From: "Geraldine Butler" <geraldine.butler@ucd.ie>
Subject: **Re: Do you mind if I forward the Sporobolomyces roseus strain onto someone?**
Date: February 25, 2009 3:17:43 AM CST
To: "Alexander Idnurm" <idnurma@umkc.edu>

Hi Alex

The strain came from Ken Wolfe (stored in my freezer) and he has no objection; you can send it to anyone you like! Good luck with the studies, it sounds like a tough organism.

regards

Geraldine

On 24 Feb 2009, at 21:46, Alexander Idnurm wrote:

> Hello Geraldine,
>
> You may recall that I asked for the sequencing project strain of Sporobolomyces roseus in late 2007, and you very kindly sent it to me. I have a collaborator Sandra Wright, who works at the University of Molise in Italy on Rhodotorula, and she is interested in acquiring the strain for comparative approaches, and also because it's easy to deal with genes from sequenced strains. Do you mind if I forward it to her, or would you like me to ask her to request it from you (or somewhere else) directly?
>
> Progress on the S. roseus strain you sent has been sporadic - in the last year mostly because I had to start teaching and that's a huge time sink! My main interest in S. roseus was in looking at light responses because it has two copies of the the light sensor White collar 1 and another weird small candidate photoreceptor. I had hoped it would have a nice obvious light phenotype (eg. that shooting ability it has, or at least pigmentation) but under the usual rough assays there is nothing obvious. At the transcript level it looks like the ferrochelatase gene is upregulated by light (as seen in Cryptococcus, and other fungi - the paper still being written up...) so that is something. However, I have been unable to transform it with the usual Cryptococcus vectors, so that's a drawback. Indeed, the Rhodotorula glutinis project with Sandra seems has met with similar transformation problems, and there may be something odd about this group of basidiomycetes. Our next steps would be to make vectors with the native URA3/5 equivalent genes (since we have 5-FOA resistant isolates for Rhodotorula, and I selected some of S. roseus when you first sent it here). Sandra may send a PhD student here for about 9-12 months so we can get these plasmids made, so perhaps we'll finally get a good system working. I'll keep you posted if anything good comes up.
>
> Hope all is going well with you!
> Best wishes,
> Alex
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