

The Pennsylvania State University

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**MOLECULAR PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS OF *GRIFOLA FRONDOSA*
(MAITAKE) AND RELATED SPECIES AND THE INFLUENCE OF
SELECTED NUTRIENT SUPPLEMENTS ON MUSHROOM YIELD**

A Thesis in

Plant Pathology

by

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Abstract

Grifola frondosa (Dickson: Fr.) S.F.Gray (maitake) is a choice edible mushroom and has been marketed in Asia in recent years for medicinal use. Production and consumption of this mushroom is increasing rapidly in the world. There was a 41-fold increase from 1988-97 worldwide and a 38% increase in the United States (1999-2000).

While this mushroom has enjoyed increased popularity among consumers, scientists know little about the genetics and life history of this species. I, therefore, sought to quantify genetic diversity among available isolates and to establish a taxonomic position for this mushroom and some of its allies. To accomplish these goals, the internal transcribed spacers 1 and 2 (ITS-1 and 2) and 5.8S regions of the nuclear ribosomal DNA (rDNA) transcriptional unit and a portion of the β -tubulin gene were PCR-amplified. Then, rDNA and β -tubulin amplicons from 52 isolates of *Grifola frondosa*, one isolate of *Grifola sordulenta*, *Polyporus umbellatus* and *Meripilus giganteus* were sequenced. In both rDNA and β -tubulin sequences, nucleotide variation within isolates of *G. frondosa* (5.4% in rDNA and 12.2% in β -tubulin) was relatively small compared to that observed between isolates of *G. frondosa* and *G. sordulenta* (14.3% in rDNA and 30.2% in β -tubulin). Molecular phylogenetic analysis of rDNA, β -tubulin and

combined sequences revealed two major clades within *G. frondosa*. Clade I (U.S. clade) included all the U.S. isolates, while Clade II (Asian clade) consisted only of Asian isolates. The major commercial isolate (unknown origin) used on most U.S. mushroom farms grouped within the Asian clade and is apparently of Asian decent. Based on partial β -tubulin sequence, phylogenetic analyses indicated that *G. frondosa* and its allies (*G. sordulenta* and *P. umbellatus*) share a common ancestor.

To assist with the demand of commercial growers for isolates with improved yield and quality characteristics, I evaluated 23 genotypes of *Grifola frondosa* for crop cycle time, biological efficiency (BE; ratio of fresh weight of mushroom harvested to dry weight of substrate x 100) and quality. Significant differences among lines were found for these parameters when mushrooms were produced on nutrient supplemented sawdust substrates. Four isolates (WC828, M036, M037 and M040) were found to have the most consistent and highest BEs (38.5%, 39.5%, 35.8% and 38.9%, respectively) and quality (1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.2, respectively).

In order to determine the effects of nutrient supplements on mushroom crop cycle time, BE and quality, different combinations of wheat bran, rye, millet and corn meal were evaluated. Combinations of two or three nutrients selected from wheat bran, millet and rye were found to be the most desirable formulations with short crop cycle, high quality and high BE.

Significant differences for crop cycle times, BEs and quality also were found when different combinations of wheat bran, rye and millet at different levels (10%, 20% and 30% of total dry substrate wt) were used. The combination of 10% wheat bran, 10% millet and 10% rye (BE 47.1%, quality 1.8 and crop cycle 12 weeks) and the combination of 10% wheat bran plus 20% rye (BE 44%, quality 1.7 and crop cycle 10 weeks) gave the most consistent yields and basidiome quality over time.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Cultivation of *Grifola frondosa*

Grifola frondosa (Dickson: Fr.) S.F.Gray, also known as hen-of-the-woods or maitake, is a choice edible mushroom (Lincoff 1981a,b). It produces large basidiomes (it can weigh up to 45kg) and is one of the most popular edible mushrooms collected in the fall in United States. It somewhat resembles a small hen, is often found covered with leaves and grows at the base of hardwoods (especially oaks) and some conifers.

1.1.1 World production

Until about 20 years ago, maitake was only available from the wild. The first cultivation techniques were developed for maitake in 1979 (Hobbs 1996). Commercial production of maitake began in 1981 in Japan (Takama *et al.* 1981). Since then, Japan has become the major producer of maitake accounting for 98% of worldwide production (Chang 1999). Only 325 tons were produced in 1981. However, by 1986, production reached 2,203 tons, a 6.8-fold increase in five years. By 1991, annual production reached 7,950 tons, another 3.6-fold increase over the 1986-91 period. This increase is much higher than the increase (96.4%) for all cultivated edible mushrooms from 1986 (2176 tons) to 1991 (4273 tons) (Chang 1999). During the 1990s, commercial production of maitake increased rapidly not only in Japan, but also in China and the U.S. By 1997, world production of maitake reached 331,000 tons (an increase of 40.6 fold compared with 1991) (Figure 1.1).

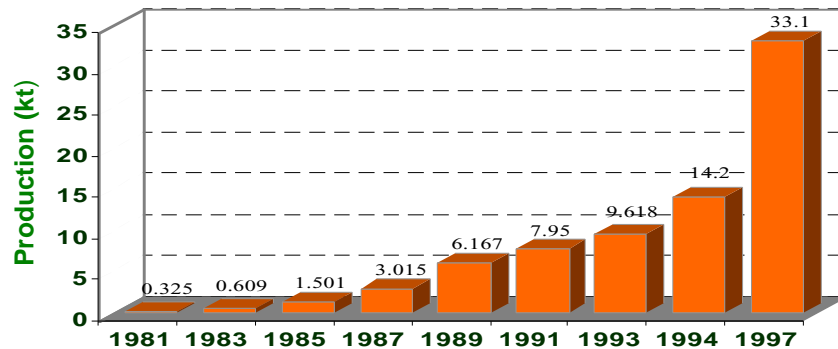


Figure 1.1. World production of *Grifola frondosa* (maitake) from 1981 through 1997. (Source: Chang 1999, Ohmasa 1994, Yamanaka 1997).

1.1.2 Nutrition and physiology

Matsumoto and Ohira (1982) found that glucose, soluble starch, maltose, mannose and fructose, respectively, were the most effective carbon sources utilized for mycelial growth by maitake. Peptone was the "best" nitrogen source among those tested by Matsumoto and Ohira (1982). These researchers also found that the absence of Mn^{2+} , Fe^{2+} and Cu^{2+} in the basal medium resulted in an apparently decreased growth rate of the mycelium.

1.1.3 Methods of commercial production

Relatively little literature is available for growers contemplating maitake cultivation when compared with information available for other edible mushrooms. A common substrate used for commercial production of maitake is supplemented sawdust. Hardwood sawdust (oak, beech, larch, poplar, cottonwood, elm, willow and alder) is generally used by commercial growers. Oak (Lee 1994, D.J. Royse, unpublished data) is the most popular choice in the

U.S. and Japan, while beech and larch are also used in Japan (Kirchhoff 1996, Yoshizawa *et al.* 1997, Stamets 2000). In China, cottonseed hulls were used as a substitute for sawdust and provided an acceptable yield (Zhao *et al.* 1983). Bran derived from cereal grains, such as rice bran (Takama *et al.* 1981), wheat bran (Mayuzumi and Mizuno 1997), oat bran and corn bran, are widely used as nutrient supplements. Other nutrient supplements used for maitake production include millet (D.J. Royse, unpublished data), corn meal (Kirchhoff 1996), and soybean cake (Mizuno and Zhuang 1995).

To date, three basic methods of cultivation have been established. These include bag culture, bottle culture and outdoor bed culture (Mayuzumi and Mizuno 1997).

Bag culture is used most frequently by commercial producers. For bag culture, the moistened substrate (2.5 kg) is filled into polypropylene or high density polyethylene bags. After sterilization and cooling, the substrate is inoculated with maitake spawn that is through-mixed by shaking. A spawn run lasts about 30 to 45 days depending on isolate and substrate formulation (Royse 1997). Expected yields are in the range of 0.35 to 0.68kg per 2.5kg bag of moist (58%) substrate (Royse 1997).

For bottle production, the containers are filled with moistened (55 to 60%) substrate and sterilized or pasteurized prior to inoculation (Royse 1997). The size of the harvested mushroom is smaller than those from bags because there is less substrate in bottles. However, bottle culture is suitable for year-round production and is more suitable for mechanization with minimum labor requirements. In Japan, it is anticipated that automatic mechanized bottle culture systems in large-scale facilities soon will become the dominant method for maitake production (Yamanaka 1997).

Outdoor bed culture on colonized substrate in moist soil was first attempted in Japan under natural climatic conditions (Mayuzumi and Mizuno 1997). This method requires about 6 months from inoculation to basidiome formation, and yields are much lower than those of bag or bottle methods. Therefore, this method only is used on a very limited scale today in Japan.

1.2 Geographic distribution and host range of *Grifola frondosa*

Grifola frondosa grows on dead or dying trees in the temperate regions of many countries. It was first discovered and reported from Europe (England, Norway, Denmark and Finland). It is commonly found in Eastern Canada and the eastern, midwestern, and southeastern United States, but rarely in the Pacific Northwest. *Grifola frondosa* also is indigenous to the temperate hardwood regions of China, and has been reported from the northeastern regions of Japan, Australia and other countries (Gilbertson and Ryvarden 1986, Hobbs 1996, Stamets 2000, Zhao and Zhang 1992).

Maitake is found on stumps or at the base of dead or dying deciduous hardwoods (Stamets 2000). It also may grow on roots and in the heartwood of living hardwoods causing butt rot disease (Farr *et al.* 1987, Webster 1980). *Grifola frondosa* is considered a white rot fungus decomposing both lignin and cellulose (Mizuno and Zhuang 1995).

The host range of *Grifola frondosa* includes oak (*Quercus*), elm (*Ulmus*), maple (*Acer*), blackgum (*Nyssa*), larch (*Larix*) and beech (*Fagus*). It is also found occasionally on species of *Castanea*, *Pinus*, *Prunus*, and *Pseudotsuga* (Farr *et al.* 1987).

1.3 Nutritional components

As shown in Table 1.1, fresh basidiomes of maitake at harvest contain approximately 91% moisture. Protein, carbohydrate, lipid, and fiber are the major components. Maitake also contains other nutritive components including minerals, free amino acids, organic acids, nucleotides, vitamins B₁, B₂ and ergosterol (provitamin D). Nucleotides, free carbohydrates, organic acids and amino acids are the main flavor components.

Table 1.1. Nutritional components of basidiomes of *Grifola frondosa* (Imazeki and Hong 1989).

Component	Fresh (%)	Dry wt. basis (%)
Moisture	91	-
Protein	3.7	40.7
Lipid	0.7	7.8
Ash	0.8	8.9
Carbohydrate	2.4	26.6
Fiber	1.4	15.5

Basidiomes of maitake are rich in potassium (K) and phosphorous (P), and contain lesser amounts of Mg, Ca, Na and Zn (Imazeki 1989). The types and amounts of amino acids present in the basidiomes are an important contributor to flavor. Glutamic acid, which contributes substantially to culinary desirability, is present in the greatest amount in maitake basidiomes, followed by alanine, threonine, aspartic acid, valine, lysine, and arginine (Mizuno and Zhuang 1995). The free carbohydrates in maitake include trehalose, glucose, and mannitol (Mizuno and Zhuang 1995). Many free acids have been detected in maitake basidiomes. These include pyroglutamic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid, formic acid, malic acid, citric acid, succinic acid, oxalic acid, and fumaric acid (Kagawa 1989, Mizuno and Kim 1996). Lipids found in maitake include neutral lipids (triglycerides, TG), sterol lipids (acylsterol) and sphingolipids (ceramide and cerebroside) (Mizuno and Kim 1996).

1.4 Medicinal value

Maitake has gained in popularity among consumers, not only because of its excellent flavor, but also because of its reported medicinal value. In the last 25 years, over 70% of scientific articles on maitake have dealt with some aspect of its medicinal properties.

Approximately 2000 years ago, maitake was used as a Chinese medicine called "Keisho". *Shen Nong's Herbal* (Wu 1955) describes the use of Keisho for improving the health of the spleen and stomach, calming nerves and treating hemorrhoids. In recent animal experiments and human clinical trials, maitake was shown to have both anti-tumor and anti-viral properties (Hobbs 1996, Jong *et al.* 1991, Mizuno and Zhuang 1995). Other medicinal uses of this mushroom include blood pressure regulation, control of diabetes, reduction of cholesterol, treatment of chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), and anti-HIV activity (Adachi *et al.* 1988, Arakawa *et al.* 1977, Jong and Birmingham 1990, Kabir *et al.* 1987, Kubo and Nanba 1997, Mizuno and Zhuang 1995, Nanba 1993, Yagishita *et al.* 1977, 1978).

The majority of the references in recent years concern the anti-tumor activities of maitake. The major anti-tumor substances, which have been obtained from extracts of the basidiome and liquid-cultured mycelium, include polysaccharides and lectins (for example, anti-tumor polysaccharides - FI₀- α - β ₁, FIII-1a, LMCA and *Grifola frondosa* lectin - GFL) (Mizuno and Kim 1996).

1.4.1 Anti-tumor polysaccharides

Both the basidiome and liquid-cultured mycelium of *G. frondosa* contain polysaccharides that inhibit growth of tumors (Ying *et al.* 1987). More than 20 anti-tumor polysaccharides have been isolated and purified from *G. frondosa*. Each active polysaccharide has a basic structure of a (1-6)- β -branched (1-3)- β -

D-glucan and heteroglycan or heteroglycan-protein complex as the major component (Mizuno *et al.* 1995).

Glucans are some of the major constituents in fungal cell walls. Miyazaki *et al.* (1978) proposed that the anti-tumor activity of glucans was influenced by the type of carbohydrate linkage, branch length and frequency, and molecular size and configuration.

Several glucans isolated from *G. frondosa* have been patented in Japan as potential anti-tumor, anti-cancer and immunodulating agents. These include GF-1, Grifolan-N and Grifolan NMF-5N (anonymous 1983, 1985, Oikawa *et al.* 1987, Takeyama *et al.* 1987). Scientists have concentrated on how these polysaccharides stimulate the mammalian immune system. They appear to enhance the cytolytic and interleukin-1 productivity of macrophages or T cells and to potentiate the delayed-type hypersensitivity response associated with tumor growth suppression (Jong and Birmingham 1990). However, the relationship between these polysaccharides and the medical effects is not fully elucidated.

1.4.2 Lectins

Lectins, carbohydrate-proteins of nonimmune origin, which agglutinate cells or precipitate polysaccharides or glycoconjugates, are widely distributed in living organisms including animals, plants, fungi, bacteria and viruses (Wang 1998). *Ischnoderma resinosum* agglutinin (IRA), a β -galactosyl-specific lectin, was the first lectin isolated from fungi (Kawagishi 1995). *Grifola frondosa* lectin (GFL) was isolated from basidiomes by affinity chromatography on acid-treated sepharose CL-4B and subsequently on GalNAc-toyopearl (Kawagishi 1990). It is N-acetylgalactosamine-specific with more than three subunits per molecule and over 100 kDa in size. GFL was cytotoxic against HeLa cells (cervical cancer cells). The minimum concentration of lectin leading to death of all cells was 25

µg/ml (Kawagishi 1995). However, lectins were only isolated from basidiomes; neither maitake mycelium nor its culture filtrate showed any lectin activity (Mizuno and Zhuang 1995).

1.5 Morphology and classical taxonomy

The genus *Grifola* S.F.Gray is characterized by its large compound basidiomes emerging from soil at the base of trees or stumps (Figure 1.2). In 1821, *G. frondosa* was described as "having stem lateral and cap semicircular" and was placed in the family *Hymenothecaceae* by Gray (1821). Recently, the genus *Grifola* S.F.Gray was placed in the phylum *Basidiomycota*, order *Aphyllphorales*, and family *Polyporaceae* (Alexopoulos 1996).



Figure 1.2. Morphology of *Grifola frondosa* (maitake)

Among the monographs about polypores, Gilbertson and Ryvardeen's *North American Polypores* (1986) may be the most widely accepted with regard to taxonomy of *Grifola*. Another monograph about polypores is the work of Zhao and Zhang (1992) "*The Polypores of China*". Zhao and Zhang (1992) accepted most of the taxonomic

work of Gilbertson and Ryvardeen (1986) when they described Chinese polypores. Gilbertson and Ryvardeen (1986) described the basidiomes of *Grifola* as annual, stipitate, stipe simple or branched to give rise to large numbers of petaloid pilei, upper surface gray to brownish, finely tomentose to glabrous, pore surface white to cream colored, the pores angular, 2-4 per mm, context white to pale buff, tubes decurrent on stipe. The hyphal system is dimitic containing generative hyphae with clamp connections. Basidiospores are ovoid to ellipsoid. Zhao and Zhang (1992) accepted these morphological descriptions and taxonomy concerning *Grifola*.

However, they also added some additional characters: thick-walled, yellowish skeletal hyphae and hyaline, smooth basidiospores.

Gilbertson and Ryvarden (1986) and Zhao and Zhang (1992) included only one species - *Grifola frondosa* (Dicks: Fr.) S.F. Gray in this genus. The history of *G. frondosa* dates to 1785; Dickson (1785) named this species *Boletus frondosus* Dicks. Fries (1821) changed it to *Polyporus frondosus* Dicks.: Fr. and Gray (1821) changed it to *Grifola frondosa* (Dicks.: Fr.) S.F. Gray. Gray (1821) described *Grifola frondosa* as "thallus much branched, caps numerous, halved, smoke grey, at the foot of oak-trees in autumn, about a foot wide and edible."

Gilbertson and Ryvarden (1986) examined morphological details of specimens collected in the United States. Basidiomes were described as annual, stipitate, and reaching to 40 cm wide. Stipe much branched from a thick base, cream colored, up to 10 cm or more in diameter at the base, giving rise to large numbers of imbricate, petaloid or flabelliform and often confluent pilei up to 8 cm wide and 8 mm thick. Upper surface pale lavender-gray at first, becoming darker and finally a dull dark brown on older specimens. Margin is concolorous, thin, often undulate or curled. Pore surface is ivory white. Pores are angular, 2-4 per mm, with thin, lacerate dissepiments. The context is ivory white, up to 2 mm thick in individual pilei, up to several centimetre thick at base and in main branches of the stipe. The tube layer is decurrent on the stipe, often to the ground line, distinct from context, pale tan on older dried specimens, brittle and shattering easily when dried, up to 5 mm thick. Odor is pleasant and nutlike. The contextual generative hyphae of *G. frondosa* are hyaline, thin-walled, with clamp connections, rarely branched, 2.5-5 nm in diameter. Contextual skeletal hyphae are moderately thick-walled, nonseptate, with infrequent branching, 2.5-6 nm in diameter, but generative hyphae are more frequently branched. Basidia are clavate, 4-sterigmate, 22-26 x 7-8 μm , with a basal clamp connection. Basidiospores (6-7 x 4-4.5 μm) are negative in Meizer's reagent.

Zhao and Zhang (1992) based their descriptions on Chinese specimens. The morphological characters are very similar to those described by Gilbertson and Ryvarden (1986) except that some differences were noted regarding color and size. Basidiomes are 2-7 x 3-7 cm, 2-7 mm thick with a white to gray-white upper surface. The context is white, 1-3 mm thick. Tubes are 1-4 mm long, whitish or milky yellow. Pore surfaces are white to yellowish with 1-3 pores per mm. The generative hyphae are 2.3-5.2µm in diameter, less branched, with clamp connections. The skeletal hyphae are colorless, or faintly yellowish, 3.5-5 µm in diameter. Basidiospore size is 5-7.5 x 3.5-4.5 µm.

1.6 Taxonomic discrepancies

1.6.1 Family level

Grifola frondosa is widely accepted in the family *Polyporaceae*. However, there are discrepancies regarding family placement. Hawksworth *et al.* (1995) placed this species in the family *Coriolaceae* in his *Dictionary of the Fungi*. Jülich (1981) proposed a new family *Grifolaceae*. In the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) taxonomy database (1999), *Grifola* was placed in the family *Schizophyllaceae*.

1.6.2 Genus level

Fries (1821) described the macroscopic characters of *Polyporus frondosus* in his *Systema Mycologicum*. Saccardo and Traverso's (1882) *Sylloge Fungorum Omnium Hucusque Cognitorum* did not include the genus *Grifola*. Hobles (1965) published a multiple-choice key for the identification of cultures of 149 species of wood-inhabiting Hymenomycetes based on comprehensive characters including microscopic characters, hyphal systems, extracellular oxidase and cultural characters. He also did not use the genus *Grifola* for *Polyporus frondosus* Dicks. ex Fr.

The genus *Grifola* was listed in the *Check List of European Polypores* (Donk 1974). Corner (1989) identified several South Asian *Grifola* species in his *Ad Polyporaceae*. The use of *G. frondosa* seems not to have been fully understood (Corner 1989) and, even now, *Polyporus frondosus*, the synonym of *Grifola frondosa*, still is widely used. The genus *Grifola* has not been accepted by all mycologists, so, the taxonomy of *Grifola* remains problematical. Corner (1989) found *Grifola* varied from multipileate to unipileate when he described Malesian species, so his description of *Grifola* is "fruit-bodies multipileate to unipileate". He also used a different description of the hyphal system. In his illustration of a Bornean (Malaysia) collection, hyphae of *G. frondosa* were described as monomitic, clamped, inflating in the stem and pileus and becoming copiously secondarily septate without clamps. And, these microscopic details agree with collections that he had made in England. Corner wrote: "The secondary septation of the hyphae of the stem and pileus of *G. frondosa*, which is so prominent that the species has been described as without clamps, might be considered a good generic distinction. It is described, in error it seems, by Gilbertson and Ryvarden as dimitic with uninflating hyphae" (Corner 1989). Ying *et al.* (1987) also observed "thin-walled, branched, septate hyphae without clamp connections" when he described Chinese specimens.

1.6.3 Species level

Gilbertson and Ryvarden (1987), Farr *et al.* (1989) and Zhao and Zhang (1992) accepted *Grifola frondosa* as the only species in this genus. But several other species of *Grifola* have been identified and/or used as tradition by many authors.

Gray (1821) identified five species of *Grifola* other than *frondosa*. They are *Grifola platypora* (wide-pored grifola), *Grifola cristata* (crested grifola), *Grifola lucida* (shining grifola), *Grifola badia* (bay grifola), and *Grifola varia* (changing

grifola). Singer (1969) identified an Argentine specimen as *Grifola sordulenta* (Montagne) Singer and a Chilean specimen as *Grifola gargal* Sing. Spec. nov. Donk (1974) listed one more species: *Grifola umbellata* (Pers. per Fr.) Pilát. Corner (1989) identified three new Singapore and Malaysian species: *Grifola armeniaca* sp. nov., *Grifola eos* sp. nov. and *Grifola* sp.A. Mizuno and Zhuang (1995) recognized three species of *Grifola* other than *G. frondosa* (maitake). They are *G. albicans* (shiromaitake), *G. gigantea* (choreimaitake), and *G. umbellata* (tonbimaitake).

Among all of these species mentioned by different authors, at least three species are thought to be very similar to *G. frondosa* based on morphological characters. They are *G. sordulenta* (Mont.) Singer, *G. gigantea* (Pers.) Pilét and *G. umbellata* (Pers. ex Fr.) Pilát.

***Grifola sordulenta* (Montagne) Singer**

Singer (1969) described *Grifola sordulenta* as multipileate polypore. Its stipes rise from a large common trunk-like base where secondary stipes branch off. Its spores vary from subglobose to short ellipsoid or ellipsoid. And more recently, Rajchenberg and Greslebin (1995) identified *Grifola sordulenta*, which decays standing and/or fallen trees of several *Nothofagus* species (the main native forest resource in Patagonia) in southern Argentina. It is similar to *G. frondosa* (Dicks.: Fr.) S.F. Gray. However, it was found that *G. frondosa* differs with *G. sordulenta* in culture by a faster growth rate, by the formation of chlamydospores, and by readily sporulating in culture according to the description of Nobles (1965).

***Grifola gigantea* (Pers.) Pilét**

Grifola gigantea is a synonym of *Meripilus giganteus* (Fr.) Karst and *Polyporus giganteus* Fr. Gilbertson and Ryvarden (1986) and Zhao and Zhang

(1992) both accepted *Meripilus giganteus* (Fr.) Karst. as a legatee species. They suggested that the genus *Grifola* was closely related to *M. gigantea*. For both genera, the large compound basidiomes, the ability to cause white rot, and the production of very similar spores are three characteristics that are nearly identical for the two genera. In contrast to *Grifola*, however, *Meripilus* has generative hyphae with simple septa, and has thin to thick walls without clamp connections (Gilbertson and Ryvarden 1986, Zhao and Zhang 1992).

Grifola gigantea is called choreimaitake in Japan, is edible when young but has an offensive odor (Mizuno and Zhuang 1995). It is found on the ground near broadleaf trees (Ying *et al.* 1987, Jong and Birmingham 1990). A water extract of the basidiomes of *G. gigantea* was shown to inhibit Ehrlich cancer development in white mice while similar extracts have shown inhibition rates as high as 90% against sarcoma 180 (Ying *et al.* 1987).

***Grifola umbellata* (Pers. ex Fr.) Pilét**

Grifola umbellata is a synonym of *Polyporus umbellatus* (Pers.) Fr. (Arora 1986, Donk 1974, Farr *et al.* 1989) and *Dendropolyporus umbellatus* (Pers.: Fr.) Jül. (Breitenbach and Kränzlin 1991). It has a profusely branched basidiome with many petaloid pilei and differs from *G. frondosa* in basidiome form, colors and spores (Gilbertson and Ryvarden 1986, Zhao and Zhang 1992). The primordia of *G. frondosa* are rich, dark gray brown to gray black in color whereas the basidiome initials of *G. umbellata* are light gray. Macroscopically, these two mushrooms are easily distinguished by their form. Specimens of *G. umbellata* have central branched stipes. Microscopically, the spores of *G. umbellata* are substantially larger and more cylindrically shaped than the spores of *G. frondosa* (Stamets 2000).

Grifola umbellata is referred to as tonbimaitake in Japan (Mizuno and Zhuang 1995). In nature, this mushroom is found on the ground around tree

roots, at the base of stumps or from underground wood in broadleaf and coniferous forests. It is distributed primarily in the Northern Hemisphere (Farr *et al.* 1989). The portion found above ground is edible, while the portion under ground has purported medicinal value (Jong and Birmingham 1990, Ying *et al.* 1987). It has desirable culinary characteristics (Arora 1986, Bessette *et al.* 1997) and its medicinal value has been utilized in Chinese medicine from ancient times. A β -(1-3)-D-glucan showing antitumor activity against cancer has been isolated from its basidiomes (Mizuno and Zhuang 1995).

The taxonomic position of *Grifola* and some of its close allies is not clear. In the last century, Gray (1821) recognized six species of *Grifola* using only simple macroscopic characters. However, most other authors regard Gray's species designations species of *Polyporus*. For example, *G. badia* Pers.: S.F. Gray is *P. badius* (Pers.:S.F.Gray) Schweinitz (Bessette *et al.* 1997, Farr *et al.* 1989, Gilbertson and Ryvarden 1987). While *G. varia* is accepted as *P. varius* Fr.: Fr. (Farr *et al.* 1989, Gilbertson and Ryvarden 1987). Gray's shining grifola – *G. lucida* is thought to be *P. lucidium* (the synonym of *Ganoderma lucidium*). Recently, although more details on morphological characters have been used to describe this group of fungi, there remain close similarities among the genera *Grifola*, *Meripilus* and *Polyporus*.

1.7 Molecular systematics

1.7.1 Ribosomal RNA genes

Recent advances in molecular genetics have provided techniques that allow researchers to study relationships among organisms at the molecular level. DNA sequence analysis has been exploited extensively in recent years by mycologists for systematic and phylogenetic studies on the various groups of fungi. Molecular data were useful in cases where morphological characters

alone are insufficient for the delineation of clear taxonomic groups. Most of these studies have focused on the analysis of ribosomal RNA genes (rDNA).

Ribosomal RNA genes exist in most genomes as multiple copies arranged in tandem repeats along one or more chromosomes. In eukaryotes, each repeat is composed of a transcription unit that codes for three RNAs: a small subunit RNA (SSU), a large subunit RNA (LSU) and a 5.8S RNA. The three genes are separated by two transcribed spacers, the ITS 1 and ITS 2. Each repeat is separated by a non-transcribed spacer, also called an intergenic spacer (IGS) (Figure 1.3). The gene coding for a 5S RNA may be found within the non-transcribed spacer or comprising its own tandem repeat unit elsewhere in the genome.

Several features of rDNA make it appropriate for systematic and phylogenetic studies. First, this region of the genome is well characterized and conserved. Many primers already are available to amplify regions of the rDNA repeat that would supply sequence data for a wide range of taxa (White *et al.* 1990). Second, substantial research has been done on rDNA from many fungi, so ample datasets are available for reference. Additionally, different regions of rDNA evolve at variable rates, which can be used to investigate fungal relationships at different taxonomic levels (Bruns *et al.* 1991). For example, ITS regions are very suitable for phylogenetic analysis on both the species and genus levels.

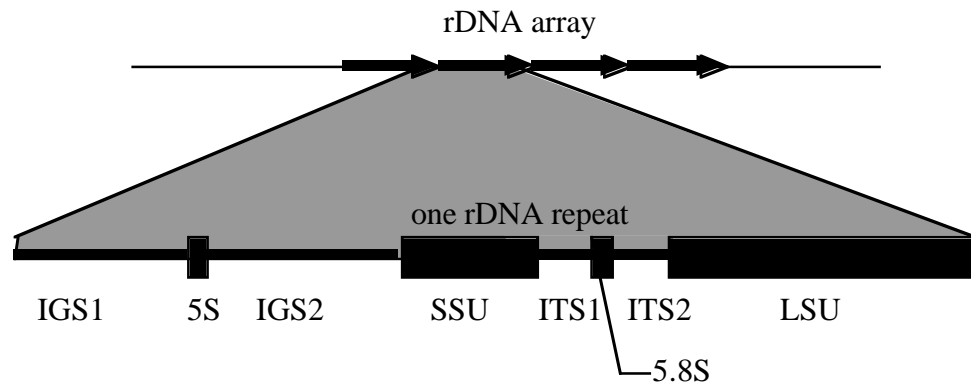


Figure 1.3. Common gene arrangement within a eukaryotic rDNA unit. IGS= Intergenic spacer; ITS= internal transcribed spacer; 5S, 5.8S, SSU and LSU= coding regions, 'S' refers to the sedimentation coefficient in Swedberg unit.

1.7.2 Molecular phylogenetic studies with multiple genes

Although rDNA has been used widely in phylogenetic studies, the evolution of one gene may not represent the evolution of an entire genome. Therefore, gene trees reconstructed from sequences of a single gene may not infer authentic phylogenetic relationships among taxa (Li and Graur 1991). One way to increase the confidence in the phylogenetic assumption that a given gene tree reflects the underlying organism tree is to sample additional, independent genes. Each gene can be analyzed separately and the resulting phylogenies can be compared to see if they support or conflict with each other. Phylogenies can be inferred from the combined datasets if two different gene trees are not in conflict (Geiser *et al.* 2000).

Genes encoding for metabolic and structural proteins are conserved and have advantages over rDNA in that the alignment of the sequence is less ambiguous (Bruns *et al.* 1991). Moreover, degrees of variation in intron, exon, and protein sequences may provide valuable information for fungal systematic and evolutionary studies at different taxonomic levels.

1.7.3 β -tubulin genes

β -tubulin genes encode components of microtubules, which are major components of the cytoskeleton, mitotic spindles, and flagella of eukaryotic cells (Sullivan 1988). In fungi, mutations within the β -tubulin gene may confer resistance to the fungicide benomyl (Goldman *et al.* 1993, Koenraad *et al.* 1992, Yarden and Katan 1993). This has led to an interest in studying this gene for the characterization of benomyl resistance in plant pathogens as well as for the development of selectable markers for transformation systems (May *et al.* 1987, Panaccione and Hanau 1990).

β -tubulin genes are useful for phylogenetic analysis at a variety of taxonomic levels. It has conserved exons and many introns. For example, the benA β -tubulin gene of *Aspergillus* spp. and *Schizophyllum commune* (Figure 1.4) usually have eight introns and the β -tubulin gene of *Neurospora crassa* has six introns (Figure 1.5). Several primers are available for use in amplifying specific regions of the gene (Thon and Royse 1999a).

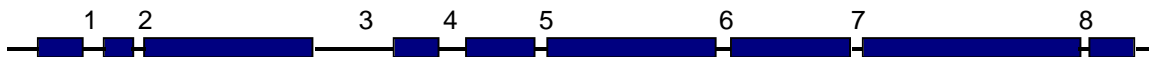


Figure 1.4. β -tubulin gene structure of *Schizophyllum commune* (Russo *et al.* 1992). Regions marked with numbers are introns.



Figure 1.5. Schematic structure of *Neurospora crassa* β -tubulin gene (Orbach *et al.* 1986). Regions marked with numbers are introns.

Fungi such as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Hansen (Neff *et al.* 1983), *Septoria nodorum* Berk. (Cooley *et al.* 1991), and *Neurospora crassa* Shear et Dodge (Orbach *et al.* 1986) have one copy of the β -tubulin gene. Fungi, like

Aspergillus nidulans (Eid.) Wint. (May *et al.* 1987), *Colletotrichum graminicola* (Ces.) Wils. (Panaccione and Hanau 1990), and probably *Schizophyllum commune* Fr. (Russo *et al.* 1992) have two β -tubulin genes. But these two divergent genes have distinct functions. Thus, they are easily distinguished at the sequence level.

In recent years, β -tubulin gene sequences have been used in phylogenetic studies of slime molds (Baldauf and Doolittle 1997), protozoa (Edlind *et al.* 1996), Ascomycetes, such as *Fusarium* (Donaldson *et al.* 1995, O'Donnell *et al.* 1998) and *Aspergillus* (Geiser *et al.* 1998b) and Basidiomycetes, such as *Lentinula* and *Pleurotus* (Thon and Royse 1999a).

1.8 Grifola genome

Heim (1954), using microscopic observation, reported that *Grifola frondosa* has eight chromosomes. However, very little is known about the genome of *G. frondosa*, including the structure, distribution, and organization of ribosomal and β -tubulin genes in this genus. In GenBank, the only reported sequences of *G. frondosa* are partial ribosomal RNA 25S large subunit sequences (Accession numbers: AF287863, M98641, M98611, M98580) (Hibbett and Vilgalys 1993, Hibbett *et al.* 2000), trehalose phosphorylase encoding cDNA sequences (Accession numbers: E17395, E17394) (Horinouchi *et al.* 1999), and trehalose synthase mRNA sequences (Accession numbers: AB010105, AB010104) (Ohnishi *et al.* 1998).

Chapter 2: Genetic variation present in ITS-1, ITS-2 and 5.8S of the ribosomal DNA repeat and in selected regions of the β -tubulin gene for *Grifola frondosa* and related species

2.1 Introduction

Grifola frondosa (Dickson: Fr.) S.F.Gray is a white rot fungus widely distributed in Asia, North America and Europe. Commonly called maitake or hen-of-the-woods, it is considered a choice edible mushroom with exotic taste and medicinal qualities. Maitake is marketed throughout Asia and, because of increased consumer demand, its commercial production has grown dramatically in Asia and the United States.

Grifola frondosa was first described by S. F. Gray based on the production of unique, large compound basidiomes (Gray 1821). Recently, Gilbertson and Ryvardeen (1986) identified *G. frondosa* found in North America, while Zhao and Zhang (1992) identified this species from China. Gilbertson and Ryvardeen (1986) and Zhao and Zhang (1992) only accepted one species (*G. frondosa*) in the genus *Grifola*. However, Singer (1969) identified another *Grifola* species *G. sordulenta*. *Polyporus umbellata* (Pers.) Fr. and *Meripilus gigantea* (Fr.) Karst are also considered as close allies of *G. frondosa* based on morphological characters (Gilbertson and Ryvardeen 1986, Zhao and Zhang 1992). These two species have synonyms of *G. umbellata* (Pers. ex Fr.) Pilét and *G. gigantea* (Pers.) Pilét, respectively.

No previous work concerning the genetic variability within *G. frondosa* and related species has been conducted. A clearer understanding of genetic variability is needed for classification and delineation of phylogenetic relationships of these fungi. Genetic selection and improvement of cultivated

isolates in commercial mushroom production also may be facilitated by such a study. Because of the morphological similarities of *G. frondosa* and its allies, molecular data would provide more information on genetic variability. In recent years, molecular techniques have been exploited extensively by mycologists for systematic studies on the various groups of fungi. Many of these studies have focused on DNA sequence analysis of ribosomal RNA genes (rDNA) and β -tubulin genes.

Ribosomal RNA genes are conserved and well characterized with many primers available to amplify and sequence different regions of the rDNA repeat (White *et al.* 1990). In addition, Thon and Royse (1999a) have provided primer sequences that can be used for amplification of partial β -tubulin sequences in basidiomycetes.

In this study, partial regions of rDNA and β -tubulin genes were analyzed to examine the amount of genetic variability within isolates of *G. frondosa* and its allies. Specific primers were developed for amplification of regions of the β -tubulin gene of *G. frondosa*. Sequences of a portion of the β -tubulin gene including three introns and exons at the 3' half were analyzed. Regions sequenced for analyzing genetic variability in rDNA included internal transcribed spacers-1 and -2 (ITS-1 & -2) and the 5.8 S rRNA gene.

2.2 Materials and Methods

2.2.1 Cultures

A list of mushroom isolates used in this study are shown in Table 2.1 along with their geographic origin, locations and hosts. Fifty-two isolates of *G. frondosa*, including all isolates available from The American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) and The Pennsylvania State University Mushroom Culture

Collection (PSUMCC), were examined for genetic variability. All cultures were maintained by subculturing on potato dextrose agar supplemented with 1.5g/L of yeast extract (PDYA).

Table 2.1. List of species, isolate code, source, geographic origin, substrate and locality of *Grifola frondosa* and related species used for this study.

Species	Isolate code	Source ^a	Geographic origin	Host/Substrate	Locality
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC248	L.C. Schisler	PSU, PA	N/A ^b	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC364	L.C. Schisler	PSU, PA	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC367	Jodon	PSU, PA	N/A	Hort. Woods
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC483	ATCC 11936	Maryland	Oak stump	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i> ^c	WC484	ATCC 48688	N/A	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC493	ATCC 48141	Norway	<i>Quercus robur</i>	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC555	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC556	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC557	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC581	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC582	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC583	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC659	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC685	B.W.Yoo	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC808	Bill Shanley	Tidioute, PA	White Oak	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC828	D.J.Royse	N/A	Commercial isolate	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC834	NGF 001	Nara Prefecture, Japan	<i>Castanopsis</i> spp.	Lowlands
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC835	Hokken M-1	Japan	Commercial isolate on oak	Highlands
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC836	Mori 51	Japan	Commercial isolate on oak	Highlands
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M001	USDA FP-101988-T	Cooksville (Rock), WI	Soil near downed hardwood log (<i>Quercus</i> ?)	Edge of Old Mill Pond at Hwy 59, Fire #638
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M002	USDA FP-102464-Sp	Madison, WI	<i>Quercus</i> , soil at base of dead stump.	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M003	USDA FP-102464-T	Madison(Dane), WI	<i>Quercus</i> , soil at base of dead stump.	Picnic Point, UW campus
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M004	USDA FP-103424-T	Athens(Georgia), GA	<i>Quercus nigra</i> , at base	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M005	USDA FP-105867-Sp	Beltsville (Prince George), MD	<i>Quercus coccinea</i> (scarlet oak) living, at base	Forest Disease Lab Station, Agr. Res. Center
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M006	USDA FP-134675-Sp	Madison (Dane), WI	<i>Quercus</i> , underneath	UW Arboretum
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M007	USDA FP-47462	WV	<i>Quercus alba</i> (white oak)	Plat #55, at 1500 feet elevation, Devil's Hole
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M008	USDA RLG-6889-Sp	Syracuse, NY	<i>Quercus alba</i>	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M009	USDA LOO-14980-T	LA	<i>Quercus</i> snag, inside of hollow (oak)	N/A

Species	Isolate code	Source ^a	Geographic origin	Host/Substrate	Locality
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M010	USDA OKM-4954-T	Beltsville (Prince George), MD	N/A	Ground, Beltsville Expt Forest
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M011	USDA OKM-6133-Sp	Washington(District of Columbia), DC	N/A	Rock Creek Park
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M012	USDA RLG-14995-T	Baton Rouge, LA	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Memorial Grove, LA State U campus
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M013	USDA L-15552-Sp	Syracuse, NY	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M014	USDA RLG-6889-T	Syracuse, NY	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Oakwood Cemetery
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M015	USDA TJV-93-130-T	Madison(Dane), WI	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> , base of live	Turville Pt. Woods
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M016	FIRDI 36283	Taiwan	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M017	FIRDI 36286	Taiwan	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M018	FIRDI 36355	Taiwan	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M019	FIRDI 36356	Taiwan	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M020	FIRDI 36357	Taiwan	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M021	FIRDI 36434	Taiwan	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M029	PSUMCC 600	Taiwan	Commercial strain	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M030	PSUMCC 601	Taiwan	Commercial strain	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M031	PSUMCC 602	Taiwan	Commercial strain	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M032	PSUMCC 604	Taiwan	Commercial strain	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M033	PSUMCC 630	Taiwan	Commercial strain	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M034	PSUMCC 644	Taiwan	Commercial strain	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M035	USDA RLG-6889-Sp	Syracuse, NY	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Oakwood Cemetery
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M036	X.W.Chen	China	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M037	X.W.Chen	China	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M038	ATCC 60891	China	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M039	Tan 0206	He Bei, China	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M40	M. Chen	China	Commercial strain	N/A
<i>G. sordulenta</i>	G01	ATCC 200416	Argentina	<i>Nothofagus dombeyi</i> trunk	N/A
<i>P. umbellatus</i> ^d	G02	ATCC 60546	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>M. giganteus</i> ^e	G06	USDA FP-135344-Sp	England	Carpinus spp.	Virginia Waters

^a ATCC = American Type Culture Collection; USDA = The United States Department of Agriculture; FIRDI = Food Industry Research and Development Institute, Taiwan; PSUMCC = Pennsylvania State University Mushroom Culture Collection.

^b N/A = not available

^c Culture misidentified. Found 98% match as *Spongipellis delectans* by blast search of ITS rDNA in this study.

^d *Polyporus umbellatus*, synonym of *Grifola umbellata*.

^e *Meripilus giganteus*, synonym of *Grifola giganteus* and *Polyporus giganteus*.

2.2.2 DNA extraction

Cultures were grown in 50 ml of potato dextrose yeast broth (PDYB) for 20 to 30 days at room temperature. Mycelium was harvested by vacuum filtration on Whatman qualitative filter paper, and washed once with distilled water. Fresh mycelium (100mg) was used to isolate DNA following the LETS extraction procedure (Chen *et al.* 1999). DNA preparations were diluted with sterile water and used as template for PCR amplification.

2.2.3 Primer design

Nine primers, targeting exons 5 to 9 of the β -tubulin genes of *Schizophyllum commune*, were prepared as outlined by Thon and Royse (1999a). I designed another four primers based on β -tubulin exon alignments of *S. commune* (Russo *et al.* 1992), *Pleurotus pulmonarius* (Kim and Magae 1999) and *Coprinus cinereus* (Matsuo *et al.* 1999). Sequences were targeted at exon 1, 5 and 7 of the β -tubulin gene, respectively. A total of 13 specific primers (Figure 2.1) were screened in 15 different combinations (Table 2.2) using 7 isolates of *Grifola frondosa* (WC556, WC828, WC835, M009, M036, WC484, WC493), *G. sordulenta* G01, and *Polyporus umbellatus* G02. The selected isolates were assumed genetically diverse because of their taxonomy and isolation from substrates found in different geographic sites.

None of the primer pairs provided a single band of predicted size for all isolates tested. However, strong bands of around 680bp and 500bp were consistently found with primer pairs BT1.1/B34R and B43F/B41R, respectively, from all isolates (Figure 2.2). PCR products were subjected to electrophoresis at 70 V for 3 hours in 2% low melting point agarose prepared in TAE buffer (40 mM

Tris-acetate, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.4). Amplicons (~680bp and ~500bp bands) were excised from the agarose gels and purified using the Wizard PCR Preps system according to instructions provided by the manufacturer (Promega Corp., Madison, WI).

Purified PCR products were sequenced using primers BT1.1, B34R, B43F and B41R. Sequences including the 3' end of exon 5 to exon 9 of the β -tubulin gene were aligned, and the specific primers BTG5F (5'-CGTTGTGCCAGTCCTAAGGTG-3') and BTG8R (5'-GTTCTTGCTCTGCACGTTCTG-3') were designed to target the exon 5 to 8 region of the β -tubulin gene. These specific primers amplified a single strong band for all isolates of *Grifola frondosa*, except isolate WC484. All oligonucleotides were synthesized in an Oligo 1000M DNA synthesizer (Beckman Instruments, Inc; PSU Nucleic Acid Facility).

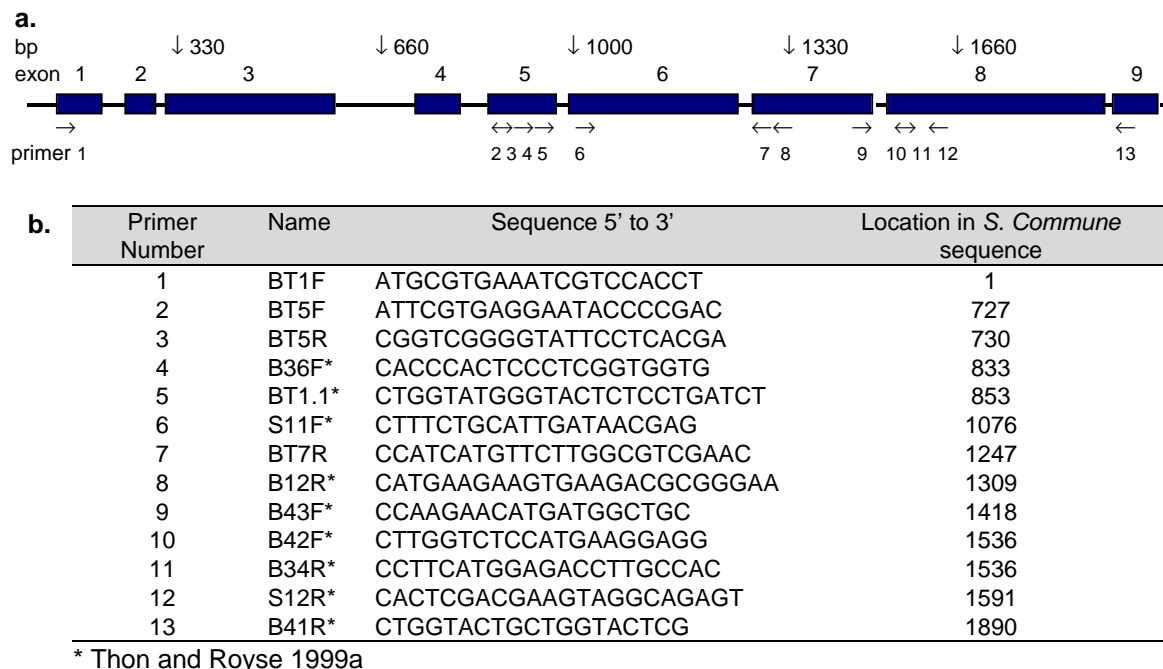


Figure 2.1. Locations (a) and sequences (b) of 13 primers according to the *Schizophyllum commune* β -tubulin gene sequence reported by Russo *et al.* (1992).

Table 2.2. Combinations (15) of primer (13) pairs and their PCR amplification sizes in the *Schizophyllum commune* β -tubulin sequence tested for amplification in eight isolates of *Grifola frondosa*, *G. sordulenta* and *Polyporus umbellatus*.

Primer pair	Size (bp) in <i>S. commune</i> sequence*
BT1F/BT5R	748
BT5F/BT7R	542
BT5F/B12R	606
B36F/ B12R	500
B36F/ B34R	724
B36F/ S12R	780
BT1.1/ B12R	480
BT1.1/ B34R	704
BT1.1/ S12R	760
S11F/ B12R	257
S11F/ B34R	481
S11F/ S12R	537
S11F/ B41R	833
B43F/ B41R	490
B42F/ B41R	373

*. Russo *et al.* 1992.

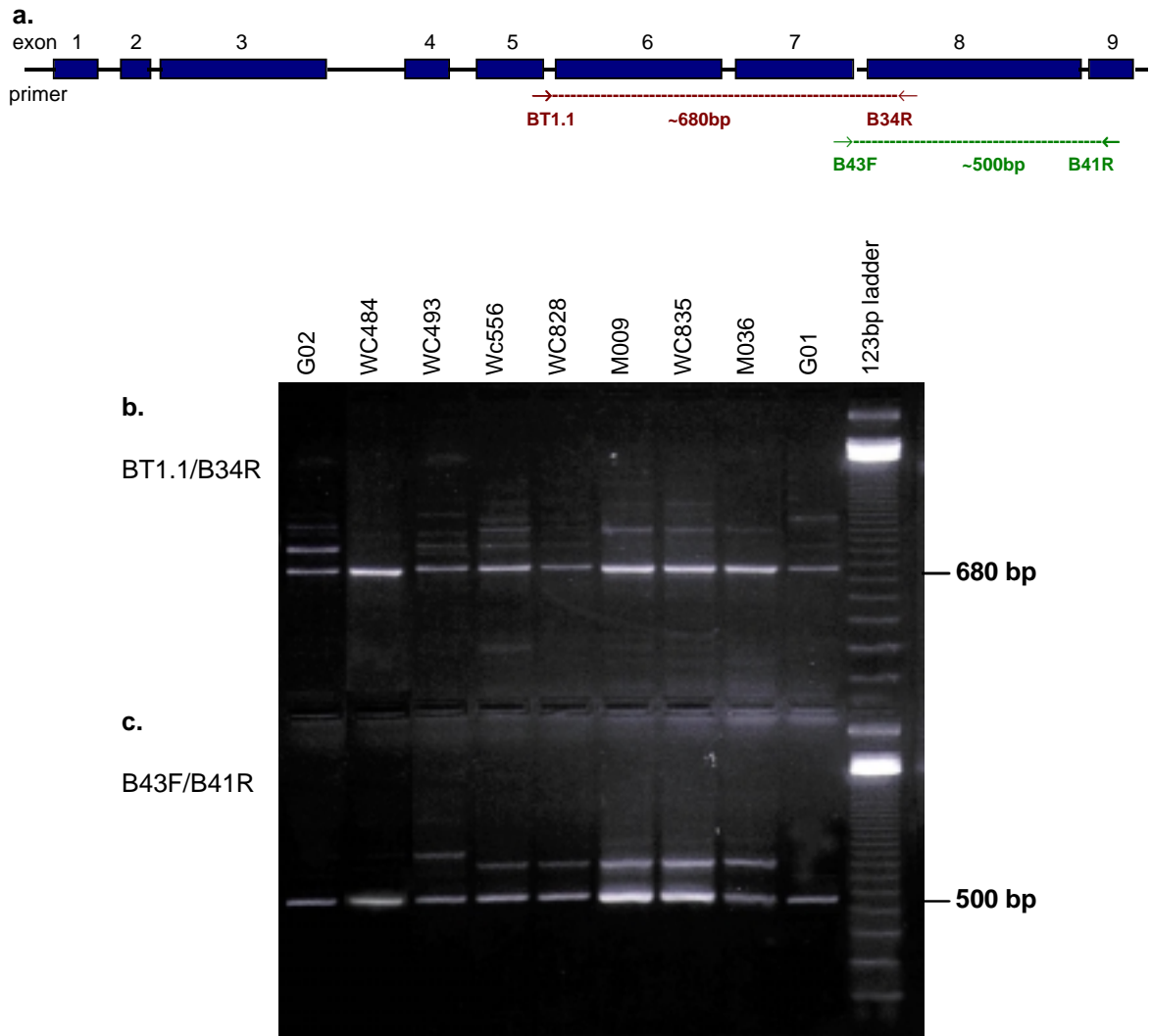


Figure 2.2. PCR amplification products by primer pairs BT1.1/B34R (b) and B43F/B41R (c) corresponding to β -tubulin gene sequence (a) reported by Russo *et al.* (1992) from seven isolates of *Grifola frondosa*, one *G. sordulenta* G01 and *Polyporus umbellatus* G02. Isolate numbers are listed above each lane.

2.2.4 PCR amplification and sequencing of rDNA and β -tubulin

PCR was performed in 25 μ l reactions on a 96-well PCR cycler (PTC-100 Programmable Thermal Controller, MJ Research, Inc.), using 10mg DNA template, 1 Unit of *Taq* DNA polymerase (Promega, Madison, WI), 0.2 mM of each dNTP, 2 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.1% Triton, as well as 0.5 μ M of each primer.

2.2.4.1 rDNA

Amplification of ITS-1, ITS-2, and 5.8 S rDNA was performed for all isolates utilizing primers ITS1AF (5'-TCCGTAGGTGAACCTGCGG-3') (White *et al.* 1990) and ALR0 (5'-CATATGCTTAAGTTCAGCGGG-3') (Figure 2.3). PCR

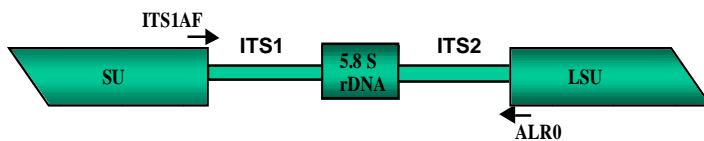


Figure 2.3. Locations of the primers for amplification of ITS-1, ITS-2 and 5.8s rDNA gene regions of the rDNA repeat.

reactions for ITS regions were performed with the following parameters: 94°C/1 min; 35 cycles of 94°C/15 s, 60°C/30 s, 72°C/1 min; and 72°C/5 min.

2.2.4.2 β -tubulin

PCR reactions for β -tubulin regions were performed using two primer pairs BTG5F/BTG8R and BT1.1/B34R (Figure 2.4) with the following parameters: 94°C/2 min; 35 cycles of 94°C/15 s, 57°C/30 s, 72°C/1 min; and 72°C/7 min. Primers BTG5F (5'-CGTTGTGCCAGTCCTAAGGTG-3') and BTG8R (5'-GTTCTTGCTCTGCACGTTCTG-3') were used to amplify 51 isolates of *G. frondosa*, and one isolate of *G. sordulenta* G01 and *Polyporus umbellatus* G02. Isolate WC484 was amplified using primers BT1.1 and B34R. Reactions were optimized by adjusting concentrations of template DNA and other reagents and

primer annealing temperatures. Amplification products were electrophoresed on a 1.0% agarose gel and checked to ensure that a single DNA band was produced of the expected size (~600bp for ITS PCR products and ~680bp for β -tubulin PCR products).

For sequencing, PCR products were purified directly from reactions using the wizard PCR Preps System (Promega Corp., Madison, WI) and adjusted to a concentration of 20ng/ μ l. Sequencing reactions were performed using the PCR primers and an ABI dye-terminator kit (ABI/Perkin-Elmer). Sequences were resolved using an ABI Prism[®] Model 377 automated sequencing system (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) located in the Department of Plant Pathology (Buckhout Lab.).

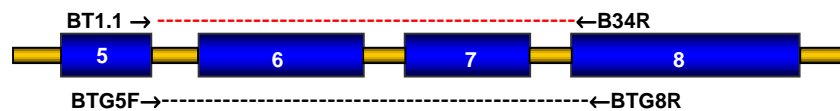


Figure 2.4. Locations of primer pairs (BTG5F/BTG8R and BT1.1/B34R) and the size (~680bp) of amplicons for portions of the β -tubulin gene. Numbers indicate exons.

2.2.5 Sequence data analysis

Sequences were edited and initially aligned using the clustal W algorithm (Higgins *et al.* 1991) in the Lasergene package (DNASStar, Inc. Madison, WI) and then optimized visually. Nucleotide variations occurred in rDNA and β -tubulin genes were calculated by kimura 2-parameter model using PAUP, version 4.0b4a (Swofford 2000).

For rDNA, variable nucleotide sites within ITS-1, ITS-2 and the 5.8 S regions were calculated respectively among 51 isolates of *Grifola frondosa*, 52 isolates of *Grifola* spp. (*G. sordulenta* G01 and 51 isolates of *G. frondosa*), and 12

isolates of *G. frondosa* and its allies (eight isolates of *G. frondosa*, WC484, *G. sordulenta* G01, *Polyporus umbellatus* G02, and *Meripilus giganteus* G06). For the β -tubulin gene, variable nucleotide sites within each exon and intron from exon 5 to exon 8 were calculated, respectively, among 51 isolates of *Grifola frondosa*, 52 isolates of *Grifola* spp. (*G. sordulenta* G01 and 51 isolates of *G. frondosa*), and 11 isolates of *G. frondosa* and its allies (eight isolates of *G. frondosa*, WC484, *G. sordulenta* G01, and *Polyporus umbellatus* G02). Nucleotide variations within these regions were compared and the highly variable and highly conserved domains within the regions were determined.

2.2.6 Database search

The database search of sequences for a possible match to the rDNA sequence of isolate WC484 was conducted using the Blastn algorithm (Altschul *et al.* 1997) available at the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI, Bethesda, MD).

2.3 Results

2.3.1 Analysis of ITS sequences

Amplification of the ITS-1, ITS-2 and 5.8S ribosomal DNA repeat yielded fragments of approximately 600 bp as estimated by agarose gel electrophoresis. Characteristics of nucleotide variation present in these regions of *Grifola frondosa* and its allies are summarized in Table 2.3.

An alignment (Appendix A) with total sites of 574bp was used to compare nucleotide variation within *Grifola frondosa* and *G. sordulenta*. The alignment included the sequences of all isolates of *Grifola frondosa* (except WC484) and the only isolate of *G. sordulenta*. Isolate WC484 was excluded because of extreme variation compared with other *G. frondosa* isolates. Nucleotide variation

within isolates of *Grifola frondosa* was 5.4%. Thus, variation was relatively small compared to that observed between isolates of *G. frondosa* and *G. sordulenta* (14.3%).

Table 2.3. Site variation within the ITS-1, 5.8 S, and ITS-2 gene region of *Grifola frondosa* and its allies.

Isolates	Number ^a	ITS-1			5.8S			ITS-2			Total		
		Sites ^b	Total ^c	V(%) ^d	Sites	Total	V(%)	Sites	Total	V(%)	Sites	Total	V(%)
<i>G. frondosa</i> ^e	51	7	199	3.5	0	158	0	24	217	11.1	31	574	5.4
<i>Grifola</i> spp. ^f	52	30	199	15.1	0	158	0	52	217	24.0	82	574	14.3
<i>Grifola frondosa</i> and allies ^g	11	116	220	52.7	0	158	0	119	222	53.6	235	600	39.2

^a Number of isolates included.

^b Number of variable sites.

^c Total number of sites compared.

^d Percentage of sequence variation.

^e All sequences of *G. frondosa* (excluding WC484).

^f Isolates included *G. frondosa* (excluding WC484) and *G. sordulenta*.

^g Isolates included eight *G. frondosa*, *G. sordulenta*, *Polyporus umbellatus* G01, and *Meripilus giganteus* G06.

The same pattern of variation occurred within the ITS-1, 5.8S, and ITS-2 gene regions. Isolates of *G. frondosa* showed the lowest nucleotide variation in ITS-1 (3.5%), 5.8S (0%), and ITS-2 (11.1%) gene regions. Nucleotide variation between isolates of *G. frondosa* and *G. sordulenta* in ITS-1, 5.8S, and ITS-2 gene regions were 15.1%, 0%, and 24.0% respectively.

Sequences of eight isolates of *G. frondosa* (M009, M004, WC493, WC659, M030, WC835, WC828 and M037), which have different geographic origins, and isolates of *G. sordulenta*, *Polyporus umbellatus* and *Meripilus giganteus* were aligned to compare and calculate nucleotide variation. Total number of sites of the alignment (Appendix B) were 600bp. Among isolates of *Grifola frondosa* and its allies, the nucleotide variation (39.2%) was much higher.

In the 5.8S gene, no nucleotide differences were found among isolates of *G. frondosa* and its allies. Thus, most of the variation observed was attributed to nucleotide differences within the ITS-1 and ITS-2 regions. Because of the high nucleotide variation in the ITS-1 (52.7 %) and ITS-2 (53.6%) gene regions, the alignment (Appendix B) is ambiguous.

The blast search of sequences for a possible match to the rDNA sequence of isolate WC484 yielded 998 hits on the query sequence in the nucleotide databases at the NCBI. The highest match was *Spongipellis delectans* ITS-1, 5.8 S, and ITS-2 nuclear rDNA sequence (Yao *et al.* 1998). The score for this match is 1088 bits with an E value of zero. The alignment (Appendix C) of 573 total nucleotides showed 98% identities. The scores for the remainder of the matches were lower than 335 bits with E values higher than 1.0E-89. This indicated that *Grifola frondosa* isolate WC484 from the ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) is probably a misidentified isolate of *Spongipellis delectans*.

2.3.2 Analysis of partial β -tubulin sequences

Amplified fragments of the partial β -tubulin sequences were approximately 680bp and contained 40bp of the 3'-end of exon 5, exon 6, 7, 72bp of the 5'-end of exon 8 and intron 5, 6, 7, which were identified based on their reported locations in the *Schizophyllum commune* β -tubulin gene sequence (Russo *et al.* 1992) and the identity of GT- -AG splice junctions for introns. Isolate of *Meripilus giganteus* G06 was not included in the analysis because several attempts to sequence PCR products were unsuccessful.

The characteristics of nucleotide variation present in partial β -tubulin sequence regions of *Grifola frondosa* and its allies are summarized in Table 2.4. The nucleotide variations within *Grifola frondosa* and *G. sordulenta* were analyzed by aligning 51 sequences of *G. frondosa* and one isolate of *G.*

sordulenta (Appendix D). The total number of sites was 587bp and included 4bp of 3'-end of exon 5, 58bp of intron 5, 229bp of exon 6, 62bp of intron 6, 164bp of exon 7, 62bp of intron 7 and 8bp of the 5'-end of exon 8 of the β -tubulin gene. An alignment (Appendix E) with total sites of 401bp was used to compare nucleotide variation within *Grifola frondosa* (M009, M004, WC493, WC659, M030, WC835, WC828 and M037) and related species (*G. sordulenta* and *Polyporus umbellatus*). This alignment included end base pairs (AG) of intron 5 and 6, 229bp of exon 6, 164bp of exon 7, and start base pairs (GT) of intron 6 and 7 of the β -tubulin gene sequence. Intron 5, 6 and 7 were excluded from the analysis because of an ambiguous alignment.

Within isolates of *Grifola frondosa*, nucleotide variation was 12.2% for total sites. Most of the variation occurred in introns with 14.8% for intron 5, 23.7% for intron 6, and 32.3% for intron 7. Lesser variation was observed in exons with 8.3% for exon 6, and 5.5% for exon 7. The sequences of *G. frondosa* and *G. sordulenta* showed much higher variation for the total alignment (30.2%) and across the introns and exons. The most variable region was intron 5 (56.9%) and exon 7 was the most conserved region (18.3%) within the β -tubulin gene sequence regions analyzed.

Among isolates of *Grifola frondosa* and its allies, sequence variances within introns 5 and 7 were too high to allow an unambiguous alignment. The nucleotide variation of exon 6 (23.6%) and exon 7 (21.3%) were much higher than that within *G. frondosa*. No insertions and deletions were observed within exons.

Table 2.4. Site variation within the partial β -tubulin gene region of *Grifola* and its allies.

Isolates	number ^a	Exon 5			Intron 5			Exon 6			Intron 6		
		Sites ^b	Total ^c	V(%) ^d	Sites	Total	V(%)	Sites	Total	V(%)	Sites	Total	V(%)
<i>G. frondosa</i> ^e	51	0	4	0	8	54	14.8	19	229	8.3	14	59	23.7
<i>Grifola</i> spp. ^f	52	0	4	0	33	58	56.9	45	229	19.7	35	62	56.5
<i>Grifola frondosa</i> and allies ^g	10	-	-	-	0	2	0	54	229	23.6	0	4	0

Isolates	number	Exon 7			Intron 7			Exon 8			Total		
		Sites	Total	V(%)	Sites	Total	V(%)	Sites	Total	V(%)	Sites	Total	V(%)
<i>G. frondosa</i> ^e	51	9	164	5.5	20	62	32.3	1	8	12.5	71	580	12.2
<i>Grifola</i> spp. ^f	52	30	164	18.3	33	62	53.2	1	8	12.5	177	587	30.2
<i>Grifola frondosa</i> and allies ^g	10	35	164	21.3	0	2	0	-	-	-	89	401	22.2

^a Number of isolates included.

^b Number of variable sites.

^c Total number of sites compared.

^d Percentage of sequence variation

^e All sequences of *G. frondosa* (excluding WC484)

^f Isolates included *G. frondosa* (excluding WC484) and *G. sordulenta*

^g Isolates included eight *G. frondosa*, *G. sordulenta* G01, *Polyporus umbellatus* G02.

2.4 Discussion

Nearly 30 years ago, researchers first observed that rRNA genes from closely related species are highly evolutionarily conserved, while ITS and intergenic regions are much more variable (Brown *et al.* 1972). The findings regarding the genetic variability in ITS and 5.8S rDNA regions of the *G. frondosa* and its related species are similar. Most of the nucleotide variation was found in the ITS regions, while 5.8S shared significant sequence similarity (Table 2.3).

Similar to other protein encoding genes, nucleotide variation of exons in β -tubulin genes was much less than that of introns. Thus, β -tubulin gene

sequences may be used successfully for phylogenetic studies because alignments in exons are less ambiguous, and sufficient phylogenetic information is available from introns. The protein encoding regions (exons) of β -tubulin genes are conserved because they encode components of microtubules that are major structural components of eukaryotic cells. No amino acid changes were observed within isolates of *G. frondosa*. Two amino acid changes were observed between isolates of *G. frondosa* and *G. sordulenta*. Most nucleotide substitutions were observed in the third codon of amino acids.

Comparison of sequence divergence of ITS and β -tubulin revealed a higher level of nucleotide variation in the regions of β -tubulin than in ITS regions. Within *G. frondosa* species, nucleotide variation in exons of β -tubulin was even higher than in ITS-1 and ITS-2. Thus, the β -tubulin gene provided more phylogenetic information at the species level.

DNA sequence data indicated that *Grifola frondosa* isolate WC484 is



Figure 2.5. Primordium of WC484 grown on sawdust substrate.

probably misidentified. Morphological differences in culture and spawn between WC484 and *G. frondosa* were observed. It was also found that WC484 formed a unique red color primordium on supplemented sawdust substrates (Figure 2.5). This is different than the dark gray color primordium formed by *G. frondosa* (Chapter 4, this thesis) and can be considered a significant morphological difference. Unfortunately,

the production of fruitbodies from WC484 was not successful.

Chapter 3: Phylogenetic analysis of *Grifola frondosa* and its related species based on ITS-1, ITS-2 and 5.8S rDNA and partial β -tubulin gene sequences

3.1 Introduction

Grifola frondosa is a white rot fungus usually found on stumps or at the bases of dead or dying deciduous hardwoods (Farr *et al.* 1987, Stamets 2000, Webster 1980). It is considered a choice edible mushroom and has proven effective as an antiviral and antitumor agent (Hobbs 1996, Jong *et al.* 1991). Production and consumption of this mushroom is increasing rapidly in the world and the United States because of its excellent taste and its nutritional and medicinal value.

Traditional classification of *G. frondosa* was based solely on morphological characters. The genus *Grifola* S.F.Gray was first applied by Gray (1821) and described as a polypore with large compound basidiomes. Later, microscopic characters, such as the hyphal system and spore morphology, were used for classification. However, even with these simple descriptions many taxonomic discrepancies remain for *G. frondosa* at the species, genus and family levels.

Wild populations of *G. frondosa* are widely distributed in Asia, North America and Europe. Previous taxonomic investigations (Gilbertson and Ryvardeen 1986, Zhao and Zhang 1992) have revealed similar morphological characters between North American and Asian isolates. They recognized *G. frondosa* (Dicks.:Fr.) S.F.Gray as the only species in the genus *Grifola*. However, Singer (1969) identified another *Grifola* species - *G. sordulenta*. Based on morphological characters, *Polyporus umbellatus* (Pers.) Fr. and *Meripilus*

gigantea (Fr.) Karst are close allies of *G. frondosa* (Gilbertson and Ryvarden 1987). They also are considered species of *Grifola* by some researchers (Mizuno and Zhuang 1995). Alexopoulos *et al.* (1996) accepted *G. frondosa* as a member of the *Polyporaceae*; however, it also was placed in the family *Grifolaceae* (Jülich 1981) and *Coriolaceae* (Hawksworth *et al.* 1995) by other researchers. Thus, the taxonomic position of *Grifola* and some of its allies is not clear.

Few studies have been undertaken to investigate genetic diversity, evolutionary relationships, and systematics in the genus *Grifola*. A thorough understanding of these relationships are necessary to effectively carry out efforts aimed at developing improved commercial lines of *G. frondosa* and understanding the taxonomic and phylogenetic relationships among *Grifola* and its allies.

Molecular approaches have been used extensively for examining phylogenetic relationships among other edible fungi (for example see Hibbett *et al.* 1995, Thon and Royse 1999b and Vilgalys and Sun 1994). However, no such work has been reported on *Grifola* until the recent studies by Hibbett *et al.* (1997, 2000) based on mitochondrial and nuclear small and large subunit ribosomal RNA sequences. They presented a phylogenetic analysis of a board sampling of basidiomycetes, which included one isolate of *G. frondosa* and one isolate of a related species (*Meripilus giganteus*). Their result showed that *G. frondosa* was far related to *M. giganteus*.

In this study, a phylogenetic analysis using DNA sequences from two gene regions was undertaken to clarify the relationships of *G. frondosa* and its allies. I used the internal transcribed spacers 1 and 2 (ITS-1 and 2) and 5.8S gene of the nuclear ribosomal DNA transcriptional unit and a portion of the β -tubulin gene encoding for 3 introns and 3 exons.

The rDNA regions were chosen because the small and large subunit regions are conserved and well characterized and many primers are available for PCR. In addition, the variability observed in the ITS regions supplied sufficient sequence data for analyzing taxa at both the species and genus levels. The β -tubulin gene is a structural protein gene with many introns. The conserved protein encoding regions provided less ambiguous alignment than the ITS regions of rDNA.

3.2 Materials and Methods

3.2.1 Cultures

A total of 51 isolates of *G. frondosa*, one isolate of *G. sordulenta*, one isolate of *Polyporus umbellatus*, one isolate of *Meripilus giganteus*, and one isolate of *Ganoderma lucidium* were used in this study (Table 3.1). The isolates of *G. frondosa* included all available isolates from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) and the Pennsylvania State University Mushroom Culture Collection (PSUMCC). Isolates represented various geographic origins including Asia (27), United States (21), Europe (1), and unknown origin (3). All cultures are maintained on potato dextrose agar supplemented with 1.5g/L of yeast extract (PDYA).

Table 3.1. List of species, isolate code, source, geographic origin, substrate and locality of *Grifola frondosa* and related species used for this study.

Species	Isolate code	Source ^a	Geographic origin	Host/Substrate	Locality
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC248	L.C. Schisler	PSU, PA	N/A ^b	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC364	L.C. Schisler	PSU, PA	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC367	Jodon	PSU, PA	N/A	Hort. Woods
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC483	ATCC 11936	Maryland	Oak stump	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC493	ATCC 48141	Norway	<i>Quercus robur</i>	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC555	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC556	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC557	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC581	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC582	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC583	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A

Species	Isolate code	Source ^a	Geographic origin	Host/Substrate	Locality
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC659	Y.H.Park	Korea	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC685	B.W.Yoo	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC808	Bill Shanley	Tidioute, PA	White Oak	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC828	D.J.Royse	N/A	Commercial isolate	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC834	NGF 001	Nara Prefecture, Japan	<i>Castanopsis</i> spp.	Lowlands
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC835	Hokken M-1	Japan	Commercial isolate on oak	Highlands
<i>G. frondosa</i>	WC836	Mori 51	Japan	Commercial isolate on oak	Highlands
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M001	USDA FP- 101988-T	Cooksville (Rock), WI	Soil near downed hardwood log (<i>Quercus</i> ?)	Edge of Old Mill Pond at Hwy 59, Fire #638
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M002	USDA FP- 102464-Sp	Madison, WI	<i>Quercus</i> , soil at base of dead stump.	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M003	USDA FP- 102464-T	Madison(Dane), WI	<i>Quercus</i> , soil at base of dead stump.	Picnic Point, UW campus
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M004	USDA FP- 103424-T	Athens(Georgia), GA	<i>Quercus nigra</i> , at base	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M005	USDA FP- 105867-Sp	Beltsville (Prince George), MD	<i>Quercus coccinea</i> (scarlet oak) living, at base	Forest Disease Lab Station, Agr. Res. Center
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M006	USDA FP- 134675-Sp	Madison (Dane), WI	<i>Quercus</i> , underneath	UW Arboretum
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M007	USDA FP- 47462	WV	<i>Quercus alba</i> (white oak)	Plat #55, at 1500 feet elevation, Devil's Hole
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M008	USDA RLG- 6889-Sp	Syracuse, NY	<i>Quercus alba</i>	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M009	USDA LOO- 14980-T	LA	<i>Quercus</i> snag, inside of hollow (oak)	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M010	USDA OKM- 4954-T	Beltsville (Prince George), MD	N/A	Ground, Beltsville Expt Forest
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M011	USDA OKM- 6133-Sp	Washington(District of Columbia), DC	N/A	Rock Creek Park
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M012	USDA RLG- 14995-T	Baton Rouge, LA	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Memorial Grove, LA State U campus
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M013	USDA L- 15552-Sp	Syracuse, NY	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M014	USDA RLG- 6889-T	Syracuse, NY	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Oakwood Cemetery
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M015	USDA TJV-93- 130-T	Madison(Dane), WI	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> , base of live	Turville Pt. Woods
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M016	FIRDI 36283	Taiwan	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M017	FIRDI 36286	Taiwan	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M018	FIRDI 36355	Taiwan	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M019	FIRDI 36356	Taiwan	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M020	FIRDI 36357	Taiwan	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M021	FIRDI 36434	Taiwan	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M029	PSUMCC 600	Taiwan	Commercial strain	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M030	PSUMCC 601	Taiwan	Commercial strain	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M031	PSUMCC 602	Taiwan	Commercial strain	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M032	PSUMCC 604	Taiwan	Commercial strain	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M033	PSUMCC 630	Taiwan	Commercial strain	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M034	PSUMCC 644	Taiwan	Commercial strain	N/A

Species	Isolate code	Source ^a	Geographic origin	Host/Substrate	Locality
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M035	USDA RLG-6889-Sp	Syracuse, NY	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Oakwood Cemetery
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M036	X.W.Chen	China	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M037	X. W.Chen	China	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M038	ATCC 60891	China	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M039	Tan 0206	He Bei, China	N/A	N/A
<i>G. frondosa</i>	M40	M. Chen	China	Commercial strain	N/A
<i>G. sordulenta</i>	G01	ATCC 200416	Argentina	<i>Nothofagus dombeyi</i> trunk	N/A
<i>P. umbellatus</i> ^c	G02	ATCC 60546	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>M. giganteus</i> ^d	G06	USDA FP-135344-Sp	England	Carpinus spp.	Virginia Waters
<i>Ganoderma lucidium</i>	WC724	T. Mitchel	PSU, PA		Lawn PSU Forest

^a ATCC = American Type Culture Collection; USDA = The United States Department of Agriculture; FIRDI = Food Industry Research and Development Institute, Taiwan; PSUMCC = Pennsylvania State University Mushroom Culture Collection.

^b N/A = not available.

^c *Polyporus umbellatus*, synonym of *Grifola umbellata*.

^d *Meripilus giganteus*, synonym of *Grifola giganteus* and *Polyporus giganteus*.

3.2.2 DNA extraction

Cultures were grown in 50 ml of potato dextrose yeast broth (PDYB) for 20 to 30 days at room temperature. Mycelium was harvested by vacuum filtration on Whatman (grade #1) filter paper, and washed once with distilled water. Fresh mycelium (100 mg) was used to isolate DNA following the LETS extraction procedure (Chen *et al.* 1999). DNA preparations were diluted with sterile water and used as template for PCR amplification.

3.2.3 PCR amplification and sequencing

PCR was performed in 25 µl reactions with a 96-well PCR cycler (PTC-100 Programmable Thermal Controller, MJ Research, Inc.), using 10mg DNA template, one Unit of *Taq* DNA polymerase (Promega, Madison, WI), 0.2 mM of each dNTP, 2 mM MgCl₂, 0.1% Triton, as well as 0.5 µM of each primer. Amplification of ITS-1, ITS-2, and 5.8 S rDNA was performed for all isolates utilizing primers ITS1AF (5'-TCCGTAGGTGAACCTGCGG-3') (White *et al.* 1990)

and ALR0 (5'-CATATGCTTAAGTTCAGCGGG-3') (Figure 3.1). PCR reactions for ITS regions were performed with the following parameters: 94°C/1 min; 35

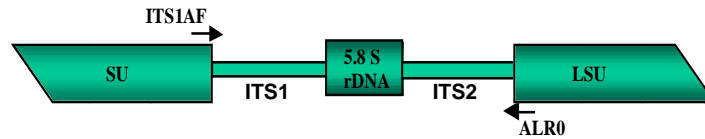


Figure 3.1. Locations of the primers for amplification of ITS-1, ITS-2 and 5.8s rDNA gene regions of the rDNA repeat.

cycles of 94°C/15 s, 60°C/30 s, 72°C/1 min; and

72°C/5 min. PCR

Reactions for β -

tubulin regions were performed with two primer pairs BTG5F/BTG8R and BT1.1/B34R (Figure 3.2) with the following parameters: 94°C/2 min; 35 cycles of 94°C/15 s, 57°C/30 s, 72°C/1 min; and 72°C/7 min. Primers BTG5F (5'-CGTTGTGCCAGTCCTAAGGTG-3') and BTG8R (5'-GTTCTTGCTCTGCACGTTCTG-3') were used to amplify 51 isolates of *G. frondosa*, one isolate of *G. sordulenta* (G01), and one isolate of *Polyporus umbellatus* (G02). Isolate of *Ganoderma lucidium* were amplified using primers BT1.1 and B34R. Reactions were optimized by adjusting the concentration of template DNA and other reagents, and primer annealing temperature. Amplification products were electrophoresed on a 1.0% agarose gel and checked to ensure that a single DNA band was produced of the expected size (~600bp for ITS PCR products and ~680bp for β -tubulin PCR products). For sequencing, the PCR products were purified directly from reactions using the wizard PCR Preps System (Promega Corp., Madison, WI) with the concentration adjusted to 20ng/ μ l. Sequencing reactions were performed using the PCR primers and an ABI dye-terminator kit (ABI/Perkin-Elmer) and resolved using an ABI Prism[®] Model 377 automated sequencing system (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA).

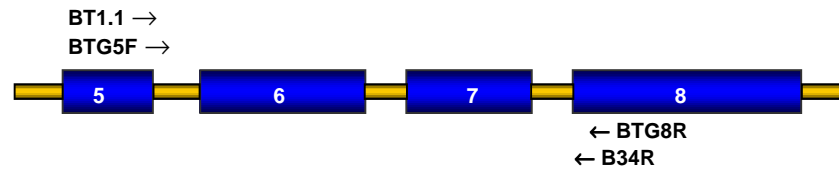


Figure 3.2. Locations of primers used for PCR-amplification of the β -tubulin gene in *Grifola frondosa*, *G. sordulenta* (G01), *Polyporus umbellatus* (G02) and *Ganoderma lucidum*. Numbers indicate exons.

3.2.4 Sequence data analysis

Sequence ends were trimmed using the SeqMan II module in the Lasergene package (DNASar, Inc. Madison, WI) and adjusted manually. All sequences then were edited and initially aligned using the clustal W algorithm (Higgins *et al.* 1991) in the Lasergene package (DNASar, Inc. Madison, WI). Multiple alignment parameters used were gap penalty = 10 and gap length penalty = 10. Final alignments then were optimized visually.

Phylogenetic analyses were completed using PAUP Version 4.0b4a (Swofford 2000). A neighbor-joining (NJ) tree was constructed using the Kimura 2-parameter model. The stability of clades was evaluated by bootstrap tests with 1000 replications (Felsenstein 1985, Hills and Bull 1993). A maximum parsimony (MP) analysis was performed using heuristic searches with 1000 random addition searches. Other indices for the generated topology, including tree length, a consistency index (CI), as well as retention index (RI) were calculated. A strict consensus of the minimum length MP trees was calculated.

The partition homogeneity test (PHT) option in PAUP was used to determine whether the ITS and β -tubulin datasets are in conflict, using only

phylogenetically informative characters, with 1000 replicates. Gaps were considered missing data for all analyses. The combined data were used to find a consensus phylogeny. *Ganoderma lucidium* was chosen as an outgroup because the available partial *Grifola* ribosomal RNA large subunit sequence (Hibbett and Vilgalys 1992) indicated that *Grifola* is a member of the polyporoid clade, and that it is particularly closely related to *Ganoderma/Lentinus* clade (D. Geiser, personal communication, Hibbett *et al.* 1997).

3.3 Results

3.3.1 Phylogenetic relationship within *Grifola frondosa*

3.3.1.1 Analysis of ITS sequence data

Amplification of the ITS-1, ITS-2 and 5.8S ribosomal DNA repeat yielded fragments of approximately 600 bp as estimated by agarose gel electrophoresis. An alignments (Appendix A) including sequences of the isolate of *G. sordulenta* and all isolates of *Grifola frondosa* was generated. *Grifola sordulenta* was used as an outgroup in the phylogenetic analysis.

A Neighbor-Joining tree (Figure 3.3) was generated based on the alignment. Two major clades were identified within *G. frondosa*. Clade I included all of the U.S. isolates, while Clade II consisted of Asian isolates. The European isolate (WC493) was grouped with the U.S. isolates. Within the Asian clade, most of the isolates from China (M037, M038 and M039) and Japan (WC834, WC835 and WC835) tended to group together, while isolates from Taiwan and Korea were dispersed throughout this clade. Two Taiwan isolates (M019, M021) were distinct from all other Asian isolates and formed a subgroup. Two isolates of unknown origin (WC828 and WC685) were located in the Asian clade. This indicated that the major commercial isolate WC828 used on most

mushroom farms in the United States is probably of Asian decent. Within the U.S. clade, isolates did not show any distribution pattern related to their geographic state of origin.

The maximum parsimony (MP) analysis produced 424 equally parsimonious trees (length = 113 steps, consistency index=0.796, retention index=0.911). The MP tree (Figure 3.4) retained a similar topology for most of the NJ trees.

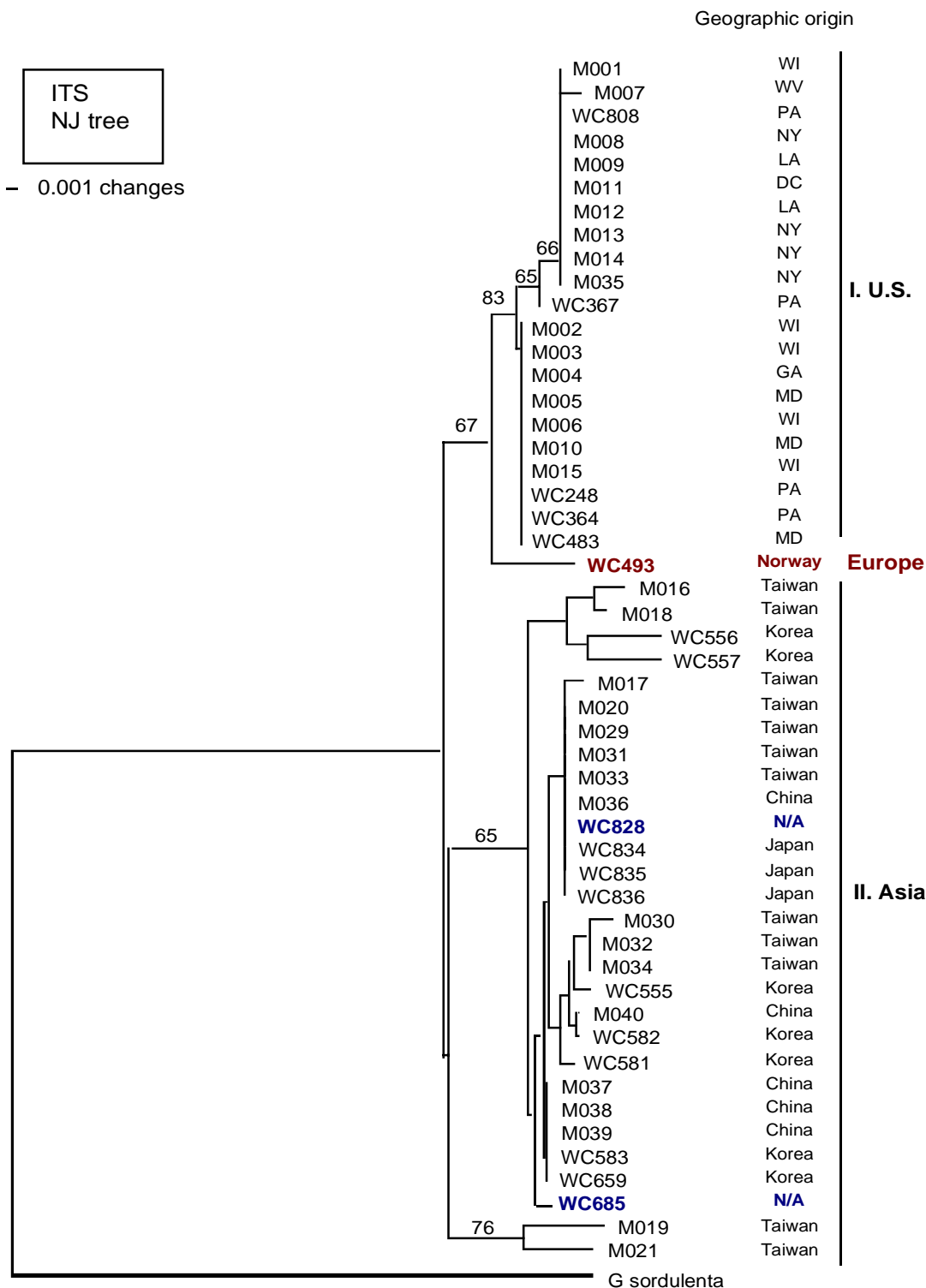


Figure 3.3. Phylogenetic analysis of 51 *Grifola frondosa* isolates based on rDNA ITS sequences using the neighbor-joining method with distance analysis calculated by the Kimura 2-parameter model. Geographic origin is listed beside isolate codes. Numbers on branches represent bootstrap values obtained from 1,000 replications (values greater than 60% were shown). Sidebars represent inferred clades based on geographic origin.

3.3.1.2 Analysis of partial β -tubulin sequence data

Amplicons (680bp) of the partial β -tubulin sequences contained 40bp of the 3'-end of exons 5, 6 and 7, and 72bp of the 5'-end of exon 8 and introns 5, 6, and 7. These positions were identified based on their reported locations in *Schizophyllum commune* β -tubulin gene sequence and the identity of GT-AG splice junctions for introns. Isolate of *Meripilus giganteus* were not included in the analysis because of unsuccessful sequences.

The phylogenetic relationships of *Grifola frondosa* isolates were examined by aligning a sequence of *G. sordulenta* and sequences from 51 isolates of *G. frondosa*. The alignment (Appendix D) started 4bp of the 3'-end of exon 5 to 8bp of the 5'-end to exon 8 of the partial β -tubulin gene sequence. *Grifola sordulenta* was used as an outgroup in the analysis.

A Neighbor-Joining tree (Figure 3.5) was generated based on partial β -tubulin gene sequences. Two distinct clades, with strong bootstrap support (99% and 74%), were identified within *G. frondosa*. Clade I included all of the U.S. isolates, while clade II consisted of Asian isolates. The European isolate (WC493) was grouped within the Asian lineage with 95% bootstrap support. Two isolates of unknown origin (WC828 and WC685) were grouped with the Asian isolates. In the Asian clade, isolate WC828, used for commercial cultivation, was closely related to Japanese isolate WC835 with 78% bootstrap support. Other strong bootstrap-supported clusters included 3 Korean isolates (WC556, WC557 and WC582) and 3 Taiwan isolates (M019, M020 and M021). A Korean isolate, WC555 constituted a unique branch in this clade. In the U.S. clade, 3 isolates (M007, M101 and WC248) formed a sister group with other U.S. isolates (94% bootstrap support).

The maximum parsimony (MP) analysis based on partial β -tubulin gene sequence alignment (Appendix D) produced 48,100 trees until PAUP was aborted because of lack of memory. One MP tree (length=251 steps, consistency index=0.793, retention index=0.932) from 5,000 equally parsimonious trees is shown in Figure 3.6. Despite the large number of equally parsimonious trees, the strict consensus tree was highly resolved.

Similar to the NJ tree, two clades (U.S. and Asian clades) were observed within isolates of *G. frondosa* with strong bootstrap support (97% and 91%, respectively). The European isolate (WC493) formed a collapsed branch within the Asian clade and the commercially-used isolate (WC828) of unknown origin grouped with the Asian isolates. The MP tree also showed the same subgroups in the U.S. and Asian clades as did the NJ tree.

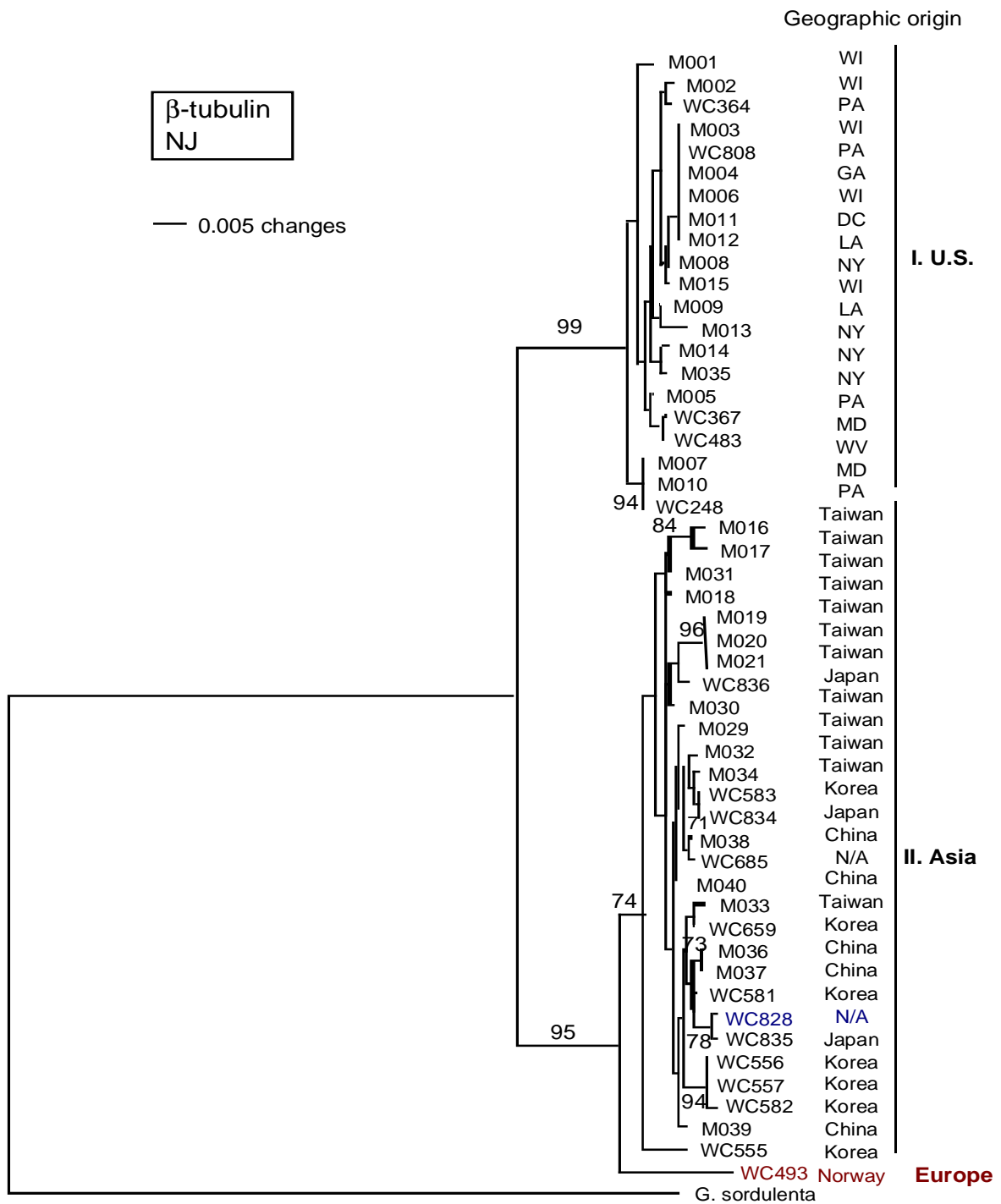


Figure 3.5. Phylogenetic analysis of 51 *Grifola frondosa* isolates based on partial β -tubulin gene sequences using the neighbor-joining method with distance analysis calculated by the Kimura 2-parameter model. Geographic origin is shown beside isolate codes. Numbers on branches represent bootstrap values obtained from 1,000 replications (values greater than 70% were shown). Sidebars represent inferred clades based on geographic origin.

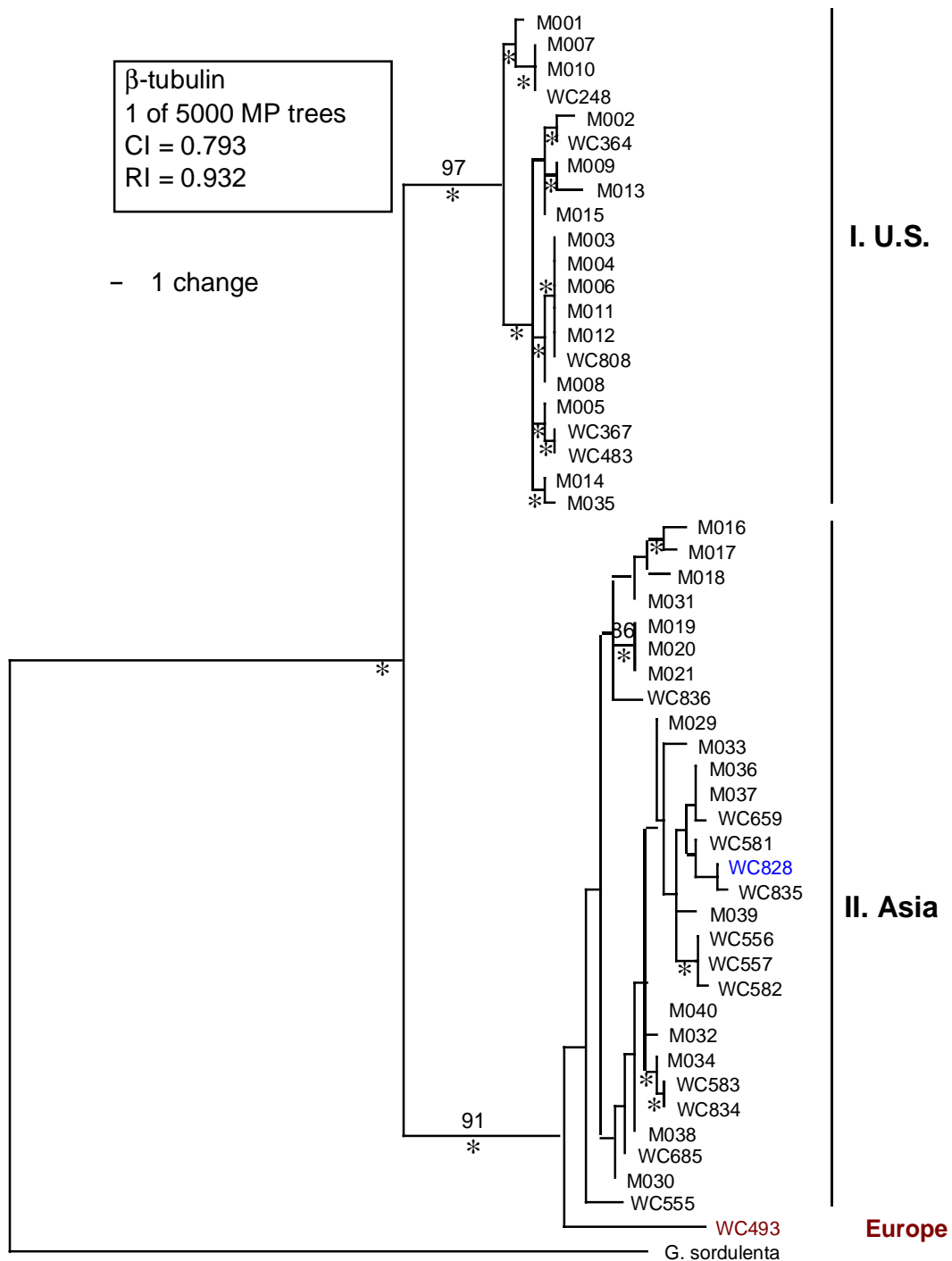


Figure 3.6. Maximum parsimony (MP) analysis of partial β -tubulin gene sequences of 51 *Grifola frondosa* isolates. One of 5,000 equally parsimonious trees is shown. Branches with asterisks maintain in the strict consensus tree. Numbers on the branches represent bootstrap values obtained from 1,000 replications (only values greater than 70% are shown). Sidebars represent inferred clades based on geographic origin.

3.3.1.3 Analysis of combined rDNA and partial β -tubulin gene sequence data

A DNA sequence alignment was generated by combining both datasets of rDNA and partial β -tubulin gene sequences. A Neighbor-Joining tree (Figure 3.7) was generated based on the combined data. It supported most of the results produced by rDNA and β -tubulin separately. Two independent clades - the U.S. and Asian clades were strongly supported by high bootstrap values (100% and 98%, respectively). The European isolate (WC493) was grouped in the Asian clade with 89% bootstrap support, and agrees with the results from the β -tubulin data alone. Two of the unknown origin isolates (WC828 and WC685) were grouped in the Asian clade. Isolate WC828 was observed closely related to Japanese isolate WC835 with 82% bootstrap support. Two Taiwanese isolates (M019, M021) grouped strongly and distinct from other Asian isolates. In the U.S. clade, 3 isolates (M007, M010 and WC248) clustered together.

The maximum parsimony (MP) analysis, based on combined dataset produced 405 equally parsimonious trees. One MP tree (length=382 steps, consistency index=0.741, retention index=0.901) is shown in Figure 3.8. It retained a similar topology, for the most part, to the NJ trees. Two clades, that separated U.S. and Asian isolates, were observed with strong bootstrap support.

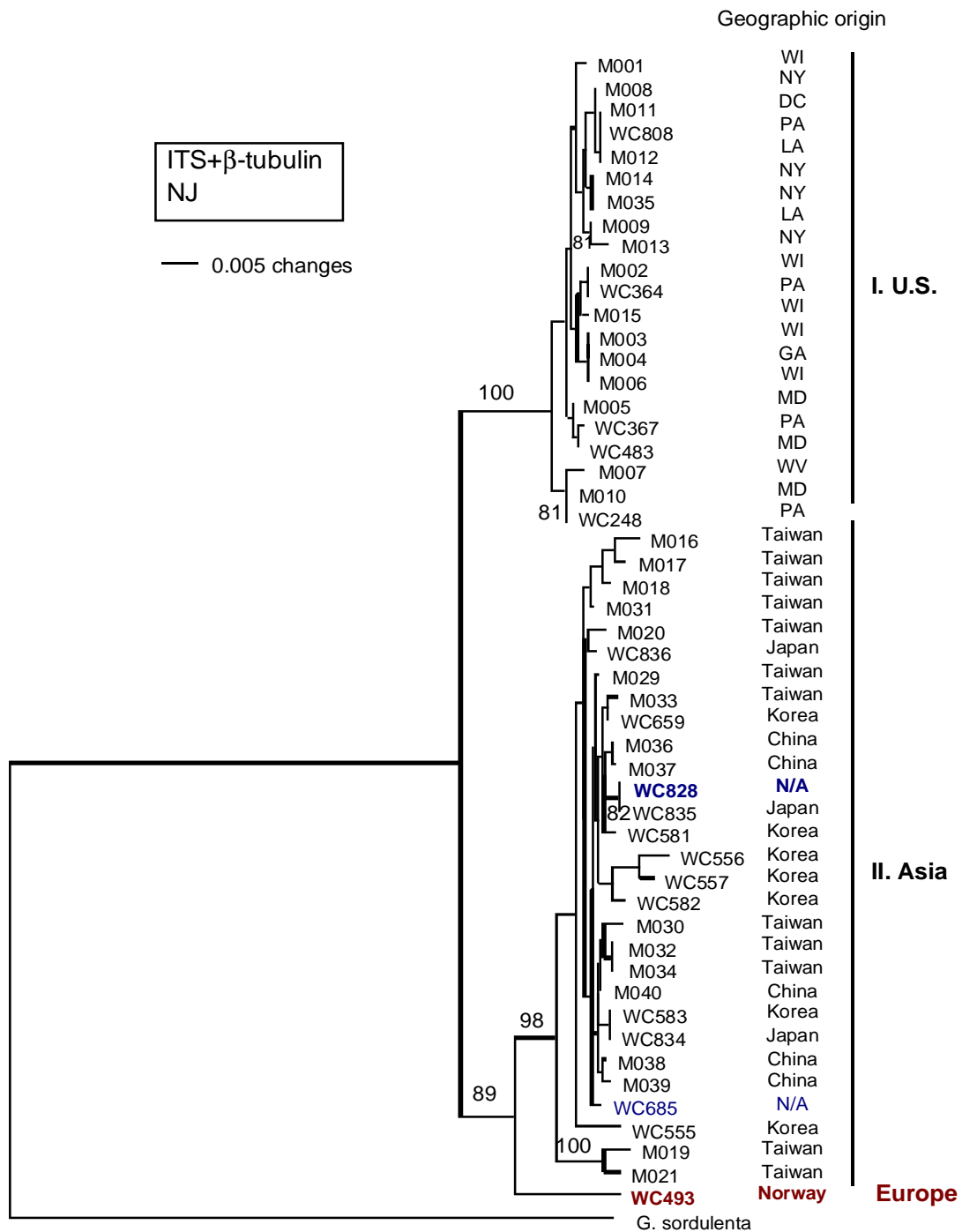


Figure 3.7. Phylogenetic analysis of 51 *Grifola frondosa* isolates based on a combination of rDNA and partial β -tubulin gene sequences using the neighbor-joining method with distance analysis calculated by the Kimura 2-parameter model. Geographic origin is shown beside isolate codes. Numbers on branches represent bootstrap values obtained from 1,000 replications (values greater than 80% were shown). Sidebars represent inferred clades based on geographic origin.

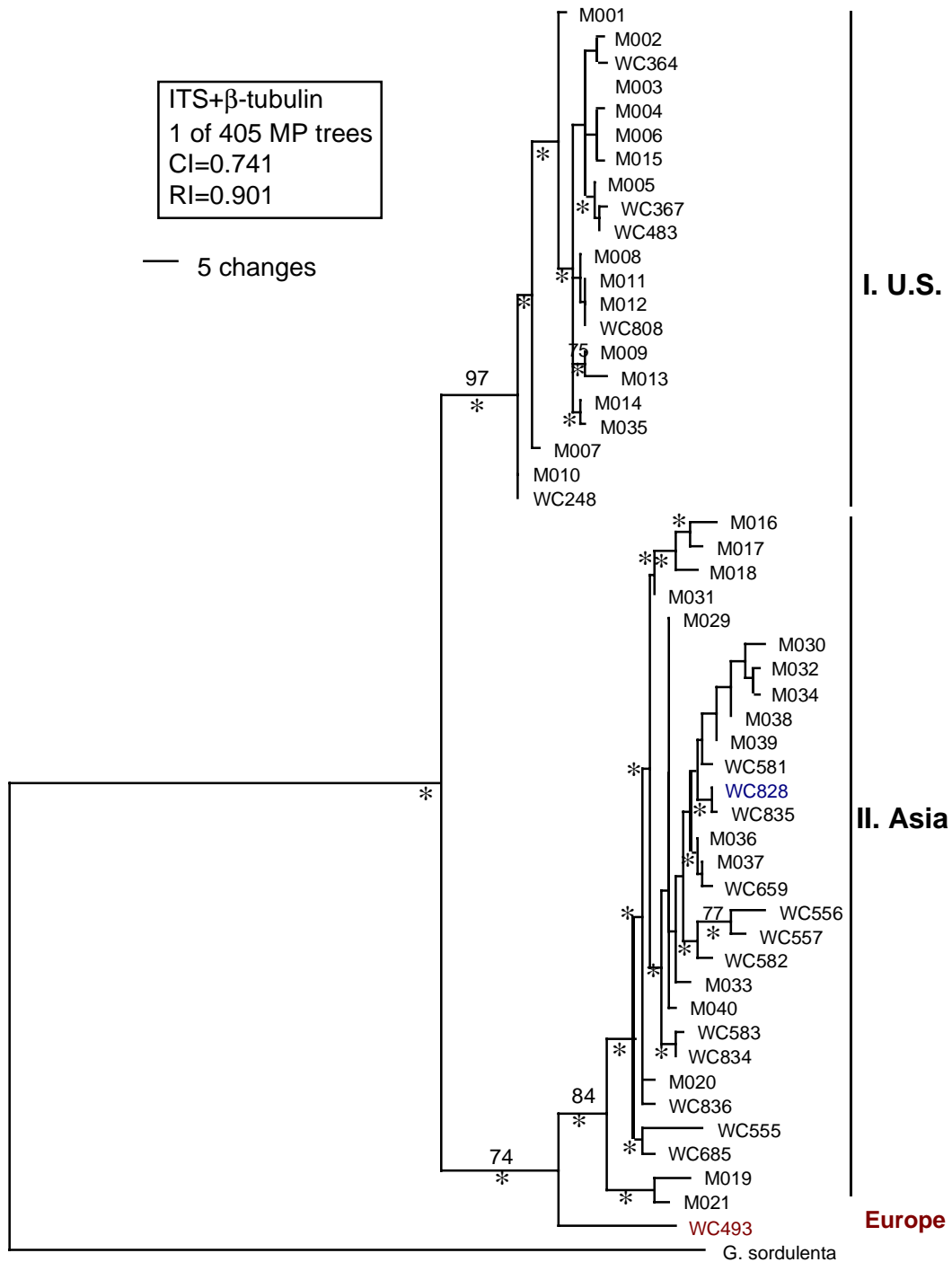


Figure 3.8. Maximum parsimony (MP) analysis of combined rDNA and partial β -tubulin gene sequences of 51 *Grifola frondosa* isolates. One of 405 equally parsimonious trees is shown. Branches with asterisks are maintained in the strict consensus tree. Numbers on the branches represent bootstrap values obtained from 1,000 replications (only values greater than 70% are shown). Sidebars represent inferred clades based on geographic origin.

3.3.2 Phylogenetic relationship among *Grifola frondosa* and allies

The phylogenetic relationship among *G. frondosa* and its allies was analyzed by aligning partial β -tubulin gene sequences alone. An unambiguous alignment was not achieved because of the high nucleotide variation in ITS regions between *G. frondosa* and its allies (Chapter 2, this thesis). The alignment (Appendix E) included exons 6 and 7 of β -tubulin gene sequences of *Ganoderma lucidum*, eight isolates of *G. frondosa* (M009, M004, WC493, WC659, M030, WC835, WC828 and M037; all with different geographic origins) and one isolate each of *G. sordulenta* (G01) and *Polyporus umbellatus* (G02). *Ganoderma lucidum* was included for rooting purposes. Introns were excluded from the analysis because of an ambiguous alignment.

Both neighbor joining (NJ) and maximum parsimony (MP) analyses revealed a distinct *G. frondosa* clade with strong bootstrap support (100%). A NJ tree is shown in Figure 3.9. MP analysis produced 4 trees. One MP tree (length=155 steps, consistency index=0.845, retention index=0.704) is shown in Figure 3.10. Isolate *P. umbellatus* G02 showed a closer relationship with *G. frondosa* than with isolate *G. sordulenta* (G01). Based on these data, it appears that *P. umbellatus* and *G. sordulenta* share a common ancestor with *G. frondosa* and should be grouped into *Grifola*.

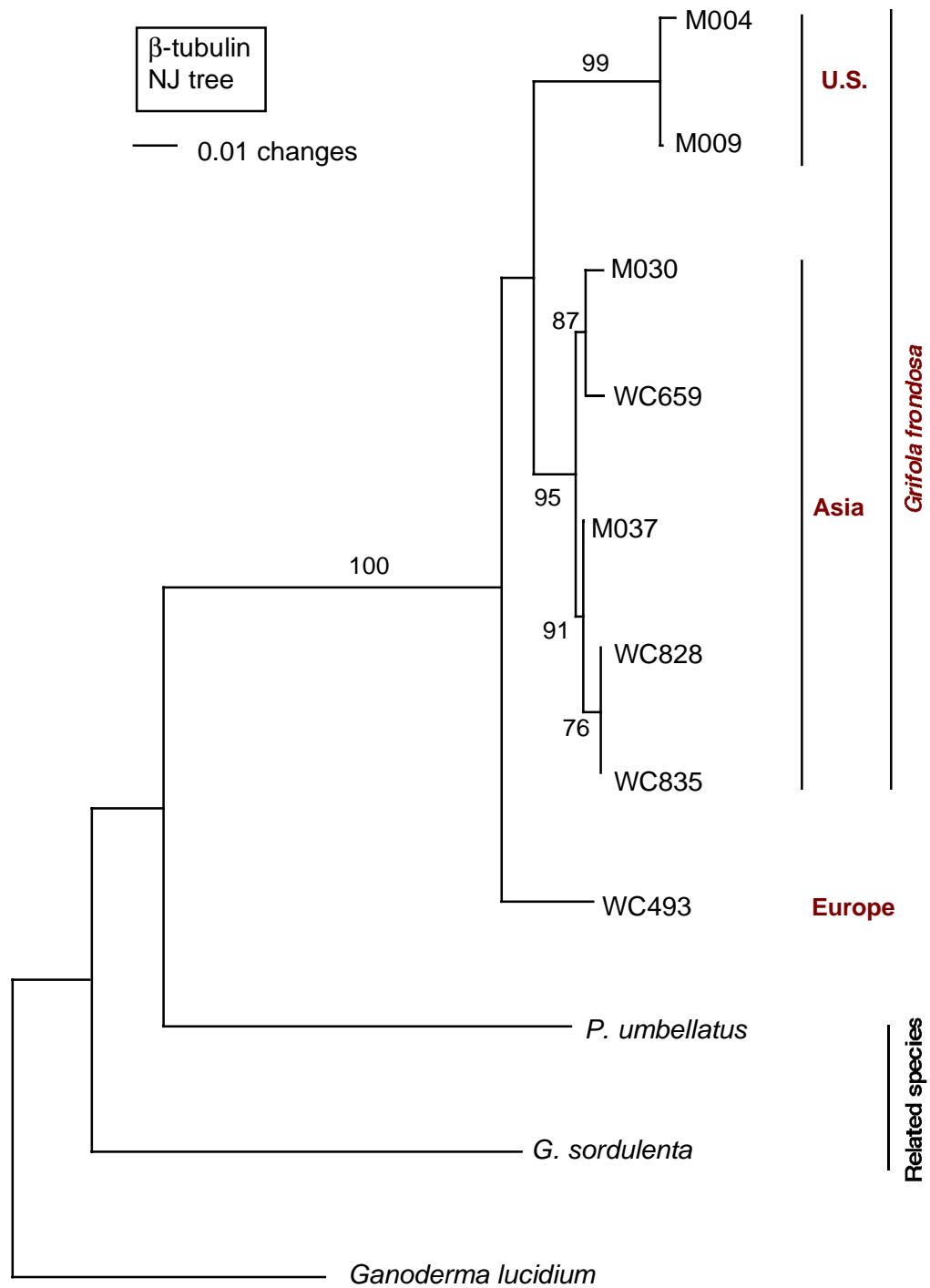


Figure 3.9. Phylogenetic analysis of *Grifola frondosa* and its allies based on partial β -tubulin gene sequences using the neighbor-joining method with distance analysis calculated by the Kimura 2-parameter model. Numbers on branches represent bootstrap values obtained from 1,000 replications (values greater than 70% were shown). Sidebars represent inferred clades based on geographic origin.

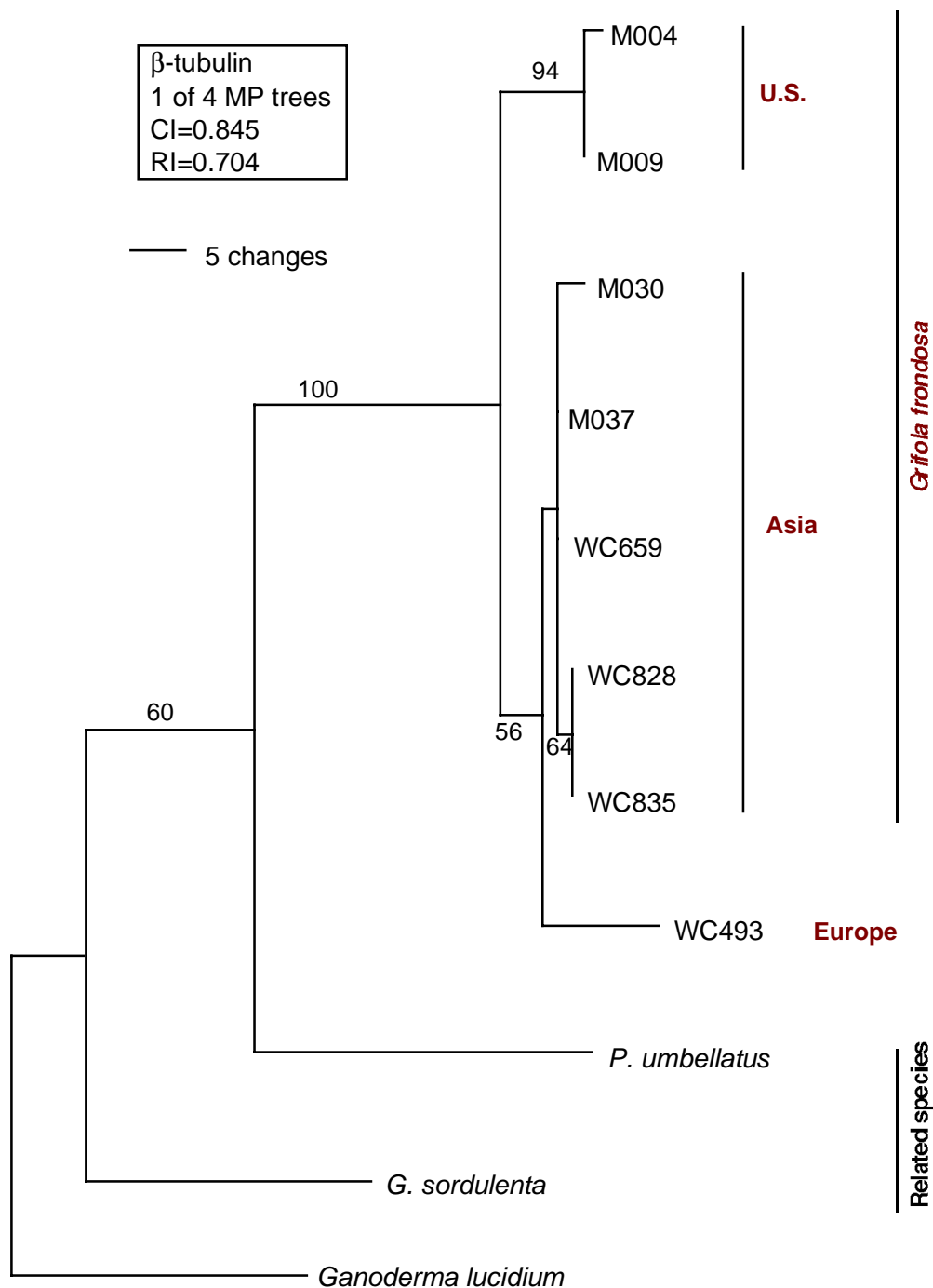


Figure 3.10. Maximum parsimony (MP) analysis of partial β -tubulin gene sequences of eight *Grifola frondosa* isolates and its allies. One of four equally parsimonious trees is shown. Numbers on the branches represent bootstrap values obtained from 1,000 replications (only values greater than 50% are shown). Sidebars represent inferred clades based on geographic origin.

3.4 Discussion

3.4.1 Relationships within *Grifola frondosa*

Isolates of *G. frondosa* (51) used in this study clearly clustered into two clades (U.S. and Asian clade) in both NJ and MP analysis based on either rDNA, β -tubulin, or combined sequence analyses. Two clades were well supported by the bootstrap test in both β -tubulin and combined datasets. Based on combined data, the NJ analysis showed 100% bootstrap support for the U.S. clade and 89% for the Asian clade (Figure 3.7). The MP analysis supported the U.S. clade with 97% and the Asian clade with 84% bootstrap values (Figure 3.8). A partition homogeneity test (PHT) (Farris *et al.* 1995, Huelsenbeck *et al.* 1996), which was used to determine whether the rDNA and partial β -tubulin gene sequence data were in significant conflict, was not successful because PAUP ran out of memory. Although the PHT test was not performed, the strong bootstrap results suggest that U.S. and Asian clades are distinct groups and may be evolving independently.

Previous taxonomic studies on *G. frondosa* were mostly based on isolates collected by authors from certain geographic areas. For example, Zhao and Zhang (1992) examined only Chinese isolates, while Gilbertson and Ryvardeen (1986) examined North American isolates. No morphological differences were found according to the character descriptions in their monographs, which include basidiome, basidiospores, habitat and context hyphal system. No mating tests between the U.S. and Asian isolates have been conducted to determine if they are different biological species. Using a molecular phylogenetic species concept potentially would allow recognition of changes in gene sequences long before changes in mating behavior or morphology became evident (Taylor *et al.* 2000).

Previously, *Grifola frondosa* was primarily found in Europe and was named *Boletus frondosus* Dicks. (Dickson 1785). Later, *Polyporus frondosus* (Dicks.) Fr. (Fries 1821) and *G. frondosa* (Dicks.: Fr.) S.F. Gray (Gray 1821) were identified (both based on European isolates). However, the phylogenetic relationship of the single European isolate (WC493) to other isolates is not clearly resolved. Based on combined ITS and β -tubulin and β -tubulin sequence data, both NJ and MP analysis showed WC493 shared a common ancestor with Asian isolates with high bootstrap support. However, rDNA sequence data did not support this result and NJ analysis indicated that WC493 has a closer relationship with the U.S. isolates (Figure 3.3). This grouping was not strongly supported by bootstrap analysis (67%), however.

3.4.2 Relationships between *Grifola frondosa* and its allies

Traditional taxonomic studies (Gilbertson and Ryvarden 1986, Zhao and Zhang 1992) show that *Grifola sordulenta*, *P. umbellatus* and *M. giganteus* share



Figure 3.11. Basidiomes of *M. giganteus* formed on sawdust substrate.

many common characters and suggest that they are very closely related species (Table 3.2). However, the influence of environmental conditions on morphological characteristics of mushroom-forming fungi is usually significant and often makes identification difficult. Figure 3.11 shows the basidiome formed by *M. giganteus* under our cultivation conditions. Apparently, our environmental conditions were different than the conditions found in the wild and produced a totally

different mushroom. Unfortunately, *P. umbellatus* G02 and *G. sordulenta* did not fruit in our cultivation rooms.

Table 3.2. Morphological characters or traits of *Grifola frondosa*, *Meripilus giganteus*, *Polyporus umbellatus* and *Grifola sordulenta*.

Character or Trait	<i>G. frondosa</i>	<i>M. giganteus</i>	<i>P. umbellatus</i>	<i>G. sordulenta</i>
Stipe	lateral branched	lateral branched	central branched	Lateral or central branched
Spore	smooth	smooth	smooth, larger and more cylindrically shaped	smooth, subglobose to short ellipsoid or ellipsoid
Generative hyphae	clamp connections	simple septate	clamp connections	clamp connections
Hyphal system	dimitic with skeletal hypha	monomitc	dimitic with binding hypha	not available
Rot Type	white			
Basidiome	stipitate, profusely branched with many petaloid pilei			
Color of context or pore surface	white-pale brown			
Hymenophore	poroid			

Source: Gilbertson and Ryvardeen (1987), Singer (1969).

Recent molecular evidence based on nuclear small subunit (nuc-ssu) rDNA, nuclear large subunit (nuc-lsu) rDNA and mitochondrial small subunit (mt-ssu) rDNA (Hibbett 2000) showed that *G. frondosa* has a closer phylogenetic relationship with other members of the *Polyporaceae*, such as *Laetiporus porteutosus* than with *M. giganteus*. No previous reports have centered on the evolutionary history of *P. umbellatus* and *G. sordulenta*. My results suggest that this relationship still is unresolved. Based only on β -tubulin gene dataset, *P. umbellatus* was grouped within the *Grifola* clade. However, no strong bootstrap values supported this relationship. *Meripilus giganteus* was not included in the phylogenetic analysis because of the high nucleotide variation in ITS and β -tubulin gene between it and *G. frondosa*. More sampling of isolates and the use of more conservative genes may help to better understand the phylogenetic relationships between *G. frondosa* and its allies.

In view of medicinal qualities of these mushrooms, there are many similarities between *G. frondosa*, *P. umbellatus* and *M. giganteus*. *Polyporus umbellatus* and *M. giganteus* are called tonbimaitake and choreimaitake,

respectively, in Japan (Mizuno and Zhuang 1995). They are edible (Arora 1986, Bessette *et al.* 1997) and have been documented for use as Chinese medicine 2000 years ago (Ying *et al.* 1987). Similar to *G. frondosa*, both are known to produce antitumor activity against cancer when ingested orally. Their medicinal qualities have been utilized in Chinese medicine from ancient times (Jong and Birmingham 1990, Ying *et al.* 1987). A clearer understanding of the evolutionary relationships of these fungi may be useful in broadening the search for additional anti-cancer substances.

3.4.3 Molecular phylogenetic analysis based on combined gene sequences

Use of a single gene to construct phylogenetic trees may not result in true representation of the phylogeny of the taxa under study (Nei 1987). To help alleviate this problem, more than one gene may be used to reconstruct a phylogeny (Li 1997). In this study, rDNA and β -tubulin were used. The characteristics of the rDNA, β -tubulin and combined regions summarized in Table 3.3. When the relationship within isolates of *G. frondosa* was analyzed, 87 phylogenetically informative nucleotide sites in a combined sequence (25 in rDNA and 62 in β -tubulin) were used (Table 3.3). The total number of sites of rDNA (574) and β -tubulin (587) were similar. However, β -tubulin has more variable sites (177) than rDNA (82). β -tubulin also has more phylogenetically informative sites (62) than rDNA (25).

Table 3.3. Summary of sequence alignments^a of rDNA, β -tubulin and combined datasets for *Grifola frondosa*.

	rDNA	β -tubulin	Combined
Total nucleotide (nt) sites	574	587	1161
nt sites in variable gene regions (introns for β -tubulin and ITS1&2 for rDNA)	416	182	598
nt sites in conserved gene regions (exons for β -tubulin and 5.8S for rDNA)	158	405	563
Variable nt sites	82	177	259
Phylogenetically informative nt sites	25	62	87

^a Alignments including 51 sequences of *G. frondosa* and *G. sordulenta*.

3.4.4 Phylogeny of commercial mushroom cultivars

Both neighbor joining (NJ) and most parsimonious (MP) trees derived from all DNA datasets revealed a consistent grouping of U.S. commercial cultivar WC828 in the Asian clade. This suggested that WC828 has an Asian origin and is closely related to Asian commercial cultivars. It is known that molecular data can be effectively used to select and improve commercial lines of edible mushrooms (Thon and Royse 1999b). So, a better understanding of the phylogenetic relationships of *Grifola frondosa* may help the selection and breeding of commercial lines and help to improve commercial cultivation of these mushrooms.

Chapter 4: Effects of germplasm and selected nutrient supplements on mushroom yield

4.1 Introduction

Grifola frondosa (Dicks.:Fr.) S.F. Gray, commonly known as hen-of-the-woods or maitake, is considered one of the most popular choice edible mushrooms (Lincoff 1981a,b). It is a white rot, wood decay fungus that naturally inhabits many hardwood species in Asia, North America, and Europe. The annual commercial production (Figure 1.1) of maitake has continued to increase dramatically because of its excellent taste, and nutritional and medicinal values. Presently, most maitake is marketed as food. Powdered fruitbodies are also used in the production of many health foods such as maitake tea, whole powder, granules, drinks, and tablets (Royse 1997).

Maitake is well known for centuries in China and Japan both as a health food and as a medicine (Mizuno and Zhuang 1995). It has received increasing attention in recent years because of documented anti-tumor and anti-viral properties (Hobbs 1996, Jong *et al.* 1991). Strong consumer demand has stimulated increased production world wide. Maitake production and consumption also is increasing rapidly in the United States (up 38% 1999-2000). Figure 4.1 shows world annual production increases of maitake in the last 20 years. Commercial production of maitake began in 1981 in Japan (Takama *et al.* 1981). It increased 577.8% from 1981 to 1986. In the next 5 years (1986-1990), production increased 250.1%, and then 84.1% from 1990-1994. The most recent published production data is 33,100 tons in 1997, which is a 133.1% increase compared with 1994. Production increases for maitake are much higher than that of total world mushroom production and especially the most common cultivated edible mushroom (*Agaricus bisporus*). The production increases of

maitake are also higher than the most popular cultivated specialty mushroom - shiitake (*Lentinula edodes*), except in the 1990 to 1994 period.

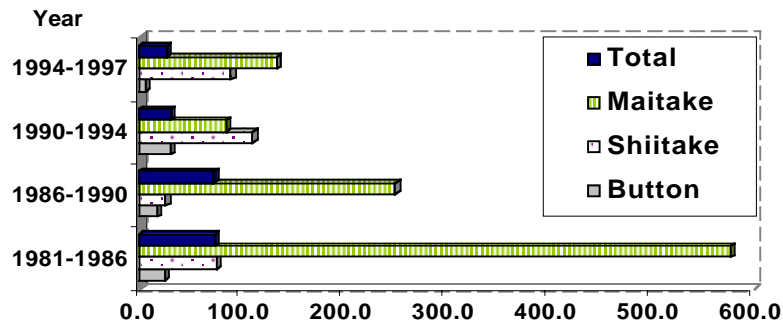


Figure 4.1. Percentage increases of world production of maitake (*Grifola frondosa*), shiitake (*Lentinula edodes*), button (*Agaricus bisporus*) and all mushrooms during various periods from 1981 to 1997. (Source: Chang 1999)

Bag, bottle and outdoor bed cultivation are the three basic methods of



Figure 4.2. Cultivated *Grifola frondosa* (maitake) emerging from nutrient supplemented sawdust contained in polypropylene bags.

commercial production of maitake (Mayuzumi and Mizuno 1997). Commercial production of most maitake is on synthetic substrate contained in polypropylene bags (Figure 4.2). After sterilization and cooling, the moistened substrate is inoculated with maitake spawn. Spawn run lasts about 30 to 60 days depending on isolate and substrate formulation. Temperatures then are lowered

from about 22°C to 14°C to induce fruiting and fruitbody maturation (Royse 1997). For bottle production, the containers are filled with moistened substrate and sterilized or pasteurized prior to inoculation (Royse 1997). Most growers use automated inoculation equipment thereby saving on labor costs (Yamanaka

1997). However, the size of the harvested mushroom is smaller than those harvested from bags because there is less substrate in bottles. Different from bag and bottle cultivation, outdoor bed cultivation is on colonized substrate buried in moist soil (Mayuzumi and Mizuno 1997). It requires a long crop cycle (about six months), and yields are much lower than those of bag or bottle methods.

There still are limited reference texts available for producing maitake. Presently, the techniques used to grow maitake are mostly adopted from other specialty mushroom cultivation, such as shiitake. Fortunately, extensive research has been done on efficient methods, genotypes and nutritional formulation of specialty mushrooms other than maitake (Douglas and Royse 1986, Royse and Bahler 1988, Royse *et al.* 1990). A common substrate used for commercial production of maitake is supplemented sawdust. Oak (Lee 1994, D.J. Royse, unpublished data) is the most popular choice in the United States and Japan, while beech (Kirchhoff 1996, Yoshizawa *et al.* 1997) and larch (Stamets 2000) are also preferred to a lesser extent in Japan. In China, cottonseed hulls were used as a substitute for sawdust with acceptable yields (Zhao *et al.* 1983). Bran derived from cereal grains, such as rice bran (Takama *et al.* 1981), wheat bran (Mayuzumi and Mizuno 1997), oat bran and corn bran, are widely used as nutrient supplements. Other nutrient supplements used for maitake cultivation include millet (D.J. Royse, unpublished data), corn meal (Kirchhoff 1996), and soybean cake (Mizuno and Zhuang 1995).

No published research on genotypes of maitake used for commercial production was found, partially because of the short cultivation history of this mushroom. It was found that the presently used commercial lines in Japan, China, Taiwan and the U.S. have different geographic origins, with different levels of genetic variation (Chapter 3, this thesis).

The rapid growth of maitake production has focused the need for additional research in two areas. First, a search is needed for isolates with improved yield and quality characteristics. To assist with this search, I evaluated 23 genotypes of *Grifola frondosa* for crop cycle time, biological efficiency (BE), yield and quality. Significant differences among lines were found for these parameters when mushrooms were produced on a nutrient supplemented sawdust substrate. Second, there is a desire to develop more efficient substrate formulas to improve yield and quality and to shorten the crop cycle. In this study, nine experiments were conducted to determine the effects of selected nutrient supplements and their levels on maitake crop cycle time, BE, yield and quality. Significant differences among different formulations were found and the best combinations of nutrient supplements among those tested were identified. For continued growth of the commercial industry, efforts directed toward improving biological efficiency, yield, quality, and reduced time to primordium formation and harvest are desirable.

4.2 Materials and Methods

4.2.1 Substrates and preparation

The major substrate ingredient - mixed oak sawdust (mostly *Quercus rubra* L.) was obtained from a local sawmill in Centre County, Pennsylvania with approximately 30% moisture. The general substrate formulation (dry weight basis) consisted of 74.8% mixed oak sawdust, 15% white millet (*Panicum miliaceum* L.), 10% wheat bran (*Triticum aestivum* L.) and 0.2% gypsum (CaSO_4). Moisture content of the substrate was adjusted to 55%-58% of the fresh weight. This formula was initially chosen to determine the effects of genotypes on mushroom yield because previous experiments indicated reasonable growth (D.J. Royse, unpublished data). All ingredients were combined, mixed, pasteurized, cooled, inoculated, and bagged with an

autoclaving paddle mixer described previously by Royse (1985). Dry matter contents of the processed substrates were determined by drying 100g of the processed substrates in an oven for 24 hours at 105°C.

4.2.2 Genotypes

Twenty three isolates (Table 4.1) of maitake (*G. frondosa*) from our collection (Table 2.1) were evaluated for the effects of genotypes on crop cycle time, yield and quality. Four isolates were selected because they are commercially used cultivars in the U.S. (WC828), China (M040) and Japan (WC835 and WC836). The isolates M019, M036, M037, M038, M039, WC582, WC659 and WC834 were selected from the same clade as the commercial isolates as determined by phylogenetic analysis (Figure 4.3). The U.S. isolates M002, M004, M007, M009, M011, M013, M014, M015, WC248 and W483 were selected because they are most genetically distinct from commercial isolates (Figure 4.3) and each represented the geographic origin from a state of the U.S. Isolate WC493 is a European isolate without a cultivation history. The isolates were maintained on potato-dextrose-yeast extract agar (PDYA) as outlined by Jodon and Royse (1979).

Table 4.1. Isolates and geographic origin of *Grifola frondosa* (maitake) used for genotype selection experiments.

Isolates	Geographic origin
M002	U.S.-WI
M004	U.S.-GA
M007	U.S.-WV
M009	U.S.-LA
M011	U.S.-DC
M013	U.S.-NY
M014	U.S.-NY
M015	U.S.-WI
M019	Taiwan
M036	China
M037	China
M038	China
M039	China
M040	China/commercial
W483	U.S.-MD
WC248	U.S.-PA
WC493	Norway
WC582	Korea
WC659	Korea
WC828	unknown/commercial in U.S.
WC834	Japan
WC835	Japan/commercial
WC836	Japan/commercial

The isolates were screened on a general formula (dwt basis) containing 74.8% mixed oak sawdust, 15% millet, 10% wheat bran, and 0.2% CaSO₄. Isolate WC828 was selected for the nutrient experiments based on the evaluation of crop cycle time, quality, yield and biological efficiency (Results, chapter 4, this thesis).

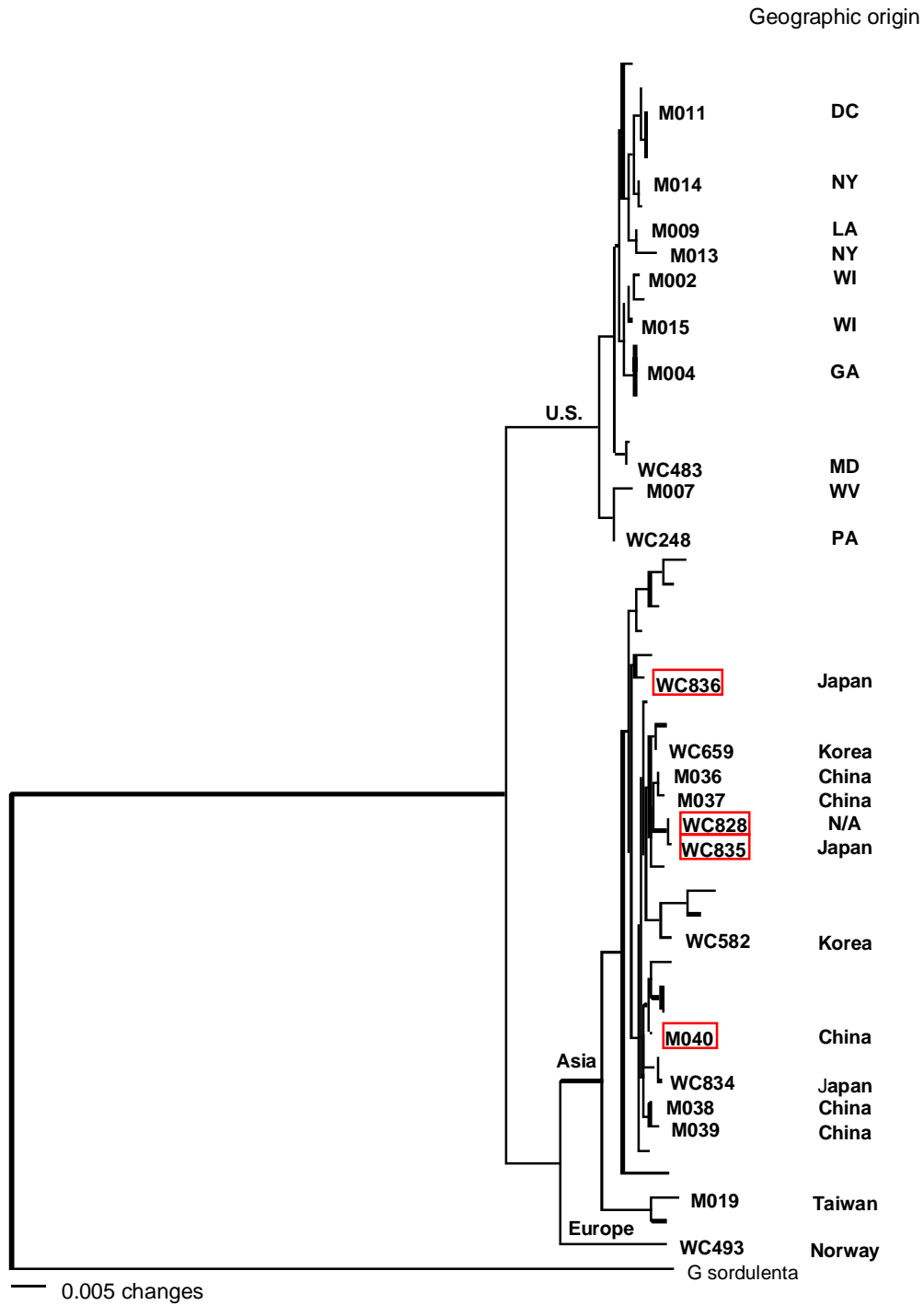


Figure 4.3. The neighbor-joining (NJ) tree containing 23 *Grifola frondosa* isolates selected for genotype selection experiments based on combined rDNA and partial β -tubulin gene sequences. Geographic origin is presented beside isolate codes. Isolate numbers highlighted in boxes are of commercial origin.

4.2.3 Spawn, spawn run, primordial development and fruitbody development

Spawn was prepared in 500ml flasks following a spawn formula (100 ml beaker level full of Stanford mushroom rye grain, 50 ml beaker of hardwood sawdust, one-half teaspoon CaSO_4 , and 120 ml of warm tap water, D.J. Royse, unpublished) known to support good growth of maitake mycelium. After inoculation with spawn, polyethylene bags were used to contain moist (55-58%)



Figure 4.4. Taped polypropylene bags with basidiomes developing from substrate directly under holes cut in bags. Mushrooms maturing approximately 70 days after inoculation.

substrates (2650 grams per bag) for incubation. Spawn run temperature was maintained at $20\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. The bags were sealed with a twist tie and, after the spawned substrate was incubated for one week, 20 slits (5mm long) were made at the top of each bag with a sharp scalpel to provide for gas exchange.

Spawn run is the period from the beginning of inoculation to primordia formation. After primordia formation, two holes were cut in the polyethylene bags exposing the developing primordia. The top of the bag was folded over, exposing only the developing primordia to the fruiting environment. Taped bags (Figure 4.4) then were moved to a production room for fruiting. The period of fruitbody development was initiated when the primordia began to grow and differentiate to form small pilei and stipes. A crop cycle of 12 weeks or less was considered short based on our experience and compared to the 15-week crop cycle reported by Stamets (2000).

4.2.4 Experimental design

All experiments (Table 4.2) were conducted as completely randomized designs and carried out at the Mushroom Research Center of the Pennsylvania State University under the same conditions. Environmental conditions were as described by Royse (1985). Relative humidity (90 to 95%) was maintained by water atomizers placed in air handling ducts, 4 hours of light were provided daily by cool-white fluorescent bulbs, and temperature was maintained at $17\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$. Sufficient air changes were maintained to hold CO_2 concentrations below 700 ppm ($\mu\text{l/l}$).

SAS program JMP (SAS Institute 1997) was used to analyze data. The general linear models procedure was used to perform an analysis of variance. Treatments with zero value were excluded from the data analysis. Tukey-Kramer Honestly Significant Difference (HSD) was used to separate treatment means (SAS Institute 1997). When two crops were performed for one experiment, the significant difference between two crops was determined by a two-way analysis of variance. Both crops were analyzed separately and the combined data were analyzed if there were no significant differences between two crops for BE and quality.

Table 4.2. Description of 13 experiments performed to determine effects of genotypes and nutrient supplements on crop cycle time and mushroom yield and quality.

Experiment number	Number of crops	Number of replicates	Supplementation level (%)	Description/Purpose
1	2	15	25	Genotypes
2	1	15	25	
3	1	15	25	
4	2	15	25	
5	2	10	20	Selected nutrient supplements
6	1	10	10	Different levels of wheat bran and millet
7	1	10	20	
8	1	10	30	
9	1	10	10	Different levels of wheat bran and rye
10	1	10	20	
11	1	10	30	
12	2	10	20	Different levels of wheat bran, millet and rye
13	2	10	30	

Four genotype experiments (Experiment #1 - #4) were conducted to determine the effects of genotypes on crop cycle time, yield and quality with 15 replicates for each treatment while Experiment #1 evaluated 5 isolates (WC828, WC835, WC836 WC659 and WC834). Experiment #2 evaluated seven isolates (M040, M007, M014, WC493, WC248 and WC582). Seven isolates (M036, M002, M009, M011, M013, M019, WC483) were evaluated in Experiment #3. Experiment #4 tested seven isolates (WC828, M036, M37, M038, M039, M040 and M015). Two crops were performed for Experiments #1 and #4 with the same experimental design and similar environmental conditions.

One nutrient experiment (Experiment #5) was designed to determine the influence of selected nutrient supplements on mushroom yield with 10 replicates for each treatment. Two crops were performed and 20% total selected nutrient supplements were used. Selected nutrient supplements included wheat bran and different types of cereal grain, such as millet, rye, and corn meal. Different combinations of these supplements were tested by adding them to a basal substrate of sawdust which included 79.8% mixed red and white oak plus 0.2% CaSO_4 . Table 4.3 shows the treatments with proportions of selected nutrient supplements in a basal substrate according to a simplex centroid mixture design (SAS Institute, 1997).

Table 4.3. Simplex centroid mixture design listing treatment numbers and supplements added to 79.8% oak sawdust plus 0.2% gypsum (CaSO_4) used for production performance of isolate WC828 of *Grifola frondosa* (Experiment #5).

Treatment	Supplement (%)			
	Wheat Bran	Millet	Rye	Corn meal
1	20	0	0	0
2	0	20	0	0
3	0	0	20	0
4	0	0	0	20
5	10	10	0	0
6	10	0	10	0
7	10	0	0	10
8	0	10	10	0
9	0	10	0	10
10	0	0	10	10
11	6.7	6.7	6.7	0
12	6.7	6.7	0	6.7
13	6.7	0	6.7	6.7
14	0	6.7	6.7	6.7
15	5	5	5	5

In order to evaluate the effects of different levels of selected nutrient supplements on mushroom crop cycle, yield and quality, eight nutrient level experiments (#6 - #13) were performed with 10 replicates for each treatment. The combinations of selected nutrient supplements of wheat bran, millet and rye were used in these experiments based on the results of nutrient Experiment #5 (Result, chapter 4, this thesis). The selected nutrient supplements used in experiments #6, #7 and #8 were wheat bran plus millet. In experiments #9, #10 and #11, wheat bran plus rye were used as the selected nutrient supplements. Three levels of total nutrient supplements (10%, 20%, and 30%) were tested for each combination. The combinations of wheat bran, millet plus rye were used as nutrient supplements in experiments #12, #13. Two levels of total nutrient supplements (20% and 30%) were tested for each experiment. Table 4.4 to Table 4.11 list the treatments in each of the 9 experiments. Only one crop was conducted for Experiments #6, #7, #8, #9, #10 and #11, while two crops were conducted for Experiments #12 and #13.

Table 4.4. Treatment numbers and nutrient mixtures for production of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) on oak sawdust (89.8%) and gypsum (0.2%) at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #6).

Treatment	Supplement (%)	
	Wheat bran	Millet
1	0	10
2	2.5	7.5
3	5	5
4	7.5	2.5
5	10	0

Table 4.5. Treatment numbers and nutrient mixtures for production of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) on oak sawdust (79.8%) and gypsum (0.2%) at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #7).

Treatment	Supplement (%)	
	Wheat bran	Millet
1	0	20
2	5	15
3	10	10
4	15	5
5	20	0

Table 4.6. Treatment numbers and nutrient mixtures for production of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) on oak sawdust (69.8%) and gypsum (0.2%) at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #8).

Treatment	Supplement (%)	
	Wheat bran	Millet
1	0	30
2	7.5	22.5
3	15	15
4	22.5	7.5
5	30	0

Table 4.7. Treatment numbers and nutrient mixtures for production of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) on oak sawdust (89.8%) and gypsum (0.2%) at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #9).

Treatment	Supplement (%)	
	Wheat bran	Rye
1	0	10
2	2.5	7.5
3	5	5
4	7.5	2.5
5	10	0

Table 4.8. Treatment numbers and nutrient mixtures for production of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) on oak sawdust (79.8%) and gypsum (0.2%) at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #10).

Treatment	Supplement (%)	
	Wheat bran	Rye
1	0	20
2	5	15
3	10	10
4	15	5
5	20	0

Table 4.9. Treatment numbers and nutrient mixtures for production of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) on oak sawdust (69.8%) and gypsum (0.2%) at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #11).

Treatment	Supplement (%)	
	Wheat bran	Rye
1	0	30
2	7.5	22.5
3	15	15
4	22.5	7.5
5	30	0

Table 4.10. Treatment numbers and nutrient mixtures for production of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) on oak sawdust (79.8%) and gypsum (0.2%) at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #12).

Treatment	Supplement (%)		
	Wheat bran	Millet	Rye
1	0	0	20
2	0	6.7	13.3
3	0	13.3	6.7
4	0	20	0
5	6.7	0	13.3
6	6.7	6.7	6.7
7	6.7	13.3	0
8	13.3	0	6.7
9	13.3	6.7	0
10	20	0	0

Table 4.11. Treatment numbers and nutrient mixtures for production of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) on oak sawdust (69.8%) and gypsum (0.2%) at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #13).

Treatment	Supplement (%)		
	Wheat bran	Millet	Rye
1	0	0	30
2	0	10	20
3	0	20	10
4	0	30	0
5	10	0	20
6	10	10	10
7	10	20	0
8	20	0	10
9	20	10	0
10	30	0	0

4.2.5 Harvesting and determination of BE and quality.

Mushrooms were harvested from the substrate when the caps were fully mature. The substrate clinging to the main stipe was removed and the clusters of mushrooms were weighed. The biological efficiency (BE) was determined as the ratio of kg fresh mushrooms harvested per kg dry substrate and expressed as a percentage (Royse 1992). The quality of maitake was evaluated by the

shape and color of the basidiome and rated as 1 to 4 (Table 4.12) (Kunitomo 1992).

Table 4.12. The quality scale (1-4) for maitake.

Rating	Description	Photograph
1	The best quality mushrooms with black to dark gray color, uniform and no misshapen pilei.	
2	Mushrooms with gray to light gray color and mostly uniform shape.	
3	Mushrooms with more than half of the pilei misshapen.	
4	Mushrooms with misshapen, immature and undeveloped pilei.	

4.3 Results

4.3.1 Effects of germplasm on crop cycle time

A total of 23 isolates were evaluated in four experiments. The results are shown in Table 4.13 (Appendix F). Five isolates - two Korean isolates (WC582, WC659) and four U.S. isolates (M014, M011 and M007) colonized the substrate,

but the mycelium grew poorly and did not form primordia. Two U.S. isolates (M002 and WC248), one Taiwan isolate (M019) and one Japanese isolate (WC834) formed primordia, but did not produce mushrooms. Four U.S. isolates (M004, M009, M013 and WC483) and the European isolate (WC493) produced mushrooms, but consistent fruiting was not achieved. Some replicates in each treatment did not produce mushrooms while some replicates completed the whole crop cycle. In most cases, more than half of the replicates did not produce mature mushrooms. Mushrooms were consistently produced by five Chinese isolates (M036, M037, M038, M039 and M040), two Japanese isolates (WC835 and WC836), one U.S. isolate (M015) and an U.S. commercial isolate with unknown origin (WC828). For a better understanding of the genetic variation among these isolates, a phylogenetic tree is presented in Figure 4.5.

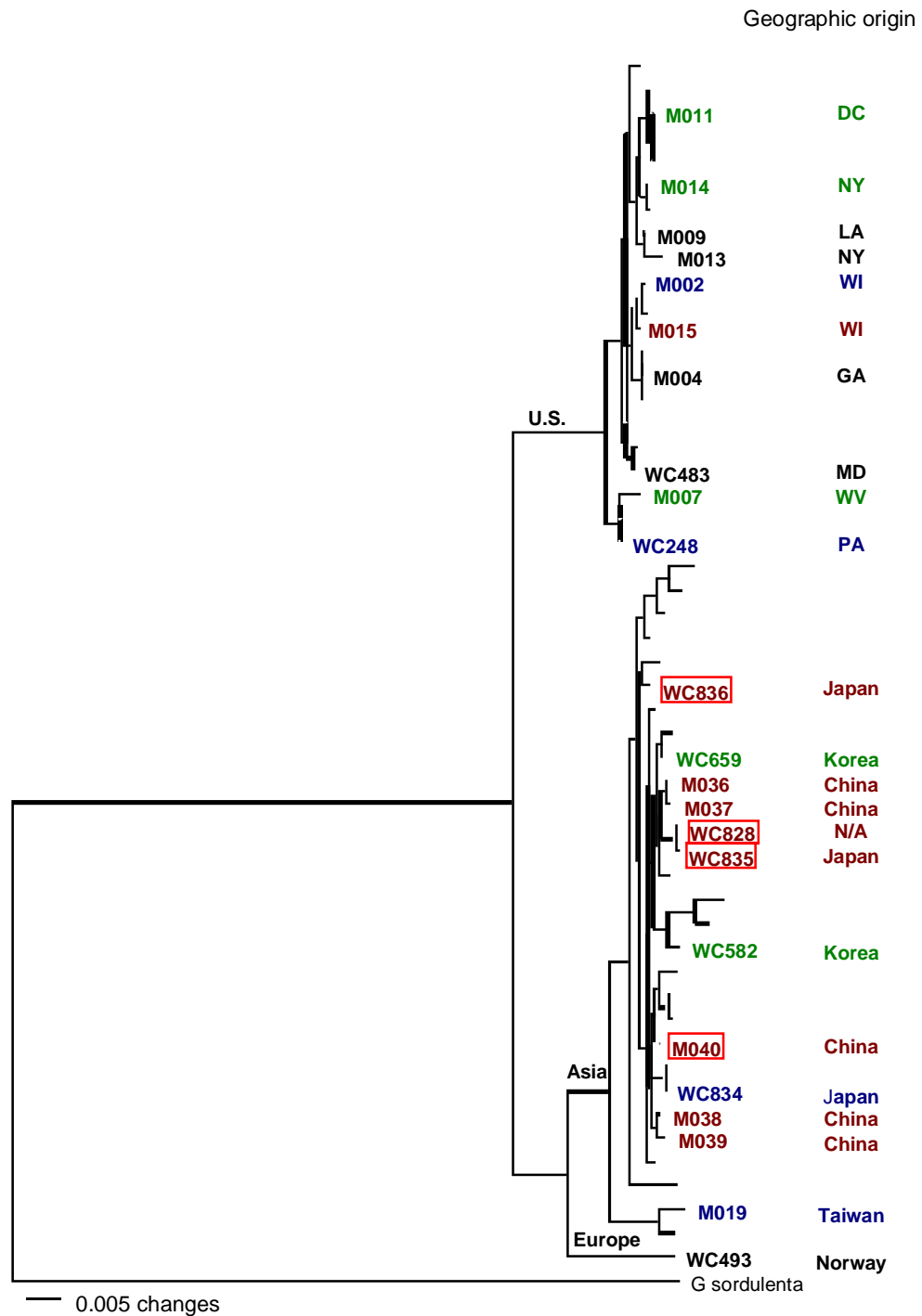


Figure 4.5. Phylogenetic relationships of 23 *Grifola frondosa* isolates selected for fruiting trials. Phylogenies are based on combined rDNA and partial β -tubulin gene sequences. Geographic origin is shown beside the isolate codes. Cultures highlighted in box are of commercial origin. Colors indicate: a) red - isolates which completed whole crop cycle and consistently fruited, b) black - isolates which did not consistently fruit, but some completed the crop cycle, c) Blue - isolates that only formed primordia, but did not fruit, d) Green - isolates that did not form primordia.

In Experiment #1, WC828 showed the shortest time to primordium formation (5 weeks) and fruiting (8 weeks). In Experiment #4, M039 showed the shortest crop cycle of 8 weeks, with 4 weeks to form primordia and 6 weeks to produce fruitbodies. Results of experiments #1 and #4 are summarized in Figure 4.6.

Experiments #2 and #3 were discontinued and a second crop was not conducted because most of the isolates did not complete the crop cycle and had no yield data. Further evaluation of 14 isolates (WC493, WC483, M004, M009, M013, WC834, WC248, M019, M002, WC582, WC659, M014, M011 and M007) in Experiments #2 and #3 was terminated, except for isolates M036 and M040, which were also included in Experiment #4. Thus, yield performance and quality assessment of these two isolates were evaluated in Experiment #4.

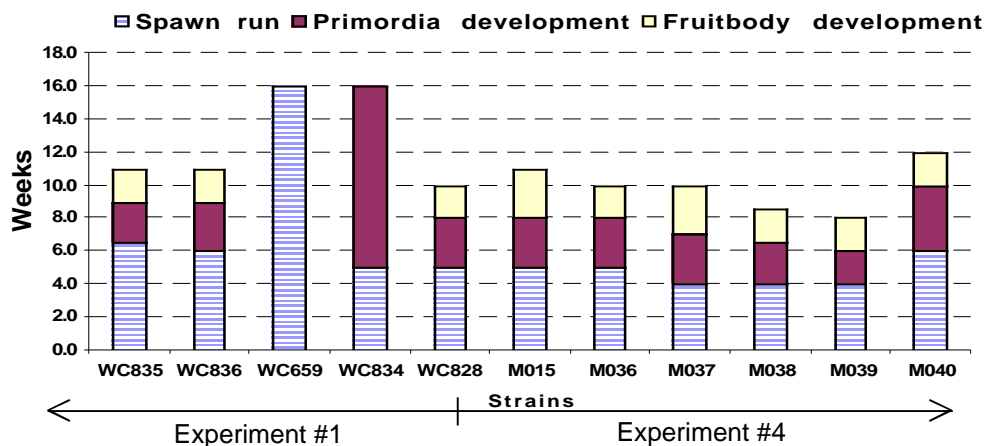


Figure 4.6. Summary of crop cycle time (wk) showing spawn run time and primordia and fruitbody development of 11 isolates of *Grifola frondosa* grown on sawdust substrate supplemented with 25% nutrient at The Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #1 and #4). Treatment descriptions are given in Table 4.13 (Appendix F).

4.3.2 Effects of germplasm on quality and yield

Statistical analysis of BE and quality data for two crops of Experiment #1 and #4 were shown in Table 4.14 (Appendix F). Isolates WC828, WC835, WC836, M015, M036, M037, M038, M039 and M040 were included in this analysis.

Significant differences in BEs and quality were found among the three isolates evaluated in Experiment #1 (Table 4.14A) (Appendix F). In crop I, BEs ranged from 35.4% (WC828) to 21.4% (WC836). Quality ranged from 1.2 (WC836) to 2.9 (WC835). In crop II, BEs ranged from 33.5% (WC828) to 21.2% (WC835). Quality ranged from 1.1 (WC836) to 3.0 (WC835). Although the actual BEs and quality were different in two crops, isolate WC828 had the highest BEs and significantly higher than WC835 and WC836 in crop I and only significantly higher than WC835 in crop II. The quality of WC835 was significantly lower than other two isolates. There was no significant difference of quality between WC828 and WC836 in two crops. Combined data of crop I and II were analyzed because no significant differences for BE and quality between two crops were found. The results are shown in Figure 4.7. Isolate WC828 had the highest BE (34.5%). Isolates WC836 and WC828 had the highest qualities (1.2 and 1.4, respectively).

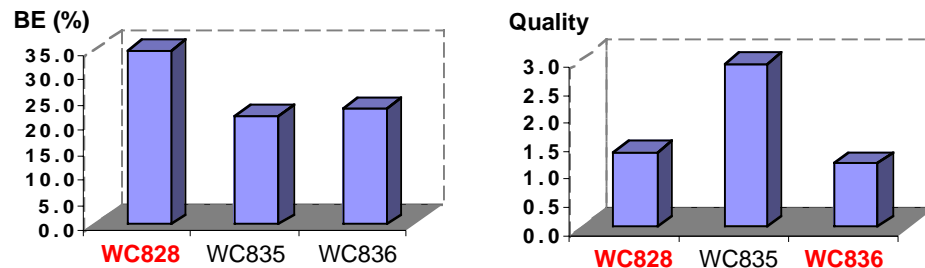


Figure 4.7. Graphic summary of means of BEs (left) and quality (right) of combined data of two crops of *Grifola frondosa* to determine the effect of three genotypes (Experiment #1). Treatments highlighted in bold font showed significantly higher BEs or quality in the experiment. Quality was rated 1-4 with 1 being the highest quality while 4 was the lowest quality rating. Treatment descriptions are shown in Table 4.14 (Appendix F).

In Experiment #4, significant differences in BEs and quality were found among seven isolates evaluated (Table 4.14B) (Appendix F). In crop I, BEs ranged from 37.6% (M040) to 31.3% (M038). Quality ranged from 1.2 (M038 and M040) to 2.0 (M039). Isolates WC828, M036, M037, M038 and M040 had the best quality. Isolate M038 produced the lowest BE of all isolates tested. Isolate M015 produced the lowest quality mushroom. In crop II, BEs ranged from 42.6% (M036) to 30.1% (M015). Quality ranged from 1.1 (WC828, M038 and M040) to 3.0 (M015). Significant differences for BE and quality were found between crop I and II. However, the results from two crops are not in conflict. It was found that BEs and qualities of crop II are overall higher than those of crop I. Total means of BE for crop I and II are 34.6% and 37.7%, respectively. Total means of quality for crop I and II are 1.7 and 1.5, respectively. WC828, M036, M037 and M040 had the significantly higher BEs and quality than the other lines tested in both crops (Figure 4.8).

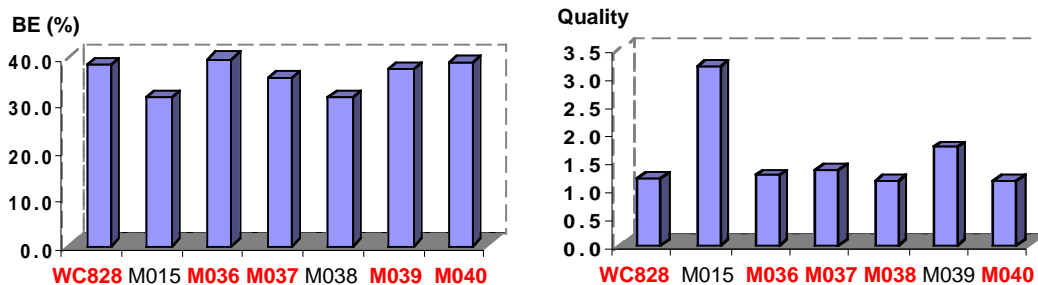


Figure 4.8. Graphic summary of means of BEs (left) and quality (right) of two crops of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) to determine the effect of seven genotypes (Experiment #4). Treatments highlighted in red bold font showed significantly higher BEs or quality in both crops in the experiment. Quality was rated 1-4 with 1 being the highest quality while 4 was the lowest quality rating. Treatment descriptions are shown in Table 4.14 (Appendix F).

These was a 7% difference in BE for WC828 between Experiment #1 and #4 for Crop II. When crop means for BEs were compared for WC828 between experiments, however, there was a difference of only 4%. Thus, overall yields

were similar from experiment to experiment. In summary, isolates WC828, M036, M037 and M040 had both consistently high BEs and quality in both crops, with no significant difference between isolates. Since WC828 is the commercial isolate used in the U.S., it was chosen to perform the nutrient experiments.

4.3.3 Effects of nutrient supplements on crop cycle time

Isolate WC828 performed differently on sawdust supplemented with different combinations of nutrients. The results are shown in Table 4.15 (Appendix F) and Figure 4.9. The crop cycle was the shortest (10 weeks) when combinations of 10% wheat bran plus 10% rye (treatment #6) were used. This treatment also had the shortest spawn run (4 weeks). Combinations of wheat bran and rye appeared to allow shortest spawn run time and shortest crop cycle time. Formulations with only 20% wheat bran (treatment #1) and only 20% rye (treatment #3) had relatively short spawn run times (5.5 and 6 weeks, respectively). When only millet (Experiment #2), corn meal (Experiment #4) or the combination of millet and corn meal (Experiment #9) were used, the crop cycle could not be completed due to arrested development and maturation of fruitbodies. However, the combinations of millet and corn meal with either wheat bran or rye resulted in a completed, but delayed crop cycle.

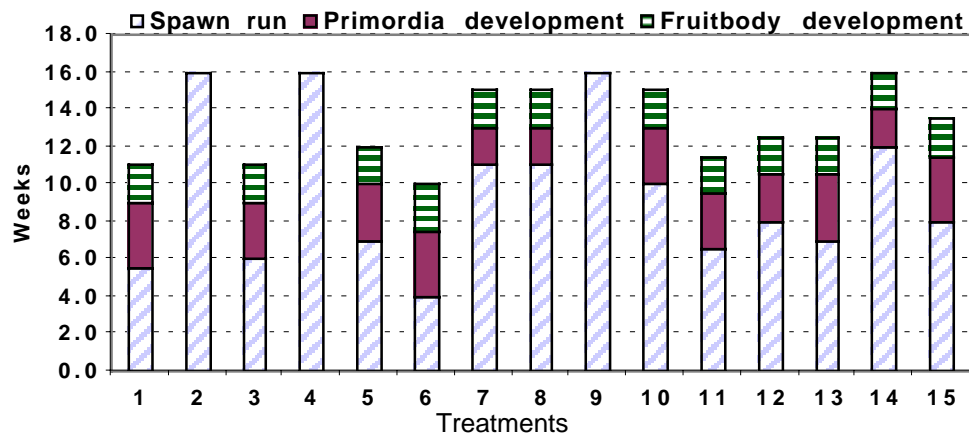


Figure 4.9. Graphic summary (15 treatments) of crop cycle time of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) as influenced by selected nutrient supplements (total 20% of substrate) used alone or in various combinations (Experiment #5). Treatment descriptions are shown in Table 4.15 (Appendix F).

4.3.4 Effects of nutrient supplements on quality and yield

Significant differences in BEs and quality were found among 15 treatments in crop I and crop II (Table 4.16) (Appendix F). In crop I, BEs ranged from 40.5% (treatment #6) to zero (treatments #2, 4 and 9). Quality ranged from 1.2 (treatment #6) to 3.0 (treatment #8). A combination of 10% wheat bran plus 10% rye (treatment #6) added to substrate produced the highest BE and best quality. However, there was no significant difference in BE between treatments #5, #6 and #11. Treatments with combinations of 10% millet plus 10% rye (treatment #8), 6.7% wheat bran, 6.7% millet plus 6.7% corn meal (treatment #12), and 6.7% millet, 6.7% rye plus 6.7% corn meal (treatment #14), respectively, were significantly lower in BEs than all other nutrient combinations tested. In Crop II, BEs ranged from 40.1% (treatment #11) to zero (treatments #2, 4 and 9). Quality ranged from 1.1 (treatment #6) to 3.1 (treatment #12). The combination of 6.7% wheat bran, 6.7% millet plus 6.7% rye (treatment #11),

along with treatment #3 #5, #6, and #10 had the highest BEs with no significant difference. The highest quality mushrooms were produced by substrates from treatments #3 #5, #6, #11, and #13.

No significant differences for BE and quality were found between crop I and II. The results based on combined data are summarized in Figure 4.10. The combination of 10% wheat bran plus 10% rye (treatment #6), 10% wheat bran plus 10% millet (treatment #5), and 6.7% wheat bran, 6.7% millet plus 6.7% rye (treatment #11) had both the highest BEs and quality.

Comparison of all substrate formulations evaluated in this experiment revealed that for isolate WC828, wheat bran, rye and millet produced better fruiting and yields than corn meal. In general, combinations of more than one type of nutrient were better than only one nutrient. Combinations of two or three nutrients selected from wheat bran, rye or millet was the most desirable formulation with shortest crop cycle, best quality and highest BE.

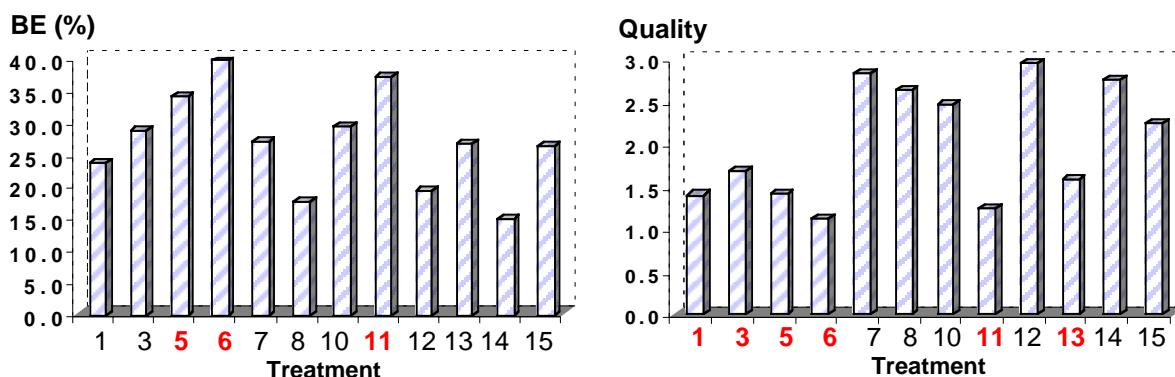


Figure 4.10. Graphic summary (12 out of 15 total treatments) of means of BEs (left) and quality (right) of combined data of two crops of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) to determine the effect of selected nutrient supplements (total 20% of substrate) used alone or in various combinations (Experiment #5). Treatments highlighted in red bold font showed significantly higher BEs or quality in both crops in the experiment. Quality was rated 1-4 with 1 being the highest quality while 4 was the lowest quality rating. Treatment descriptions are shown in Table 4.16 (Appendix F).

4.3.5 Effects of different levels of selected nutrient supplements on crop cycle time

Different levels of wheat bran and millet significantly influenced mushroom crop cycle time. The results are shown in Table 4.17 (Appendix F) and summarized in Figure 4.11. There was no primordium formation for any levels of millet used alone. When the 10% nutrient supplement level was used, mycelial growth was weak and none of the treatments completed the crop cycle. Three treatments, that contained 10% wheat bran plus 10% millet (treatment #3), 15% wheat bran plus 5% millet (treatment #4) and 20% wheat bran (treatment #5), completed the whole crop cycle. The shortest crop cycle (11 weeks) was observed when 20% wheat bran was used as supplement. At the 30% total supplement level, crop cycles for each treatment were shorter compared to the 20% level. The shortest crop cycle was 9 weeks observed for 30% wheat bran.

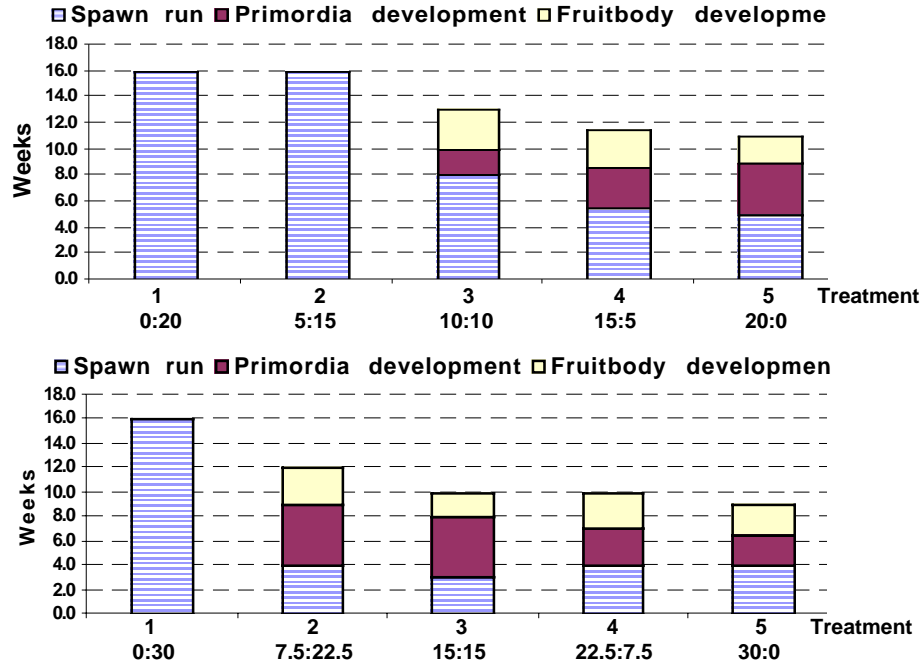


Figure 4.11. Graphic summary (5 treatments) of crop cycle time of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) as influenced by 20% (Experiment #7) (top) and 30% (Experiment #8) (below) levels of wheat bran and millet used alone or in various combinations. Ratios shown below each treatment number indicate percentages of wheat bran : millet.

The results for different levels of wheat bran and rye are shown in Table 4.18 (Appendix F) and summarized in Figure 4.12. All treatments produced mushrooms, except those at the 10% total supplement level. At the 20% level, there was not much difference in crop cycle time for each treatment (Table 4.18A). Crop cycle time at the 30% level ranged from 8 weeks to 14 weeks, with the shortest crop cycle (8 weeks) comprising a combination of 22.5% wheat bran plus 7.5% rye (Table 4.18B). Primordia developed sooner at the 30% level than those at the 20% level. This indicated that higher levels of wheat bran and rye stimulated primordia formation and development. However, spawn run for treatment #1 (rye only) was much longer at the 30% level (14 weeks) than at the 20% level (11 weeks).

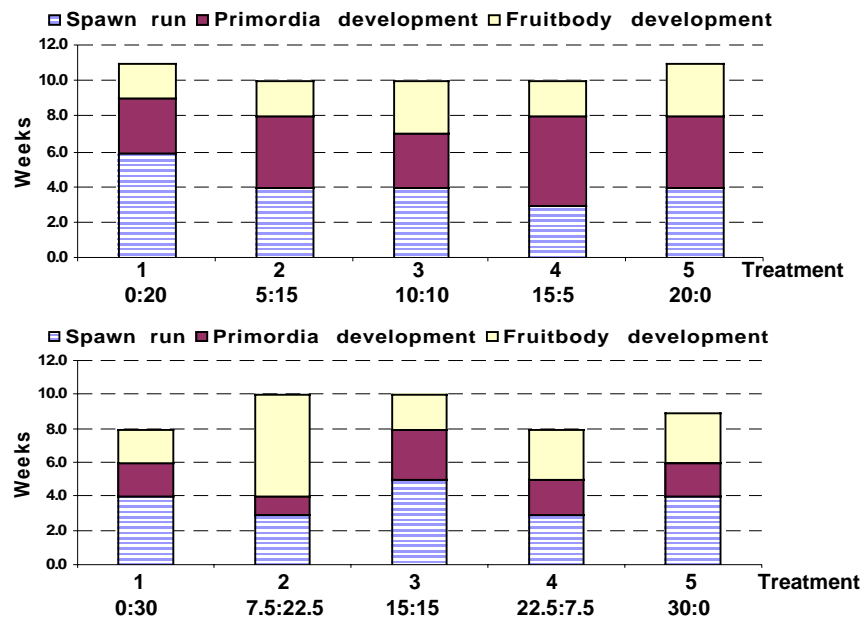


Figure 4.12. Graphic summary (5 treatments) of crop cycle time of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) as influenced by 20% (Experiment #10) (top) and 30% (Experiment #11) (below) levels of wheat bran and rye used alone or in various combinations. Ratios shown below each treatment number indicate percentages of wheat bran : rye.

Only the 20% and 30% levels of wheat bran, millet and rye and their mixtures were evaluated because the 10% level of nutrient was not sufficient for optimum mushroom growth. The results are shown in Table 4.19 (Appendix F) and summarized in Figure 4.13. All treatments resulted in completion of the crop cycle, except treatment #4 (millet only) at both levels, treatment #2, #3 and #7 at the 20% level. At 20% level, crop cycle time for treatment #8 (wheat bran : millet : rye = 13.3% : 0% : 6.7%) and treatment #5 (wheat bran : millet : rye = 6.7% : 0 : 13.3%) was the shortest (10 weeks). At the 30% level, 9 weeks was the shortest crop cycle achieved (treatment #8 and #10).

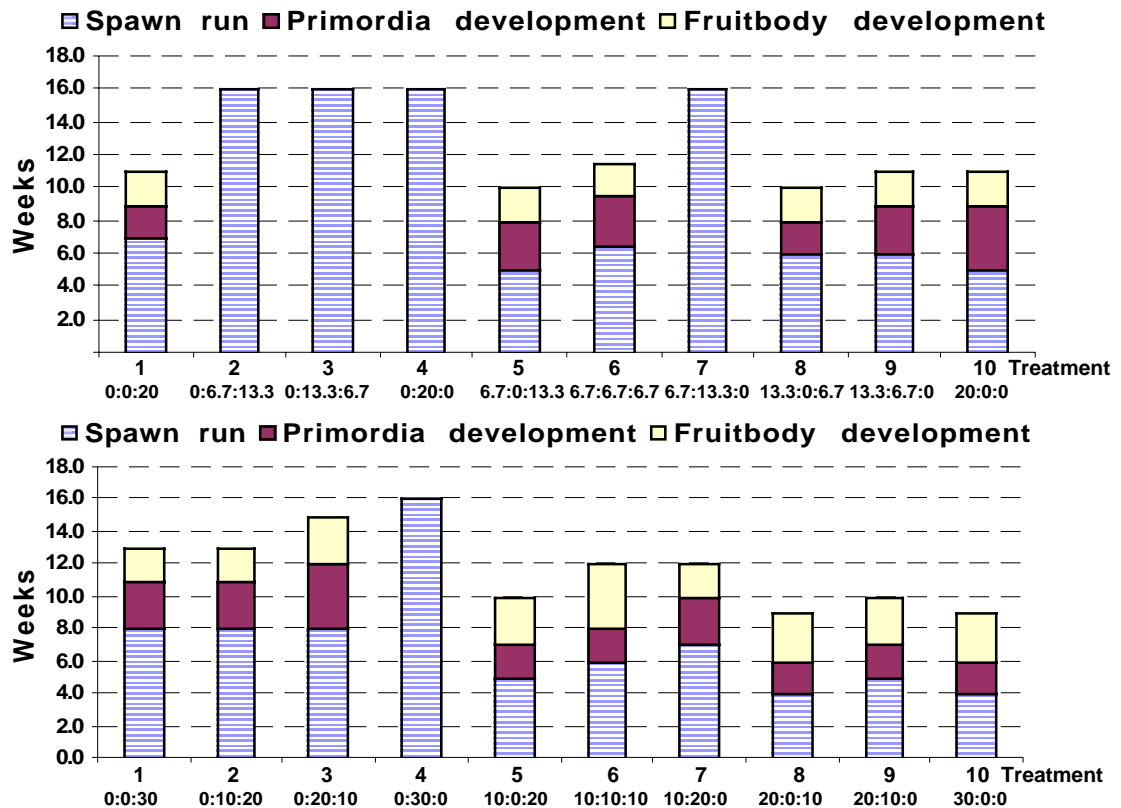


Figure 4.13. Graphic summary (10 treatments) of crop cycle time of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) as influenced by 20% (Experiment #12) (top) and 30% (Experiment #13) (below) levels of wheat bran, millet and rye used alone or in various combinations. Ratios shown below each treatment number indicate percentages of wheat bran : millet : rye.

4.3.6 Effects of different levels of selected nutrient supplements on quality and yield

4.3.6.1 Wheat bran and millet

The BEs and quality data for the combinations of wheat bran and millet are shown in Table 4.20 (Appendix F) and summarized in Figure 4.14. At the 20% level, BEs ranged from 30.3% (treatment #3) to zero (treatments #1 and 2), and quality ranged from 1.6 (treatment #3) to 1.9 (treatment #4). No significant differences were found between treatments for BE and quality. At the 30% level, BEs ranged from 40.2% (treatment #3) to zero (treatment #1), and quality ranged from 1.8 (treatment #3) to 2.4 (treatment #5). Treatment #3 (15% wheat bran and 15% millet) had the highest BE and quality. There were no significant differences in BE between treatments #2 (7.5% wheat bran and 22.5% millet) and #4 (22.5% wheat bran and 7.5% millet).

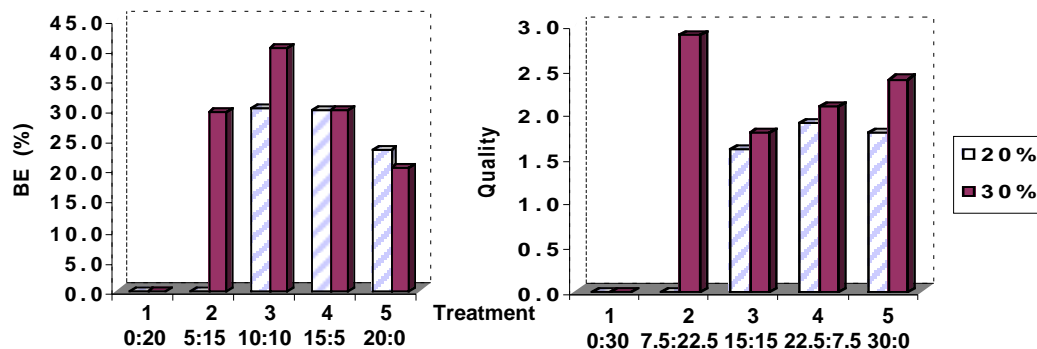


Figure 4.14. Graphic summary (5 treatments) of means of BEs (left) and quality (right) of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) to determine 20% (Experiment #7) and 30% (Experiment #8) levels of wheat bran and millet used alone or in various combinations. Quality was rated 1-4 with 1 being the highest quality while 4 was the lowest quality rating. Ratios shown below each treatment number indicate percentages of wheat bran : millet.

4.3.6.2 Wheat bran and rye

When wheat bran and rye were used, no significant differences in quality were found at both the 20% and 30% total supplement level, while there were significant differences in BEs between treatments. The results are shown in Table 4.21 (Appendix F) and summarized in Figure 4.15. The BEs ranged from 41.5% (treatment #3) to 24.1% (treatment #5) at the 20% level. Treatment #2 (5% wheat bran and 15% rye), #3 (10% wheat bran and 10% rye) and #4 (15% wheat bran and 5% rye) had higher BEs and were significantly different ($P = 0.05$) than the other two treatments (#1 and 5). Combinations of wheat bran plus rye at a 10%:10% rate (treatment #3) had the highest BE (41.5%) and the best quality (1.3). At the 30% level, BEs ranged from 45.6% (treatment #3) to 22.3% (treatment #5). Treatment 5 (30% wheat bran) had a significantly lower BE (22.3%) and all the others were not significantly different. The highest BE was 45.6% achieved from substrate of treatment #3 (15% wheat bran and 15% rye); this result is the same as that found for the 20% level. Comparison of the two levels indicated that, in general, higher nutrient levels increased yield, but lowered mushroom quality.

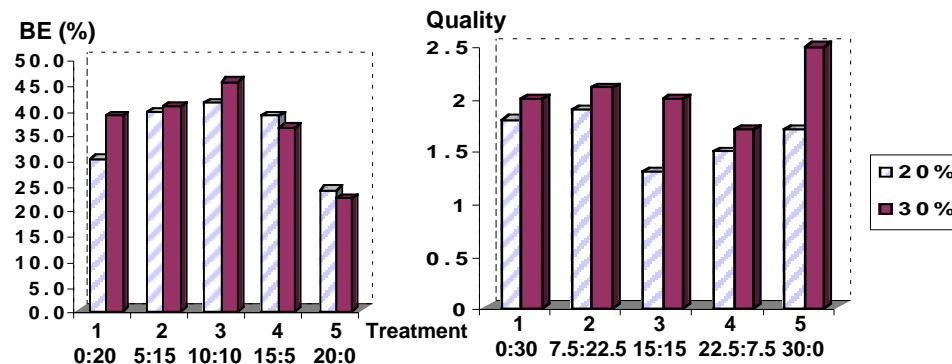


Figure 4.15. Graphic summary (5 treatments) of means of BEs (left) and quality (right) of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) to determine 20% (Experiment #10) and 30% (Experiment #11) levels of wheat bran and rye used alone or in various combinations. Quality was rated 1-4 with 1 being the highest quality while 4 was the lowest quality rating. Ratios shown below each treatment number indicate percentages of wheat bran : rye.

4.3.6.3 Wheat bran, millet and rye at 20% level

The BEs and quality of two crops for the 20% level of combined wheat bran, millet and rye are shown in Table 4.22 (Appendix F) and summarized in Figure 4.16. In crop I, no significant differences in quality were found among the treatments. BEs ranged from 42% (treatment #8) to zero (treatments #2, 3, 4 and 7). Treatment #8 (13.3% wheat bran and 6.7% rye), treatment #6 (6.7% each of wheat bran, millet and rye), treatment #5 (6.7%wheat bran and 13.3% rye) and treatment #9 (13.3% wheat bran and 6.7% millet) had the highest BEs (42%, 38.5%, 36.1% and 32.9%, respectively).

A significant difference for BE was found between crops I and II. However, the results from two crops are not in conflict. Results for crop II were similar to crop I although the actual values of BE and quality were lower. Total means for BE for crop I and II were 33.9% and 31.2%, respectively. There was no significant difference in mushroom quality for any of the treatments in crop II. When wheat bran and rye were used, both combinations of 6.7%:13.3% (treatment #5) and 13.3%:6.7% (treatment #8) produced high BEs. When wheat bran and millet were used, only the combination of 13.3%:6.7% (treatment #9) produced high BEs. This suggests that a higher level of wheat bran may provide additional yield increases. The combination of wheat bran, millet and rye also was effective in stimulating mushroom yield.

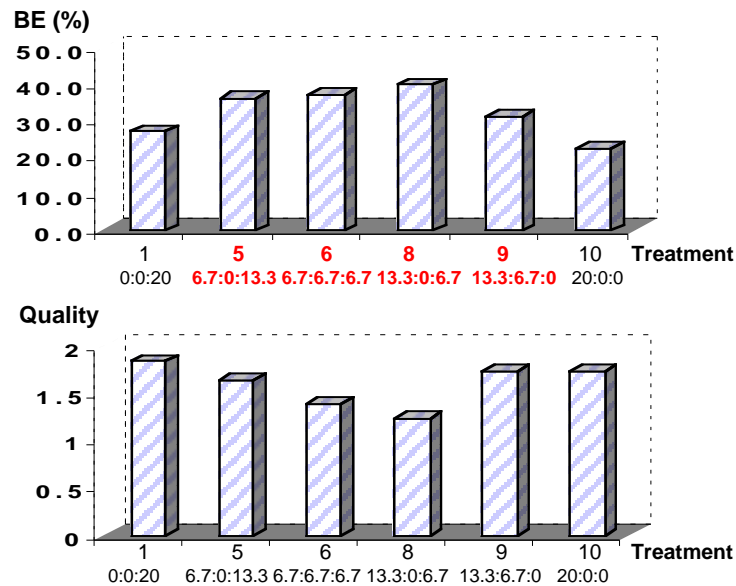


Figure 4.16. Graphic summary (6 out of 10 total treatments) of means of BEs (top) and quality (below) of two crops of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) to determine the effect of 20% wheat bran, millet and rye used alone or in various combinations (Experiment #12). Treatments highlighted in red bold font showed significantly higher BEs or quality in both crops in the experiment. Quality was rated 1-4 with 1 being the highest quality while 4 was the lowest quality rating. Ratios shown below each treatment number indicate percentages of wheat bran : millet : rye.

4.3.6.4 Wheat bran, millet, and rye at the 30% level

The BEs and quality for two crops for the 30% level of wheat bran, millet and rye are shown in Table 4.23 (Appendix F) and summarized in Figure 4.17. Significant differences in BEs and quality were found in crops I and II. In crop I, BEs ranged from 48.9% (treatment #6) to zero (treatment #4), and quality ranged from 1.6 (treatment #3) to 2.5 (treatment #10). The BEs for treatment #6 (10% each of wheat bran, millet and rye) (48.9%) and treatment #5 (10% wheat bran and 20% rye) (44.1%) were significantly higher than the other treatments. Treatment #10 (30% wheat bran only) resulted in lower mushroom quality. There was no significant difference in quality for the other treatments.

In crop II, BEs ranged from 45.2% (treatment #6) to zero (treatment #4), and quality ranged from 1.4 (treatment #3) to 2.3 (treatment #10). Similar to crop I, a combination of 10% each of wheat bran, millet and rye (treatment #6) and 10% wheat bran plus 20% rye (treatment #5) had the highest BEs. In this crop, combinations of 20% wheat bran plus 10% rye (treatment #8) and 20% wheat bran plus 10% millet (treatment #9) also were significantly higher. Quality results for crop II were the same as crop I with treatment #10 (30% wheat bran only) significantly lower than the others. Significant differences for BE were found between crops I and II. However, the results from the two crops were not in conflict. The overall BEs for crop I were higher than those for crop II. Total means of BEs for crop I and II were 36.6% and 33.4%, respectively. There was no significant difference for quality between the two crops. Overall results for combined data were the same as those for each individual crop.

Comparison of the 20% and 30% levels of added nutrient showed that, in general, increasing the nutrient level increased yield although this was not always the case. For example, BE for treatments 7, 8 and 10 were higher for the 20% level than for the 30% level. In addition, some treatments did not produce mushrooms at the 20% level of supplementation, while at the 30% level, relatively high yields were obtained (treatment #2, 3 and 7). The BEs of treatment 6 (wheat bran : millet : rye = 10%:10%:10%) and treatment #5 (wheat bran : rye = 10%:20%) were significantly higher than the other treatments at the 30% and 20% levels, and thus, could be considered one of the best substrate formulas for WC828.

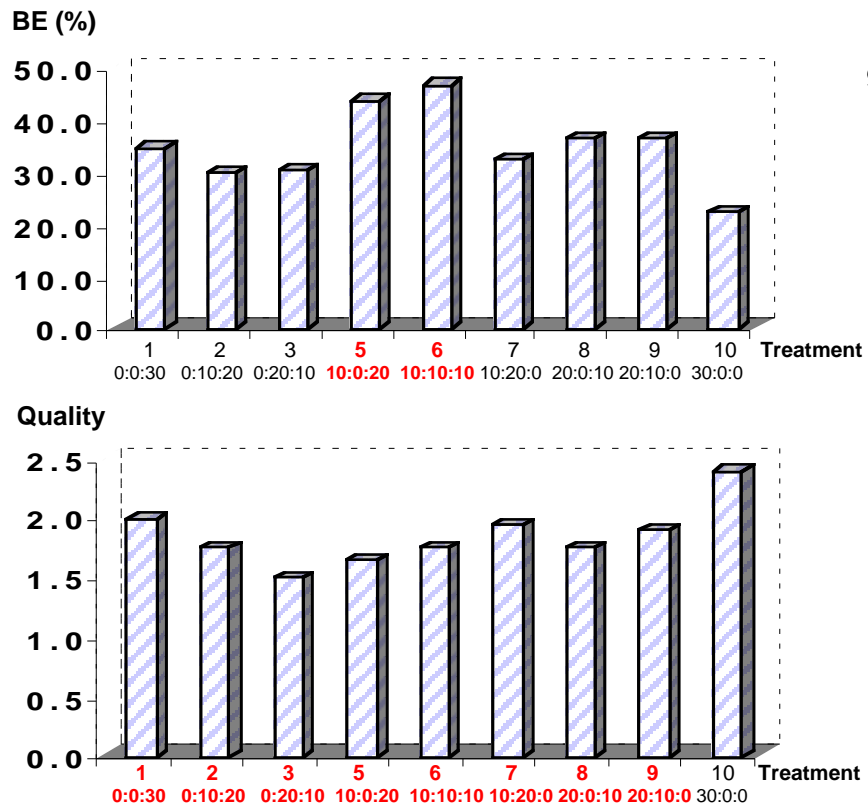


Figure 4.17. Graphic summary (9 out of 10 total treatments) of means of BEs (top) and quality (below) of two crops of *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) to determine the effect of 30% of wheat bran, millet and rye used alone or in various combinations (Experiment #13). Treatments highlighted in red bold font showed significantly higher BEs or quality in both crops in the experiment. Quality was rated 1-4 with 1 being the highest quality while 4 was the lowest quality rating. Ratios shown below each treatment number indicate percentage of wheat bran : millet : rye.

4.4 Discussion

Grifola frondosa (maitake) is a relatively new cultivated mushroom when compared with the 1400-year cultivation history for *Auricularia auricula*, 1000-year history for *Lentinula edodes*, and 400-year history for *Agaricus bisporus* (Chang 1999). It is anticipated that consumer demand for maitake will increase substantially in the next few years (D.J. Royse, personal communication). However, knowledge currently is very limited as to how different genotypes perform under various conditions and how different nutrient types and levels influence the crop cycle, and mushroom yield and quality. Therefore, I sought to examine the effects of genotype and selected nutrient supplements on the

mushroom crop cycle, yield and quality were evaluated to provide additional information to growers on cultivation of this mushroom.

Significant differences in crop cycle performance, and mushroom yield and quality among lines was observed. I also found substantial genetic variability among the isolates examined. Among 23 isolates from the wild I tested, nine (39%) did not fruit under our conditions.

I evaluated 10 isolates of U.S origin for fruiting capacity and only one (10%) isolate (M015) produced mushrooms consistently. Of the 12 isolates of Asian origin, eight (67%) isolates (WC836, WC828, WC835, M036, M037, M038, M039, and M040) produced mushroom consistently, while only four did not. The only European isolate available (WC493) did not fruit consistently in my tests and mushroom quality was good to excellent. While it may seem that Asian isolates have a higher proportion of strains that fruit relative to U.S. isolates, it should be pointed out that only one of the eight Asian isolates tested was a known wild isolate. At least four of the 12 isolates of Asian origin were/are used commercially. Therefore, fruiting capacities of wild isolates may be similar from continent to continent, but it is not possible to determine this with the available data.

Among the nine isolates of *G. frondosa* that produced mushrooms consistently, significant differences in BE and quality were observed. Isolates WC828, M036, M037 and M040 would appear to have the greatest potential for commercial production since they consistently produced the highest BEs and quality. Other isolates may be useful to breeders, however, because some of them had high BE (i.e. M039 and M015), with reasonable quality (i.e. WC836 and M038) and a short crop cycle (i.e. M039). Thus, genetic variability found in these isolates may be utilizable by breeders wishing to combine several desirable traits in a single line. Relatively little effort has been directed to breeding and selection

of lines for commercial cultivation in this species due to the short history of cultivation. My work should assist these efforts by providing initial data on fruiting capacity on various nutrient supplemented substrates and initial selection of strains for use in the breeding program. In addition, I have assembled an extensive collection of lines that is available to commercial companies that may want to pursue genetic improvement of lines. I should point out that isolates from Europe are under-represented in this collection and additional efforts should be directed toward increasing availability of lines from this area of the world. It might also be worthwhile to increase efforts to obtain representatives from South American and perhaps, New Zealand to determine if additional genetic variability would be available from these areas.

The results of my experiments clearly indicate that type and quality of nutrient supplements influence crop cycle and mushroom yield and quality. Combinations of two or three nutrients selected from wheat bran, rye or millet are the most desirable formulations found to date.

Nutrient levels of 10% proved too low for optimum growth and development of basidiomes. In fact, no mushrooms were produced when total nutrient levels were this low regardless of nutrient combination. Wheat bran is one of the most important factors for reducing crop cycle time. Formulations with only rye produced mushrooms, but were significantly lower in BEs than formulations with combinations of wheat bran and rye. Comparison of the supplement levels of 20% and 30% showed that as the nutrient levels increased, BEs in most cases, increased as well. The combination of 10% wheat bran, 10% millet and 10% rye and the combination of 10% wheat bran plus 20% rye were the best overall formulations for isolate WC828.

I found that better quality mushrooms and more consistent yields were produced from a more nutritionally balanced substrate. For example, higher

levels of wheat bran significantly shortened the crop cycle, but produced poorer quality mushrooms and lowered BEs. On the other hand, increasing wheat bran levels in sawdust substrates containing millet and rye or both, increased productivity and, often times, improved mushroom quality. The use of millet in substrate is another good example of poor yield and quality when millet is used alone. However, when it was used together with wheat bran and rye, significantly higher BEs and quality were achieved. Additional work evaluating the effects of other types and quantities of nutrients on mushroom BE and quality may reveal more productive combinations than I found in this study. I also would suggest that additional nutritional investigations be completed with two or more strains of diverse genetic origin. This would help minimize the potential independent effect of germplasm on crop cycle time and mushroom yield and quality.

Chapter 5: General Conclusions

DNA sequences of internal transcribed spacers 1 and 2 (ITS-1 and 2) and 5.8S regions of the nuclear ribosomal DNA transcriptional unit and the partial β -tubulin gene were obtained to compare nucleotide variation within 51 isolates of *Grifola frondosa* and its allies (*G. sordulenta*, *Polyporus umbellatus* and *Meripilus giganteus*). For rDNA and partial β -tubulin gene sequences, interspecies nucleotide variation for *Grifola frondosa* (5.4% for rDNA and 12.2% for β -tubulin) was relatively small compared to intraspecies variation (*G. frondosa* and *G. sordulenta*; 14.3% for rDNA and 30.2% for β -tubulin). Among isolates of *Grifola frondosa* and its allies, the nucleotide variation was much higher and unambiguous sequence alignments were not achievable. Most of the variation observed was attributable to nucleotide differences within ITS-1 and ITS-2 regions of rDNA and introns of β -tubulin gene sequences. I found that isolate WC484 from ATCC (American Type Culture Collection) is a misidentified isolate with a 98% match of rDNA (ITS-1, ITS-2 and 5.8s) sequences to *Spongipellis detectans*.

Molecular phylogenetic analyses of rDNA, β -tubulin and combined analyses revealed two major clades within *Grifola frondosa* by both neighbor joining (NJ) and maximum parsimony (MP) analyses. Clade I (U.S. clade) included all the U.S. isolates, while Clade II (Asian clade) consisted only of Asian isolates. The strong bootstrap support in β -tubulin and combined datasets suggested that the U.S. clade and the Asian clade are distinct groups that are evolving independently.

The single European isolate (WC493) shared a common ancestor with Asian isolates (with significant bootstrap support) based on combined and partial

β -tubulin gene sequence data in both NJ and MP analyses. However, ITS rDNA sequence data indicated that WC493 has a closer relationship with U.S. isolates (NJ analysis) or is the most recent ancestor of U.S. and Asian isolates in MP analysis. These groupings were not strongly supported by bootstrap analysis, however. Based on partial β -tubulin gene sequence and morphological data, *G. frondosa* and its allies (*G. sordulenta* and *P. umbellatus*) are independent lineages and also share a common ancestor. However, this was not fully resolved by ITS and β -tubulin sequence data.

In this study, genetic variation and phylogenetic information inferred from molecular data were of benefit in the attempts to select improved commercial lines of maitake. The phylogenetic analyses revealed that the major line WC828 (unknown origin) used commercially on most mushroom farms is of Asian decent. Furthermore, 23 isolates were selected based on their genetic diversity and then evaluated for the effects of genotypes on crop cycle time and biological efficiency (BE) and mushroom quality. Significant differences among lines were found for these parameters when mushrooms were produced on a nutrient supplemented sawdust substrate. Among 23 isolates tested, nine did not fruit. Among nine isolates that produced mushrooms consistently, significant differences in BEs and quality were found. Isolates WC828, M036, M037 and M040 were the most consistent with highest BEs (38.5%, 39.5%, 35.8% and 38.9%, respectively) and quality (1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.2, respectively) than the other isolates with a shorter crop cycle (10, 9, 10 and 12 weeks, respectively).

In order to determine the effects of nutrient supplements on crop cycle time, BE and mushroom quality, experiments were conducted using various combinations of wheat bran, rye, millet and corn meal at 20% total supplement level. Statistical analyses indicated that different types of nutrient supplements have significant effects on crop cycle time and mushroom yield and quality. Combinations of two or three nutrients selected from wheat bran, millet and rye

were the most desirable formulation with short crop cycle, high quality and high BE.

Different crop cycle times and significant differences for BEs and quality were found for various combinations of wheat bran, rye and millet at 10%, 20% and 30% total supplement levels. A total nutrient supplement level of 10% was insufficient for mushroom production. Wheat bran was necessary for a consistent, relatively short crop cycle. Increased nutrient levels were positively correlated with increased BE. The combinations of 10% wheat bran, 10% millet and 10% rye (BE 47.1%, quality 1.8 and crop cycle 12 weeks) and 10% wheat bran plus 20% rye (BE 44%, quality 1.7 and crop cycle 10 weeks) were rated as the best formulations for isolate WC828 under our environmental conditions.

In conclusion, I believe this work has led to improved commercial production potential for maitake. Some of my best lines and formulas are already being used by commercial maitake growers in the United States. I expect my work will be adopted by other commercial growers worldwide.

**Appendix A: Sequence alignment of ITS-1, 5.8 S, and ITS-2
rDNA sequences from isolates of *Grifola frondosa* and *G.
sordulenta***

Sequence alignments were performed using the Clustal W algorithm (Higgins *et al.* 1991) in the MegAlign application of the Wisconsin Package (Genetics Computer Group, Madison, WI). Numbers at the top of each sequence block designate site location within the sequence alignment. The 5.8S region is labeled and underlined for the first isolate (M001).

```
[
1
60]
M001 AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAA-TCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
M002 AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAA-TCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
M003 AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAA-TCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
M004 AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAA-TCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
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WC364 AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAA-TCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
WC367 AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAA-TCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
WC483 AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAA-TCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
WC493 AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAA-TCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
WC555 AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAAATCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
WC556 AGTTCAGANAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAAATCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
WC557 AGTACAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAAATCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
WC581 AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAAATCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
WC582 AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAAATCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
WC583 AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAAAATCCGGGGCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCATC
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 WC364 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTCGGGCGAGCTTATAATCGTC
 WC367 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTCGGGCGAGCTTATAATCGTC
 WC483 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTCGGGCGAGCTTATAATCGTC
 WC493 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTCGGGCGAGCTTATAATCGTC
 WC555 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTTGGGCGAGCTCACAATCGTC
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 WC557 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTTGGGCGAGCTCACAATCGTC
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 WC583 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTTGGGCGAGCTCACAATCGTC
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 WC685 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTTGGGCGAGCTCACAATCGTC
 WC808 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTCGGGCGAGCTTATAATCGTC
 WC828 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTTGGGCGAGCTCACAATCGTC
 WC834 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTTGGGCGAGCTCACAATCGTC
 WC835 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTTGGGCGAGCTCACAATCGTC
 WC836 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTTGGGCGAGCTCACAATCGTC
 G_sordulenta_G01 GTGTGATAATTGTCTACGCCGCGGTTCGTTGAAGCCTCAGTTGGGCGAGCTTATAATCGTC

[541 574]
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 M002 CCCTCCGGGACAATCGAATATGACATCTGACCTC
 M003 CCCTCCGGGACAATCGAATATGACATCTGACCTC
 M004 CCCTCCGGGACAATCGAATATGACATCTGACCTC
 M005 CCCTCCGGGACAATCGAATATGACATCTGACCTC
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 M015 CCCTCCGGGACAATCGAATATGACATCTGACCTC
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 M017 CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
 M018 CCCACGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
 M019 CCTTC-GGGACAATCGAATATGACATCTGACCTC
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 M021 CCTTC-GGGACAATCGAATATTACATCTGACCTC
 M029 CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
 M030 CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
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 M039 CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
 M040 CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
 WC248 CCCTCCGGGACAATCGAATATGACATCTGACCTC

WC364	CCCTCCGGGACAATCGAATATGACATCTGACCTC
WC367	CCCTCCGGGACAATCGAATATGACATCTGACCTC
WC483	CCCTCCGGGACAATCGAATA-GACATCTGACCTC
WC493	CCCTCCGGGACAATCGAATATGACATCTGACCTC
WC555	CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATATGACATCTGACCTC
WC556	CCCCACGGGACAAT-GAATTTGACATCTGACCTC
WC557	CCCCACGGGACAATTCAATATGACATCTGACCTC
WC581	CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
WC582	CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
WC583	CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
WC659	CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
WC685	CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATATGACATCTGACCTC
WC808	CCCTCCGGGACAATCGAATATGACATCTGACCTC
WC828	CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
WC834	CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
WC835	CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
WC836	CCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACATCTGACCTC
G_sordulenta_G01	CTATGGACAACTTATATCTTGACATCTGACCTC

Appendix B: Sequence alignment of ITS-1, 5.8 S, and ITS-2 from isolates of *Grifola frondosa* and related species

Sequence alignments were performed using the Clustal W algorithm (Higgins *et al.* 1991) in the MegAlign application of the Wisconsin Package (Genetics Computer Group, Madison, WI). Numbers located at the top of each sequence block designate site location within the alignment. The 5.8S region is labeled and underlined for the first isolate (M001). Divergent regions that could not be aligned ambiguously across all isolates are indicated with asterisks.

```
[
      1          *****
M004      AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAA-TCCGGG--GCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCA
M009      AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAA-TCCGGG--GCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCA
M030      AGTACAGAAATGGGTTGTCGCTGGCCTCAAAATCCGGG--GCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCA
M037      AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTGCTGGCCTCAAAATCCGGG--GCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCA
WC493     AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTCAA-TCCGGG--GCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCA
WC659     AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTGCTGGCCTCAAAATCCGGG--GCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCA
WC828     AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTGCTGGCCTCAAAATCCGGG--GCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCA
WC835     AGTTCAGAAAAGGGTTGTGCTGGCCTCAAAATCCGGG--GCATGTGCACACCCTGCTCA
G_sordulenta_G01 AGTTCTGAAACGGGTTGTAGCTGGCCTTA----CGAG--GCATGTGCACGCCCTGCTCA
P_umbellatus_G02 AATTCTGACAAGGGTTGTTGCTGGCTGTTTCGTTTGAGCGGCATGTGCACGCCCTGATCA
M_giganteus_G06  ACTCCCAACTTGGGT-GAGGTTG-TTGTGGCCTGAGGGGCATGTGCACGTCCTCGCTCA

[
      61          *****
M004      T---CCA-CTCTCACACCTGTGCACTTTCTGTAGGTCGG--TTCG---GGATCTGGTCCC
M009      T---CCA-CTCTCACACCTGTGCACTTTCTGTAGGTCGG--TTCG---GGATCTGGTCCC
M030      T---CCA-CTCTCACACCTGTGCACTTTCTGTAGGTCGG--TTCG---GGATCGGGTCCC
M037      T---CCA-CTCTCACACCTGTGCACTTTCTGTAGGTCGG--TTCG---GGATCTGGTCCC
WC493     T---CCA-CTCTCACACCTGTGCACTTTCTGTAGGTCGG--TTCG---GGATCTGGTCCC
WC659     T---CCA-CTCTCACACCTGTGCACTTTCTGTAGGTCGG--TTCG---GGATCTGGTCCC
WC828     T---CCA-CTCTCACACCTGTGCACTTTCTGTAGGTCGG--TTCG---GGATCTGGTCCC
WC835     T---CCA-CTCTCACACCTGTGCACTTTCTGTAGGTCGG--TTCG---GGATCTGGTCCC
G_sordulenta_G01 T---CCA-CTCT-ACACCTGTGACCATCTGTAGGTCGG--TTTG---GGTTCGGATGCT
P_umbellatus_G02 TTATCCATCTCACACACCTGTGCACATACTGTAGGTCGGCTTTGATGGAGTGGGGTCT
M_giganteus_G06  TTTTATCTCTCACACCCTGTGCACTTTTCATGGGATGGCTTGCGGCCGTCGCTCGGCCT

[
      121          *****
M004      TCGCGGGGTCGGGTTCT-----GTGCCTTCCTATGTACAATCACAAC-GCTTCAGTA-
M009      TCGCGGGGTCGGGTTCT-----GTGCCTTCCTATGTACAATCACAAC-GCTTCAGTA-
M030      TCGCGGGGTCGGGTTCT-----GCGCCTTCCTATGTACAATCACAAC-GCTTCAGTA-
M037      TCGCGGGGTCGGGTTCT-----GCGCCTTCCTATGTACAATCACAAC-GCTTCAGTA-
WC493     TCGCGGGGTCGGGTTCT-----GTGCCTTCCTATGTACAATCACAAC-GCTTCAGTA-
WC659     TCGCGGGGTCGGGTTCT-----GCGCCTTCCTATGTACAATCACAAC-GCTTCAGTA-
WC828     TCGCGGGGTCGGGTTCT-----GCGCCTTCCTATGTACAATCACAAC-GCTTCAGTA-
WC835     TCGCGGGGTCGGGTTCT-----GCGCCTTCCTATGTACAATCACAAC-GCTTCAGTA-
G_sordulenta_G01 TCGCGGCCTTCGGGCTC-----GGGCCTTCCTATGTACT-TCACACAC-GCTTTAGTA-
P_umbellatus_G02 TCATCGACTGTGCTTTTGTAGTTGGGCCTTCCTATGTTTATACACACTACTTCAGTT-
M_giganteus_G06  TTGCGTCGATGGCTCTGCAGCTG-----CCTCGTGTTT--TTACAAACCTTTTAAATCAG

[
      181          *****          5.8S→
M004      TTCAGAATGTC-ATTGCGATAAATAAAACGCATCTTA-TACAACCTTTCAGCAACGGATCT
M009      TTCAGAATGTC-ATTGCGATAAATAAAACGCATCTTA-TACAACCTTTCAGCAACGGATCT
M030      TTCAGAATGTC-ATTGCGATAAATAAAACGCATCTTA-TACAACCTTTCAGCAACGGATCT
M037      TTCAGAATGTC-ATTGCGATAAATAAAACGCATCTTA-TACAACCTTTCAGCAACGGATCT
WC493     TTCAGAATGTC-ATTGCGATAAATAAAACGCATCTTA-TACAACCTTTCAGCAACGGATCT
WC659     TTCAGAATGTC-ATTGCGATAAATAAAACGCATCTTA-TACAACCTTTCAGCAACGGATCT
```

WC828 TTCAGAATGTC-ATTGCGATAATTAAAACGCATCTTA-TACAACTTTCAGCAACGGATCT
 WC835 TTCAGAATGTC-ATTGCGATAATTAAAACGCATCTTA-TACAACTTTCAGCAACGGATCT
 G_sordulenta_G01 T-CAGAAATGTA-ATTGCGA----TAAAACGCACCTTA-TACAACTTTCAGCAACGGATCT
 P_umbellatus_G02 AAAAGAATGTC-CTCTTG-CGTCTAA--CGCATTTAAATACAACCTTTCAGCAACGGATCT
 M_giganteus_G06 TCTTGAATGTTTATCGCGCGCATGCGCATTTAAATCAATACAACCTTTCAGCAACGGATCT

[241 300]
 M004 CTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGCAGCGAAATGCGATAAGTAATGTGAATTGCAGAA
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 M037 CTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGCAGCGAAATGCGATAAGTAATGTGAATTGCAGAA
 WC493 CTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGCAGCGAAATGCGATAAGTAATGTGAATTGCAGAA
 WC659 CTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGCAGCGAAATGCGATAAGTAATGTGAATTGCAGAA
 WC828 CTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGCAGCGAAATGCGATAAGTAATGTGAATTGCAGAA
 WC835 CTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGCAGCGAAATGCGATAAGTAATGTGAATTGCAGAA
 G_sordulenta_G01 CTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGCAGCGAAATGCGATAAGTAATGTGAATTGCAGAA
 P_umbellatus_G02 CTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGCAGCGAAATGCGATAAGTAATGTGAATTGCAGAA
 M_giganteus_G06 CTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGCAGCGAAATGCGATAAGTAATGTGAATTGCAGAA

[301 360]
 M004 TTCAGTGAATCATCGAATCTTTGAACGCACCTTGCCTCCTTGGTATTCAGGAGCATG
 M009 TTCAGTGAATCATCGAATCTTTGAACGCACCTTGCCTCCTTGGTATTCAGGAGCATG
 M030 TTCAGTGAATCATCGAATCTTTGAACGCACCTTGCCTCCTTGGTATTCAGGAGCATG
 M037 TTCAGTGAATCATCGAATCTTTGAACGCACCTTGCCTCCTTGGTATTCAGGAGCATG
 WC493 TTCAGTGAATCATCGAATCTTTGAACGCACCTTGCCTCCTTGGTATTCAGGAGCATG
 WC659 TTCAGTGAATCATCGAATCTTTGAACGCACCTTGCCTCCTTGGTATTCAGGAGCATG
 WC828 TTCAGTGAATCATCGAATCTTTGAACGCACCTTGCCTCCTTGGTATTCAGGAGCATG
 WC835 TTCAGTGAATCATCGAATCTTTGAACGCACCTTGCCTCCTTGGTATTCAGGAGCATG
 G_sordulenta_G01 TTCAGTGAATCATCGAATCTTTGAACGCACCTTGCCTCCTTGGTATTCAGGAGCATG
 P_umbellatus_G02 TTCAGTGAATCATCGAATCTTTGAACGCACCTTGCCTCCTTGGTATTCAGGAGCATG
 M_giganteus_G06 TTCAGTGAATCATCGAATCTTTGAACGCACCTTGCCTCCTTGGTATTCAGGAGCATG

[361 ←5.8S ***** 420]
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 M030 CCTGTTTGAGTGTTCATGGAATTTCTCAACCC-ACACGTCCTTGTGATGTGGACGGGCTTGG
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 WC493 CCTGTTTGAGTGTTCATGGAATTTCTCAACCC-ACACATCCTTGTGATGTGGACGGGCTTGG
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 WC828 CCTGTTTGAGTGTTCATGGAATTTCTCAACCC-ACACATCCTTGTGATGTGGACGGGCTTGG
 WC835 CCTGTTTGAGTGTTCATGGAATTTCTCAACCC-ACACATCCTTGTGATGTGGACGGGCTTGG
 G_sordulenta_G01 CCTGTTTGAGTGTTCATGGAATTTCTCAACCC-ATATGTCCTTGTGTCG--GATGGGCTTGG
 P_umbellatus_G02 CCTGTTTGAGTGTTCATGGAATTTCTCAACTCTATTTGCCTTTGTGA-ATAGA--GCTTGG
 M_giganteus_G06 CCTGTTTGAGTGTTCATGGAATTTCTCAATTC-GCTC-TCATTTTATTGAGGCGGCATTGG

[421 ***** 480]
 M004 ACTTTGGAGGTTTCTGCCGGCCCCCATTTCGGGTCGGCTCCTCTGGAATGCATTAGCTCC
 M009 ATATTGGAGGTTTCTGCCGGCCCCCATTTCGGGTCGGCTCCTCTGGAATGCATTAGCTCC
 M030 ACTTTGGAGGTTTCTGCCGGCCCCCATTTCGGGTCGGCTCCTCTGGAATGCATTAGCTCC
 M037 ACTTTGGAGGTTTCTGCCGGCCCCCATTTCGGGTCGGCTCCTCTGGAATGCATTAGCTCC
 WC493 ACTTTGGAGGTTTCTGCCGGCCCCCATTTCGGGTCGGCTCCTCTGGAATGCATTAGCTCC
 WC659 ACTTTGGAGGTTTCTGCCGGCCCCCATTTCGGGTCGGCTCCTCTGGAATGCATTAGCTCC
 WC828 ACTTTGGAGGTTTCTGCCGGCCCCCATTTCGGGTCGGCTCCTCTGGAATGCATTAGCTCC
 WC835 ACTTTGGAGGTTTCTGCCGGCCCCCATTTCGGGTCGGCTCCTCTGGAATGCATTAGCTCC
 G_sordulenta_G01 A-TTTGGAGGTTTATGCCGGCCCTC-GTC--GGTCGGCTCCTCTTGAATGCATTAGCTCG
 P_umbellatus_G02 ACTTTGGAGGTTTATGCCGGTACCT-GT---GATCGGCTCCTCTTGAATGCATTAGCTCG
 M_giganteus_G06 ATGTGGAGGCTCTTTGCTGGCCAT---TTTGTGCCAGCTCCTCTTAAAAATATTAGTGTG

[481 ***** 540]
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 M030 A-TCCCTTGCGGATCGGCTC-TCGGTGTGATAAT-TGTCTACGCCGTGGTCGTTGAAGCC
 M037 A-TCCCTTGCGGATCGGCTC-TCGGTGTGATAAT-TGTCTACGCCGTGGTCGTTGAAGCC
 WC493 A-TCCCTTGCGGATCGGCTC-TCGGTGTGATAAT-TGTCTACGCCGTGGTCGTTGAAGCC
 WC659 A-TCCCTTGCGGATCGGCTC-TCGGTGTGATAAT-TGTCTACGCCGTGGTCGTTGAAGCC
 WC828 A-TCCCTTGCGGATCGGCTC-TCGGTGTGATAAT-TGTCTACGCCGTGGTCGTTGAAGCC
 WC835 A-TCCCTTGCGGATCGGCTC-TCGGTGTGATAAT-TGTCTACGCCGTGGTCGTTGAAGCC
 G_sordulenta_G01 A-TTCCCTTGCGGATCGGCTC-CCGGTGTGATAAT-TGTCTACGCCGTGACCGT-GAAGC-

```

P_umbellatus_G02 AACCTTTTGTGGATCAGCTTATCGGTGTGATAAAATGTCTACGCCGTTACTGT-GAAGCA
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[          541 ***** 600]
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M030 TCAGTTGGGCGAGCTCACAATCGTCCCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACA-TCTGACCTC
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WC493 TCAGTCGGGCGAGCTTATAATCGTCCCCTCCGGGACAATCGAATATGACA-TCTGACCTC
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WC828 TCAGTTGGGCGAGCTCACAATCGTCCCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACA-TCTGACCTC
WC835 TCAGTTGGGCGAGCTCACAATCGTCCCCTCCGGGACAATTCAATCTGACA-TCTGACCTC
G_sordulenta_G01 ---GTTTGGGCGAGCTTCGAACCGTCCCTATGGACAAACTTATATCTTGACA-TCTGACCTC
P_umbellatus_G02 T--ATTATTCG-GCTTCCAATCGTCCTTCACGGGACAATA-ACTTTGACC-TTTGACCTC
M_giganteus_G06 GCGACT--TCATGCTTCTAATCGTC---GCAAGACAACC---TTTGACAATCTGACCTC

```

Appendix C: Blast search result for isolate WC484

>[emb|AJ006670.1|SDE6670](#) Spongipellis delectans 5.8S rRNA gene and internal transcribed spacers 1 and 2, (ITS1 & ITS2), Sample 26, Length = 650

Score = 1088 bits (549), Expect = 0.0

Identities = 567/573 (98%)

Strand = Plus / Plus

```

WC484:          1  aatttatgacaaggttgtcgctggccctaattgggcatgtgcacgccttgctcattctcc 60
                |||
S. delectans:  59  aatttatgacaaggttgtcgctggctctaattgggcatgtgcacgccttgctcattctcc 118

WC484:          61  aattcttacacctctgtgcacttttcataggttggttgtggctgtcttcgcggaatggttc 120
                |||
S. delectans:  119  aattcttacacctctgtgcacttttcataggttggttgtggctgtcttcgcggaatggttc 178

WC484:          121  agcctgcctatgcttttacaacgcttcagttatagaatgtatctcgcgtataaacgcatt 180
                |||
S. delectans:  179  agcctgcctatgcttttacaacgcttcagttatagaatgtatctcgcgtataaacgcatt 238

WC484:          181  atatacaactttcagcaacggatctcttggctctcgcacgatgaagaacgcagcgaat 240
                |||
S. delectans:  239  atatacaactttcagcaacggatctcttggctctcgcacgatgaagaacgcagcgaat 298

WC484:          241  gcgataagtaaatgtgaattgcagaattcagtgatcatcgaatcttgaacgcaccttgc 300
                |||
S. delectans:  299  gcgataagtaaatgtgaattgcagaattcagtgatcatcgaatcttgaacgcaccttgc 358

WC484:          301  gccctttggtattccgaagggcatgcctggttgagtgtcatggattctcaataactccaa 360
                |||
S. delectans:  359  gccctttggtattccgaagggcatgcctggttgagtgtcatggattctcaataactccaa 418

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Appendix D: Sequence alignment of partial β -tubulin gene sequences from isolates of *Grifola frondosa* and *G. sordulenta*

Sequence Alignments were performed using the Clustal W algorithm (Higgins *et al.* 1991) in the MegAlign application of the Wisconsin Package (Genetics Computer Group, Madison, WI). Numbers located at the top of each sequence block designate site location within the alignment. Regions of introns are labeled and underlined for the first isolate (M001). Codons are shown in protein coding regions.

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[          1      Intron 5→                                ←Intron 5      65]
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Appendix E: Sequence alignment of partial β -tubulin gene sequences from isolates of *Grifola frondosa* and related species

Sequence alignments were performed using the Clustal W algorithm (Higgins *et al.* 1991) in the MegAlign application of the Wisconsin Package (Genetics Computer Group, Madison, WI). Numbers at the top of each sequence block designate site location within the sequence alignment. Regions of exons are labeled and underlined for the first isolate (M001). Codons are shown in protein coding regions.

```
[
1 exon 6→
53]
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107]
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161]
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M009 CTG ACG ACA CCG ACA TAC GGC GAC CTG AAT CAC CTC ATT TCC ATC GTC ATG TCC
M030 CTG ACG ACA CCG ACA TAC GGC GAT CTG AAC CAC CTC ATT TCC ATC GTC ATG TCC
M037 CTG ACG ACA CCG ACA TAC GGC GAT CTG AAC CAC CTC ATT TCC ATC GTC ATG TCC
WC493 CTG ACG ACA CCC ACA TAT GGC GAT CTG AAC CAC CTC ATT TCC ATT GTC ATG TCC
WC659 CTG ACG ACA CCG ACA TAC GGC GAT CTG AAC CAC CTC ATN TCC ATC GTC ATG TCC
WC828 CTG ACG ACA CCG ACA TAC GGC GAT CTG AAC CAC CTC ATT TCC ATC GTC ATG TCC
WC835 CTG ACG ACA CCG ACA TAC GGC GAT CTG AAC CAC CTC ATT TCC ATC GTC ATG TCC
G_sordulenta CTC ACT ACA CCA ACT TAT GGT GAC CTT AAC CAC CTT GTA TCG ATT GTC ATG TCC
P_umbellatus_G02 CTG TCG ACA CCG ACA TAC GGG GAT CTC AAC CAC CTC GTT TCC ATT GTC ATG TCC
G_lucidium CTT ACC ACG CCC ACA TAT GGT GAT CTC AAC CAC CTC GTC TCT ATT GTC ATG TCG

[
162
215]
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M009 GGT ATT ACA ACT TGT TTG CGT TTC CCT GGT CAG CTG AAC TCC GAT CTC CGG AAG
M030 GGT ATT ACA ACT TGC TTG CGT TTC CCT GGT CAG CTG AAC TCC GAT CTC CGA AAG
M037 GGT ATT ACA ACT TGC TTG CGT TTC CCT GGT CAG CTG AAC TCC GAT CTC CGA AAG
WC493 GGC ATT ACA ACT TGC TTG CGT TTC CCT GGT CAG CTG AAC TCC GAC CTC CGG AAG
WC659 GGT ATT ACA ACT TGC TTG CGT TTC CCT GGT CAG CTG AAC TCC GAT CTC CGA AAG
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WC828 GGT ATT ACA ACT TGC TTG CGT TTC CCT GGT CAG CTG AAC TCC GAT CTC CGA AAG
 WC835 GGT ATT ACA ACT TGC TTG CGT TTC CCT GGT CAG CTG AAC TCC GAT CTC CGA AAG
 G_sordulenta GGT ATC ACG ACT TGC TTG CGT TTC CCT GGT CAG CTG AAT TCT GAC TTG CGG AAG
 P_umbellatus_G02 GGT ATC ACG ACA TGC TTG CGT TTC CCT GGT CAG CTT AAC TCT GAC CTG CGT AAG
 G_lucidium GGT ATC ACG ACT TGC CTG CGT TTC CCT GGT CAG CTC AAC TCG GAC CTC AGG AAG

[216 ←exon 6 exon 7→ 267]
 M004 TTG GCT GTC AAC ATG G GTA GTT CCC TTC CCC CGT CTC CAC TTC TTC ATG ACC
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 M030 TTG GCT GTC AAC ATG G GTA GTT CCC TTC CCC CGT CTC CAC TTC TTC ATG ACT
 M037 TTG GCT GTC AAC ATG G GTA GTT CCC TTC CCC CGT CTC CAC TTC TTC ATG ACT
 WC493 TTG GCT GTC AAC ATG G GTA GTT CCC TTC CCC CGT CTC CAC TTC TTC ATG ACT
 WC659 TTG GCT GTC AAC ATG G GTA GTT CCC TTC CCC CGT CTC CAC TTC TTC ATG ACT
 WC828 TTG GCT GTC AAC ATG G GTA GTT CCC TTC CCC CGT CTC CAC TTC TTC ATG ACT
 WC835 TTG GCT GTC AAC ATG G GTA GTT CCC TTC CCC CGT CTC CAC TTC TTC ATG ACT
 G_sordulenta TTG GCT GTC AAC ATG G GTA GTT CCC TTC CCT CGT CTT CAT TTC TTC ATG ACC
 P_umbellatus_G02 CTC GCT GTC AAC ATG G GTA GTT CCC TTC CCT CGT CTC CAT TTC TTC ATG ACC
 G_lucidium TTG GCT GTC AAC ATG G GTA GTT CCC TTC CCT CGT CTT CAC TTC TTC ATG ACC

[268 321]
 M004 GGT TTC GCG CCC TTG ACT GCG CGC GGC AGC CAG CAG TAC CGT GCT GTC ACT GTA
 M009 GGT TTC GCG CCC TTG ACT GCG CGC GGC AGC CAG CAG TAC CGT GCT GTC ACT GTA
 M030 GGT TTC GCG CCC TTG ACT GCG CGC GGC AGC CAG CAG TAC CGT GCT GTC ACT GTA
 M037 GGT TTC GCG CCC TTG ACT GCG CGC GGC AGC CAG CAG TAC CGT GCT GTC ACT GTA
 WC493 GGT TTC GCG CCC TTG ACT GCG CGC GGC AGC CAG CAG TAT CGT GCT GTC ACT GTA
 WC659 GGT TTC GCG CCC TTG ACT GCG CGC GGC AGC CAG CAG TAC CGT GCT GTC ACT GTA
 WC828 GGT TTC GCG CCC TTG ACT GCG CGC GGC AGC CAG CAG TAC CGT GCT GTC ACT GTA
 WC835 GGT TTC GCG CCC TTG ACT GCG CGC GGC AGC CAG CAG TAC CGT GCT GTC ACT GTA
 G_sordulenta GGC TTC GCG CCT TTG ACC GCT CGG GGT AGC CAG CAA TAC CGC GCG GTC ACC GTC
 P_umbellatus_G02 GGT TTC GCC CCT TTG ACT GCA CGT GGC AGC CAA CAA TAC CGT GCA GTC ACT GTG
 G_lucidium GGT TTT GCT CCC CTG ACC GCC CGC GGC AGC CAG CAG TAC CGT GCT GTC ACT GTT

[322 375]
 M004 CCC GAG CTG ACT CAA CAG ATG TTC GAT GCC AAG AAC ATG ATG GCT GCG TCC GAC
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 M030 CCC GAG CTG ACT CAA CAG ATG TTC GAT GCC AAG AAC ATG ATG GCT GCG TCC GAC
 M037 CCC GAG CTG ACT CAA CAG ATG TTC GAT GCC AAG AAC ATG ATG GCT GCG TCC GAC
 WC493 CCC GAG CTG ACT CAA CAG ATG TTC GAT GCC AAG AAC ATG ATG GCT GCG TCC GAC
 WC659 CCC GAG CTG ACT CAA CAG ATG TTC GAT GCC AAG AAC ATG ATG GCT GCG TCC GAC
 WC828 CCC GAG CTG ACT CAA CAG ATG TTC GAT GCC AAG AAC ATG ATG GCT GCG TCC GAT
 WC835 CCC GAG CTG ACT CAA CAG ATG TTC GAT GCC AAG AAC ATG ATG GCT GCG TCC GAT
 G_sordulenta CCT GAG CTG ACG CAG CAA ATG TTC GAT GCC AAG AAC ATG ATG GCT GCG TCC GAC
 P_umbellatus_G02 CCC GAG CTC ACG CAG CAG ATG TTC GAC GCG AAG AAC ATG ATG GCT GCG TCT GAC
 G_lucidium CCC GAG CTC ACG CAG CAG ATG TTC GAT GCT AAG AAC ATG ATG GCC GCC TCG GAC

[376 ←exon 7 401]
 M004 CCC CGG CAT GGC CGA TAC CTC ACT GT
 M009 CCC CGG CAT GGC CGA TAC CTC ACT GT
 M030 CCC CGG CAT GGG CGA TAC CTG ACC GT
 M037 CCC CGG CAT GGG CGA TAC CTG ACC GT
 WC493 CCC CGG CAT GGG CGA TAC CTG ACC GT
 WC659 CCC CGG CAT GGG CGA TAC CTG ACC GT
 WC828 CCC CGG CAT GGG CGA TAC CTG ACC GT
 WC835 CCC CGG CAT GGG CGA TAC CTG ACC GT
 G_sordulenta CCC AGG CAT GGC CGC TAC CTC ACT GT
 P_umbellatus_G02 CCC CGT CAC GGT CGC TAC CTG ACG GT
 G_lucidium CCG AGG CAC GGT CGT TAC CTC ACT GT

Appendix F: Results of genotype and nutrient experiments described in Chapter 4

Table 4.13. Crop cycles time (wk) showing spawn run time and primordia and fruitbody development of 23 isolates of *Grifola frondosa* grown on sawdust substrate supplemented with 20% nutrient at The Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #1 - #4). For a graphic summary of this data see Figure 4.6.

A. Experiment #1					
Isolates	Time (weeks) to complete stage of development				number of replicates ^a
	Spawn run	Primordia	Fruitbody	Total crop cycle	
WC828	5.0	3.0	2.0	10.0	15
WC835	6.5	2.5	2.0	11.0	15
WC836	6.0	3.0	2.0	11.0	15
WC659	16.0	- ^b	-	16.0	0
WC834	5.0	11.0	-	16.0	0
B. Experiment #2					
Isolates	Spawn run	Primordia	Fruitbody	Total crop cycle	number of replicates
M040	6.0	3.0	2.0	11.0	15
M014	16.0	-	-	16.0	0
M007	16.0	-	-	16.0	0
M004	7.0	1.0	2.0	10.0	3
WC493	7.0	2.0	1.0	10.0	3
WC582	16.0	-	-	16.0	0
WC248	16.0	-	-	16.0	0
C. Experiment #3					
Isolates	Spawn run	Primordia	Fruitbody	Total crop cycle	number of replicates
M036	4.0	3.0	2.0	9.0	15
M019	6.5	9.5	-	16.0	0
M013	10.0	2.0	2.0	14.0	5
M011	16.0	-	-	16.0	0
M009	7.0	2.0	2.0	11.0	2
M002	6.0	10.0	-	16.0	0
WC483	9.0	2.0	1.0	12.0	3
D. Experiment #4					
Isolates	Spawn run	Primordia	Fruitbody	Total crop cycle	number of replicates
WC828	5.0	3.0	2.0	10.0	15
M015	5.0	3.0	3.0	11.0	15
M036	5.0	2.0	2.0	9.0	15
M037	4.0	3.0	3.0	10.0	15
M038	4.0	2.5	2.0	9.5	15
M039	4.0	2.0	2.0	8.0	15
M040	6.0	4.0	2.0	12.0	15

^a Number of replicates (bags) producing mushrooms.

^b - = Primordia and/or fruitbodies did not develop.

Table 4.14. Percentage biological efficiency (%BE) and quality among 10 *Grifola frondosa* isolates grown on sawdust substrate supplemented with 20% nutrient evaluated in crops I and II of Experiment #1 and #4 at the Mushroom Research Center. For a graphic summary of this data see Figure 4.7 and 4.8.

A. Experiment #1						
Isolates	Crop I		Crop II		Combined (Crop I & II)	
	BE (%)	Quality	BE (%)	Quality ^a	BE (%)	Quality
WC828	35.4 a ^b	1.3 a	33.5 a	1.4 a	34.5 a	1.4 a
WC835	22.1 b	2.9 b	21.2 b	3.0 b	21.7 b	3.0 b
WC836	21.4 b	1.2 a	24.8 ab	1.1 a	23.1 b	1.2 a
B. Experiment #4						
Isolates	Crop I		Crop II		Mean (Crop I & II)	
	BE (%)	Quality	BE (%)	Quality	BE (%)	Quality
WC828	36.5 ab	1.3 a	40.5 a	1.1 a	38.5	1.2
M015	33.0 ab	3.4 c	30.1 b	3.0 b	31.6	3.2
M036	36.4 ab	1.3 a	42.6 a	1.2 a	39.5	1.3
M037	33.0 ab	1.4 a	38.5 a	1.3 a	35.8	1.4
M038	31.1 b	1.2 a	32.0 b	1.1 a	31.6	1.2
M039	34.9 ab	2.0 b	39.7 a	1.5 a	37.3	1.8
M040	37.6 a	1.2 a	40.2 a	1.1 a	38.9	1.2
Total Mean	34.6	1.7	37.7	1.5		

^a Quality rating based on scale of 1-4 where 1 is highest quality and 4 is lowest quality.

^b Means in the same experiment in the same column followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the P=0.05 level according to Tukey-Kramer HSD.

Table 4.15. Effect of selected nutrients (20% total), added alone or in combination to oak sawdust, on crop cycle time (weeks) for *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) grown at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #5). For a graphic summary of this data see Figure 4.9.

Treatment	Selected nutrient supplements (%)				Crop cycle time (weeks)			
	Wheat Bran	Millet	Rye	Corn meal	Spawn run	Primordia development	Fruitbody development	Total crop cycle
1	20	0	0	0	5.5	3.5	2.0	11.0
2	0	20	0	0	16.0	- ^a	-	16.0
3	0	0	20	0	6.0	3.0	2.0	11.0
4	0	0	0	20	16.0	-	-	16.0
5	10	10	0	0	7.0	3.0	2.0	12.0
6	10	0	10	0	4.0	3.5	2.5	10.0
7	10	0	0	10	11.0	2.0	2.0	15.0
8	0	10	10	0	11.0	2.0	2.0	15.0
9	0	10	0	10	16.0	-	-	16.0
10	0	0	10	10	10.0	3.0	2.0	15.0
11	6.7	6.7	6.7	0	6.5	3.0	2.0	11.5
12	6.7	6.7	0	6.7	8.0	2.5	2.0	12.5
13	6.7	0	6.7	6.7	7.0	3.5	2.0	12.5
14	0	6.7	6.7	6.7	12.0	2.0	2.0	16.0
15	5	5	5	5	8.0	3.5	2.0	13.5

^a - = Primordia and/or fruitbodies did not develop.

Table 4.16. The effect of selected nutrients (20% total) on percentage biological efficiency (%BE) and quality for isolate WC828 for crops I and II grown at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #5). For a graphic summary of this data see Figure 4.10.

Treatment	Nutrient supplements (%)				Crop I		Crop II		Combined (Crop I & II)	
	Wheat Bran	Millet	Rye	Corn meal	BE (%)	Quality ^x	BE (%)	Quality	BE (%)	Quality
1	20	0	0	0	26.8 bc ^y	1.5 ab	20.2 c	1.3 a	23.5 b	1.4 a
2	0	20	0	0	0 ^z	-	0	-	0	-
3	0	0	20	0	27.6 bc	1.7 abc	30.1 ab	1.7 ab	28.9 b	1.7 ab
4	0	0	0	20	0	-	0	-	0	-
5	10	10	0	0	32.3 ab	1.6 abc	35.6 ab	1.3 a	34.0 a	1.4 a
6	10	0	10	0	40.5 a	1.2 a	38.7 a	1.1 a	39.6 a	1.1 a
7	10	0	0	10	28.3 bc	2.7 cd	25.8 bc	3.0 c	27.1 b	2.8 b
8	0	10	10	0	12.3 d	3.0 d	22.9 c	2.3 bc	17.6 c	2.7 b
9	0	10	0	10	0	-	0	-	0	-
10	0	0	10	10	28.9 bc	2.6 cd	30.0 ab	2.4 bc	29.4 b	2.5 b
11	6.7	6.7	6.7	0	34.0 ab	1.3 ab	40.1 a	1.2 a	37.1 a	1.3 a
12	6.7	6.7	0	6.7	20.1 cd	2.8 d	18.3 c	3.1 c	19.2 c	3.0 b
13	6.7	0	6.7	6.7	26.4 bc	1.7 abc	27.1 bc	1.5 ab	26.7 b	1.6 ab
14	0	6.7	6.7	6.7	14.0 d	2.6 cd	15.8 c	2.9 c	14.9 c	2.8 b
15	5	5	5	5	27.5 bc	2.2 cd	25.2 bc	2.3 bc	26.3 b	2.3 b

^x Quality rating based on scale of 1-4 where 1 is highest quality and 4 is lowest quality.

^y Means in the same column followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the P=0.05 level according to Tukey-Kramer HSD.

^z Treatments where no fruiting occurred (0) were eliminated from the analysis of variance.

Table 4.17. Effect of various levels of selected nutrients (wheat bran and millet) added to a sawdust (oak) substrate on crop cycle time (weeks) for *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) grown at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #7 and 8). For a graphic summary of this data see Figure 4.11.

A. Experiment #7 (20% total nutrient level).						
Treatment	Selected nutrient supplements (%)		Spawn run	Crop cycle time (weeks)		
	Wheat bran	Millet		Primordia development	Fruitbody development	Total crop cycle
1	0	20	16.0	- ^a	-	16.0
2	5	15	16.0	-	-	16.0
3	10	10	8.0	2.0	3.0	13.0
4	15	5	5.5	3.0	3.0	11.5
5	20	0	5.0	4.0	2.0	11.0

B. Experiment #8 (30% total nutrient level).						
Treatment	Selected nutrient supplements (%)		Spawn run	Crop cycle time (weeks)		
	Wheat bran	Millet		Primordia development	Fruitbody development	Total crop cycle
1	0	30	16.0	-	-	16.0
2	7.5	22.5	4.0	5.0	3.0	12.0
3	15	15	3.0	5.0	2.0	10.0
4	22.5	7.5	4.0	3.0	3.0	10.0
5	30	0	4.0	2.5	2.5	9.0

^a - = Primordia and/or fruitbodies did not develop.

Table 4.18. Effect of various levels of selected nutrients (wheat bran and rye) added to a sawdust (oak) substrate on crop cycle time (weeks) for *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) grown at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #10 and 11). For a graphic summary of this data see Figure 4.12.

A. Experiment #10 (20% total nutrient level)						
Treatment	Selected nutrient supplements (%)		Crop cycle time (weeks)			
	Wheat bran	Rye	Spawn run	Primordia development	Fruitbody development	Total crop cycle
1	0	20	6.0	3.0	2.0	11.0
2	5	15	4.0	4.0	2.0	10.0
3	10	10	4.0	3.0	3.0	10.0
4	15	5	3.0	5.0	2.0	10.0
5	20	0	4.0	4.0	3.0	11.0

B. Experiment #11 (30% total nutrient level)						
Treatment	Selected nutrient supplements (%)		Crop cycle time (weeks)			
	Wheat bran	Rye	Spawn run	Primordia development	Fruitbody development	Total crop cycle
1	0	30	10.0	2.0	2.0	14.0
2	7.5	22.5	3.0	1.0	6.0	10.0
3	15	15	5.0	3.0	2.0	10.0
4	22.5	7.5	3.0	2.0	3.0	8.0
5	30	0	4.0	2.0	3.0	9.0

Table 4.19. Effect of various levels of selected nutrients (wheat bran, millet and rye) added to a sawdust (oak) substrate on crop cycle time (weeks) for *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) grown at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #12 and 13). For a graphic summary of this data see Figure 4.13.

A. Experiment #12 (20% total nutrient level)							
Treatment	Selected nutrient supplements (%)			Crop cycle time (weeks)			
	Wheat bran	Millet	Rye	Spawn run	Primordia development	Fruitbody development	Total crop cycle
1	0	0	20	7.0	2.0	2.0	11.0
2	0	6.7	13.3	16.0	- ^a	-	16.0
3	0	13.3	6.7	16.0	-	-	16.0
4	0	20	0	16.0	-	-	16.0
5	6.7	0	13.3	5.0	3.0	2.0	10.0
6	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.5	3.0	2.0	11.5
7	6.7	13.3	0	16.0	-	-	16.0
8	13.3	0	6.7	6.0	2.0	2.0	10.0
9	13.3	6.7	0	6.0	3.0	2.0	11.0
10	20	0	0	5.0	4.0	2.0	11.0

B. Experiment #13 (30% total nutrient level)							
Treatment	Selected nutrient supplements (%)			Crop cycle time (weeks)			
	Wheat bran	Millet	Rye	Spawn run	Primordia development	Fruitbody development	Total crop cycle
1	0	0	30	8.0	3.0	2.0	13.0
2	0	10	20	8.0	3.0	2.0	13.0
3	0	20	10	8.0	4.0	3.0	15.0
4	0	30	0	16.0	-	-	16.0
5	10	0	20	5.0	2.0	3.0	10.0
6	10	10	10	6.0	2.0	4.0	12.0
7	10	20	0	7.0	3.0	2.0	12.0
8	20	0	10	4.0	2.0	3.0	9.0
9	20	10	0	5.0	2.0	3.0	10.0
10	30	0	0	4.0	2.0	3.0	9.0

^a - = Primordia and/or fruitbodies did not develop.

Table 4.20. Percentage biological efficiency (%BE) and quality for *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) grown on substrates containing various levels of selected nutrients (wheat bran and millet at 20% or 30% total) at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #7 and 8). For a graphic summary of this data see Figure 4.14.

A. Experiment #7 (20% total nutrient level)				
Treatment	Selected nutrient supplements (%)		BE (%)	Quality ^x
	Wheat bran	Millet		
1	0	20	0.0	-
2	5	15	0.0	-
3	10	10	30.3NS ^y	1.6NS
4	15	5	30.1NS	1.9NS
5	20	0	23.4NS	1.8NS

B. Experiment #8 (30% nutrient level)				
Treatment	Selected nutrient supplements (%)		BE (%)	Quality
	Wheat bran	Millet		
1	0	30	0.0	-
2	7.5	22.5	29.7b ^z	2.9b
3	15	15	40.2a	1.8a
4	22.5	7.5	30.2b	2.1a
5	30	0	20.6c	2.4ab

^x Quality rating based on scale of 1-4 when 1 is highest quality and 4 is lowest quality.

^y NS = nonsignificant at P=0.05.

^z Means in the same experiment in the same column followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the P=0.05 level according to Tukey-Kramer HSD.

Table 4.21. Percentage biological efficiency (%BE) and quality for 5 treatments evaluated in two experiments (#10 and 11) for the effect of various levels of selected nutrients (wheat bran and rye at 20% or 30% total) for *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) grown at the Mushroom Research Center. For a graphic summary of this data see Figure 4.15.

A. Experiment #10 (20% total nutrient level)				
Treatment	Selected nutrient supplements (%)		BE (%)	Quality ^x
	Wheat bran	Rye		
1	0	20	30.3b ^y	1.8NS ^z
2	5	15	39.7a	1.9NS
3	10	10	41.5a	1.3NS
4	15	5	39.0a	1.5NS
5	20	0	24.1b	1.7NS

B. Experiment #11 (30% total nutrient level)				
Treatment	Selected nutrient supplements (%)		BE (%)	Quality
	Wheat bran	Rye		
1	0	30	38.9a	2.0NS
2	7.5	22.5	40.8a	2.1NS
3	15	15	45.6a	2.0NS
4	22.5	7.5	36.5a	1.7NS
5	30	0	22.3b	2.5NS

^x Quality rating based on scale of 1-4 when 1 is highest quality and 4 is lowest quality.

^y Means in the same experiment in the same column followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the P=0.05 level according to Tukey-Kramer HSD.

^z NS = nonsignificant.

Table 4.22. Percentage biological efficiency (%BE) and quality for *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) grown on substrate supplemented with various levels of selected nutrients (wheat bran, millet and rye at 20% total) at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #12). For a graphic summary of this data see Figure 4.16.

Treatment	Selected nutrient supplements (%)			Crop I		Crop II		Mean (Crop I & II)	
	Wheat Bran	Millet	Rye	BE (%)	Quality ^a	BE (%)	Quality	BE (%)	Quality
1	0	0	20	29.2 b ^b	1.8 NS ^d	25.3 b	1.9 NS	27.3	1.85
2	0	6.7	13.3	0.0 ^c	-	0.0	-	0.0	-
3	0	13.3	6.7	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-
4	0	20	0	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-
5	6.7	0	13.3	36.1 a	1.6 NS	36.6 a	1.7 NS	36.4	1.65
6	6.7	6.7	6.7	38.5 a	1.4 NS	36.1 a	1.4 NS	0.0	-
7	6.7	13.3	0	0.0	-	0.0	-	37.3	1.4
8	13.3	0	6.7	42.0 a	1.3 NS	38.3 a	1.2 NS	40.1	1.25
9	13.3	6.7	0	32.9 ab	1.8 NS	30.2 ab	1.7 NS	31.5	1.75
10	20	0	0	24.4 b	1.6 NS	20.7 b	1.9 NS	22.6	1.75
Total Mean				33.9		31.2			

^a Quality rating based on scale of 1-4 when 1 is highest quality and 4 is lowest quality.

^b Means in the same experiment in the same column followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the P=0.05 level according to Tukey-Kramer HSD.

^c Treatments where no fruiting occurred (0.0) were eliminated from the analysis of variance.

^d NS = nonsignificant.

Table 4.23. Percentage biological efficiency (%BE) and quality for *Grifola frondosa* (WC828) grown on substrate supplemented with various levels of selected nutrients (wheat bran, millet and rye at 30% total) at the Mushroom Research Center (Experiment #13). For a graphic summary of this data see Figure 4.17.

Treatment	Selected nutrient supplements (%)			Crop I		Crop II		Mean (Crop I & II)	
	Wheat Bran	Millet	Rye	BE (%)	Quality ^a	BE (%)	Quality	BE (%)	Quality
1	0	0	30	39.0 b ^b	2.0 ab	30.8 bc	2.0 ab	34.9	2.0 a
2	0	10	20	31.6 b	1.9 ab	28.5 bc	1.6 ab	30.1	1.8 a
3	0	20	10	33.4 b	1.6 a	27.9 bc	1.4 a	30.7	1.5 a
4	0	30	0	0 ^c	-	0	-	0	-
5	10	0	20	44.1 ab	1.7 a	43.8 a	1.6 ab	44.0	1.7 a
6	10	10	10	48.9 a	1.7 a	45.2 a	1.8 ab	47.1	1.8 a
7	10	20	0	34.1 b	2.0 ab	30.9 bc	1.9 ab	32.5	2.0 a
8	20	0	10	39.2 b	1.7 a	34.2 ab	1.8 ab	36.7	1.8 a
9	20	10	0	36.9 b	2.0 ab	36.1 ab	1.8 ab	36.5	1.9 a
10	30	0	0	22.2 c	2.5 b	22.8 c	2.3 b	22.5	2.4 b
Total mean				36.6		33.4			

^a Quality rating based on scale of 1-4 when 1 is highest quality and 4 is lowest quality.

^b Means in the same experiment in the same column followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the P=0.05 level according to Tukey-Kramer HSD.

^c Treatments where no fruiting occurred (0) were eliminated from the analysis of variance.

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PUBLICATIONS

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PRESENTATIONS

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