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# Genome sequencing and comparative genomic analysis of highly and weakly aggressive strains of *Sclerotium rolfsii*, the causal agent of peanut stem rot

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## Abstract

**Background:** Stem rot caused by *Sclerotium rolfsii* is a very important soil-borne disease of peanut. *S. rolfsii* is a necrotrophic plant pathogenic fungus with an extensive host range and worldwide distribution. It can infect peanut stems, roots, pegs and pods, leading to varied yield losses. *S. rolfsii* strains GP3 and ZY collected from peanut in different provinces of China exhibited a significant difference in aggressiveness on peanut plants by artificial inoculation test. In this study, *de-novo* genome sequencing of these two distinct strains was performed aiming to reveal the genomic basis of difference in aggressiveness.

**Results:** *Sclerotium rolfsii* strains GP3 and ZY, with weak and high aggressiveness on peanut plants, exhibited similar growth rate and oxalic acid production in laboratory. The genomes of *S. rolfsii* strains GP3 and ZY were sequenced by PacBio long read technology and exhibited 70.51 Mb and 70.61 Mb, with contigs of 27 and 23, and encoded 17,097 and 16,743 gene models, respectively. Comparative genomic analysis revealed that the pathogenicity-related gene repertoires, which might be associated with aggressiveness, differed between GP3 and ZY. There were 58 and 45 unique pathogen-host interaction (PHI) genes in GP3 and ZY, respectively. The ZY strain had more carbohydrate-active enzymes (CAZymes) in its secretome than GP3, especially in the glycoside hydrolase family (GH), the carbohydrate esterase family (CBM), and the polysaccharide lyase family (PL). GP3 and ZY also had different effector candidates and putative secondary metabolite synthetic gene clusters. These results indicated that differences in PHI, secreted CAZymes, effectors and secondary metabolites may play important roles in aggressive difference between these two strains.

**Conclusions:** The data provided a further understanding of the *S. rolfsii* genome. Genomic comparison provided clues to the difference in aggressiveness of *S. rolfsii* strains.

**Keywords:** Comparative genomic analysis, PacBio sequel sequencing, Pathogenesis-related genes, *Sclerotium rolfsii*

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## Background

*Sclerotium rolfsii* is a destructive soil-borne fungal pathogen. Its sexual stage, *Athelia rolfsii*, belongs to Basidiomycota and rarely occurs in nature; thus, its role in the life cycle of the fungus is unknown [1]. *S. rolfsii* infects more than 600 plant species, especially economically important agricultural and horticultural crops including peanut, soybean, wheat, cotton, tomato, potato, cucumber, and onion [2, 3], therefore a pathogen of wide host range. Moreover, *S. rolfsii* produces sclerotia, which plays a key role in the disease cycle and can survive in soil for long periods [4]. *S. rolfsii* can infect stems, roots, pegs, and pods of peanut and causes branches wilting, and even whole plant wilting. Peanut stem rot caused by *S. rolfsii* is also known as southern stem rot, southern blight, white mold, and *Sclerotium* rot [5]. This fungal disease has been reported in many peanut producing regions of the world. Loss caused by peanut stem rot was estimated at 41 million US dollars in Georgia in 2011 [6]. Up to 30% yield loss was recorded in India [7]. Peanut stem rot has been epidemic in China recently, caused up to 50% yield loss in hot-spots, and is the most serious peanut soil-borne disease in China [8].

Control of peanut stem rot disease is difficult because of wide range of hosts, profuse mycelium, abundant persistent sclerotia, and genetic variability of *S. rolfsii* populations [4]. Currently, there are only a few resistant commercial peanut cultivars available for use [9–11]. Limited success was achieved in developing resistant varieties to peanut stem rot in China [12]. Normally, approaches to control peanut stem rot include the application of fungicides and agronomic measures such as rotation with non-host crops or coverage of infected crop debris with deep plowing [13]. But these methods are still not effective to control this disease.

In order to implement effective integrated practices to control peanut stem rot, knowledge about the genetic basis of differently aggressive strains of *S. rolfsii* is a key component, as it is essential for host resistance assessment in a given region [14]. Earlier investigators observed differences in aggressiveness among isolates of *S. rolfsii* in the USA and India [15–18]. They were classified as highly, moderately, and weakly aggressive strains [16]. Until now, differences in aggressiveness have not been reported among *S. rolfsii* strains in China. In previous research, aggressiveness of *S. rolfsii* strains were found to be highly correlated with endo-PG production and growth rate [16], but the genetic basis of aggressiveness is still unknown.

The genetic variability of *S. rolfsii* strains has not been documented. Correlations between pathogenic traits and genetic patterns have rarely been identified. To gain the relevant insights, we sequenced two *S. rolfsii* strains GP3

and ZY, GP3 isolated from Guangxi province and ZY isolated from Henan province, China, by combining the Single Molecule Real-Time (SMRT) sequencing and Illumina technology. The two strains were in different mycelial compatibility groups (MCG) [19], possessed similar cultural morphology and growth rate on PDA media, produced similar amount of oxalic acid *in vitro*, but demonstrated different levels of aggressiveness on peanut plants in inoculation tests. The ZY strain was highly aggressive, and the GP3 strain was weakly aggressive. In comparison with GP3 strain, ZY strain had a slightly larger genome size. The genomes annotation of GP3 and ZY revealed that many pathogenesis-related genes differed between them, including pathogen host interaction (PHI) genes, CAZymes, secreted proteins and secondary metabolites. This study will be meaningful for further identifying determinants of pathogenicity as well as deeply understanding of *S. rolfsii* infection mechanisms.

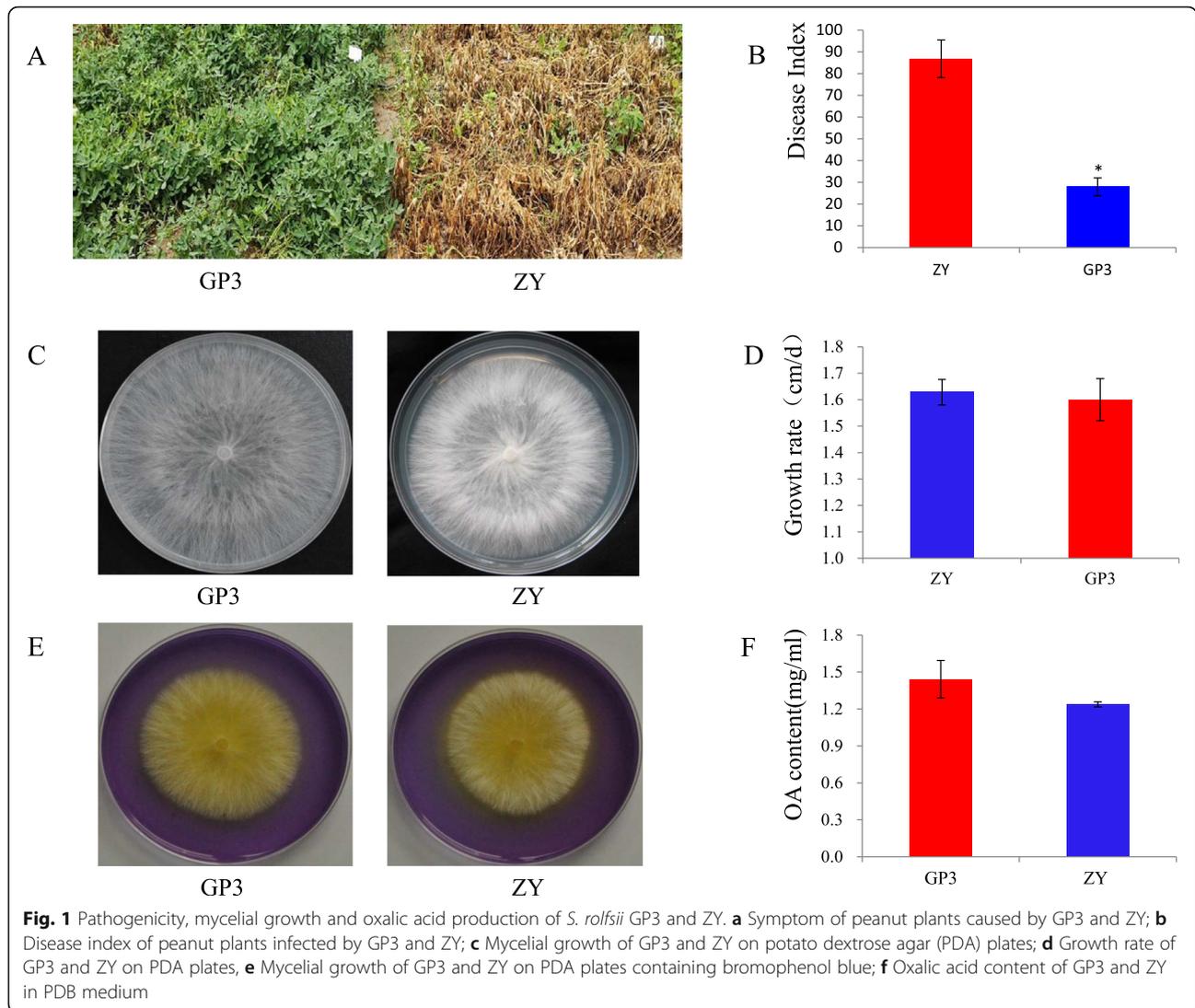
## Results

### Aggressiveness, growth rate and OA production

The typical symptoms caused by *S. rolfsii* strains ZY and GP3 on the peanut stems included unrestricted lesions at the infection sites followed by tissue maceration, finally partial plant even whole plant wilting. Disease severity was scored at 14 days past inoculation (dpi) and disease index showed a significant difference between these two strains. The disease index of ZY was 82.34, which was classified as highly aggressive. The disease index of GP3 was 32.2, which was regarded as weakly aggressive (Fig. 1a, b). The growth rate of these two strains was similar on PDA plate and showed no significant difference (Fig. 1c, d). There was no significant difference in the amount of oxalic acid (OA) produced by these two strains either by haloes revealing on the PDA plate containing bromophenol blue, or by OA amount in the culture filtrate as analyzed by  $\text{KMnO}_4$  titration (Fig. 1e, f).

### Genome sequence and assembly

A total of 9.97 Gb subreads with 8.80 kb average length was generated for ZY and 6.34 Gb subreads with 10.68 kb average length for GP3 by SMRT sequencing. After polishing with Illumina data, the assembled genomes of GP3 and ZY were 70.51 Mb and 70.61 Mb, respectively, containing 27 contigs with an N50 of 3.67 Mb for GP3, and 23 contigs with an N50 of 3.71 Mb for ZY (Table 1). The two strains had genome assemblies of a similar size, both slightly smaller than that of *S. rolfsii* strain MR10 (73.18 Mb) [20]. The completeness of the genome assemblies was assessed using BUSCO [21]. About 97.5% (1301/1335) and 97.2% (1298/1305) of gene groups required for the correct assembly of Basidiomycota were present in GP3 and ZY, respectively (Fig. S1). The



**Table 1** Genome characteristic and assemblies feature of *S. rolf sii* strains. *S. rolf sii* MR10 was the first sequenced *S. rolf sii* strain isolated from India. GP3 and ZY were isolated from China and sequenced in this study.

Assembly Feature	<i>Sclerotium rolf sii</i>		
	GP3	ZY	MR10
Number of contigs	27	23	8,919
The longest contig (Mb)	5.79	5.67	N/A
Genome size (Mb)	70.51	70.61	73.18
N90 (Mb)	2.71	2.55	N/A
N50 (Mb)	3.67	3.71	0.032
GC content (%)	46.27	46.29	46.16
Repetitive sequence of assembly (%)	14.75	14.66	3.73
Number of Predicted genes	17,097	16,743	16,830
Average gene length (bp)	2013.91	2039.76	N/A
Average coding sequence length (bp)	1578.56	1599.28	N/A
Average number of exons per gene	6.85	6.75	N/A

average GC contents of the resulting *S. rolf sii* genomes of GP3 (46.27%) and ZY (46.29%) were comparable to *S. rolf sii* MR10 (46.16%) (Table 1). Gene candidates in the *S. rolf sii* GP3 and ZY genomes were predicted by a combined approach, and 17,097 and 16,743 genes with an average gene length of 2013.91 bp and 2039.76 bp were identified (Table 1). Approximately 93.27% (15,947) of GP3 genes and 93.93% (15,727) of ZY genes could be annotated by non-redundant nucleotide and protein sequences in the Cluster of Orthologous Groups (KOG), Gene Ontology (GO), Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG), Non-redundant Protein (NR), and Swiss-Prot databases (Fig. S2, 3, 4, 5). The number of genes predicted in *S. rolf sii* strains GP3 and ZY was similar with that in *S. rolf sii* strain MR10 (16,830 genes) (Table 1). In this study, we identified 356 tRNAs, 48 rRNAs and 32 snRNAs in the genome of GP3, and 415 tRNAs, 55 rRNAs and 32 snRNAs in the genome of ZY

(Table S1). Comparison of gene orthologous with nine Agaricomycetes fungi by OrthoMCL [22], GP3 and ZY shared a similarly low number of unique genes with 75 for GP3 and 37 for ZY distributed in 62 and 19 gene families (Table S2), respectively. Sequence comparison between contigs of whole-genome assemblies indicated a good macrosynteny between GP3 and ZY. Especially, contig 3, 7, 10, 15, 16, and 17 of GP3 corresponded well with contig 1, 6, 14, 18, 15, and 16 of ZY (Fig. 2).

**Repetitive element analysis**

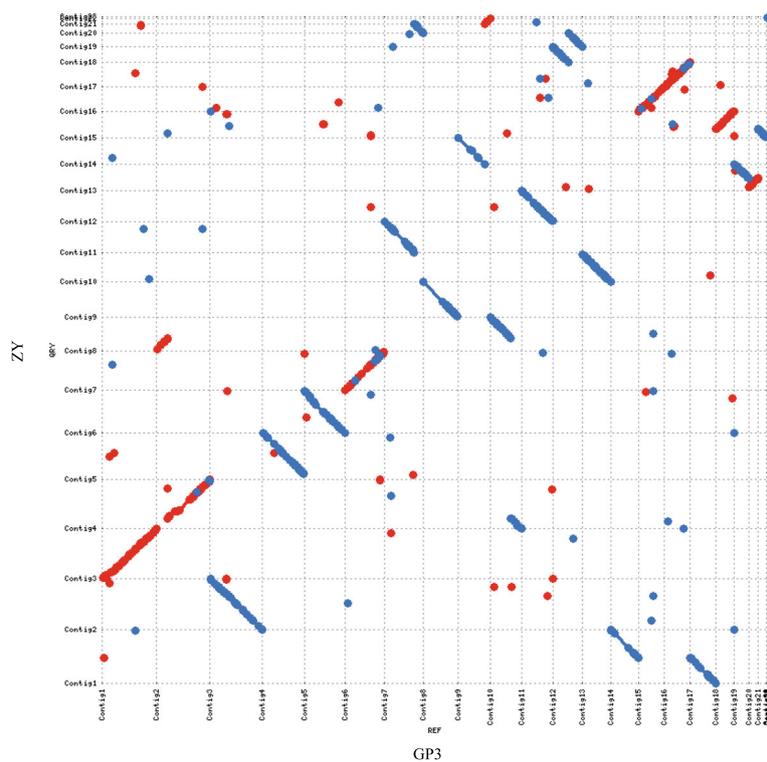
*De novo* and homology approaches were combined to identify repetitive sequences in the genomes of *S. rolf sii* GP3 and ZY. A total of 14.75% and 14.66% repetitive sequences were generated for GP3 and ZY, respectively (Table 1, Table S3). The abundance of repetitive sequences was similar between the two strains and much more than that of *S. rolf sii* strain MR10, which had a repetitive sequence content of 3.73% (Table 1). GP3 and ZY contained repetitive elements including DNA transposons, retroelements, and satellites. Retroelements were abundant in the studied genomes, accounting for 10.28% and 10.79% in GP3 and ZY. LTR was abundant in the retroelements, accounting for 9.85% and 10.38% in GP3 and ZY (Fig. 3, Table S4). Both abundance of LTR

elements and retroelements in repetitive sequences were also found in *S. rolf sii* MR10 genome (Table S4).

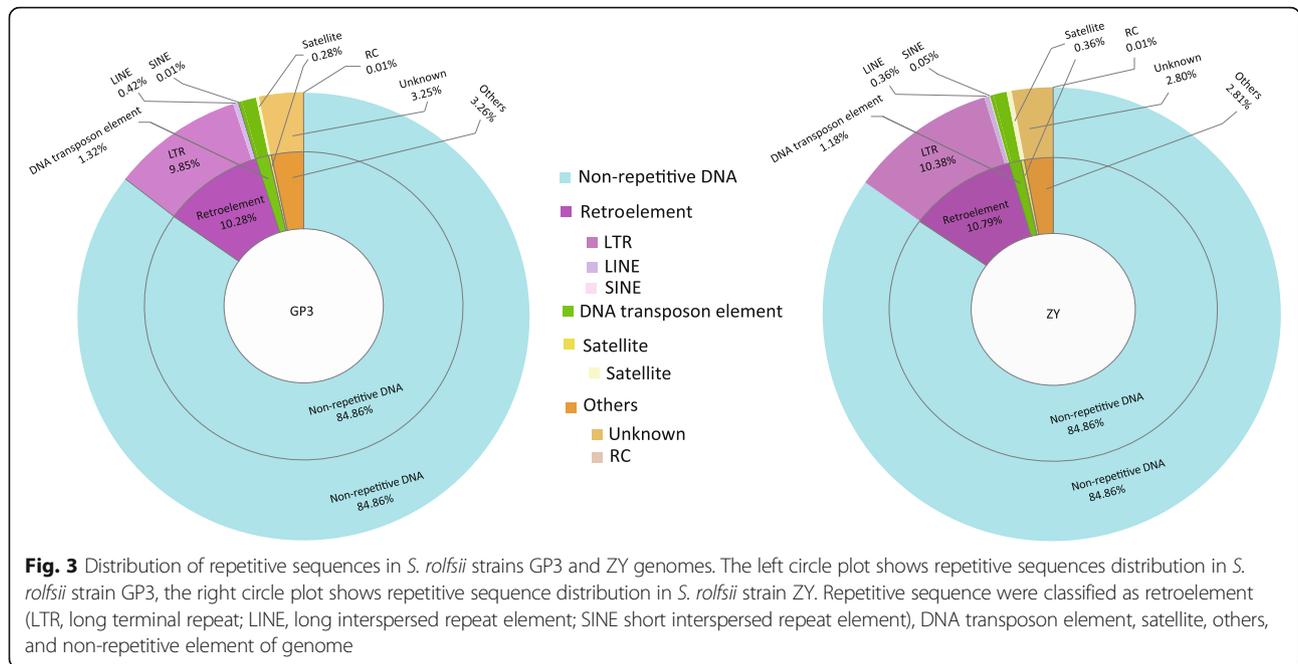
**Orthology analysis and phylogenetic analysis**

The entire sets of predicted proteins of *S. rolf sii* GP3 and ZY were clustered with the OrthoMCL program [22] to identify gene families. Comparative analysis of the genomes of related species of Agaricomycetes, Basidiomycota showed that *S. rolf sii* strains had larger genomes but fewer total genes in comparison with most of the other species (Fig. S6). Of gene families, the unclustered genes number of GP3 and ZY were the least among fungi in Agaricomycetes. A Venn diagram of the OrthoMCL revealed that *S. rolf sii* strains shared 4813 genes with other four Agaricomycetes species (Fig. 4a).

To understand the genetic relationship of GP3 and ZY to the related Agaricomycetes species, we generated a phylogenetic tree of single-copy genes based the orthologous gene family analysis of the two *S. rolf sii* strains and other Agaricomycetes fungi, including *Armillaria gallica*, *Auricularia subglabra* [23], *Exidia glandulosa* [24], *Galerina marginata*, *Gymnopus luxurians* [25], *Hydnomerulius pinastri* [25], *Psilocybe cyanescens* [25], *Sclerotinia citrinum* [25], and *Piloderma croceum* [25]. The phylogenetic tree indicated that *S. rolf sii* strains were



**Fig. 2** Genome synteny analysis between *S. rolf sii* strains GP3 and ZY. Dot-plots depicted nucleotide sequence matches detected via MUMer between all contigs of *S. rolf sii* GP3 and ZY. Contigs of ZY along the Y- axes, while contigs of GP3 along the X- axes. Sequence alignments exhibited a good macrosyntenic configuration



more closely related to *E. glandulosa* and *A. subglabra*, which belonged to Auriculariales, than to *P. croceum*, which belonged to Atheliaceae, the same as *S. rolf sii* (Fig. 4b).

**Genes involved in pathogenicity**

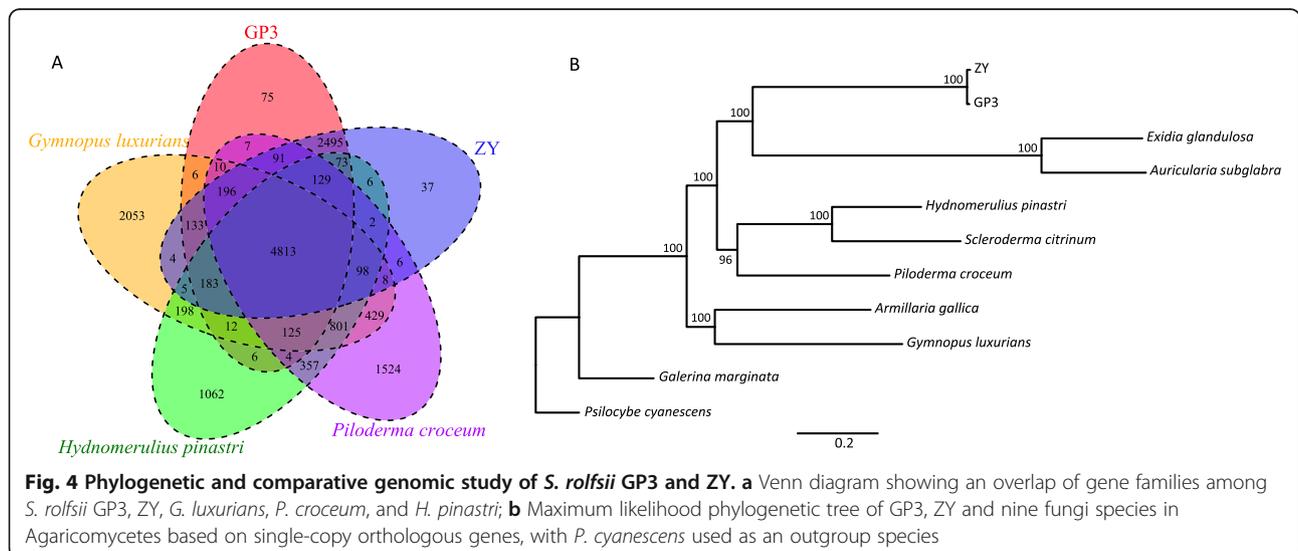
**Homologs in PHI base**

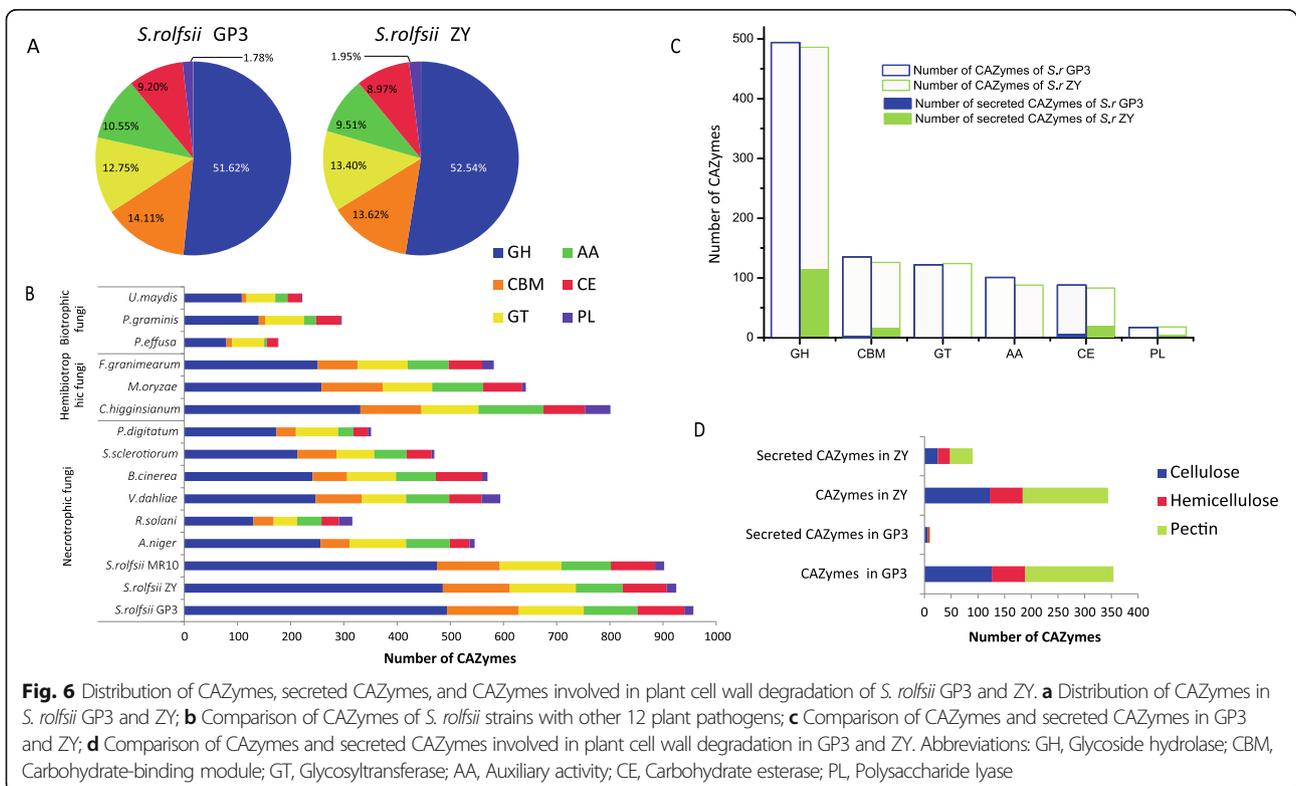
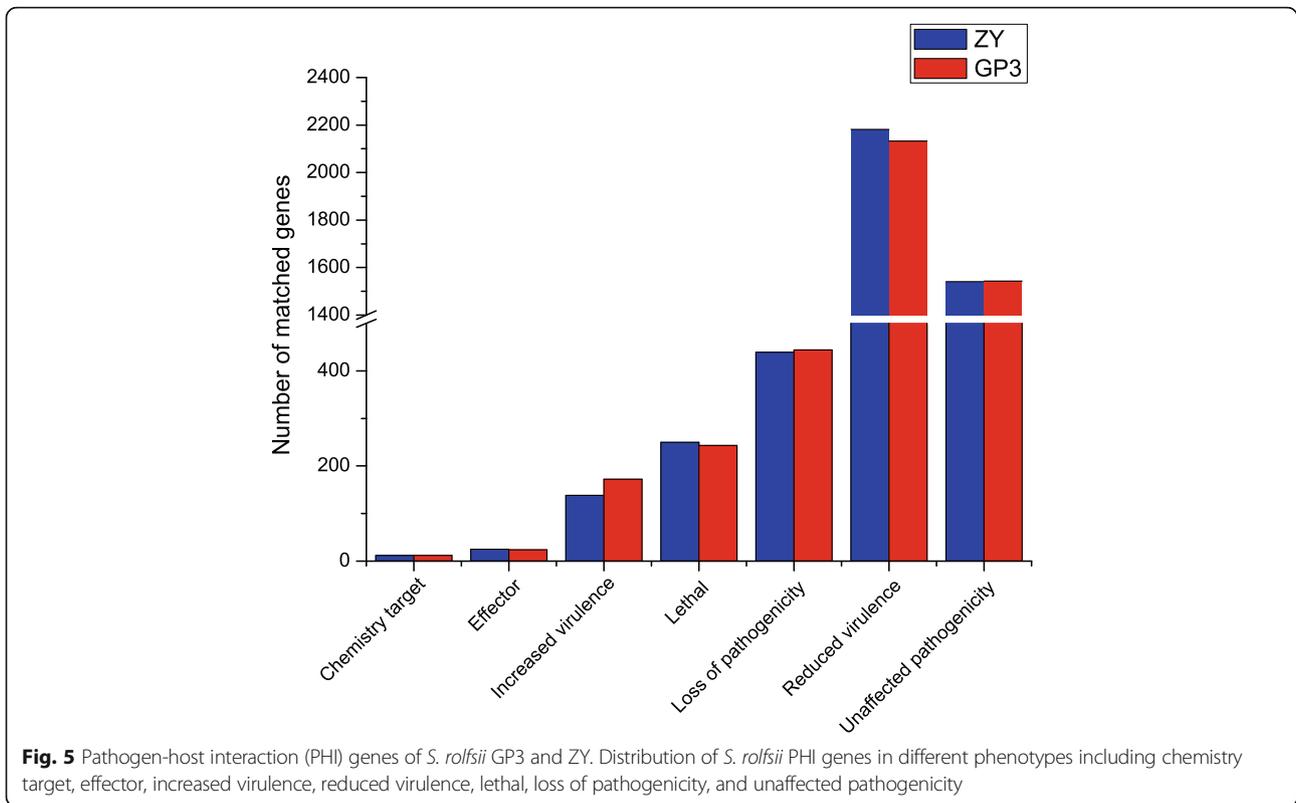
In total, we identified 4600 and 4603 potential pathogen-host interaction (PHI) genes by searching the PHI base (Fig. 5). Among them, 24 genes were predicted as effector category and 172 genes were identified as “increased virulence” in GP3, while ZY had 25 effectors and 138 genes related to “increased virulence”. Compared with *S. rolf sii* GP3, a total of 45 genes were unique in

ZY, two of which were predicted as effector and one was predicted as “increased virulence”. We also found 58 genes of GP3 were not present in the ZY genome, 12 and 18 of which were predicted as “loss of pathogenicity” and “reduced virulence”, respectively (Table S5).

**CAZymes**

The genomes of *S. rolf sii* GP3 and ZY contained 957 and 925 genes encoding putative CAZymes, distributed in 118 and 119 CAZyme families. Glycoside hydrolases (GHs) were dominant in the GP3 and ZY genomes (51.62 and 52.54%), followed by carbohydrate-binding modules (CBMs) and glycosyltransferases (GTs) (Fig. 6a).





The CAZyme content of GP3 was slightly larger than that of ZY, and CAZyme content of both GP3 and ZY was more than that of *S. rolfii* MR10 (902) (Fig. 6b).

Comparison of CAZyme content of *S. rolfii* strains with other plant pathogens including six necrotrophic fungi (*Aspergillus niger*, *Botrytis cinerea*, *Penicillium digitatum*, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, *Rhizoctonia solani*, and *Verticillium dahliae*), three hemibiotrophic fungi (*Colletotrichum higginsianum*, *Fusarium graminearum*, and *Magnaporthe oryzae*), and three biotrophic fungi (*Puccinia graminis*, *Peronospora effusa*, and *Ustilago maydis*) showed that the CAZyme content of *S. rolfii* genome was the highest among above analyzed pathogens (Fig. 6b). Necrotrophic fungi had more CAZymes than biotrophic and hemibiotrophic fungi. In comparison with those necrotrophic plant pathogens of a broad host range, such as *S. sclerotiorum*, *B. cinerea*, and *V. dahliae*, the CAZyme content of *S. rolfii* was much more than these fungi. Compared to Basidiomycota plant pathogens, CAZyme content of *S. rolfii* was three times as much as *R. solani* and *P. graminis*, and four times as much as *U. maydis* (Fig. 6b). Besides differences in CAZyme content, the number of CAZymes involved in cellulose, hemicellulose, and pectin degradation of *S. rolfii* strains GP3 and ZY was noticeably larger than that of those analyzed pathogens (Tables S6–S8), especially in the pectin degrading capacity.

Glycoside hydrolases are known to catalyze the hydrolysis of glycosidic bonds in carbohydrate molecules. *S. rolfii* was rich in one glycosyl hydrolase family, GH28, a class of polygalacturonases involved in pectin degradation. The amount of GH28 was the same in GP3 and ZY (62 vs 62) and was larger than that in the other analyzed pathogens (Table S8). The expansion of GH28 was not found in the biotrophic and hemibiotrophic pathogens, such as *U. maydis*, *P. graminis*, and *M. oryzae*. In comparison with other analyzed necrotrophic pathogenic fungi, *S. rolfii* strains had three times more GH28. Besides GH28, some other glycoside hydrolases involved in pectin degradation in *S. rolfii*, such as GH35, GH51, and GH78, also had higher number in comparison with those pathogens (Table S8).

#### Secretome and effector

The putative secreted proteins of *S. rolfii* GP3 and ZY were identified based on a comprehensive pipeline (Fig. S7). The genomes of GP3 and ZY were predicted to encode 536 (3.14%) and 551 (3.29%) secreted proteins, respectively. Among the secreted protein candidates, there were 151 and 30 secreted CAZyme genes for ZY and GP3, including 113 GH, 20 CE, 15 CBM, and 3 PL genes for ZY, while 22 GH, 6 CE, and 2 CBM genes for GP3 (Fig. 6c, Table S9). In comparison with secreted CAZymes involved in cellulose, hemicellulose and pectin

degradation, ZY had more of these genes than GP3 (Fig. 6d).

A total of 50 and 46 putative effector candidates for GP3 and ZY, respectively, were predicted by Effector P.1. After manual inspection with the criteria of  $50 \leq$  molecular weight  $\leq 300$  kDa, 0–1 predicted transmembrane domain, and  $\geq 4$  cysteine residues, a total of 30 and 27 effector candidates for GP3 and ZY were identified (Table 2). Most of the putative effector candidates were small (average length of 146 and 152 amino acids, ranging from 52 to 278, and 58 to 291 amino acids for GP3 and ZY). These candidates were rich in cysteines (the average cysteine composition was 8.5% for GP3 and 8.6% for ZY). The functions of most effector candidates (73.33% and 44.44% of GP3 and ZY) were unknown. Comparison of putative effectors with PHI and CAZymes candidate genes showed that the number of genes, for “functional effector”, “loss of pathogenicity”, “reduced virulence”, GH, and CBM, differed between these two strains. ZY had two effectors and five GH genes, while GP3 had one GH gene and no effector overlapping with PHI and CAZyme candidate genes (Table S10). The function of these predicted effectors needs to be further verified in future research.

#### Secondary metabolites

The antiSMASH 4.0 software was used to identify the secondary metabolite gene clusters in the genome of *S. rolfii* ZY and GP3. A total of 46 and 31 gene clusters were predicted to be related to secondary metabolism in ZY and GP3, respectively (Fig. 7). In ZY, two clusters were identified as non-ribosomal peptide synthase (NPRS). Three, one, and 12 clusters were predicted as Type I polyketide synthase (T1 PKS), NPRS/ T1 PKS, and terpene, respectively. Besides, 28 clusters were predicted as others. Compared to ZY, GP3 contained no NPRS cluster, the same number of NPRS/ T1 PKS clusters, two fewer T1 PKS clusters, three fewer terpene clusters, and 8 fewer other clusters (Fig. 7).

#### Discussion

*Sclerotium rolfii* is a very important plant pathogen with a broad host range. To date, the genome of one strain MR10 with little information on its aggressiveness had been sequenced [20]. In the present study, we discovered two *S. rolfii* strains that differed in aggressiveness on peanut plants. Meanwhile, the two strains did not show a significant difference in growth rate and oxalic acid production. Thus, we conducted genome sequencing of the two *S. rolfii* strains and produced gapless high-quality genomes aiming to unravel the genomic basis underlying the difference in aggressiveness between the two strains.

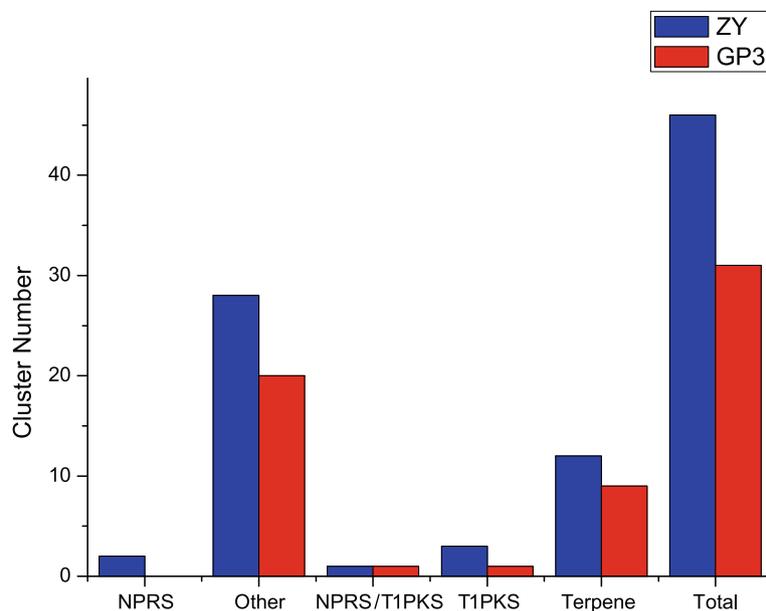
**Table 2 Putative effectors of *S. rolfii* GP3 and ZY.** Putative effectors of GP3 and ZY were functionally annotated in NCBI-NR and PHI base.

Putative effector in GP3				
Effector name	Protein length(a.a)	Number of cys	NR annotation	PHI
evm.model.Contig2.532	165	8	hypothetical protein NEOLEDRAFT_1126244 [Neolentinus lepideus HHB14362 ss-1]	
evm.model.Contig1.784	165	8	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_102260 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	
evm.model.Contig12.367	72	4	deoxyribodipyrimidine photo-lyase [Umbilicaria pustulata]	PHI:4730 reduced_virulence
evm.model.Contig12.375	57	4	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_176414 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	
evm.model.Contig12.376	52	4	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_111626 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	
evm.model.Contig2.1283	231	14	unknown	
evm.model.Contig2.1284	226	14	AIMMH-1 [Pycnoporus coccineus BRFM310]	
evm.model.Contig2.149	65	4	beta-1,4-endoxylanase [Gloeophyllum trabeum]	PHI:2206 reduced_virulence
evm.model.Contig2.194	61	8	glycoside hydrolase family 43 protein [Tulasnella calospora MUT 4182]	
evm.model.Contig2.36	129	8	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_173401 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	
evm.model.Contig2.37	124	8	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_156776 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	PHI:2498 reduced_virulence__loss_of_pathogenicity
evm.model.Contig3.1383	121	4	Diphthamide synthesis [Daedalea quercina L-15889]	
evm.model.Contig3.300	218	11	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_33872 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	
evm.model.Contig4.1113	193	11	unknown	PHI:4495 unaffected_pathogenicity
evm.model.Contig9.126	226	14	mitochondrial acetolactate synthase small subunit [Moniliophthora roreri MCA 2997]	PHI:3976 loss_of_pathogenicity
evm.model.Contig9.127	231	14	hypothetical protein CY34DRAFT_799688 [Suillus luteus UH-Slu-Lm8-n1]	
evm.model.Contig9.369	123	10	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_50833 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	PHI:7243 reduced_virulence
evm.model.Contig9.124	58	6	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_554187 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	PHI:541 unaffected_pathogenicity
evm.model.Contig13.592	121	4	putative 4-oxumarate-CoA ligase 1 [Hypsizygus marmoratus]	PHI:508 loss_of_pathogenicity
evm.model.Contig14.108	121	4	unknown	
evm.model.Contig14.22	156	12	hypothetical protein PLEOSDRAFT_1036789 [Pleurotus ostreatus PC15]	
evm.model.Contig2.1062	136	8	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_49174 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	
evm.model.Contig2.270	123	8	hypothetical protein CY4DRAFT_811546 [Suillus luteus UH-Slu-Lm8-n1]	
evm.model.Contig2.277	123	8	hypothetical protein PLEOSDRAFT_1113736 [Pleurotus ostreatus PC15]	
evm.model.Contig3.1079	198	5	hypothetical protein TRAVEDRAFT_31233 [Trametes versicolor FP-101664 SS1]	
evm.model.Contig4.134	121	4	predicted protein [Fibroporia radiculosa]	PHI:2406 unaffected_pathogenicity
evm.model.Contig3.302	278	14	hypothetical protein CONPUDRAFT_162258 [Coniophora puteana RWD-64-598 SS2]	
evm.model.Contig10.404	202	15	hypothetical protein GYMLUDRAFT_41536 [Gymnopus luxurians FD-317 M1]	PHI:1414 unaffected_pathogenicity
evm.model.Contig11.211	97	4	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_172308 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	
evm.model.Contig11.391	202	15	hypothetical protein CONPUDRAFT_180601 [Coniophora puteana RWD-64-598 SS2]	PHI:115 unaffected_pathogenicity
Putative effector in ZY				
Effector name	Protein length(a.a)	Number of cys	NR annotation	PHI
evm.model.Contig8.598	198	5	hypothetical protein JAAARDRAFT_36197 [Jaapia argillacea MUCL 33604]	
evm.model.Contig8.235	107	4	predicted protein [Laccaria bicolor S238N-H82]	
evm.model.Contig1.1391	78	4	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_129037 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	
evm.model.Contig1.885	123	8	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_98558 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	PHI:541 unaffected_pathogenicity
evm.model.Contig1.887	123	8	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_98558 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	PHI:541 unaffected_pathogenicity
evm.model.Contig2.1000	122	8	tripeptidyl peptidase A [Schizopora paradoxa]	
evm.model.Contig2.1371	127	8	hypothetical protein PLICRDRAFT_52549 [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	
evm.model.Contig3.1031	123	8	carbohydrate-binding module family 50 protein [Suillus luteus UH-Slu-Lm8-n1]	PHI:6832 effector_(plant_avirulence_determinant)
evm.model.Contig3.314	136	8	hypothetical protein PHLGIDRAFT_252913 [Phlebiopsis gigantea 11061_1 CR5-6]	
evm.model.Contig6.481	278	14	glycoside hydrolase family 10 protein [Gymnopus luxurians FD-317 M1]	PHI:2208 reduced_virulence
evm.model.Contig8.100	168	13	hypothetical protein CY34DRAFT_389888 [Suillus luteus UH-Slu-Lm8-n1]	
evm.model.Contig9.732	121	4	hypothetical protein GYMLUDRAFT_76493 [Gymnopus luxurians FD-317 M1]	
evm.model.Contig10.42	272	14	endopolygalacturonase 2 precursor [Athelia rolfsii]	
evm.model.Contig11.292	98	4	hypothetical protein STEHDRAFT_145500 [Stereum hirsutum FP-91666 SS1]	PHI:103__PHI:1027 reduced_virulence__unaffected_pathogenicity
evm.model.Contig12.146	202	15	hypothetical protein PILCRDRAFT_817845 [Piloderma croceum F 1598]	
evm.model.Contig12.202	291	11	glycoside hydrolase family 51 protein [Gymnopus luxurians FD-317 M1]	
evm.model.Contig13.291	202	15	glycoside hydrolase family 78 protein [Serpula lacrymans var. lacrymans S7.3]	
evm.model.Contig15.491	193	11	hypothetical protein CERSUDRAFT_118386 [Gelatoporia subvermispora B]	
evm.model.Contig17.14	121	4	alpha/beta-hydrolase [Neolentinus lepideus HHB14362 ss-1]	PHI:2032 unaffected_pathogenicity
evm.model.Contig1.880	124	8	predicted protein [Fibroporia radiculosa]	
evm.model.Contig1.881	129	8	predicted protein [Fibroporia radiculosa]	
evm.model.Contig2.469	65	4	glycoside hydrolase family 28 protein [Pycnoporus coccineus BRFM310]	PHI:115 unaffected_pathogenicity
evm.model.Contig2.662	124	8	predicted protein [Fibroporia radiculosa]	
evm.model.Contig3.613	58	6	Protein priA [Grifola frondosa]	
evm.model.Contig4.1281	58	6	hypothetical protein SISSUDRAFT_985847 [Sistotremastrum suecicum HHB10207 ss-3]	
evm.model.Contig4.664	231	14	glycoside hydrolase family 12 protein [Plicaturoopsis crispa FD-325 SS-3]	PHI:6868 effector_(plant_avirulence_determinant)
evm.model.Contig8.582	226	14	pectin lyase-like protein [Schizopora paradoxa]	PHI:115 unaffected_pathogenicity

During pathogenesis, *S. rolfii* may produce cell wall degrading enzymes such as endo-polygalacturonase (endo-PG) [26, 27], cellulase [28], and polymethylgalacturonase [16] in conjunction with oxalic acid (OA) [16, 26]. Bateman and Beer [26] suggested that OA, pectinase, and cellulase acted synergistically in the destruction of host tissue by *S. rolfii*. Secretion of OA and endo-PG concomitantly with rapid mycelial growth appeared to be the key requirements for establishing infection [16]. Earlier investigators observed differences in aggressiveness among isolates of *S. rolfii* [16, 29, 30] and found that aggressiveness was highly correlated with endo-PG production and growth rate, provided a base level of OA [16]. OA was reported to have a positive correlation to the aggressiveness of *S. rolfii* isolates [30]. In contrast, OA was not correlated with the aggressiveness of *S. rolfii* by Punja (1985) [16], who found that highly, moderately, and weakly aggressive strains produced similar amounts of oxalic acid. In the present study, we tested GP3 and ZY on the PDA plate containing bromophenol blue and measured the amount of OA produced in a liquid PDB medium. The results indicated

that there was no significant difference in oxalic acid production between the weakly aggressive strain GP3 and the highly aggressive strain ZY, although oxalic acid is an essential aggressiveness factor for *S. sclerotiorum* [31]. *S. rolfii* produced a basic level of oxalic acid to acidic environment that facilitates the optimal activity of certain sets of cell wall degrading enzymes and peptidases. However, OA was not the essential factor for difference in aggressiveness between *S. rolfii* GP3 and ZY.

Plant cell walls are an important barrier that plants used to protect themselves from attacking by a range of organisms. Plant cell wall carbohydrates form a complex network of different polysaccharides that can be subdivided into three categories: cellulose, hemicellulose, and pectin. Plant pathogenic fungi employ diverse gene repertoires, including carbohydrate-active enzymes (CAZymes), to invade host plants and subvert host immune systems [32, 33]. CAZymes are known to play an important role in host-pathogen interactions and, along with effectors, are prime targets for studying aggressive factors in fungi [34, 35]. CAZyme families with potential roles in aggressiveness were examined in *S. rolfii* strains



**Fig. 7** Putative secondary metabolite gene clusters in *S. rolf sii* ZY and GP3. Abbreviations: PKS, polyketide synthase; NRPS, nonribosomal peptides synthase; T1PKS, type 1 PKS; PKS-NRPS: hybrid NRPS-PKS enzymes

GP3 and ZY. In our study, the CAZyme content in weakly aggressive strain GP3 was found to be slightly more than that in highly aggressive strain ZY. GP3 also had a noticeably higher number of enzymes in the AA, CBM, and CE families. GP3 and ZY had a similar number of enzymes involved in cellulose, hemicellulose, and pectin degradation, these results indicated that CAZyme content was not related to the difference in aggressiveness between *S. rolf sii* GP3 and ZY. We then undertook further analysis of the secreted CAZymes, which were involved in plant cell wall degradation that played an important role in phytopathogenic penetration of their hosts [36]. There was a significant difference in the levels of secreted CAZymes between GP3 and ZY. Highly aggressive strain ZY possessed three times more secreted CAZymes (105) than weakly aggressive strain GP3 (30). ZY also possessed more enzymes involved in pectin degradation, such as GH28. These results indicated that secreted CAZymes, especially polygalacturonases, may play an important role in different aggressiveness between *S. rolf sii* strains ZY and GP3. It was in accordance with the results of Punja (1985) [16], who reported that the aggressiveness of *S. rolf sii* was highly correlated with endo-PG production.

To establish infection, fungal plant pathogens secrete effector molecules that manipulate host physiology, including immune responses that are triggered when plant hosts sense invading pathogens [37–39]. Effectors have been discovered in multiple plant pathogenic fungi and exhibit numerous different functions depending on the fungal lifestyle. Necrotrophic fungi, which feed on dead

tissue, often produce effectors that promote cell death, whereas biotrophic fungi, which require living tissue, produce effectors that prevent cell death [40–43]. In some soil-borne vascular necrotrophic pathogens with a broad range of host plants, effectors involved in aggressiveness have been identified. In *S. sclerotiorum*, about 70 effectors have been identified [44], a small, cysteine-rich secreted protein with a cyanoviron-N homology (CVNH) domain, attenuated aggressiveness when deleted [45]. A total of 127 putative effectors were identified in another broad host range necrotrophic pathogen *V. dahliae* [46]. Among them VdCP1 contributed to aggressiveness and triggered the host plant's immune system [47]. Up to now, little experimental evidence for the existence of similar effector proteins was available for *S. rolf sii*. To identify putative effectors involved in aggressiveness, we searched the whole proteome of *S. rolf sii* and found that the effectors of GP3 and ZY were completely different. *S. rolf sii* existed as a multi-nuclear heterokaryon, in which individual cells may carry multiple nuclei [6]. The method for the stable transformation of *S. rolf sii* has not been available yet, and thus functional testing of pathogenic candidate genes in further studies will be challenging.

Despite the variety of pathogenicity-related mechanisms involved, accumulating evidence indicates that necrotrophic plant pathogens interact with their hosts in a manner much more subtle than originally considered and that signaling between them plays a significant role in the lifestyle of these pathogens [48]. The mechanism of differences in aggressiveness is complicated in plant pathogens.

Besides secreted CAZymes and effectors, other factors may also be involved in aggressiveness on host plants. It was reported that the genomic islands might contribute to the expanded genetic diversity and aggressiveness of *V. dahliae* [49]. Aggressiveness-associated effectors were often found to be affected by both repeat activity and repeat-induced point mutations (RIP) in *Leptosphaeria maculans* and *S. sclerotiorum* [50, 51].

To understand the difference in aggressiveness of these two strains in genome, we presented here the gapless genome sequences of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY. This work has provided important clues to factors involved in aggressive difference between these two *S. rolfsii* strains. The data will provide a useful foundation for further studies to understand the mechanism of *S. rolfsii* infection.

## Conclusions

We generated long-read PacBio reads and gapless genome assemblies of two *S. rolfsii* strains with different levels of aggressiveness on peanut plants and then implemented a comparative genomic analysis of these two strains. The genome of *S. rolfsii* ZY and GP3 encoded different pathogen related gene repertoires. The obtained GP3 and ZY genome assemblies and annotation represent the few available *Sclerotium* genome resources for studying the pathogenic mechanism of this fungus toward peanut.

## Methods

### Isolates and oxalic acid production

*Sclerotium rolfsii* strain ZY was originally collected from Zhengyang county (114.34 °E, 32.38 °N) in Henan province, and strain GP3 was collected from Guiping city (101.49 °E, 36.34 °N) in Guangxi province of China. The two strains were in different mycelial compatibility group (MCG) and exhibited similar growth rate on potato dextrose agar (PDA medium: 200 g peeled and sliced potatoes boiled for 20mins, 20 g dextrose, adjusted to pH 7.0, 20 g agar, to make the final volume to 1000 ml with distilled water [19]). Oxalic acid was detected by two methods. PDA containing bromophenol blue was used to test oxalic acid in PDA plate. Mycelium discs of each strain were placed at the center of PDA medium containing 0.5 g/l of bromophenol blue and kept at 30 °C in the dark, four petri dishes for each strain. The diameter of yellow halo was measured after three days. KMnO<sub>4</sub> titration was used to detect oxalic acid in liquid PDB. The strains grew in liquid PDB medium, three replicates of 150 ml flasks containing 30 ml of medium were included for each isolate, three discs were added to each flask, and the flasks were incubated without shaking at 30 °C in the dark. The culture of each strain was filtered through a Whatman No.1 filter paper after 5 days

incubation. Oxalic acid (OA) content in 5 ml filtrate was determined using a KMnO<sub>4</sub> titration method following the procedure of Kritzman's [52].

### Pathogenicity test

The experiment was conducted as a completely randomized design in three replications. Each plot consisted of three rows with 15 susceptible peanut plants per row. The plants were inoculated 50–55 days after sowing. *S. rolfsii* inoculum was prepared just before inoculation. Oat grains were soaked in water for 4 h, sterilized at 121 °C for 30 mins twice after water removed. The fresh mycelium discs of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY were transferred to the flasks containing sterilized oat grains, respectively. The oat grains culture maintained in the dark at 30 °C until surface of grains covered by *S. rolfsii* mycelium. The oat grains inoculum was mixed with equal amount of sterilized sand to ensure uniform delivery of inoculum. Each plant was inoculated with 2 g of *S. rolfsii* oat inoculum and sand mixture. The plots were watered to field capacity after inoculation. Disease symptoms were investigated 14 days after inoculation. A 1–5 scale for the severity of wilting according to Shokes' method [53], where 1 = no symptom, 2 = lesions on stem only, 3 = up to 25% of the plant wilting, 4 = 26–50% of the plant wilting, and 5 = > 50% of the plant wilting. Disease index was calculated by using the following formula.  $DI = \{[\sum (\text{number of plants} \times \text{corresponding diseases scale})] / (\text{total number of plants} \times \text{the maximum disease scale})\} \times 100$ . Different level of aggressiveness was determined according to Punja (1985) [16], high aggressiveness with DI more than 66.7, and weak aggressiveness showing DI less than 33.3.

### DNA and RNA purification

To prepare genomic DNA and RNA for sequencing, GP3 and ZY were cultured on PDA plates overlaid by cellophane films and maintained in the dark at 30 °C for 3–4 days. Mycelia were collected and grounded for DNA and RNA extraction. High-molecular-weight genomic DNA for single-molecule real-time (SMRT) was extracted using the SMRTbell™ Templated Prep Kit 1.0 (PACBIO). The genomic DNA for Illumina sequencing was extracted using a CTAB method as previously described [54]. Total RNA was extracted from mycelia using the TRIZOL Kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) following the manufacture's protocol.

### Genome sequencing and assembly

For PacBio Sequel genome sequencing, high molecular weight genomic DNA (20 µg) was random sheared with Covaris- g-Tube with a goal of DNA fragments of approximately 20 kb and end-repaired according to the manufacturer's instructions. A blunt-end ligation reaction followed by exonuclease treatment was performed

to generate the SMRT Bell template, then the library was qualified and quantified using an Agilent Bioanalyzer 12 kb DNA Chip (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) and a Qubit fluorimeter (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). SMRT Bell cells were sequenced using the PacBio Sequel sequencing platform (Nextomics Biosciences, Co., Ltd., Wuhan, China). After adaptor removed and low quality reads filtered out, a total of 594,166 and 1,124,070 high quality reads covering 6,343,564,369 and 9,972,706,733 base pairs were generated for *S. rolfssii* strains GP3 and ZY, respectively.

For Illumina sequencing, about 100 µg of genomic DNA were sheared to ~180 bp using a Covaris LE instrument and adapted for Illumina sequencing on Illumina HiSeq Xten platform (San Diego, CA, USA) by NextOmics Biosciences. Illumina short reads were trimmed using Trimmomatic version 0.36 [55], read length for Illumina sequencing procedure for genomic DNA was 150 bp, a total of 6.42 Gb and 7.03 Gb clean data were yielded for GP3 and ZY, respectively.

The cDNA libraries were prepared by Illumina TruSeq RNA Sample Preparation Kit (Illumina, Inc., San Diego, CA, USA) and validated according to Illumina's low-throughput protocol. The RNA-seq was conducted on an Illumina HiSeq 2500 Platform with 150 bp paired-end strategy.

A *de novo* genome assemblies of ZY and GP3 were generated with the PacBio Sequel reads using CANU pipeline (v1.5) [56] with default setting. The assemblies were adjusted using Arrow program, and polished using Illumina reads by Pilon [20]. Finally, the completeness of assemblies was evaluated using BUSCO [21].

#### Repetitive elements analysis

Repetitive elements were identified by using different methods. Transposable elements were analyzed using four programs, two programs for *de novo* prediction, including Repeat Moldeler (<https://www.repeatmasker.org/RepeatModeler>) and LTR finder [57], and the database based programs Repeat Masker (<https://www.repeatmasker.org/>) and Repeat-ProteinMasker (submodule in Repeatmasker) with default parameters to search Repbase [58]. Tandem Repeats Finder (TRF) was used to identify tandem repeat sequences [59]. MicroSATellites (MISA) (<https://www.plob.org/tag/misa>) was used to identify simple sequence repeats (SSR) with default setting.

#### Genome annotation

Gene predication was performed by using a combination of *ab initio*-based and homology-based methods. To aid gene annotation, we generated transcript assemblies based on RNA of GP3 and ZY, respectively. For *ab initio*-based prediction, Augustus v2.4 [60] and Genscan (version 1.0) [61] were used to *de novo* predict protein

coding genes with the default setting. Exonerate [62] was used to predict the gene structure with RNA-seq data. For homology-based predication, GeneWise [63] was used to predict protein coding genes by homology analysis with known protein sequences from six related species of Basidiomycota, including *Galerina marginata*, *Gymnopus luxurians*, *Hydnomerulius pinastri*, *Jaapia argillacea*, *Piloderma croceum*, and *Plicaturopsis crispa*. EvidenceModler (EVM) was used to compute the weighed consensus gene structure annotation [64]. The final gene sets were obtained after removed TE transposable elements by Tranposon PSI [65].

The predicted gene sets of *S. rolfssii* GP3 and ZY were functionally annotated based on similarity comparison with homologous in public databases. BLASTP was used to align the protein sequences by automated searches in NCBI-NR, Swiss-Prot (<https://www.expasy.org/sprot/>), KEGG, GO and KOG database with E-values ≤ 1e-5. Gene function domain annotation was conducted by InterProScan program [66]. The pathway analyses were conducted by KAAS-KEGG Automatic Annotation Serve [67]. The candidate non-coding RNA (ncRNA) was annotated by two approaches, BLAST was used to align the *S. rolfssii* genome against the Rfam database [68], and tRNA scan-SE [69] and RNAmmer [70] were used to predict tRNAs and rRNAs, respectively.

#### Analysis of orthologous gene families in Agaricomycetes

Orthology comparison was conducted by OrthoMCL [22] (<http://va.orthomcl.org>) with e-value less than 1e-5 among protein sets of *S. rolfssii* GP3, ZY and nine related species of Agaricomycetes, including *Armillaria gallica* (GenBank: GCA\_002307695.1), *Auricularia subglabra* (GenBank: GCA\_000265015.1), *Exidia glandulosa* (GenBank: GCA\_001632375.1), *Galerina marginata* (GenBank: GCA\_000697645.1), *Gymnopus luxurians* (GenBank: GCA\_000827265.1), *Hydnomerulius pinastri* (GenBank: GCA\_000827185.1), *Psilocybe cyanescens* (GenBank: GCA\_002938375.1), *Scleroderma citrinum* (GenBank: GCA\_000827425.1), and *Piloderma croceum* (GenBank: GCA\_000827315.1).

#### Phylogenetic analysis and synteny analysis

The phylogenetic tree of *S. rolfssii* GP3, ZY and the above related nine species of Agaricomycetes was constructed by single copy gene based on the orthologous gene family analysis. Mafft [71] software was conducted to align the protein sequence of the single copy gene, converted to coding sequence alignment. Gblocks [72] was used to extract the well-aligned regions of each coding sequence alignments. RAXML 8.2.12 [73] was carried out to generate the maximum-likelihood tree with 100 bootstrap replicates with *P. cyanescens* as an outgroup. The whole genome aligner Murmer 3.06 [74] was used for

comparative analysis of the assemblies of GP3 and ZY. Dot plots between contigs of GP3 and ZY were created by MuMerplot programs from the MuMmer package.

### Identification of the pathogenicity related genes

The *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY protein sets were used to conduct a BLASTP search against PHI base (a database of Pathogen Host Interactions) with e-value less than 1e-5 to identify pathogenicity genes. Putative carbohydrate active enzymes (CAZymes) of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY were annotation using dbCAN (dbCAN HMMs 5.0) [75] servers, with an e-value of less than 1e-5 and more than 70% coverage. CAZymes were classified by following modules: Glycoside Hydrolases (GHs), Polysaccharide Lyases (PLs), Carbohydrate Esterases (CEs), Glycosyl Transferase (GTs), Carbohydrate-Binding Modules (CBMs), and Auxillary Activities (AAs) as described in CAZyme database classification (<http://www.cazy.org>) [76].

### Secretome and effector predication

The predicted secretome of *S. rolfsii* strains GP3 and ZY was conducted based on the following pipeline. SignalP version 4.0 [77] was used to analyze signal peptide and cleavage sites of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY proteins. Candidate proteins with signal peptide were identified by Protcomp 9.0 (<http://www.softberry.com/berry.phtml>) using the LocDB and PotLoc DB databases and proteins predicted as extracellular or unknown were kept for next analysis. The candidate proteins were conducted by TMHMM version 2.0 [78] to identify protein with transmembrane domains, and all proteins with 0 TM or 1 TM, if located in the predicted N-terminal signal peptide, were kept. The candidate proteins that harbored a putative glycoposphatidylinositol membrane-anchoring domain were identified by GPIsom (<https://gpi.unibe.ch/>) [79]. The remaining proteins without GPI-anchor were predicted with Target P [80], proteins with a Target P Loc = S or – were kept in the final secretome databases. The candidate secretory proteins were blasted in NR database and PHI database to annotate the protein function and searched against CAZyme database for function of CAZymes. The candidate effectors were identified by passing the secretome through the program Effector P 1.0 [81]. Putative effectors were screened for those candidates with molecular weight ranged from 50 to 300 amino acids, and at least 4 cysteine amino acids in their sequences [82–84].

### Secondary metabolites synthetic gene cluster predication

Secondary metabolites synthetic gene clusters were predicted by the web-based software antiSMASH (antibiotics and Secondary Metabolite Analysis 4.0) [85].

### Abbreviations

AA: Auxillary activity; *A. subglabra*: *Auricularia subglabra*; *B. cinerea*: *Botrytis cinerea*; CAZyme: Carbohydrate-active Enzyme; CBM: Carbohydrate-binding

module; CE: Carbohydrate esterase; endo-PG: Endo-polygalacturonase; *E. glandulosa*: *Exidia glandulosa*; GH: Glycoside hydrolase; *G. luxurians*: *Gymnopus luxurians*; GPI: Glycosylphosphatidylinositol anchor; GT: Glycosyltransferase; *P. croceum*: *Piloderma croceum*; *P. cyanescens*: *Psilocybe cyanescens*; *P. tinctorius*: *Psilolithus tinctorius*; PL: Polysaccharide lyase; PHI: Pathogen- host interaction; *P. graminis*: *Puccinia graminis*; *R. solani*: *Rhizoctonia solani*; *S. rolfsii*: *Sclerotium rolfsii*; *S. sclerotiorum*: *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*; *U. maydis*: *Ustilago maydis*; *V. dahliae*: *Verticillium dahliae*

### Supplementary Information

The online version contains supplementary material available at <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12864-021-07534-0>.

**Additional file 1: Figure S1.** Statistics of BUSCO assessment of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY genome assemblies. **a** Total searched BUSCOs of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY; **b** Distribution of different BUSCOs in GP3 and ZY. S, Complete and single-copy BUSCOs; D, Complete and duplicated BUSCOs; F, Fragmented BUSCOs; M, Missing BUSCOs

**Additional file 2: Figure S2.** Genome annotation statistics of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY by blasting against five databases including GO, KOG, KEGG, NR and Swiss\_pro

**Additional file 3: Figure S3.** KOG distribution of predicted proteins of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY

**Additional file 4: Figure S4.** Go annotation enrichment analysis of genes of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY. **a** Number of genes in biological process, cellular component, and molecular function of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY; **b** Percent of genes involved in molecular function, biological process, and cellular component of *S. rolfsii* GP3; **c** Percentage of genes involved in molecular function, biological process, and cellular component of *S. rolfsii* ZY

**Additional file 5: Figure S5.** KEGG classification of genes of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY. **a** Distribution of genes among processes, metabolism, and organismal systems of *S. rolfsii* GP3; **b** Distribution of genes among processes, metabolism, and organismal systems of *S. rolfsii* ZY

**Additional file 6: Figure S6.** Analysis of orthologs of two *S. rolfsii* strains and other species in Agaricomycetes

**Additional file 7: Figure S7.** The pipeline for putative secretomes and effectors analysis of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY

**Additional file 8: Table S1.** List of ncRNAs in genomes of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY

**Additional file 9: Table S2.** Comparison of gene families of GP3, ZY, and other species in Agaricomycetes

**Additional file 10: Table S3.** Identification of repetitive elements of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY by five programs

**Additional file 11: Table S4.** List of repetitive elements of each category in the genomes of *S. rolfsii* GP3, ZY, and MR10

**Additional file 12: Table S5.** Unique Pathogen Host Interaction (PHI) genes in the genome of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY

**Additional file 13: Table S6.** Comparison of CAZymes involved in cellulose degradation in the genomes of plant pathogens. The values reflect the total numbers in each family of CAZymes.

**Additional file 14: Table S7.** Comparison of CAZymes involved in hemicellulose degradation in the gnomes of plant pathogens. The values reflect the total numbers in each family of CAZymes.

**Additional file 15: Table S8.** Comparison of CAZymes involved in pectin degradation in the genomes of plant pathogens. The values reflect the total numbers in each family of CAZymes.

**Additional file 16: Table S9.** List of secreted CAZymes in the genome of *S. rolfsii* GP3 and ZY

**Additional file 17: Table S10.** Overlapping of putative effectors with PHI and CAZymes genes

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**Authors' contributions**

The research was designed and written by LYY, bioinformatics analysis was performed by ZHW, the experiments were performed by WDS, PMF, LYW, and YPK, manuscript was critically revised by YL, DXH, YNC, XW, HS, and BSL. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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**Availability of data and materials**

The genomes of *S. rolfii* strains GP3 and ZY were deposited in GenBank under BioProject numbers: PRJNA635225, PRJNA635226, and BioSample numbers: SAMN15029893, SAMN15029894, respectively.

**Declarations****Ethics approval and consent to participate**

Not applicable.

**Consent for publication**

Not applicable.

**Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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