

***Botrytis cinerea* strains infecting grapevine and tomato display contrasted repertoires of accessory chromosomes, transposons and small RNAs**

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1 Abstract

2 The fungus *Botrytis cinerea* is a polyphagous pathogen that encompasses multiple host-specialized
3 lineages. While several secreted proteins, secondary metabolites and retrotransposons-derived small
4 RNAs have been characterized as virulence factors, their roles in host specialization remain unknown.
5 The aim of this study was to identify the genomic correlates of host-specialization in populations of *B.*
6 *cinerea* associated with grapevine and tomato. Using PacBio sequencing, we produced complete
7 assemblies of the genomes of strains SI3 and Vv3 that represent the French populations T and G1 of *B.*
8 *cinerea*, specialized on tomato and grapevine, respectively. Both assemblies revealed 16 core
9 chromosomes that were highly syntenic with chromosomes of the reference strain B05.10. The main
10 sources of variation in gene content were the subtelomeric regions and the accessory chromosomes,
11 especially the chromosome BCIN19 of Vv3 that was absent in SI3 and B05.10. The repertoires and
12 density of transposable elements were clearly different between the genomes of SI3 and Vv3 with a
13 larger number of subfamilies (26) and a greater genome coverage in Vv3 (7.7%) than in SI3 (14
14 subfamilies, 4.5% coverage). An Helitron-like element was found in almost all subtelomeric regions of
15 the Vv3 genome, in particular in the flanking regions of a highly duplicated gene encoding a Telomere-
16 Linked Helicase, while both features were absent from the SI3 and B05.10 genomes. Different
17 retrotransposons in the SI3 and the Vv3 strains resulted in the synthesis of distinct sets of small RNAs.
18 Finally, extending the study to additional strains indicated that the accessory chromosome BCIN19 and
19 the small RNAs producing retrotransposons Copia_4 and Gypsy_7 are common features of the G1
20 population that are scarcely if ever found in strains isolated from other populations. This research
21 reveals that accessory chromosomes, repertoires of transposons and their derived small RNAs differ
22 between populations of *B. cinerea* specialized on different hosts. The genomic data characterized in
23 our study pave the way for further studies aiming at investigating the molecular mechanisms
24 underpinning host specialization in a polyphagous pathogen.

25 **Keywords:** Fungi, PacBio genome sequence, secondary metabolism, helicase, Helitron, host

26 specialization, *Vitis vinifera*, *Solanum lycopersicum*

27

28 Introduction

29

30 While specialist phytopathogenic fungi are highly specific to a single host plant, some other fungi stand
31 out for having a broad host range and are qualified as generalist. Nevertheless, these so-called
32 generalist pathogens could actually correspond to multiple co-existing populations that show a certain
33 level of host specialization (Gladieux et al., 2018; Stukenbrock & McDonald, 2008). Such scenario
34 provides an excellent opportunity to investigate the molecular determinants of host specialization. In
35 this regard, the grey mould fungus *Botrytis cinerea* has recently become a model of choice as both
36 powerful functional genomic tools and population data are available (Choquer et al., 2007; Mbengue
37 et al., 2016; van Kan et al., 2017; Veloso & van Kan, 2018). This ascomycete species is a necrotrophic
38 pathogen that infects more than 1400 host plant species belonging to 580 genera causing significant
39 damages in grapevine and in most cultivated fruits (Elad et al., 2015). Several studies conducted in
40 different parts of the world revealed that populations of *B. cinerea* are structured, and the host plant
41 was recognized as the factor with the highest explanatory power for this structure, ahead of geography
42 (reviewed in Walker, 2015). Notably French populations of *B. cinerea* isolated from tomato and
43 grapevine are differentiated from each other (Walker et al., 2015), and have higher aggressiveness on
44 their host-of-origin than other strains, indicating host specialization (Mercier et al., 2019). Recently,
45 Illumina sequencing of 32 representative isolates confirmed the subdivision of these *B. cinerea* French
46 populations into two genetic clusters on grapevine (G1 and G2 populations) and another, single cluster
47 on tomato that diverged from the G2 population (T population; Sup. Fig. S1; Mercier et al., 2021). These
48 genomic data also allowed to investigate the molecular differences underlying host specialization. By
49 characterizing single-nucleotide polymorphisms in Illumina short-read data, genes with footprints of
50 positive selection and/or divergent selection in the genomes of populations specialized to different
51 hosts were identified. These candidate genes that represent possible determinants of host
52 specialization were enriched in genes encoding [Plant Cell Wall Degrading Enzymes \(PCWDEs\)](#) and

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a supprimé: Multiple studies showed that *B. cinerea* produces an arsenal of Plant Cell Wall Degrading Enzymes (PCWDEs) and enzymes conferring the ability to cope with oxidative stress (Choquer et al., 2007). In addition, some small molecules were identified as effectors able to kill or manipulate host cells: small secreted proteins, secondary metabolites (*i.e.* botrydial and botcinic acid) and finally the recently characterized small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) (Weiberg et al., 2013; Mbengue et al., 2016; Veloso & van Kan, 2018). These fungal siRNAs hijack the silencing machinery of the host plant to silence genes involved in the defence process. All these fungal weapons have been mainly investigated in the model strain B05.10 whose genome is fully sequenced and assembled thanks to the PacBio technology (van Kan et al., 2017). Nevertheless, phenotypic variability in *B. cinerea* strains as well as the identification of strain-specific virulence factors suggested that the infection strategy may differ from one strain to another (Choquer et al., 2007). In addition, s

73 transporters and in genes involved in the oxidative stress response. The same study also highlighted a
74 limited number of candidate genes that are population-specific including a couple of PCWDE-coding
75 genes and one secondary metabolism gene cluster (Mercier et al., 2021). Though this previous study
76 provided significant information about the evolution of *B. cinerea* genes in populations and identified
77 candidate genes possibly involved in host specialization, the lack of a complete assembly of the
78 sequenced genomes did not allow to investigate other mechanisms potentially involved in
79 specialization, such as (i) variation in the presence of accessory chromosomes, (ii) chromosomal
80 rearrangements, and (iii) differences in repertoires of transposable elements (TEs). This last point is of
81 particular interest since retrotransposons were shown to be the source of synthesis of [small interfering](#)
82 [RNAs \(siRNA\)](#) acting as effectors in *B. cinerea*. [Indeed, these fungal siRNAs highjack the silencing](#)
83 [machinery of the plant cell to reduce the expression of genes involved in the defence process](#) (Weiberg
84 et al., 2013; Porquier et al., 2021). High variability in the repertoire of TEs across fungal populations
85 and the fact that retrotransposons are the main source of siRNAs raise the possibility that these TEs
86 could be involved in host specialization.

87 In this study, our objective was to investigate whether strains from French populations of *B. cinerea*
88 specialized on tomato *versus* grapevine differ in genomic content in terms of core and accessory
89 chromosomes, TEs and small RNA repertoires. We characterized genome sequences produced with
90 the PacBio technology for two representative strains: the SI3 strain that belongs to the T population
91 specialized on tomato and the Vv3 strain that belongs to the G1 population specialized on grapevine.
92 The full assembly of SI3 and Vv3 genomes provided a complete view of the core and accessory
93 chromosomes as well as the full repertoires of genes and TEs. Small RNAs produced by the repertoires
94 of retrotransposons were also compared. Finally, extending the study to additional strains allowed to
95 identify which of the genomic features are associated to the populations specialized on tomato or
96 grapevine.

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102 **Results**

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104 **The genome architecture of the *Botrytis cinerea* strains SI3 and Vv3 differ from the B05.10 strain in**
105 **their accessory chromosomes**

106 Genome assemblies based on PacBio Sequel sequencing data identified 16 core chromosomes (CCs)
107 and two accessory chromosomes (ACs) in both *Botrytis cinerea* strains SI3 and Vv3 collected on tomato
108 and grapevine. Sequencing reads were assembled *de novo* using a combination of HGAP4 (SMRT-LINK
109 v5.0.1) (<https://github.com/PacificBiosciences/>) and CANU v1.6 (Koren et al., 2017). Both SI3 and Vv3
110 assemblies consisted of 18 main contigs. The genome assemblies were estimated to be 43.2 Mb (SI3)
111 and 44.9 Mb (Vv3), which is close to the 42.6Mb of the B05.10 genome (van Kan et al., 2017). Contigs
112 of the new genome assemblies were ordered and oriented as the previously described chromosomes
113 of B05.10 (BCIN01 to BCIN18) (Fig. 1), and then compared to the genome of B05.10 with QUA
114 (Gurevich et al., 2013) (Sup. Table S1). The length (1.9-4.2 Mb) and GC content (41-43%) of the 16
115 largest contigs of SI3 and Vv3 were similar to those of the 16 CCs defined in B05.10. In addition, the
116 high percentage of B05.10 genome coverage (94-99%) confirmed that the 16 largest newly sequenced
117 contigs corresponded to CCs BCIN01 to BCIN16 of *B. cinerea*. The length of CCs was homogenous across
118 the three strains, with less than 400 kb variation per CC (BCIN03: 3.6 Mb in Vv3, 3.3 Mb in SI3 and 3.2
119 Mb in B05.10). The length (0.2-0.5 Mb) and GC content (<40%) of the two smallest contigs of SI3 and
120 Vv3 was typical of ACs, as those found in B05.10. The percentage of B05.10 genome coverage indicated
121 that both strains had the AC BCIN17 (coverage >96%) while only SI3 had an AC related to BCIN18 (52%
122 coverage). The second putative AC of Vv3 did not share any similarity with the genome of B05.10 and
123 corresponded to a new AC that we numbered BCIN19. [Separation of chromosomes by pulse-field gel](#)
124 [electrophoresis confirmed the presence of two ACs in each strain \(Sup. Fig. S2\). According to the](#)
125 [migration, the two smallest chromosomes of the SI3 strain had sizes that corresponded to the](#)
126 [assembled contigs BCIN17 and BCIN18 \(299 and 188 kb\). The same congruence was also observed for](#)

127 [the AC BCIN17 of the Vv3 strain \(315 kb\). In opposite, the migration of the second small chromosome](#)
128 [of Vv3, BCIN19 suggested that approximately 100 kb were missing in the corresponding contig \(534](#)
129 [kb\).](#)

130 A criterion to evaluate the quality of a genome assembly is the presence of telomeres at the terminal
131 regions of the putative full chromosomes. For SI3, telomeric repeats (*i.e.* TTAGGG repetitions; Levis et
132 al., 1997a) were found at both ends of eight chromosomes and at one end of eight other chromosomes
133 (Sup. Table S1). Only the assemblies of CCs BCIN1 and BCIN12 lacked both telomeric repeats. Thus,
134 telomeric repeats were missing at twelve chromosomal ends in the SI3 assembly. In comparison,
135 telomeric repeats were missing at nine chromosomal ends in the B05.10 assembly (van Kan et al.,
136 2017), though not necessarily at the same chromosomal ends as in SI3. Telomeric repeats in Vv3
137 contigs were retrieved only at the 5' end of CC BCIN2. To investigate the relative scarcity of telomeric
138 repeats in the Vv3 assembly, we searched the raw reads for telomeric repeats. We found 317 and 3712
139 occurrences of the telomeric repeat (TTAGGG)₃ and its reverse complement in Vv3 and SI3 reads,
140 respectively. The relatively low abundance of telomeric repeats in sequencing reads of Vv3 indicated
141 that telomeric sequences were relatively rare in the library. This could be due to degradation of these
142 sequences during the preparation of libraries, as previously described (Tolios et al., 2015).

143 As the assemblies of the Vv3 and SI3 genomes revealed different pairs of ACs, we further investigated
144 whether there was a correlation between the content in ACs and the host of origin. We used the 35
145 available genomic sequences of *B. cinerea* strains from three distinct populations specialized on
146 tomato (T population) or grape (G1 and G2 populations) as well as those of additional strains isolated
147 from bramble (Rf1, Rf2), hydrangea (Hm1), tomato (T4) and grapevine (BcDW1) (Mercier et al., 2021 ;
148 Amselem et al., 2011; Blanco-Ulate et al., 2013). Percentage of chromosome coverage showed
149 different distributions of the three ACs BCIN17, BCIN18 and BCIN19 (AC17 to 19; Table 1). The AC
150 BCIN17 first identified in B05.10 was detected in 30 other strains, including strains belonging to
151 populations T, G1 and G2 as well as in Rf1, Hm1 and BcDW1. The AC BCIN18 also identified in B05.10

152 was detected in seven other strains, including strains belonging to the T and G2 populations, Hm1 and
153 BcDW1. The AC BCIN19 identified in the Vv3 strain, was specific to the G1 group (detected in 11 strains
154 out of 12). Among populations T, G1 and G2, only G1 showed a relatively homogenous content in ACs
155 with the systematic presence of BCIN17, very high frequency of BCIN19 and absence of BCIN18.
156

157 **The core chromosomes of B05.10, SI3 and Vv3 strains show a high level of synteny**

158 A vast majority of the genes identified in the reference strain B05.10 were retrieved in the SI3 and Vv3
159 genomes. B05.10 gene annotation (van Kan et al., 2017) was transferred to SI3 and Vv3 with the LIFTOFF
160 annotation mapping tool (Shumate & Salzberg, 2021). 11 661 and 11 609 genes were transferred to
161 SI3 and Vv3 respectively, *i.e.* 99.6% and 99.2% of the 11 707 genes previously predicted in B05.10.
162 Altogether, 11 590 genes were retrieved in all three genomes, the vast majority in CCs (11 572 genes)
163 and very few in ACs (BCIN17: 18 genes). To assess synteny, we used SYNCHRO (Drillon et al., 2014), a
164 tool that reconstructs synteny blocks between pairwise comparisons of multiple genomes. As shown
165 in Sup. Fig. [S3](#), the three sets of CCs were largely syntenic. When considering major synteny breaks, *i.e.*
166 those involving at least four adjacent genes that were not organized as in the B05.10 reference
167 genome, only one and two possible inversion events could be identified in SI3 and Vv3, respectively
168 (Sup. Fig. [S4](#)). Two rearrangements between the terminal regions of chromosomes were also observed,
169 both accompanied by gene duplication. The first one involved a secondary metabolism gene cluster
170 with the polyketide synthase BcPKS7 as a key enzyme (Bcin10g00010-40). This cluster and the two 3'
171 flanking genes were located in two different regions in B05.10 and Vv3, *i.e.* the 5' end of BCIN10 in
172 B05.10 *versus* the 3' end of BCIN03 in Vv3. (Sup. Fig. [S5](#)). The rearrangement also resulted in the
173 duplication of a gene encoding a putative mitochondrial NADPH cytochrome b5 reductase in Vv3. The
174 second major subtelomeric rearrangement was observed when comparing the genomes of B05.10 and
175 SI3. The nine first genes of BCIN08 in B05.10 (Bcin08g00010-90) were localized at the start of
176 chromosomes 2 and 15 in SI3, while BCIN08 in SI3 started with Bcin08g00080 (Sup. Fig. [S6](#)). Hence, the

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181 genome of SI3 contained two copies of seven of these genes and three copies of two of them. The
182 duplicated genes were predicted to encode a P450 monooxygenase, a laccase (*Bcicc11*), a glycoside
183 hydrolase possibly acting on hemicellulose or pectin chains (GH43 family; Lombard et al., 2014), a
184 glycosyl transferase, a heterokaryon incompatibility protein, a pyridine transferase as well as two
185 secreted proteins with unknown functions.

186

187 **Subtelomeric regions of core chromosomes and accessory chromosomes provide variation in gene** 188 **content**

189 The CCs of *B. cinerea* showed Presence Absence Variation (PAV) of genes in particular for secondary
190 metabolism gene clusters. To identify genes present in the SI3 or Vv3 genomes but not in the B05.10
191 genome, we used the FGENESH *ab initio* gene-finder (Solovyev et al., 2006) and excluded the gene
192 models mapping in the B05.10 genome (Sup. Table S2). As shown in Fig. 1, *de novo* genes annotation
193 identified new genes in the CCs especially in their subtelomeric regions. When considering groups of
194 contiguous genes that were not shared between the three genomes, three secondary metabolism
195 gene clusters were identified based on the presence of genes encoding key enzymes. The first one was
196 only detected in SI3 and included the gene encoding the previously identified SesquiTerpene Cyclase
197 BcSTC6 (BCIN_SI3_03_394) (Amselem et al., 2011). The second gene cluster was identified in a
198 subtelomeric region of Vv3 and B05.10 (Bcin02g00013 to Bcin02g00016) and included a gene encoding
199 a non-ribosomal peptide synthetase-like similar to MelA, an enzyme involved in the biosynthesis of an
200 α -keto acid dimer in *Aspergillus terreus* (Geib et al., 2016). Finally, the third gene cluster was in a
201 subtelomeric region shared by SI3 and Vv3 (BCIN_SI3_10_11 to 26; BCIN_Vv3_10_2 to 14) and included
202 a gene predicted to encode a DiTerpene Synthase (DTC). When looking into previous Illumina
203 sequencing data (Mercier et al., 2021), these three secondary metabolism genes clusters had different
204 distributions: while the *Bcstc6* and the newly identified *Bcdtc* clusters were detected in strains of the

205 three different populations, the *Bcme1A* cluster was present in all strains of the G1 and G2 groups but
206 absent from the T group (Table 1).

207 Fourteen subtelomeric genes coding for a protein predicted to be a helicase were identified in the
208 genome of Vv3 strain but not in the ones of B05.10 and SI3 strains. This protein showed 51% similarity
209 with the Telomere-Linked Helicases (TLHs) identified in *Magnaporthe oryzae* (Gao et al., 2002;
210 Rehmeier et al., 2009) and in *Ustilago maydis* (Sánchez-Alonso & Guzmán, 1998). It also shared the
211 same predicted domains *i.e.* two C2H2 zinc finger motifs, a helicase ATP-binding domain, a helicase C
212 domain and a specific TLH domain (Rehmeier et al., 2009) ; Sup. Fig. S7). As in *M. oryzae* and *U. maydis*,

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213 the 14 Vv3 helicase-encoding genes were localized in subtelomeric regions (11 regions). They were
214 located between 9 bp and 63 Kbp from chromosome ends, and six of them were actually the first genes
215 detected at the end of the chromosome. Incomplete copies of these helicase-encoding genes were
216 also detected in eight other subtelomeric regions (Sup. Fig. S8). Because of their homology with TLHs
217 of other fungi and of their genomic localization, these newly identified helicases were called BcTLHs.
218 PCR screening of *B. cinerea* populations further indicated that one or several copies of *BcTh* are present
219 in a majority of strains specialized on grapevine, but also in few strains specialized on tomato or
220 isolated from other hosts (Table 1).

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221 Accessory chromosomes were an additional source of PAV of genes among the B05.10, SI3 and Vv3
222 strains (Fig. 1; Sup. Table S1). Firstly, the AC BCIN18 that was present in both SI3 and B05.10 strains
223 was found to be only partially conserved as it carried seven genes that were shared between the two
224 strains, and nine contiguous genes that were present only in B05.10. Secondly, the newly identified AC
225 BCIN19 of the strain Vv3 carried 78 genes that were not present in the SI3 and B05.10 strains. These
226 78 genes mostly encoded proteins with unknown functions, which is reminiscent of the gene content
227 of ACs BCIN17 and BCIN18 (van Kan et al., 2017). Nevertheless, a high proportion of the predicted
228 proteins displayed [InterPro \(IPR\)](#) domains that could be related to nucleic acids binding and

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233 modifications (eight ribonucleases, two helicases, two zinc finger C2H2 proteins), transport through
234 vesicles (five dynamins) and peptidase activity (five peptidases) (Sup. Table S2).

235

236 **B05.10, SI3 and Vv3 strains show different repertoires and densities of transposable elements**

237 Different subfamilies of Transposable Elements (TEs) were identified in the B05.10, SI3 and Vv3 strains.
238 The complete annotation of TEs in the SI3 and Vv3 genomes was carried out using a *de novo* approach
239 with the REPET package (Flutre et al., 2011; Amselem et al., 2015). Consensus sequences representing
240 all possible TEs among the SI3 and Vv3 genomes were identified. After manual curation, 19 and 33
241 consensus TE sequences were retained for SI3 and Vv3, respectively (Sup. File S1). They were classified
242 based on their structure and sequence similarities to characterized eukaryotic transposons (Hoede et
243 al., 2014; Wicker et al., 2007). Fifteen consensus [sequences](#) were previously identified in the B05.10
244 genome using the same pipeline and parameters as in the present study (Porquier et al., 2016).
245 Comparison of the B05.10, SI3 and Vv3 consensus TE sequences revealed a total of 33 different
246 subfamilies: 13 class I LTR (retrotransposons), seven class II TIR (DNA transposons), one class II Helitron
247 and 12 subfamilies with either low genome coverage or vague classification (Fig. 2; Sup. Table S3). The
248 subfamily *Boty/Gypsy_1* element (Diolez et al., 1995) was built from several *Boty* consensus as they
249 were identical in their central part and only differed at terminal regions (Sup. Fig. [S9](#)), as previously
250 observed in B05.10 (Porquier et al., 2016, 2021). In total, eight subfamilies were shared between the
251 three genomes, *i.e.* two subfamilies of Copia retrotransposons, four subfamilies of Gypsy
252 retrotransposons including the *Boty/Gypsy_1* element and two subfamilies of the Tc1-Mariner DNA
253 transposons, including the *Flipper* element (Levis et al., 1997b). Fifteen, four, and three subfamilies
254 were exclusive to the Vv3, SI3 or B05.10 genomes, respectively, and three subfamilies were shared
255 between two genomes. Libraries of subfamily sequences were used to annotate TE copies in the whole
256 genomes. For each subfamily, both full-length and truncated copies were retrieved in the genomes.

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259 Genome coverage by subfamilies of TEs differed among the strains. Percentages of coverage for each
260 subfamily in each genome were computed (Fig. 2; Sup. Table S3). Total coverage by TEs was higher for
261 the Vv3 genome (7.7%), in which the largest number of subfamilies was identified, than in SI3 and
262 B05.10 (4.5% and 3.7%, respectively) (Porquier et al., 2016). Transposable Elements were detected at
263 all chromosome ends but the 3' end of BCIN08 in SI3 (Fig. 1), and also inside chromosomes, with a
264 significantly higher coverage in ACs (27.9-35.4%) than in CCs (1.9-11.3%). The eight shared subfamilies
265 were responsible for about 3% of the coverage in each genome whereas other subfamilies covered
266 approximately 1% of B05.10 or SI3 genomes and 3.6% of Vv3 genome. The specific subfamilies
267 responsible for the higher coverage in Vv3 were mainly Copia and Gypsy retrotransposons and a TE
268 that was similar to a Helitron and covered 1.37% of the Vv3 genome.

269 The subtelomeric regions of the chromosomes of the Vv3 strain were invaded by a Helitron-like TE.
270 Helitron is a unique class of DNA transposons in eukaryotes and the representative elements of this
271 class encode a protein with two enzymatic domains corresponding to the helicase and the nuclease
272 activities that are required for transposition (Kojima, 2019). As only the helicase domain was clearly
273 identified in the TE found in Vv3, it was called a Helitron-like element (Sup. Fig. [S10](#)). Helitrons are also
274 known for their capacity to capture genes, which increases their size (Castanera et al., 2014). In
275 addition to a helicase-coding gene, the 15.5 kb sequence of the Helitron-like element found in Vv3
276 revealed two captured genes as well as relics of *Boty/Gypsy 1* (i.e. Long Terminal Repeats). For one of
277 the captured genes, the predicted protein was a secreted pectate-lyase (IPR002022), similar to
278 enzymes involved in the maceration and soft rotting of plant tissue. Notably, 33 complete or
279 uncomplete copies of the Helitron-like TE carried this putative virulence gene in the genome of Vv3.
280 Unlike most TEs that were randomly distributed along chromosomes, the Helitron-like TEs were mainly
281 localized at the chromosome ends (Sup. Fig. [S11](#)). Looking closer at their precise localization, we
282 noticed that they were found in 3' and/or 5' of all the 14 complete copies of the helicase encoding
283 gene *Bctlh* (Sup. Fig. [S8](#)). Finally, to investigate how this Helitron-like TE was distributed among the
284 populations of *B. cinerea*, we designed PCR specific primers. The results indicated that all G1 strains

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288 specialized on grapevine carried one or several copies of the Helitron-like TE while the element was
289 scarcely detected in the T population and detected in two strains out of four in the G2 population
290 (Table 1).

291 Fungi have developed defense mechanisms against invasion by TEs, including a Repeat-Induced Point
292 mutation (RIP) machinery that inactivates repeated sequences by causing Cytosine to Thymine

293 mutations and therefore decreases GC content. In a previous study, Amselem et al. (2015) showed that

294 the genome of *B. cinerea* contains the genes encoding the cytosine methyltransferases that are

295 required for RIP (BcRID1 and BcRID2), as well as TEs with signatures of RIP at both CpT (10-40% of TEs)

296 and CpA loci (10-35% of TEs). However, depending on the TE copy and on the *B. cinerea* strain, the

297 occurrence of RIP seems to be highly variable (Porquier et al., 2016, 2019, 2021). Regarding the

298 complete copies of TE from SI3 and Vv3 (Fig. 3; Sup. Fig. S12), the majority of the subfamilies displayed

299 copies with a large range of GC contents. For example, the Flipper DNA transposon showed both copies

300 with a GC content similar to those previously observed in a mobile copy (39%; Levis et al., 1997b) and

301 copies with a lower GC content (<20%) which could suggest inactivation by RIP. For each subfamily of

302 class I and II TEs identified in B05.10, copies with different GC content were observed. The same

303 pattern was observed for SI3 except for subfamily Copia_2 for which all four copies had a GC content

304 > 40%. In contrast, the Vv3 genome included seven subfamilies of TEs, *i.e.* the Copia_2 and 4, Gypsy_5,

305 6 and 7, Mariner_4 and Helitron-like subfamilies, that contain only copies with GC content >40%

306 indicating the absence of RIP. Apart from Copia_2, these subfamilies are absent in the SI3 and B05.10

307 genomes.

308

309 Retrotransposons of the SI3 and Vv3 strains produce different sets of small RNAs

310 As retrotransposons and especially unripped copies are known to be the origin of the synthesis of small

311 RNAs in *B. cinerea* (Weiberg et al., 2013; Porquier et al., 2021), we investigated whether the different

312 repertoires of TEs in the SI3 and Vv3 strains could lead to the production of different sets of small

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333 RNAs. The two strains were grown both on grape and tomato juice solid media to partially mimic the
334 conditions that the fungus encounters on the host plants (Simon et al., 2013). The corresponding small
335 RNA libraries were Illumina-sequenced. After quality filtering (Sup. Table S4), only the reads between
336 20 and 24 nucleotides were kept [as they correspond to the size of the small silencing RNAs generated](#)
337 [by the cleavage of long double stranded RNAs by the Dicer nuclease \(Weiberg et al., 2013\)](#). A Principal
338 Component Analysis (PCA) of the repertoires of small RNAs in the four samples indicated that the two
339 strains harbour different repertoires, and that the use of grape *versus* tomato juice culture medium
340 had little impact on those repertoires (Sup. Fig. [S13](#), A).

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341 In order to identify which TEs were involved in the production of small RNAs, the reads from the SI3
342 and Vv3 strains were mapped against the consensus sequences of the 33 identified TE subfamilies. The
343 results were similar with the two culture media and indicated that the TE-derived small RNAs were
344 produced by retrotransposons corresponding to seven subfamilies (Table 2, grey lines):

345 - Three out of six retrotransposons shared between SI3 and Vv3 (*Boty/Gypsy_1*, *Gypsy_3* and *Gypsy_4*)
346 produced small RNAs in both strains. [These three retrotransposons were previously identified as the](#)
347 [only ones producing significant amounts of small RNAs in the B05.10 strain \(Porquier et al., 2021\)](#).

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348 - The unique retrotransposon found in SI3 but not in Vv3 (*Copia_6*) produced small RNAs.

349 - Three out of six Vv3-specific retrotransposons found in Vv3 but not in SI3 (*Copia_4*, *Gypsy_6* and
350 *Gypsy_7*) produced small RNAs.

351 In addition to these qualitative differences, quantitative differences were also observed with *Gypsy_3*
352 producing the [highest](#) amount of small RNAs in the SI3 strain (291.074 and 283.036 Reads Per Millions
353 (RPMs) in the grape and tomato juice media, respectively (Sup. Table S4) and *Copia_4* producing the
354 [highest](#) amount of small RNAs in Vv3 strain (115.863 and 168.212 RPMs in the grape and tomato juice
355 media, respectively).

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359 Sequences of the seven small RNA-producing TEs all showed the expected structure for Copia and
360 Gypsy classes of transposons (Wicker et al., 2007), except Gypsy_4 that lacked the GAG domain and
361 Copia_4 that had a small additional one (Sup. Fig. [S14](#)). Small RNAs mapped almost all along the
362 sequences suggesting that the whole elements could be converted into small RNAs (except from the
363 GAG domain of Gypsy_3). All seven small RNA-producing TEs were in numerous complete copies (six
364 to 80; Sup. Fig. [S12](#)) all over the chromosomes of Vv3 or SI3 strains. The three Vv3 specific small RNA-
365 producing TE, *i.e.* Copia_4, Gypsy_6 and 7, only showed copies with relatively high GC content (44.4%
366 +/-0.0, 47.4% +/-0.1 and 43.6% +/- 0.0 respectively). For the other small RNA-producing TEs, *i.e.*
367 Gypsy_3, Gypsy_4, *Boty/Gypsy_1* and Copia_6, copies with varied levels of GC were identified.
368 Nevertheless, mapping of the small RNA reads on the genomes showed that only copies with relatively
369 high GC content could generate small RNAs ([Sup. Fig. S15](#)).

370 Among *B. cinerea* small RNAs, the three siRNAs previously identified as effectors (*i.e.* siR5, siR3.1 and
371 siR3.2) were 21 bp in size and displayed the nucleotide U in first position (Weiberg et al., 2013). We
372 investigated which proportion of the small RNAs produced by the Vv3 and SI3 strains shared the same
373 features (Sup. Fig. [S16](#)). For all seven TEs, the generated small RNAs were mainly composed of 22
374 nucleotide sequences (54-69%), followed by 21 nucleotide sequences (18-36%). Notably, a vast
375 majority of them (97%) showed an uracil (U) in first position. Finally, the three siRNA previously
376 identified as effectors in the strain B05.10 (*i.e.* siR5, siR3.1 and siR3.2) were identified among the four
377 libraries. Mapping data indicated that siR5 was produced by *Boty/Gypsy_1* while siR3.1 and siR3.2
378 were produced by Gypsy_3, as previously demonstrated in the B05.10 strain (Weiberg et al., 2013;
379 Porquier et al., 2021).

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387 **A set of retrotransposons-derived small RNAs is associated with the G1 population specialized on**
388 **grapevine**

389 As the repertoires of TE-derived small RNAs produced by the strains Vv3 and SI3 were partially
390 different, we further investigated whether there was a correlation between the previously identified
391 populations of *B. cinerea* specialized on grapevine or on tomato (Mercier et al., 2021) and the
392 production of some of these small RNAs. The study was extended to a total of six strains from the T
393 population, four strains from the G1 population and three strains from the G2 population, as well as
394 to reference B05.10. All strains were grown on grape juice medium and small RNAs were investigated
395 as described above. Principal component analysis of small RNA repertoires (Sup. Fig. [S13](#), B)
396 differentiated samples from the G1 population from samples from the G2 and T populations. To
397 compare the repertoires of TE-derived small RNAs from the 14 strains, we mapped the reads on the
398 TEs identified in B05.10, SI3 and /or Vv3 strains (Table 2; Sup. Table S4). Mapping data indicated that
399 the same seven retrotransposons that produced small RNAs in B05.10, SI3 or Vv3 strains could be
400 responsible for the production of small RNAs in the other tested strains. An exception was observed
401 for the Vv9 strain as its small RNAs did not map to any of the known TEs. It should be noted here that
402 for Vv9 and the other ten strains where only unassembled genome sequences are available (Illumina
403 data), additional unknown retrotransposons may be involved in the production of small RNAs. From
404 the presented analysis, the following distribution of retrotransposons derived-small RNAs in the
405 different populations could be observed:

- 406 - Small RNAs produced by the shared *Boty*/*Gypsy_1* and *Gypsy_4* TEs were identified in most of the
407 strains from the three populations and in the strain B05.10.
- 408 - Small RNAs produced by the shared *Gypsy_3* TE were identified in most of the strains of the T and G1
409 populations and in the strain B05.10, but not in three strains of the G2 population.
- 410 - Small RNAs produced by the SI3-identified *Copia_6* TE were only identified in SI3 and another strain
411 of the T population (SI6).

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413 - Small RNAs produced by the Vv3-identified Copia_4, Gypsy_6 and Gypsy_7 TEs were exclusively
414 identified in G1 strains. This could explain why the G1 strains separated from the other strains in the
415 PCA analysis (Sup. Fig. S13, B). In the genome of Vv3, Copia_4, Gypsy_6 and Gypsy_7 were detected in
416 10, 12 and 23 complete copies, respectively (Sup. Fig. S12). Copia_4 was localized on several CCs, while
417 Gypsy_6 and Gypsy_7 were found both on CCs and ACs (Sup. Fig. S17). The G1-specific AC BCIN19
418 revealed seven complete copies of Gypsy_7.

419 We further focused on the potential G1-specific small RNAs by investigating the presence of the three
420 corresponding retrotransposons in strains from the T, G1 and G2 populations and strains from other
421 hosts. Copia_4, Gypsy_6 and Gypsy_7 were searched by PCR using one pair of specific PCR primers per
422 TE. These primers were defined in conserved regions of TEs and were expected to amplify at least the
423 unripped copies of TEs containing these regions (Sup. Fig. S18). As shown in Table 1, Copia_4 was
424 detected in all the G1 strains tested (12 strains) but not in the T and G2 populations (13 and 4 tested
425 strains, respectively). Gypsy_7 was detected in all strains of the G1 population but one (Vv2), in one
426 strain of the G2 population (Vv8) but not in the T population. Finally, Gypsy_6 was detected in only
427 three strains of the G1 population (Vv3, Vv10 and Vv13). Unexpectedly, the PCR approach did not allow
428 to detect Gypsy_6 in Vv1, Vv5 and Vv14 strains, whereas small RNAs generated from this TE were
429 isolated from the same strains (Table 2). We therefore investigated the mapping of these small RNAs
430 on the Gypsy_6 TE identified in the Vv3 strain (Sup. Fig. S18, C). For Vv5, no small RNA read mapped
431 on the loci of the PCR primers allowing for the possibility that these regions were not conserved in Vv5.
432 By contrast, some small RNAs generated by the Vv1 and Vv14 strains mapped to the Gypsy_6 regions
433 where the PCR primers were defined. One remaining hypothesis to explain the absence of PCR product
434 could be the absence of a copy of Gypsy_6 containing both primer regions in Vv1 and Vv4 genomes. In
435 conclusion, while the absence of PCR products should be interpreted with caution, the results indicated
436 that the small RNA generating-TE Copia_4, and to a lesser extent, Gypsy_7, are enriched in the G1
437 population.

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452 **Discussion**

453

454 While the genomes of several strains of the polyphagous pathogen *B. cinerea* have already been
455 sequenced allowing studies of genetic variation (Atwell et al., 2015; Mercier et al., 2021), only one
456 gapless genome, whose of the model strain B05.10, was available so far (van Kan et al., 2017). In this
457 study, we used the PacBio technology to sequence the full genomes of the SI3 and Vv3 strains that
458 represent two populations of *B. cinerea* specialized to tomato (T population) and grapevine (G1
459 population; Mercier et al., 2021). We also used additional strains of these two populations and strains
460 from a second population specialized to grapevine (G2) to extend our comparative analyses to a larger
461 set of pathogens.

462

463 **The full genomic assemblies of *B. cinerea* strains from different populations reveal highly syntenic**
464 **core chromosomes**

465 The long-reads generated with the PacBio technology allowed us to generate genome assemblies of
466 43.2 Mb and 44.9 Mb, for the strains SI3 and Vv3, respectively. These assembly lengths are close to
467 that of the reference strain B05.10 (42.6 Mb). Additionally, almost all genes (>99%) previously
468 annotated in the strain B05.10 were identified in the generated assemblies. As shown by sequence
469 comparison and gene annotation, the three strains share 16 CCs with a high level of synteny with only
470 few events of inversions or translocations. The same number of CCs was also observed in the other
471 genomes of *Botrytis* and Sclerotiniaceae species (Derbyshire et al., 2017; Valero-Jiménez et al., 2020).
472 The high level of synteny between the CCs of *B. cinerea* strains is consistent with their interfertility, as
473 synteny is needed for appropriate chromosome pairing during meiosis. Direct evidence for interfertility
474 comes from a fertile progeny that was obtained by crossing SI3 and Vv3 (M. Viaud, *unpublished data*).

475 Indirect evidence for interfertility can be found in population genetic analyses, which previously
476 indicated gene flow between the T and G1 groups to which SI3 and Vv3 belong (Mercier et al., 2021).

477

478 **The accessory chromosomes BCIN19 is specific to the *B. cinerea* G1 population specialized on**
479 **grapevine**

480 The full genomic assemblies generated in this study revealed that SI3 and Vv3 strains have different

481 pairs of ACs characterized by their small sizes (0.2-0.6 Mbp), their low GC content (25-38%) and a high

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482 density of TEs (28-35%). While the SI3 strain carries two ACs similar to those of B05.10 (BCIN17 and

483 BCIN18), the Vv3 strain carries BCIN17 and a newly characterized AC named BCIN19. Extending our

484 study to 35 *B. cinerea* strains confirmed the dispensability of BCIN17, BCIN18 and BCIN19 and did not

485 support [any lineage specificity for BCIN17 and BCIN18](#), [In opposite](#), our data suggest [that BCIN19 is](#)

a supprimé: strict association between ACs and the host of origin...

486 specific to [the G1 group specialized on grapevine](#). Exploring further the distribution and conservation

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487 of the ACs in larger samples would allow to define more precisely to which extent some parts of the

a supprimé: a high frequency of the BCIN17/BCIN19 pair of ACs in the G1 group with

488 accessory genome are associated with a specific population. Though the function of fungal ACs remains

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489 largely elusive, several studies on phytopathogenic species reported that ACs could carry genes

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490 encoding effectors or genes involved in the synthesis of toxic metabolites (Bertazzoni et al., 2018;

491 Meena et al., 2017; Yang et al., 2020). Our study indicates that ACs are an important source of variation

492 in gene content in *B. cinerea*, but at this stage, none of the 78 genes carried by the ACs has a predicted

493 function indicating a direct role in pathogenicity. Accessory chromosomes could also be considered as

494 reservoirs of TEs. Interestingly, BCIN19 carries several copies of the Gypsy_7 retrotransposon that is

495 specific of the G1 population and generates small RNAs.

496

497

506 **The genome of the *B. cinerea* strain Vv3 has a larger repertoire of transposable elements than the**
507 **SI3 and B05.10 strains**

508 Transposons are important features of fungal genomes playing key roles in genome structure, genome
509 plasticity (Fouché et al., 2021), and production of small RNAs (Weiberg et al., 2013). TEs identified in
510 the three fully sequenced and assembled genomes of *B. cinerea* strains B05.10, SI3 and Vv3 cover 3.7,
511 4.5 and 7.7% of their genomic sequences, respectively. Variation in TE content explains most of the
512 variation in total assembly length, with the genomic sequences varying between 41.0 and 41.4 Mb
513 when TEs are excluded. As already observed in the B05.10 strain (van Kan et al., 2017), TEs identified
514 in the SI3 and Vv3 strains are frequent in the subtelomeric regions of the CCs, as well as in ACs where
515 they can cover up to one third of the sequence. While previous studies already indicated variation in
516 the presence of TEs (e.g *Boty* and *Flipper*) in *B. cinerea* strains (Amselem et al., 2011; Porquier et al.,
517 2021), our study is the first that compares TEs between fully assembled genomes. Our data clearly
518 show that the repertoires of TEs are very different between the three sequenced strains and 21 new
519 subfamilies of TEs were recovered, mostly from the Vv3 strain. As in many fungi, TEs of *B. cinerea* could
520 be inactivated by RIP (Amselem et al., 2015; Porquier et al., 2016, 2019, 2021). In our analysis, the GC
521 content of TE copies suggests that RIP is less active in the Vv3 strain, consistent with its larger TE
522 content. This larger content is due to retrotransposons, TIR transposons, as well as to a Helitron-like
523 TE. Several subfamilies of the TEs identified in this strain, including retrotransposons and the Helitron-
524 like TE, do not show any traces of RIP and could possibly be able to transpose in new *loci*.

525

526 **Rearrangements at chromosome ends are a source of gene gains and losses in *B. cinerea***

527 Our synteny and PAV analyses indicate that the few rearrangements occurring in the CCs correspond
528 mainly to exchanges of chromosomes ends, and that most gene gains or losses also happen in these
529 TE-rich regions. In many fungi, subtelomeric regions are enriched in secondary metabolism gene
530 clusters (Kjærboelling et al., 2020). Therefore, rearrangements in these regions could contribute to the

a supprimé: Both inactive and active TEs can additionally generate genomic rearrangements by homologous recombination as discussed below.

534 intraspecific diversity of the biosynthetic clusters (OlarTE et al., 2019). In the genome of *B. cinerea*, six
535 out of the approximately 40 identified secondary metabolism gene clusters are in subtelomeric regions
536 (Amselem et al., 2011; van Kan et al., 2017). The present study provides evidence that the evolution of
537 some of these subtelomeric clusters is subjected to chromosomal ends exchange (PKS7 cluster) as well
538 as to gene gains and losses (MeIA-like and DTC clusters). In other studies, partial or total loss of the
539 subtelomeric gene cluster responsible for the biosynthesis of the botcinic acid phytotoxin was
540 observed in some rare strains of *B. cinerea* and in other species of *Botrytis* (Plesken et al., 2021; Valero-
541 Jiménez et al., 2020).

542 In addition to gene gains and losses, our study revealed that duplication of *B. cinerea* genes occurs in
543 subtelomeric regions. For example, the four colocalized genes (Bcin08g00060 to 90) possibly related
544 to detoxification of reactive oxygen species or plant cell wall degradation and previously identified as
545 duplicated in strains specialized to tomato (T group; Mercier et al., 2021) were localized on two
546 different chromosomes ends of the S13 strain.

547 Subtelomeric regions of all three B05.10, S13 and Vv3 strains were found to be enriched in TEs, and TEs
548 were detected in the exchanged chromosomal ends mentioned above. Similar observations made in
549 other fungal genomes led to the hypothesis that TEs may be responsible for repeat-driven
550 recombination and gene rearrangements (Fouché et al., 2021; Lind et al., 2017; Olarte et al., 2019). If
551 these exchanges of chromosomes ends are later followed by a sexual cycle in which chromosome
552 pairing occurs between CCs that have different extremities, it could result in gene gain or loss. Indeed,
553 in this scenario, the progeny would include individuals with two copies of one initial subtelomeric
554 region or none of them. This two-steps mechanism could have an important role in the evolution of
555 the repertoire of secondary metabolites produced by *B. cinerea*.

556

557

558 **A helicase encoding gene and a Helitron-like element shape the subtelomeric regions of the genome**
559 **of the *B. cinerea* strain Vv3**

560 Analysis of the genome of the *B. cinerea* strain Vv3 revealed that subtelomeric regions show a
561 particular structure with the co-occurrence of a Telomere-Linked Helicase (TLH) encoding gene and a
562 Helitron-like TE that were not described so far in this species. Genes encoding TLHs were previously
563 described in the subtelomeric regions of the fungal pathogens *M. oryzae* and in *U. maydis* (Gao et al.,
564 2002; Rehmeier et al., 2009; Sánchez-Alonso & Guzmán, 1998). The Vv3 genome contains 14 copies
565 of the *Bctlh* gene, all in subtelomeric regions and, strikingly, all flanked in 3' and/or 5' by a copy of a
566 Helitron-like TE. Helitrons were described in other fungi *i.e.* *Pleurotus ostreatus* and *Fusarium*
567 *oxysporum* (Castanera et al., 2014; Chellapan et al., 2016) but, to our knowledge, this is the first study
568 that shows a strong enrichment of this family of TEs in subtelomeric regions. One hypothesis to explain
569 the localization of the Helitron-like TE of *B. cinerea* could be that it preferentially inserts in the flanking
570 regions of the *Bctlh* gene copies. Nevertheless, as no nuclease domain was detected in the sequence
571 of Helitron-like TE, this may question its ability to transpose (Kojima, 2019). Alternatively, the
572 occurrence of the *Bctlh* gene and Helitron-like TE in the subtelomeric regions could arise from
573 recombination between chromosome ends followed by sexual crosses leading to duplications as
574 discussed above. Indeed, when these mechanisms are repeated in successive generations, they could
575 lead to the homogenization of the subtelomeric regions. Previous studies revealed a drastic reduction
576 of the number of Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphisms (RFLPs) in subtelomeric regions of *B.*
577 *cinerea* strains isolated from grapevine [suggesting](#) a possible homogenization of these regions (Levis
578 et al., 1997a). Based on our analysis, one may wonder whether this homogenization is due to the
579 amplification of the *Bctlh* genes and Helitron-like TEs by exchanges and duplications of chromosomes
580 ends.

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581 Another original feature of the 15.5 kb sequence of the Vv3 Helitron-like TE is that [it carries captured](#)
582 [genes](#), as in some other Helitrons elements (Castanera et al., 2014), [It would be interesting to evaluate](#)

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585 the expression of these captured genes especially the one encoding a putative secreted pectate-lyase
586 and to test whether the numerous copies (33) present in the Vv3 genome confer a higher ability to
587 degrade host tissues. Our analysis to *B. cinerea* populations indicated that the Helitron-like TE is
588 present in all the strains of the G1 group, in about half of the strains of the G2 group and in a minority
589 of strains of the T group which further questions its potential role in the interaction with the host plant.

590

591 **Both Gypsy and Copia retrotransposons generates small RNAs in *B. cinerea***

592 *Botrytis cinerea* produces siRNA that are acting as effectors in the host plant where they can hijack
593 the silencing machinery to impair the expression of genes involved in the defence process (Weiberg et
594 al., 2013). As in other fungal models, these small RNAs are mainly synthesized from retrotransposons.

595 The work just published by Porquier et al., (2021) actually identified *Boty/Gypsy 1, Gypsy 3 and*
596 *Gypsy 4 as the only TE producing small RNAs in B05.10, and the authors* demonstrated that the
597 Gypsy_3 TE could be considered as a pathogenicity factor by itself as the introduction of Gypsy_3 in a
598 strain lacking this TE resulted in the production of siRNA and an enhanced aggressiveness on tomato
599 and on *Arabidopsis thaliana*. In our study, we demonstrated that the SI3 and Vv3 strains that have very
600 different repertoires of TEs are consequently able to produce different sets of TE-derived small RNAs.
601 Seven retrotransposons, five Gypsy subfamilies but also two Copia subfamilies, were identified as
602 responsible for their production. A common feature of all the copies of TEs that generate small RNAs
603 in the Vv3 and SI3 strains is that they show a relatively high GC content. By contrast, the AT-rich copies
604 of the same subfamilies do not produce small RNAs. These data corroborate those of Porquier et al.
605 (2021), who observed that the production of small RNAs in the B05.10 strain correlates positively with
606 the retrotransposon GC content and negatively with a RIP index. This suggests that only
607 retrotransposons that are not inactivated by RIP are able to be expressed and therefore to generate
608 small RNAs. Furthermore, the small RNAs generated by the seven retrotransposons present in SI3
609 and/or Vv3 strains all show the same features, *i.e.* a size of 21-22 nucleotides and a preference for a 5'

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610 terminal U. These features are believed to be required to associate with the plant AGO1 and activate
611 the gene silencing process (Weiberg et al., 2013).

612 Among the seven small RNA generating-retrotransposons that were identified, three Gypsy subfamilies
613 *i.e.* [Boty/Gypsy_1](#), [Gypsy_3](#) and [Gypsy_4](#) are present in both Vv3 and SI3 strains as well as in B05.10
614 (Porquier et al., 2021) and are responsible for the synthesis of a common set of small RNAs that
615 includes the characterized effectors siR5, siR3.1 and siR3.2 (Weiberg et al., 2013). In addition to the
616 shared repertoire of small RNAs mentioned above, the Vv3 and SI3 strains produce additional small
617 RNAs through the [Copia_4](#), [Gypsy_6](#), [Gypsy_7](#) (Vv3) and [Copia_6](#) (SI3) retrotransposons. These newly
618 characterized TEs and the small RNAs that they generate therefore confirm that the difference in the
619 repertoires of retrotransposons present in *B. cinerea* strains SI3 and Vv3 has strong impact on the
620 production of potential small RNA effectors.

621

622 **The *B. cinerea* G1 population specialized on grapevine produces a specific set of small RNAs**

623 Investigating the repertoires of small RNAs and the presence of some of the small RNA-producing TEs
624 in a larger set of strains *B. cinerea* highlighted some significative differences between the three
625 considered populations. While some sets of TE-derived small RNAs are present in strains belonging to
626 different populations, some seem to be specific to one genetic group. Small RNAs produced by
627 [Boty/Gypsy_1](#), [Gypsy_3](#) and [Gypsy_4](#) are not only produced by the B05.10, SI3 and Vv3 strains but
628 appear to be commonly produced in the T and G1 populations which could suggest that this set plays
629 a conserved role that is important in the interaction with different hosts. This is indeed the case for
630 the characterized [Gypsy_3](#)-derived siRNAs that were shown to silence genes both in *Arabidopsis*
631 *thaliana* and in tomato (Weiberg et al., 2013 ; Porquier et al., 2021). Regarding the three analyzed
632 strains of the G2 population, only [Boty/Gypsy_1](#)- and [Gypsy_4](#)-derived small RNAs could be identified
633 but uncharacterized TEs may generate other small RNAs. A full assembly of the genome of one the G2
634 strains would be required to answer this question.

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635 Finally, our data revealed that two retrotransposons, *Copia_4*, and to a lesser extent *Gypsy_7*, occur
636 at high frequency in the G1 population where they jointly generate an important proportion of the
637 arsenal of TE-derived small RNAs. The genome of the Vv3 strain harbors ten complete copies of
638 *Copia_4* on CCs, and 23 complete copies of *Gypsy_7* shared between the CCs and the AC BCIN19 that
639 is specific to the G1 population. By contrast, these two TEs were very rarely detected by PCR in other
640 strains of the T and G2 populations (this study) and they were not either retrieved in the genomic
641 sequences of *B. cinerea* strains B05.10 (van Kan et al., 2017), T4 (Amselem et al., 2011) and BcDW1
642 (Blanco-Ulate et al., 2013). Using a larger number of strains from the G1 and G2 populations as well as
643 strains from other hosts would be valuable to investigate further the distribution of these sources of
644 small RNAs. If they are confirmed to be mainly present in the G1 population specialized on grapevine,
645 it will be tempting to hypothesize that they have been maintained because they have a significant role
646 in this interaction, either directly with the host *i.e.* through the silencing of grapevine genes, either
647 indirectly *e.g.* by acting on other microorganisms present in the same ecological niche. Nevertheless,
648 the fact that the G2 strains do not have the *Copia_4* and *Gypsy_7* TEs suggests that their potential role
649 is not needed in all *B. cinerea* populations found on grapevine. Functional studies will be required to
650 answer these questions.

651

652 **Conclusion**

653 Our study was conducted in order to investigate the genomic determinants of host specialization in *B.*
654 *cinerea*. Previous work revealed widespread signatures of positive selection in the T population
655 specialized to tomato, with genes under positive selection encoding cellulases, pectinases and
656 enzymes involved in the oxidative stress response suggesting that these activities may contribute to
657 the specialization on tomato (Mercier et al., 2021). The present study substantially extends these
658 findings by revealing that populations of *B. cinerea* specialized on different hosts harbor different sets
659 of accessory chromosomes, repertoires of transposons and their derived small RNAs. Hence, we

660 identified genomic features that are specific to the main population specialized to grapevine in France
661 (the G1 population). The retrotransposons Copia_4 and Gypsy_7 allow the production of a G1-specific
662 set of small RNAs with structures similar to the known effector siRNA (Weiberg et al., 2013). In
663 addition, strains of the G1 population specifically carry the newly characterized BCIN19 accessory
664 chromosome that includes several copies of the Gypsy_7 elements and newly identified genes whose
665 functions remained to be characterized. Our characterization and analysis of new genomic data in
666 populations of *Botrytis* specialized to different hosts pave the way for new molecular investigations of
667 the mechanisms underlying host specialization in this polyphagous pathogen.

668

669

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671 **Methods**

672 **Genome sequencing and assembly**

673 The *Botrytis cinerea* SI3 and Vv3 strains were isolated from the Champagne region (France) respectively
674 from tomato (cultivar Moneymaker) and grapevine berries (Pinot noir), as previously described
675 (Mercier et al., 2021). For DNA sequencing, these strains were cultivated three days in liquid malt
676 medium. High-molecular-weight DNA was extracted using a sarkosyl procedure in which the ethanol-
677 precipitated DNA was fished with a glass hook to avoid centrifugation and DNA breaks. SI3 and Vv3
678 genomic DNA were sequenced using a PacBio Sequel sequencer (KeyGene, Wageningen, NL). Total
679 lengths of respectively 8.3Gb and 4.7Gb reads were obtained with mean lengths of 8.4Kb and 11.3Kb.
680 The theoretical coverages of the genome were thus of 195X and 120X. Reads were assembled with
681 HGAP4 (SMRT-LINK v5.0.1) (<https://github.com/PacificBiosciences/>) and CANU v1.6 (Koren et al., 2017).
682 HGAP4 was run with the set of parameters recommended for fungal genomes ([https://pb-](https://pb-falcon.readthedocs.io/en/latest/parameters.html)
683 [falcon.readthedocs.io/en/latest/parameters.html](https://pb-falcon.readthedocs.io/en/latest/parameters.html)). CANU was run with default parameters and an
684 expected coverage of 42Mb. HGAP assemblies were polished with pilon (Walker et al., 2014) using SI3
685 or Vv3 Illumina reads (Mercier et al., 2021). CANU assemblies were polished with both arrow
686 (<https://github.com/PacificBiosciences/>) and Pilon. Mitochondrial, ribosomal and small redundant
687 contigs were removed, and final versions of assemblies were manually compiled from polished runs of
688 HGAP and CANU assemblies. Both genome assemblies were evaluated and compared with B05.10
689 referent genome (van Kan et al., 2017) using QUAST (Gurevich et al., 2013). [For the separation of ACs](#)
690 [by gel electrophoresis, chromosomal DNA was prepared as described by van Kan et al. \(1993\) and](#)
691 [loaded on a 1% agarose gel \(SeaKem Le, FMC\) in 0.5X Tris Borate EDTA buffer. Chromosomes were](#)
692 [then separated using a Contour-clamped Homogeneous Electric Field \(CHEF\) apparatus \(DRIII, BioRad\)](#)
693 [using the following parameter: 6 V/cm; 120° angle; 50-90 seconds switch; 22 hours; 14°C.](#)

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697 **Transposable elements prediction**

698 Transposable elements (TEs) were annotated using the REPET package
699 (<https://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/Tools/REPET> ; (Amselem et al., 2015) as previously described in Porquier
700 et al., 2016 for the genome of the *B. cinerea* reference strain B05.10. Briefly, the TEDENOVO pipeline
701 (Flutre et al., 2011) was used to detect repeated elements in the genome and to provide a consensus
702 sequence for each family. Consensus sequences were then classified using the PASTEC tool (Hoede et
703 al., 2014), based on the Wicker hierarchical TE classification system (Wicker et al., 2007). After manual
704 correction, the resulting library of consensus sequences was used to annotate TE copies in the whole
705 genome using the TEANNOT pipeline (Quesneville et al., 2005). Consensus sequences identified from
706 different genomes were compared and considered as the same subfamily based on a bidirectional best
707 hit approach (blastn with evalue < 1e-10 and coverage > 70%). Presence of the subfamilies in the
708 genomes of additional strains (Table 1) was tested by PCR using the MyTaq polymerase (Bioline) and
709 the primers listed in Sup. Table S5.

710

711 **Gene prediction, synteny**

712 The structural annotation of B05.10 genes (van Kan et al., 2017)
713 (http://fungi.ensembl.org/Botrytis_cinerea/) was transferred to Vv3 and SI3 genomes using the LIFTOFF
714 annotation mapping tool (Shumate & Salzberg, 2021). Genes were also predicted *de novo* using the
715 FGENESH *ab initio* gene-finder (Solovyev et al., 2006) (<http://www.softberry.com/berry.phtml>) with the
716 *Botrytis* matrix. Presence/absence of genes in other genomes was determined with blastn analyses.
717 The synteny between B05.10, SI3 and Vv3 genes was analysed with SYNCHRO (Drillon et al., 2014), which
718 detects ortholog proteins with Reciprocal Best Hit (RBH). SYNCHRO was run with a best score threshold
719 (min_sim_RBH) of 80, a length ratio threshold (max_diflen) of 1.3 and a delta value of 3 (medium
720 stringency). Duplications of gene clusters were further explored with CLINKER (Gilchrist & Chooi, 2021).

721 Presence of the gene *Bctlh* in the genomes of additional strains (Table 1) was tested by PCR using the
722 MyTaq polymerase and the primers indicated in Sup. Table S5.

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724 **Small RNA sequencing and analysis**

725 *Botrytis cinerea* strains were cultivated 48 hours on solid media made from grape juice or tomato juice
726 supplemented with agar and covered with a sheet of cellophane as previously described (Simon et al.,
727 2013). RNAs were extracted with the TRIzol reagent (InvitroGen) and submitted to a DNase treatment
728 (DNA-free kit, Ambion). Total RNAs were purified with miRNeasy kit (Qiagen) which allows the
729 selection of the RNA fraction less than 100 bases. Small RNA libraries were prepared and sequenced
730 at Integragen (<https://www.integragen.com/>). Libraries were generated following (Vigneault et al.,
731 2012), with adjustments to improve ligation, from at least 1 µg of extracted total RNA with a RIN
732 greater than 7. Libraries were sequenced on Illumina HiSeq4000. Quality of raw sequence data was

a supprimé: sRNA

a supprimé: (sRNA)

733 checked with FASTQC (<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>). After removal
734 of adapters with CUTADAPT (Martin, 2011), reads shorter than 16 bases were discarded. Reads were
735 then processed using FASTX-TOOLKIT (http://hannonlab.cshl.edu/fastx_toolkit/) as in Weiberg et al.
736 (2013), i.e. low-quality sequences were filtered out with FASTQ_QUALITY_FILTER -q 30 -p 70, low-
737 complexity sequences were filtered out with FASTX_ARTIFACTS_FILTER, and finally identical sequences
738 were counted with FASTX_COLLAPSER. Only sequences 20-24 nucleotides length and with more than five

a supprimé: was used to remove adapters and processed

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739 reads per million in at least one library were kept for further analyses. Principal Component Analyses
740 (PCA) were performed to visualize the distance between samples. Reads were mapped against B05.10
741 (van Kan et al., 2017), Sl3 and Vv3 genomes, against TE consensus and against TE complete copies in
742 the three genomes with the GLINT software (<https://forge-dga.jouy.inra.fr/projects/glint/wiki>); only
743 perfect matches (100% identity and 100% coverage) were considered. As a control, unprocessed (raw)
744 reads were mapped the same way to verify that no additional small RNA-producing TE could be
745 identified.

a supprimé: Quality controls were applied, including

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775

776 **Availability of data and materials**

777 The genomic raw data were deposited into the NCBI SRA under the accessions PRJNA752967 for SI3
778 and PRJNA752962 for Vv3. Genome assemblies were deposited at NCBI under the accessions
779 CP080979-CP080996 for SI3 and CP080961-CP080978 for Vv3. Small RNAs raw data and the matrix of
780 sequence counts were deposited into the NCBI GEO under accession GSE181592. Furthermore, the
781 genomic and annotation (gene/TE) fasta and gff files, as well as SI3 and Vv3 genome browsers are
782 available at the INRAE BIOGER Bioinformatics platform (<https://bioinfo.bioger.inrae.fr/>).

a supprimé: Programme

784 [Conflict of interest disclosure](#)

785 [The authors declare they have no conflict of interest relating to the content of this article.](#)

786

787

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985 **Supplemental information:**

986 **File S1:** Consensus sequences of the repeated elements identified in the genomes of *B. cinerea* strains
987 SI3 and Vv3.

988 **Table S1:** Chromosomes of the *B. cinerea* strains B05.10, SI3 and Vv3.

989 **Table S2:** Genes predicted in the genomes of *B. cinerea* strains B05.10, SI3 and Vv3.

990 **Table S3:** Repertoires of Transposable Elements (TEs) in the *B. cinerea* strains B05.10, SI3 and Vv3.

991 **Table S4:** Libraries of small RNAs isolated from *B. cinerea* strains belonging to different populations.

992 **Table S5:** List of PCR primers used to detect the presence of Transposable Elements (TEs) or the gene
993 encoding the Telomere-Linked Telomerase (*BcTLH*).

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995 **Figure S1:** Genomic genealogy of *B. cinerea* strains showing the populations T, G1 and G2.

996 [Figure S2: CHEF gel electrophoresis resolving accessory chromosomes of *B. cinerea* strains B05.10, SI3
997 and Vv3.](#)

998 **Figure S3:** Synteny between the Core Chromosomes (CCs) of the *B. cinerea* strains B05.10, SI3 and Vv3.

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999 **Figure S4:** Main inversions events observed between the genomes of the *B. cinerea* strains SI3 and Vv3.

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1000 **Figure S5:** Localization of the PKS7 secondary metabolism gene cluster in the genomes of the *B. cinerea*
1001 strains B05.10 and Vv3.

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1002 **Figure S6:** Duplication of four contiguous genes in the genome of the *B. cinerea* strain SI3.

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1003 **Figure S7:** Structure of the Telomere-Linked Helicase (TLH) identified in the *B. cinerea* strain Vv3.

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1004 **Figure S8:** Positions of the genes encoding the Telomere-Linked Helicase (*BcTLH*) and of the Helitron-
1005 like Transposable Elements (TE) in the genome of the *B. cinerea* strain Vv3.

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1006 **Figure S9:** Alignment of the ten consensus sequences corresponding to the *Boty/Gypsy_1*
1007 Transposable Element (TE) identified in the genomes of the *B. cinerea* strains B05.10, SI3 or Vv3.

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1008 **Figure S10:** Helitron-like Transposable Element (TE) identified in the genome of the *B. cinerea* strain
1009 Vv3.

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1010 **Figure S11:** Localization of the main superfamilies of Transposable Elements (TEs) in the genomes of
1011 the *B. cinerea* strains SI3 and Vv3.

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1012 **Figure S12:** GC content of complete copies of the main subfamilies of Transposable Elements (TEs) in
1013 the genomes of the *B. cinerea* strains B05.10, SI3 and Vv3.

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1014 **Figure S13:** Principal Component Analysis (PCA) of the repertoires of small RNAs in different strains of
1015 *B. cinerea*.

a supprimé: S12

1016 **Figure S14:** Retrotransposons that generate small RNAs in the *B. cinerea* strains SI3 and/or Vv3.

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1030 [Figure S15: Mapping of small RNA reads on complete copies of TEs in relation to their GC percent.](#)

1031 [Figure S16:](#) Small RNAs produced by the *B. cinerea* strains S13 and Vv3: size distribution and 5'
1032 nucleotide.

1033 [Figure S17:](#) Positions of complete copies of the TE Copia_4, Gypsy_6 and Gypsy_7 in the *B. cinerea* Vv3
1034 genome.

1035 [Figure S18: Alignment of Copia_4, Gypsy_6 and Gypsy_7 consensus sequences with their respective](#)
1036 [complete copies in Vv3 genome.](#)

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1039 **Figures & Tables**

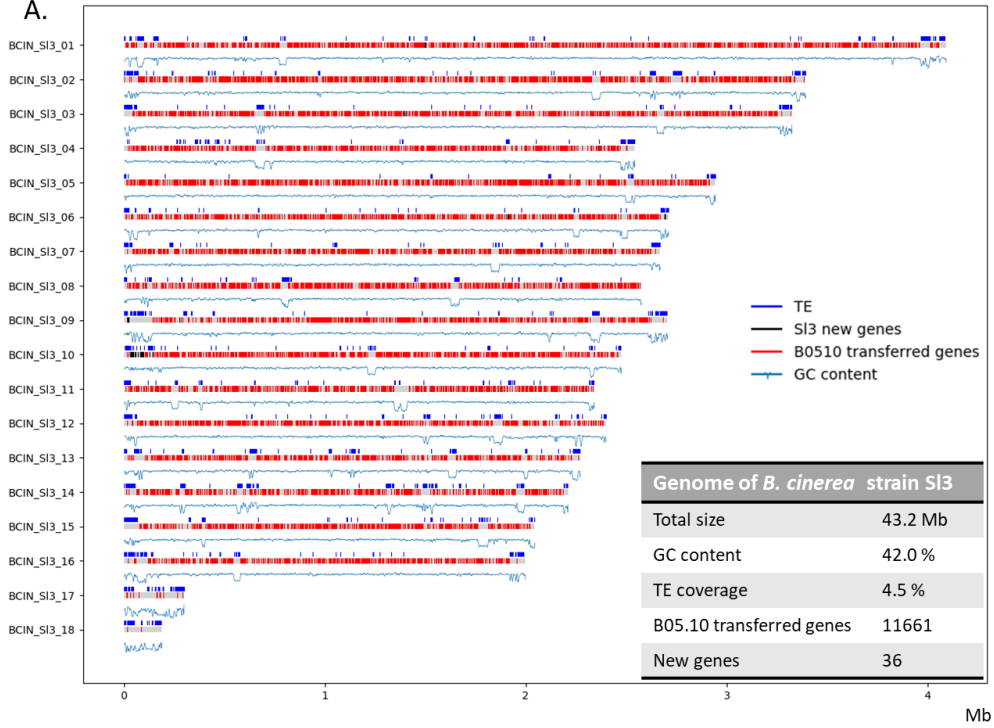
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1041 **Table 1: Distribution of Accessory Chromosomes (ACs) and a selection of dispensable genes and**
 1042 **Transposable Elements (TEs) in *B. cinerea* strains from different populations.** The genomic features
 1043 highlighted in the present study, using complete assemblies of Sl3 and Vv3 genomes, were investigated
 1044 in populations specialized either on grapevine (G1 and G2) either on tomato (T; Mercier et al., 2021).
 1045 The distribution of ACs and secondary metabolism key genes were investigated using Illumina genomic
 1046 data (Mercier et al., 2021) while those of the TEs and of the gene encoding the telomere-linked helicase
 1047 (BcHTL) were investigated by PCR. a. van Kan et al., 2017. b. Mercier et al., 2021. c. Amselem et al.,
 1048 2011. d. Blanco-Ulate et al., 2013. Nd, not determined. ✓, presence. -, absence. (✓), partial
 1049 presence of an AC. Nd, Not determined.

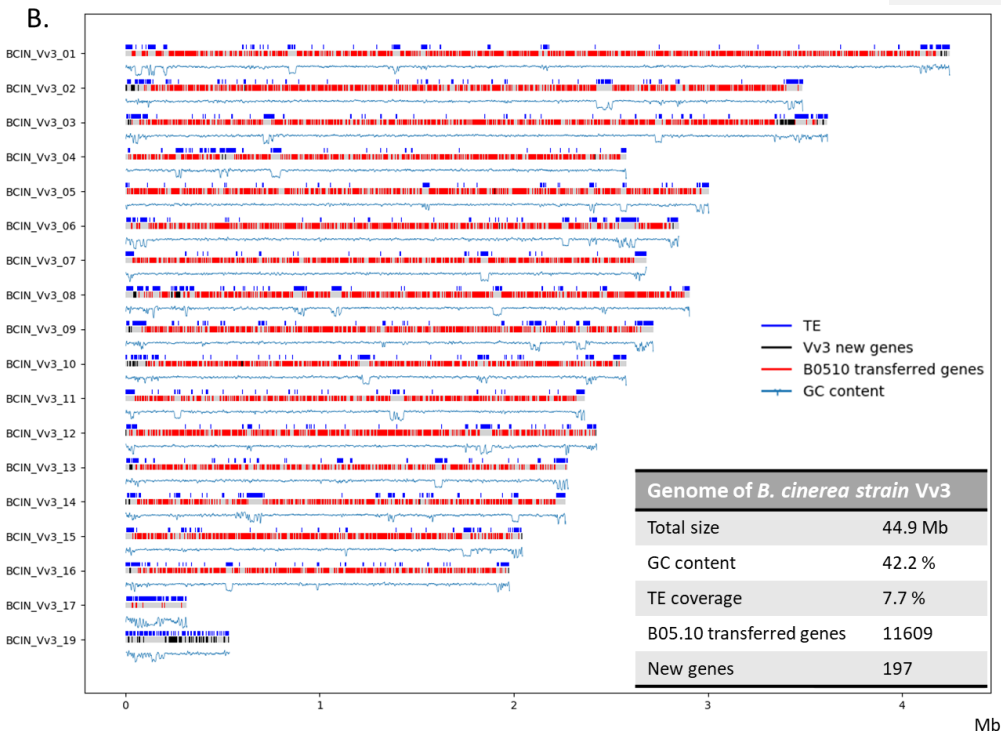
Population	Strain	Host	Location	Ref	Accessory chromosomes (Illumina sequencing; Ref b)			Presence of gene (Illumina sequencing; Ref b)			Presence of TE or gene (PCR detection)			
					AC 17	AC 18	AC 19	Bcstc6	BcmelA	Bcdtc	Bcctlh	Helitron-like	Copia_4	Gypsy_6
Nd	B05.10	unknown	unknown	a	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-
T	Sl1	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	Bourgogne	b	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-
	Sl2		Champagne	b	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-
	Sl3		Champagne	b	✓	(✓)	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-
	Sl4		Provence	b	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-
	Sl5		Provence	b	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
	Sl6		Rhône-Alpes	b	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sl7		Rhône-Alpes	b	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-
	Sl8		Rhône-Alpes	b	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sl9		Occitanie	b	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-
	Sl10		Occitanie	b	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
	Sl11		Occitanie	b	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-
	Sl12		Occitanie	b	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-
	Sl13		Occitanie	b	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
G1	Vv1	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Champagne	b	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
	Vv2		Champagne	b	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
	Vv3		Champagne	b	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Vv4		Champagne	b	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
	Vv5		Champagne	b	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
	Vv6		Champagne	b	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-
	Vv7		Provence	b	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-
	Vv10		Provence	b	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Vv12		Provence	b	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
	Vv13		Provence	b	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vv14	Provence	b	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-		
Vv16	Champagne	b	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-		
G2	Vv8	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Provence	b	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
	Vv9		Provence	b	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	
	Vv11		Provence	b	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	
	Vv15		Provence	b	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	
Nd	Rf1	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bourgogne	b	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	
Nd	Rf2	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Champagne	b	(✓)	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nd	Hm1	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Anjou	b	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	
Nd	T4	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	Provence	c	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	
Nd	BcDW1	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	California	d	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	Nd	Nd	Nd	Nd

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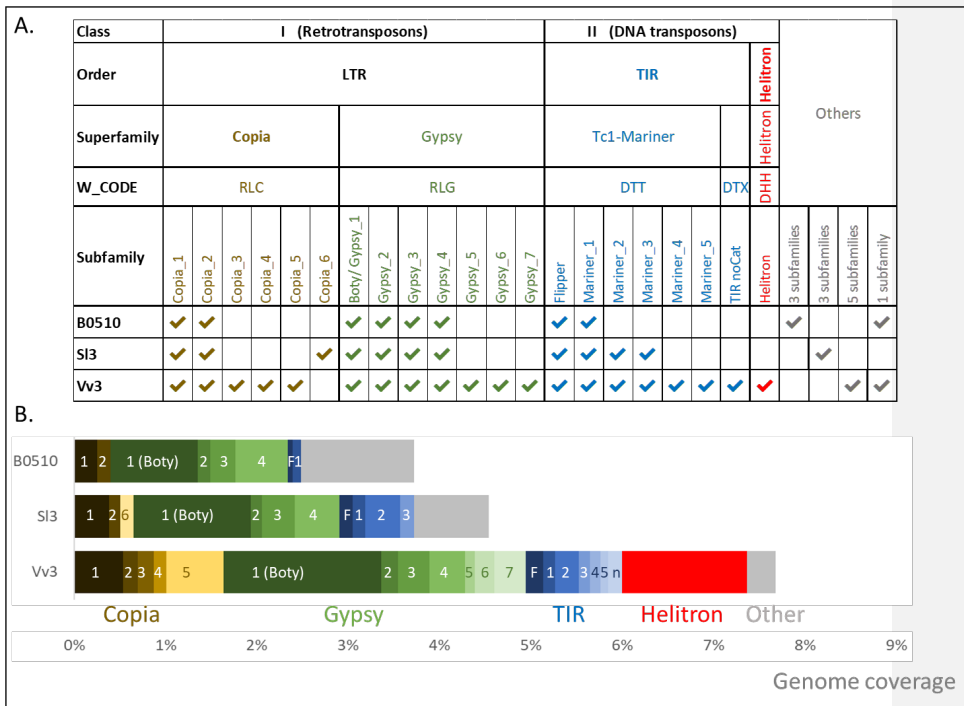
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1053 **Figure 1: Genome organization in *B. cinerea* strains SI3 (A) and Vv3 (B).** The two karyoplots show the
 1054 18 chromosomes identified in each strain, genes previously predicted in the B05.10 reference strain
 1055 (van Kan et al., 2017; red), newly detected genes (black), Transposable Elements (TEs; dark blue) and
 1056 the GC content (blue) along the Core Chromosomes (CCs BCIN_01 to 16) and the Accessory
 1057 Chromosomes (ACs BCIN_17 to 19).

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1062 **Figure 2: Transposable Elements (TEs) in the genomes of the *B. cinerea* strains B05.10, SI3 and Vv3.**

1063 **A.** Subfamilies of TEs identified in the SI3 and Vv3 strains were classified according to Wicker et al.,

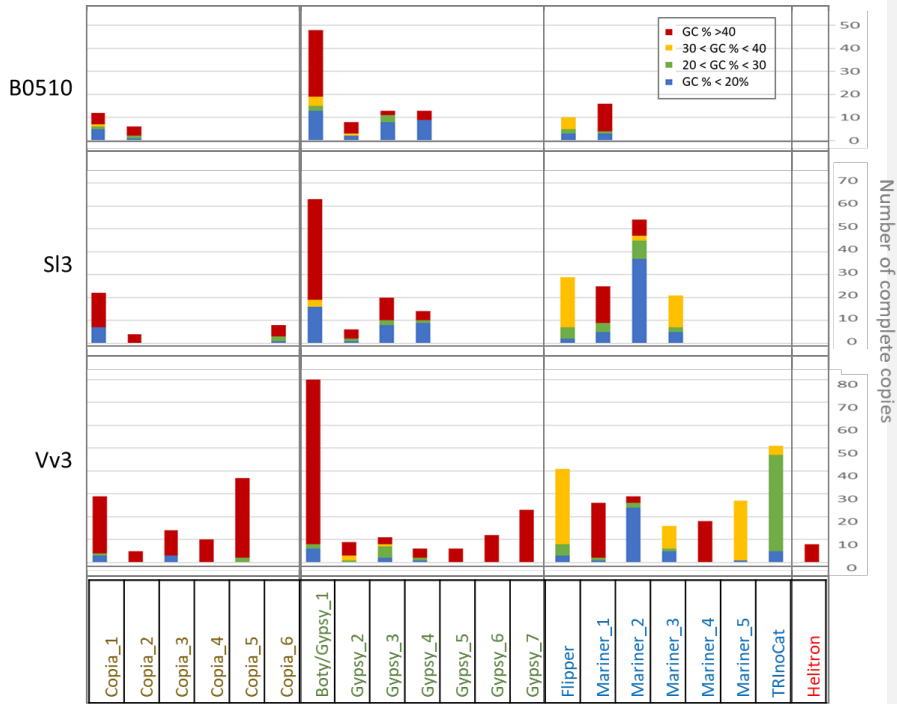
1064 (2007), as previously done for the strain B05.10 (Porquier et al., 2016). In the present study, all *Boty*

1065 consensus were merged into a single subfamily. **B.** Total genome coverage was detailed for the

1066 different subfamilies. For more details, see Sup. Table 3.

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1071 **Figure 3: GC content of complete copies of the main Transposable Elements (TEs) in the genomes of**
 1072 ***B. cinerea* strains B05.10, SI3 and Vv3.** The complete copies of each subfamily of TEs were classified
 1073 according to their GC content. See Sup. Fig. S11 for more details.

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1077 **Table 2: Small RNAs produced by the Transposable Elements (TEs) identified in the *B. cinerea* strains**
 1078 **B05.10, SI3 and Vv3.** Small RNA libraries were made from strains cultivated on grape juice medium
 1079 except two that were done from strains cultivated on tomato juice medium (indicated by -T*). Reads
 1080 from the 16 libraries were mapped on the TEs to identify the small RNA-producing retrotransposons.
 1081 For small RNAs, ✓ indicates that at least 300 Reads Per Million (RPMs) from the library are mapping
 1082 on the corresponding TE. Genomes in which the TEs were identified are reminded at the top of the
 1083 table (✓, presence; -, absence). For more details, see Sup. Table S4.

Subfamily name		Copia_1	Copia_2	Copia_3	Copia_4	Copia_5	Copia_6	Boty_ Gypsy_1	Gypsy_2	Gypsy_3	Gypsy_4	Gypsy_5	Gypsy_6	Gypsy_7	
Genomes in which the TE was identified	B0510	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	
	SI3	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	
	Vv3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Libraries of small RNAs	B0510							✓		✓	✓				
	T population	SI1							✓		✓				
		SI2							✓		✓	✓			
		SI3						✓	✓		✓	✓			
		SI3-T*						✓	✓		✓	✓			
		SI6	✓					✓	✓		✓	✓			
		SI11							✓		✓	✓			
		SI13							✓		✓	✓			
	G1 population	Vv1				✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
		Vv3				✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
		Vv3-T*				✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
		Vv5				✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
		Vv14				✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
	G2 population	Vv8							✓			✓			
		Vv9													
		Vv15							✓			✓			

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