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**Title:** Fast solubilization of recalcitrant cellulosic biomass by the basidiomycete fungus *Laetisaria arvalis* involves successive secretion of oxidative and hydrolytic enzymes  
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**Source:** BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR BIOFUELS **Volume:** 7 **Article Number:** 143 **DOI:** 10.1186/s13068-014-0143-5 **Published:** OCT 8 2014

**Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection:** 12

**Total Times Cited:** 12

**Usage Count (Last 180 days):** 2

**Usage Count (Since 2013):** 55

**Cited Reference Count:** 50

**Abstract:** Background: Enzymatic breakdown of lignocellulosic biomass is a known bottleneck for the production of high-value molecules and biofuels from renewable sources. Filamentous fungi are the predominant natural source of enzymes acting on lignocellulose. We describe the extraordinary cellulose-deconstructing capacity of the basidiomycete *Laetisaria arvalis*, a soil-inhabiting fungus.

Results: The *L. arvalis* strain displayed the capacity to grow on wheat straw as the sole carbon source and to fully digest cellulose filter paper. The cellulolytic activity exhibited in the secretomes of *L. arvalis* was up to 7.5 times higher than that of a reference *Trichoderma reesei* industrial strain, resulting in a significant improvement of the glucose release from steam-exploded wheat straw. Global transcriptome and secretome analyses revealed that *L. arvalis* produces a unique repertoire of carbohydrate-active enzymes in the fungal taxa, including a complete set of enzymes acting on cellulose. Temporal analyses of secretomes indicated that the unusual degradation efficiency of *L. arvalis* relies on its early response to the carbon source, and on the finely tuned sequential secretion of several lytic polysaccharide monooxygenases and hydrolytic enzymes targeting cellulose.

Conclusions: The present study illustrates the adaptation of a litter-rot fungus to the rapid breakdown of recalcitrant plant biomass. The cellulolytic capabilities of this basidiomycete fungus result from the rapid, selective and successive secretion of oxidative and hydrolytic enzymes. These enzymes expressed at critical times during biomass degradation may inspire the design of improved enzyme cocktails for the conversion of plant cell wall resources into fermentable sugars.

**Accession Number:** WOS:000344493500001

**PubMed ID:** 25320637

**Language:** English

**Document Type:** Article

**Author Keywords:** Cellulose; Filamentous fungi; Carbohydrate-active enzymes; Bioenergy; Biorefinery; Lytic polysaccharide monooxygenase (LPMO)

**KeyWords Plus:** PHANEROCHAETE-CHRYSPORIUM; CELLOBIOSIDE DEHYDROGENASE; AGARICUS-BISPORUS; DEGRADATION; LIGNIN; GENOME; TRANSCRIPTOME; CONVERSION; DECAY; WOOD

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**Publisher:** BIOMED CENTRAL LTD

**Publisher Address:** 236 GRAYS INN RD, FLOOR 6, LONDON WC1X 8HL, ENGLAND

**Web of Science Categories:** Biotechnology & Applied Microbiology; Energy & Fuels

**Research Areas:** Biotechnology & Applied Microbiology; Energy & Fuels

**IDS Number:** AS8IS

**ISSN:** 1754-6834

**29-char Source Abbrev.:** BIOTECHNOL BIOFUELS

**ISO Source Abbrev.:** Biotechnol. Biofuels

**Source Item Page Count:** 14

**Funding:**

Funding Agency	Grant Number
French National Research Agency (ANR)	E-TRICEL ANR-07-BIOE-006 ANR FUNLOCK ANR-13-BIME-0002-01
INRA CEPIA division	
AMIDEX foundation	

This study was funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR, E-TRICEL ANR-07-BIOE-006; ANR FUNLOCK ANR-13-BIME-0002-01), the INRA CEPIA division (zyMiLi project) and the AMIDEX foundation (FUNCOPPER project). The authors thank Katja Fast for her help with secretomes activity profiling and Anthony Levasseur for the annotation of AA families and comments on the manuscript.

**Open Access:** gold

**Output Date:** 2017-08-10

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