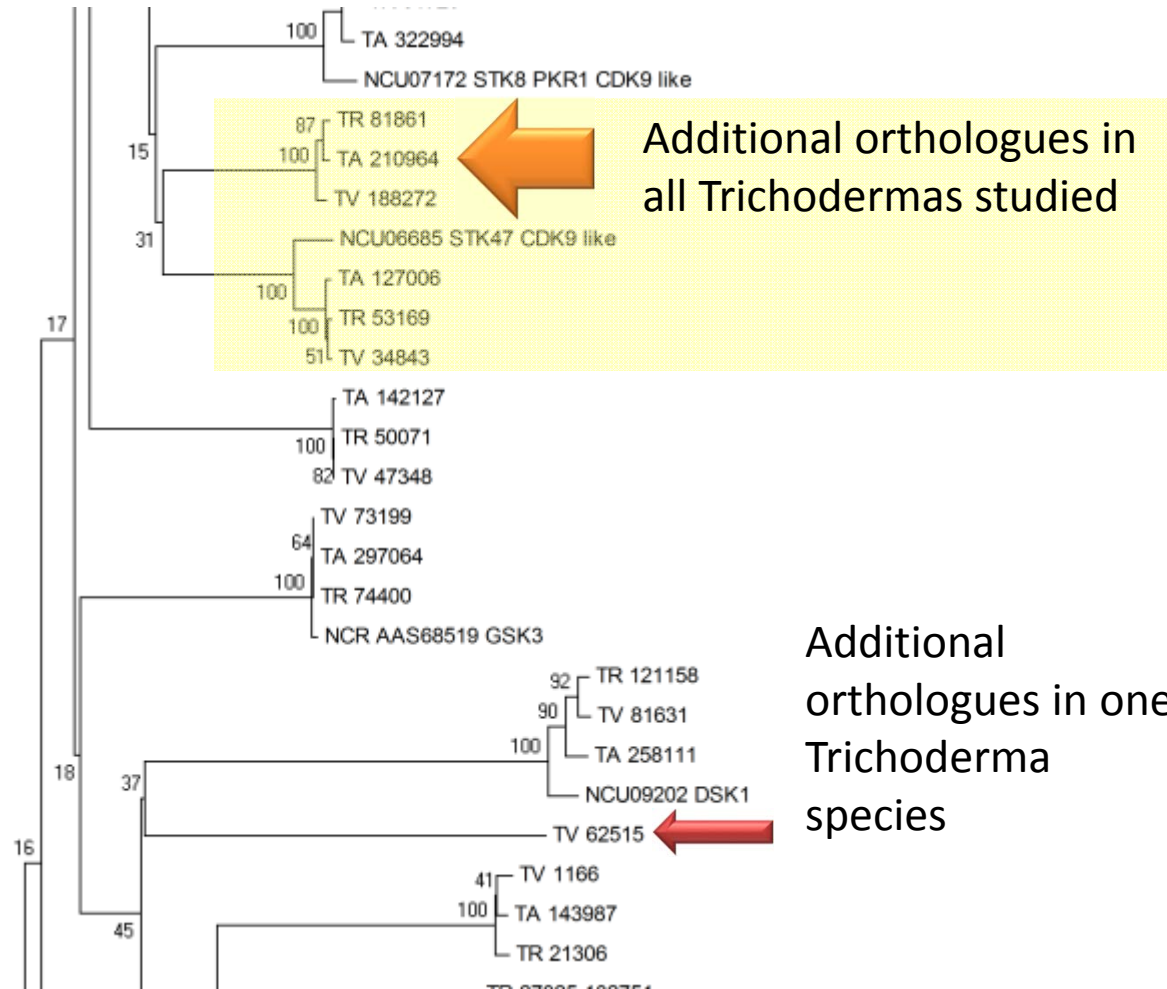
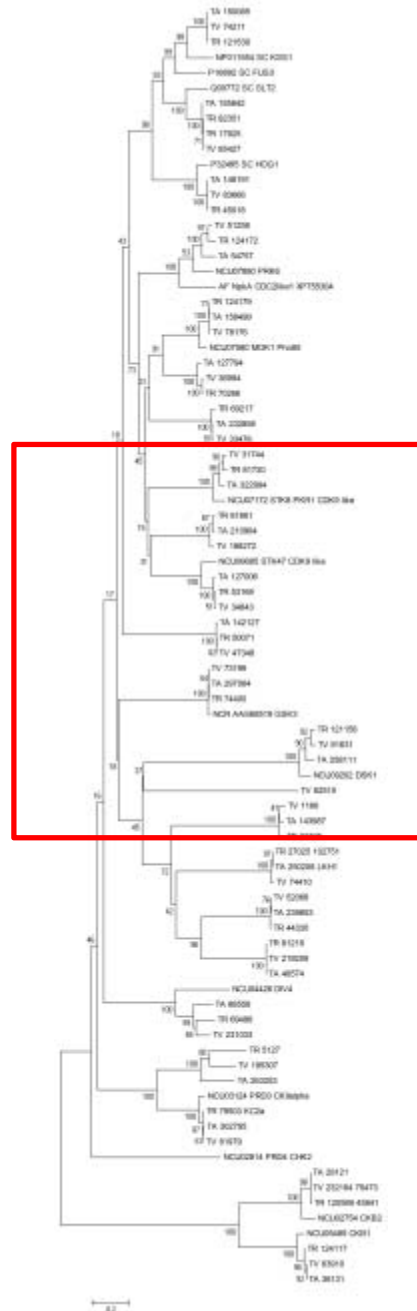


Transcriptome analysis of *T. reesei* under different conditions and hierarchical clustering

cellulose specific transcript patterns of GPCRs lost in  $\Delta env1$  LL and  $\Delta qnb1$  LL

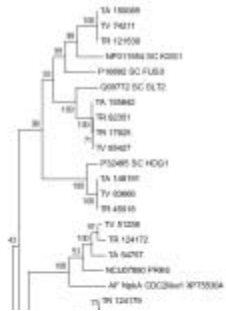
# Signaling and the genome of fungi

## CMGC kinases – an example for the „currency of signaling“

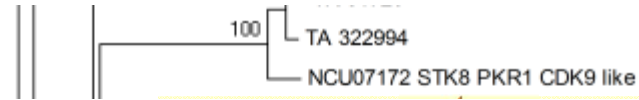


Schmoll et al., 2016 The genomes of three uneven siblings – footprints of the lifestyle of three *Trichoderma* species, *MMBR, in revision*

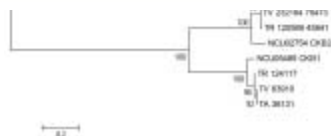
# Signaling and the genome of fungi



**CMGC kinases – an example for the „currency of signaling“**

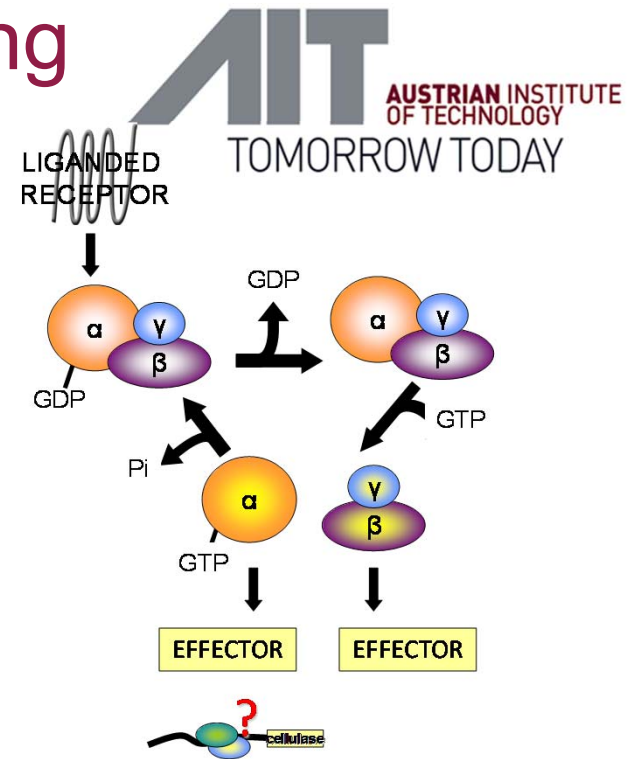


**Construction of a *T. reesei* knock-out library in progress:**  
**Protein kinases**  
**Protein phosphatases**  
**G-protein coupled receptors**



Schmoll et al., 2016 The genomes of three uneven siblings – footprints of the lifestyle of three *Trichoderma* species, MMBR, *in revision*

# Heterotrimeric G-protein signaling in *Trichoderma reesei*



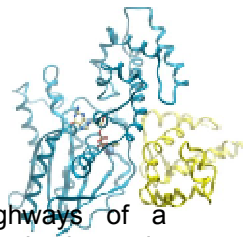
- 3 G-alpha subunits
- 1 G-beta subunit
- 1 G-gamma subunit

complex regulation of G-protein signaling:  
 2 **Phosducin** like proteins

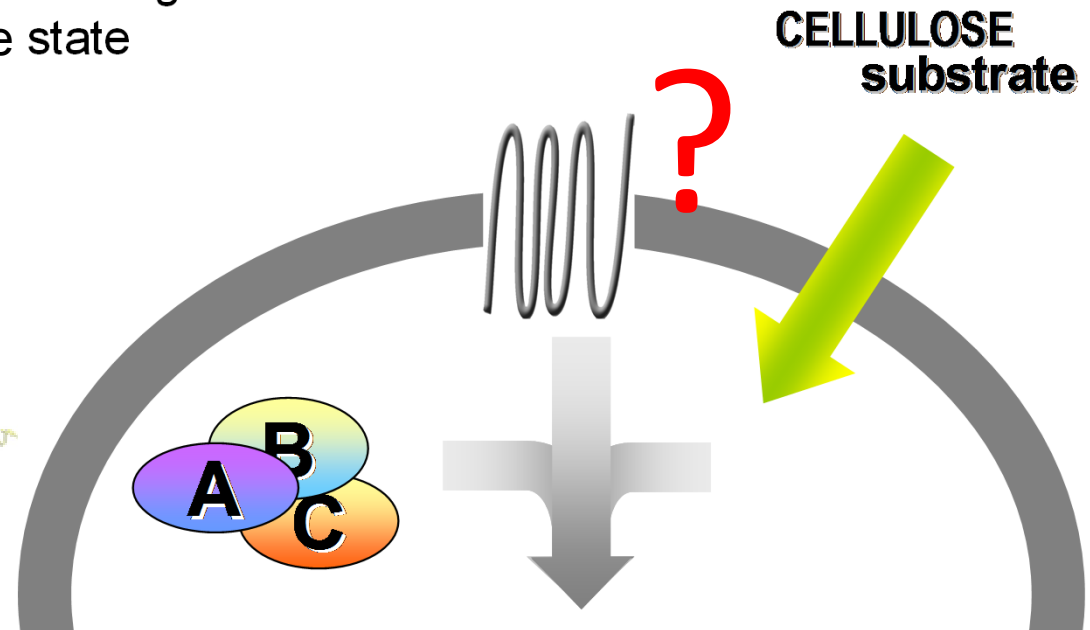
- 4 **Regulators of G-protein signaling (RGS)**
- 3 GprK-type GPCRs containing RGS domains

RGS-proteins terminate signals by activating the intrinsic GTPase domain → return to inactive state

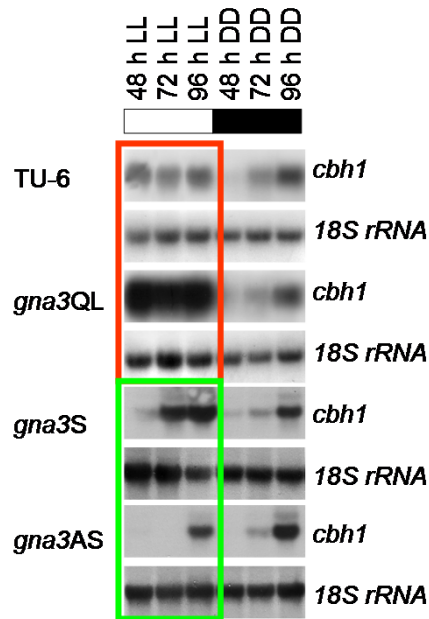
the expected **carbon sensor GPCR** characterized in *Neurospora* was not detected!



Schmoll, M. (2008) The information highways of a biotechnological workhorse--signal transduction in *Hypocrea jecorina*. *BMC Genomics* 9, 430.



# Heterotrimeric G-protein signaling in *Trichoderma reesei*

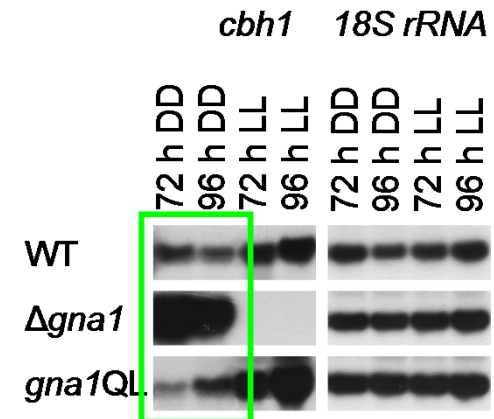


Schmoll M, Schuster A, Silva RdN and Kubicek CP. (2009). Eukaryot Cell, Mar 8 (3): 410 - 20

Constitutive activation of the G-alpha protein



increased transcript levels of *cbh1* in constant light upon growth on cellulose



strong upregulation of *cbh1* transcript upon deletion of *gna1*

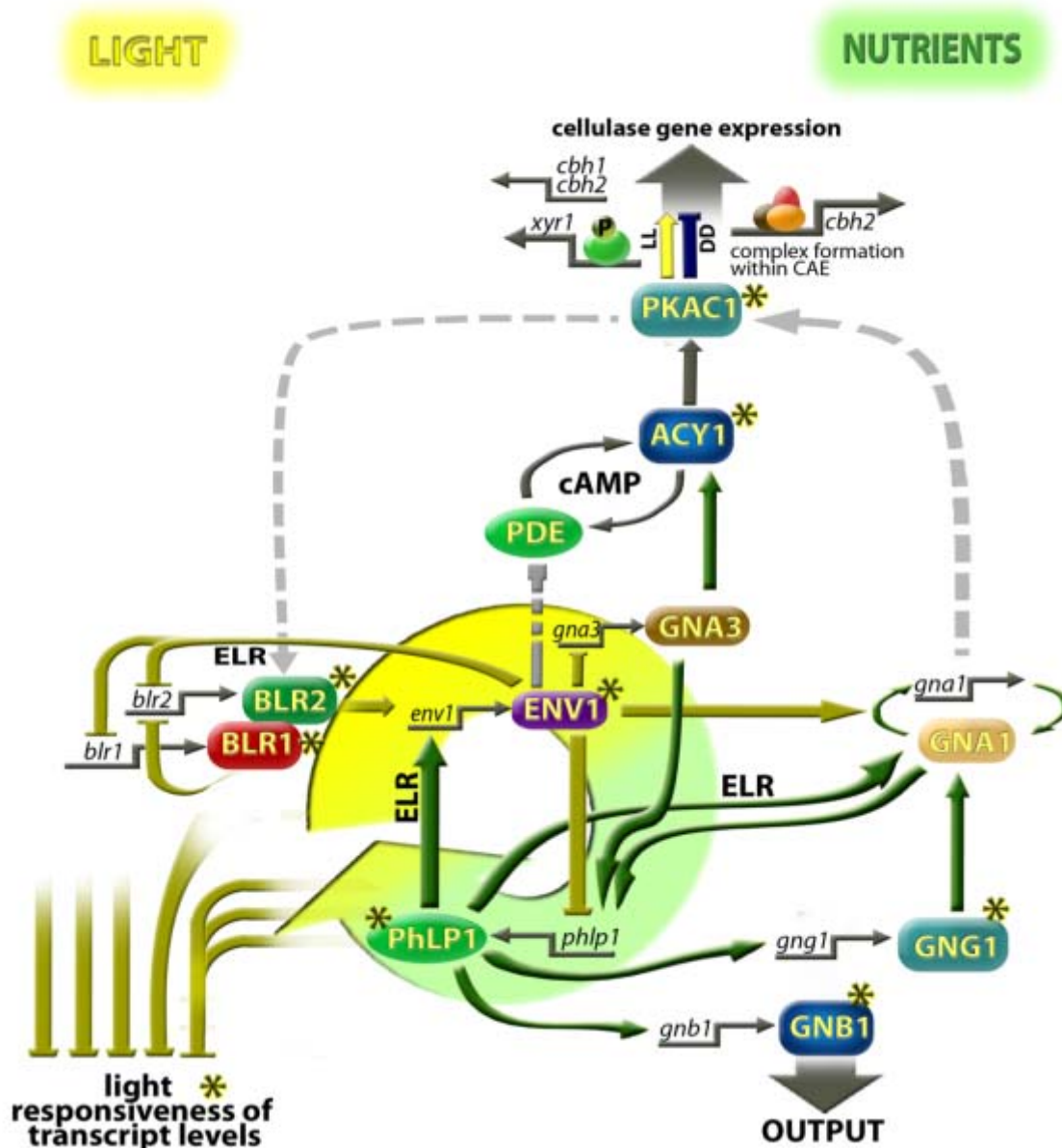
Seibel, C., et al. (2009) BMC Biology 7,58

The G- $\alpha$  proteins GNA1 and GNA3 are involved in light-dependent cellulase gene regulation

No inducer independent cellulase expression

GNA1 and GNA3 do not transmit the cellulose signal

# The integrated signalling network



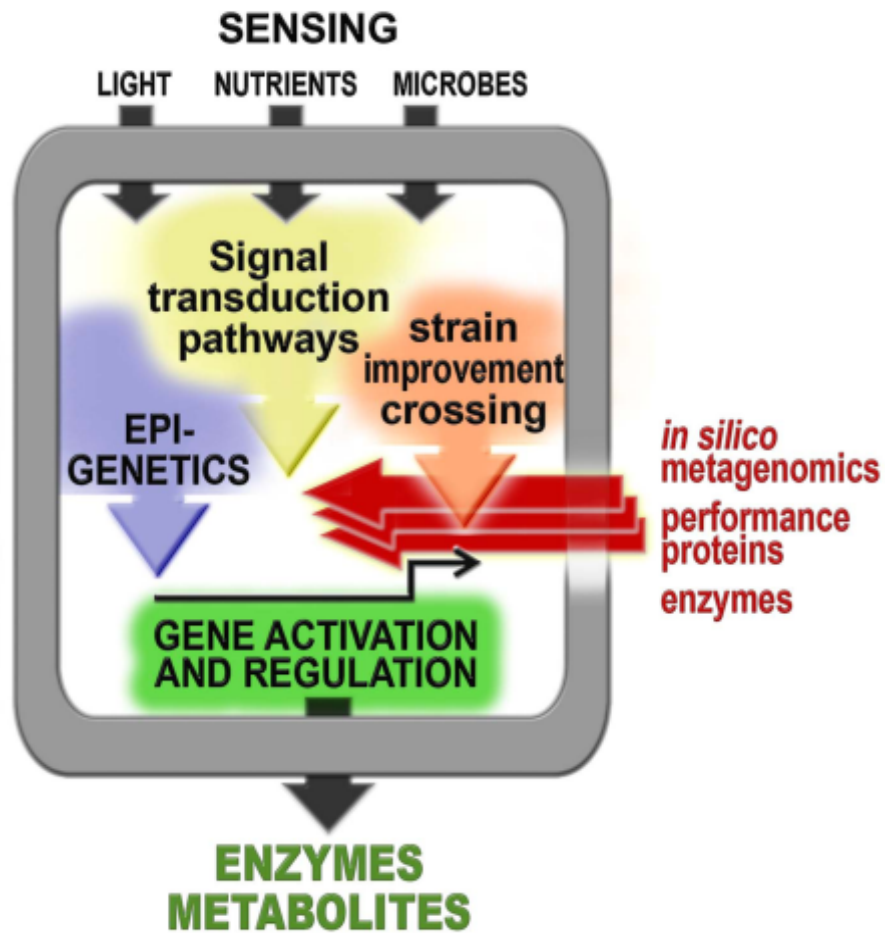
**Light response**  
(BLR1, BLR2, ENV1)

and **nutrient signalling**  
(heterotrimeric G-  
proteins,  
cAMP pathway)

are interconnected







Understanding  
plant – fungus  
interactions for a  
sustainable future  
in agriculture



your ingenious partner

Monika Schmoll, PhD, habil  
[monika.schmoll@ait.ac.at](mailto:monika.schmoll@ait.ac.at)