

# Genetic Incompatibility Dampens Hybrid Fertility More Than Hybrid Viability: Yeast as a Case Study

# Meibo Xu, Xionglei He\*

State Key Laboratory of Bio-Control, College of Life Sciences, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

#### **Abstract**

Genetic incompatibility is believed to be the major cause of postzygotic reproductive isolation. Despite huge efforts seeking for speciation-related incompatibilities in the past several decades, a general understanding of how genetic incompatibility evolves in affecting hybrid fitness is not available, primarily due to the fact that the number of known incompatibilities is small. Instead of further mapping specific incompatible genes, in this paper we aimed to know the overall effects of incompatibility on fertility and viability, the two aspects of fitness, by examining 89 gametes produced by yeast *S. cerevisiae* - *S. paradoxus* F1 hybrids. Homozygous F2 hybrids formed by autodiploidization of F1 gametes were subject to tests for growth rate and sporulation efficiency. We observed much stronger defects in sporulation than in clonal growth for every single F2 hybrid strain, indicating that genetic incompatibility affects hybrid fertility more than hybrid viability in yeast. We related this finding in part to the fast-evolving nature of meiosis-related genes, and proposed that the generally low expression levels of these genes might be a cause of the observation.

Citation: Xu M, He X (2011) Genetic Incompatibility Dampens Hybrid Fertility More Than Hybrid Viability: Yeast as a Case Study. PLoS ONE 6(4): e18341. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0018341

Editor: Jürg Bähler, University College London, United Kingdom

Received January 11, 2011; Accepted February 25, 2011; Published April 6, 2011

Copyright: © 2011 Xu, He. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Funding: This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (#30871371 and #40930212 to XH). The agency did not influence the design and conduct of the study, the collection, analysis, and interpretation of the data, or the preparation, review, or approval of the manuscript.

Competing Interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

\* E-mail: hexiongl@mail.sysu.edu.cn

#### Introduction

Postzygotic reproductive isolation is a key step of forming new species, and the underlying genetic mechanisms can be multiple [1,2,3,4]. The model of between-gene incompatibility proposed by Dobzhansky [5] and Muller [6] posits that independent evolution of two populations can generate alleles that are completely normal on native genetic background but deleterious on genetic background of the other population, rendering hybrid inviability or sterility. This is an appealing idea because it predicts that new species can evolve as a time-dependent byproduct of geographical separation of populations, and has therefore received a lot of attention. Efforts in the past several decades have revealed a handful of genetic incompatibilities in organisms including fly [7,8,9,10], nematode [11], mouse [12], yeast [13], and plants [14,15]. Although the evolution of genetic incompatibility between two species is inevitable even if the speciation is not due to incompatibility, such incompatibilities identified from recently formed species are probable speciationcausing genes, and thus of great interest to people. Some common features were observed from these probable speciation genes [16]; for example, they tend to be fast evolving. However, a general understanding of how genetic incompatibility evolves in affecting the fitness of hybrids is still lacking. An organism's fitness is influenced by its ability to survive and develop/grow (viability), and its ability to reproduce (fertility). Available incompatibilities identified from different organisms show an equivocal pattern regarding their effects on the two components of fitness [16]. It is the aim of this study to systematically test whether genetic incompatibility affects hybrid fertility and hybrid viability differently.

It should be pointed out that the diploid F1 hybrids are not suitable for addressing the above question, because: 1) the heterozygous nature of F1 hybrid genome will mask the effects of recessive incompatibility, and 2) in addition to genetic incompatibility, some confounding factors such as chromosomal translocation and sequence divergence may also reduce F1 hybrid fertility by disturbing meiosis [17]. To overcome the two problems, homozygous F2 hybrids are needed. In addition, two species that are close enough to form a hybrid but are diverged sufficiently to have evolved a plenty of genetic incompatibilities are desired. In this paper, the hybrid of yeasts Saccharomyces cerevisiae (Sc) and Sacchromyces paradoxus (Sp) was examined; the two Saccharomyces species split ~10 million years ago, being ~15% diverged in genome sequence [18]. We were fully aware that, given the significant sequence divergence, any specific incompatibility identified from the two yeasts is more likely to be the aftermath rather than the cause of speciation. This, however, still fits our interest in understanding how genetic incompatibility evolves between two separated populations. The haploid gametes of F1 hybrids underwent autodiploidization to form diploid homozygous F2 hybrids. Fertility and viability of the yeast were measured by the sporulation frequency and the clonal growth rate, respectively, for each of the F2 hybrids (Figure 1). We obtained strong evidence supporting that genetic incompatibility affects hybrid fertility more than hybrid viability in yeast.

#### Results

1

The heterozygous F1 hybrid formed between Sc and Sp grows normally but produces only  $\sim 1\%$  viable gametes, while both parental species can produce  $90{\text -}100\%$  viable gametes [19].

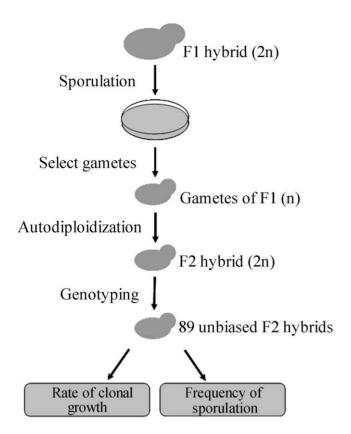


Figure 1. A schematic map of the experimental design. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0018341.g001

Fortunately, the population of yeast cells is large enough, so sufficient F1 gametes were readily available. A total of 94 gametes were randomly selected. Genetic incompatibility could be a cause for the  $\sim 99\%$  inviable F1 gametes, through either preventing gamete formation or killing the gametes once formed. The incompatibility of preventing gamete formation in the heterozygous F1 hybrid, if present, must be dominant; however, a previous work has demonstrated that there is no dominant genetic incompatibility in the yeast hybrid [20]. The remaining concern was that genotypes with lethal incompatibility that kills gametes, if exist, can not be obtained, so the 94 gametes may contain ascertainment bias, resulting in underestimation of the effects of incompatibility on viability.

#### Genotyping the 94 selected gametes using 93 markers

Ninety-three markers encompassing the whole yeast nuclear genome were designed to genotype the 94 gametes, to evaluate the potential ascertainment bias (Figure 2A; Table S1). We ignored the mitochondrial genome because the Sc-Sp F1 hybrid we used contains only Sc mitochondrion. Five gametes were excluded from further study because they show significant ( $P < 10^{-5}$ ; Pearson correlation analysis) genotypic similarity to other gametes. Among the remaining 89 gametes, there are a similar number of Sc origins and Sp origins for all makers, with the exception of markers 10A and 10B that are of Sc origin in >90% of gametes (Figure 2A; Table S2). The result is unexpected because a previous study tested the whole chromosome 10 of Sp and found no incompatibility of this Sp chromosome with Sc genome [19]. To resolve this inconsistency, we constructed a new F1 hybrid using different Sc and Sp strains, and found that our above observation can not be reproduced (a total of 21 gametes were examined, and the marker

10B was from Sc in 9 gametes and from Sp in the other 12 gametes). The Sp strain, YDG749, used in our confirmation experiment is the same one used by the previous study [19], while the Sp genome of the original F1 hybrid was from YCM361. So, it is likely that a mutation occurred to an essential gene of the Sp locus when the original F1 hybrid was made or cultured in laboratory. We made no attempt to find the mutation from the  $\sim$ 150 kb region and ignored this single suspicious locus in further study, because the primary goal of this work is to assess the overall effects of a mixture of unknown incompatibilities.

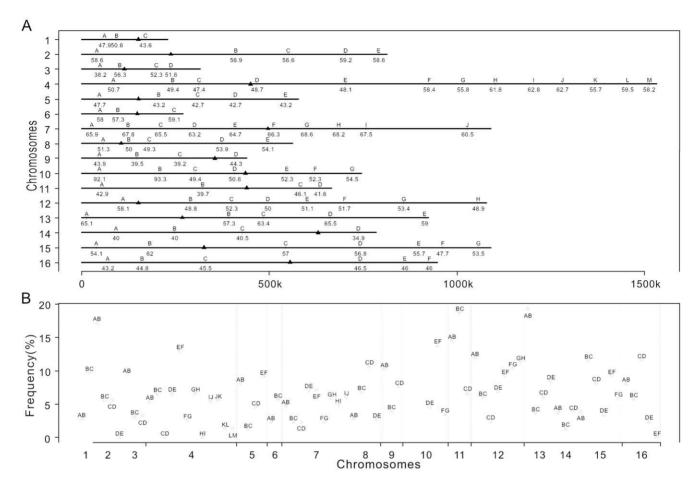
# No ascertainment bias was detected from the 89 gametes

It was proposed that sequence divergence between Sc and Sp suppresses recombination in the Sc-Sp F1 hybrid [4]. Indeed, despite the median distance of two neighboring markers being 103 kb, the median recombination rate between two markers is 5.7% (Figure 2B), much smaller than the rate of  $\sim 1$  recombination per 100 kb per meiosis in Sc [21]. The suppressed recombination helped us to identify the origin of a block between two markers with high confidence. For example, markers 1-A and 1-B are both from Sp in gamete 3, and both from Sc in gamete 6, so the 32 kb block between 1-A and 1-B is of Sp origin in the gamete 3, and of Sc origin in the gamete 6, each with a roughly estimated false discovery rate (FDR) of 0.07%, given that the recombination rate between 1-A and 1-B is 2.7% (two recombination events are needed when 1-A and 1-B are from the same yeast but the block 1-AB contains genes of different yeasts); the origin of block 1-AB will not be assigned for gametes in which 1-A and 1-B are from different species. Since we did not design markers for telomeres, the origins of two ends of a chromosome were based on the single closest marker.

The 93 markers separate the yeast genome into 109 blocks. If there is lethal incompatibility between two loci, one would expect the absence of heterogeneous combination (i.e., two blocks are from different yeasts) between the corresponding blocks. Interestingly, we observed the absence of heterogeneous combination only for blocks on the same chromosomes, which is presumably due to the low recombination rate in the F1 hybrid [4]. Heterogeneous combination was observed for all between-chromosome block pairs; in fact, none of these block pairs showed significant underrepresentation of heterogeneous combination at an FDR of 1% (i.e., the frequency of heterogeneous combination is at least 26/ 89 = 29.2%, because with 89 strains an observed ratio of 25:64 will be regarded as significant deviation from expectation with the Chisquare P = 0.007) (Figure 3). The same is true when one-way incompatibility was tested (data not shown). The result is in well line with a previous study in which a whole Sc chromosome was replaced by its Sp homologous chromosome and no lethal or severe phenotype was observed for all 9 tested chromosomes (amount to  $\sim 43\%$  of the yeast genome). Thus, it seems unlikely that lethal or nearly-lethal genetic incompatibility affecting the viability of F1 gametes was present. In other words, the 89 gametes represent a largely unbiased sample.

# Measuring the sporulation frequency and the clonal growth rate of F2 hybrids

Aneuploidy was not considered in the above analyses. An aneuploid gamete carries both Sc and Sp alleles for the same loci, which can mask the effects of genetic incompatibility. We found that an average of 8% of genomes contain both Sc and Sp alleles in a single gamete, so the fraction of incompatibilities that were masked in the 89 gametes is  $1-0.92^n$ , where n is the number of loci



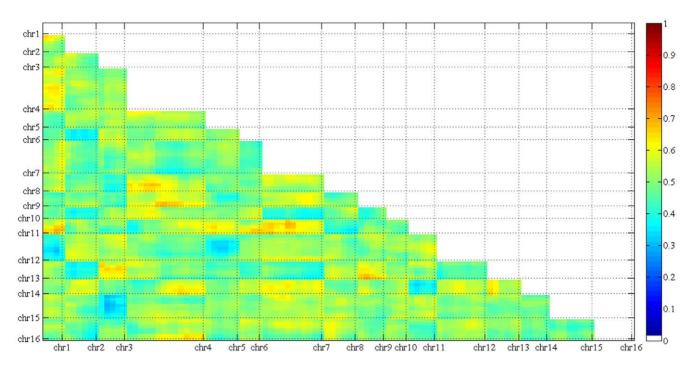
**Figure 2. Marker position and the recombination rate between neighboring markers.** (**A**) A schematic map of the 93 markers on 16 yeast chromosomes. The black triangle shows the position of centromere. The capital letter above the line is marker name, and the number under the line is the percentage of gametes being of *Sc* origin for the corresponding marker. Note that two markers 10A and 10B are of *Sc* origin in >90% of gametes, an observation that can not be reproduced in other *Sc*–*Sp* hybrids. (**B**) The recombination rate between neighboring markers is generally low. Three blocks (AB, BC, and CD) at the chromosome 10 were not included. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0018341.q002

involved for an incompatibility. This should not bias our study because it affects fertility and viability to the same extent, but will reduce the power of detecting the different effects of incompatibility on fertility and viability, particularly when complex incompatibilities (with large n) are considered.

Because an intact HO gene was present in the genomes, all the 89 F1 gametes underwent autodiploidization, forming homozygous diploid F2 hybrids [22]. We confirmed experimentally the diploidy for the 89 strains. The sporulation-based relative fitness was quantified by examining the frequency of cells capable of forming tetrads in the medium for sporulation, and the growthbased relative fitness of a F2 hybrid was obtained by measuring the growth rate in YEPD, a fermentable medium both Sc and Sp having adapted to. Interestingly, the growth-based relative fitness was significantly ( $P < 10^{-5}$ ; Z-test) higher than the sporulationbased relative fitness for every single F2 strain (Figure 4), when Sp was used as the wild-type control for calculating relative fitness. There was only one exception, if Sc was used as the wild-type control (data not shown). The pattern is not simply due to aneuploidy, a known factor adversely affecting cell growth [23], because the 7 strains that are not an uploid show the same pattern (Figure 4). The average growth-based relative fitness of F2 hybrids is >0.9, suggesting sparse and weak genetic incompatibility affecting hybrid viability; in sharp contrast, the average sporulation-based relative fitness of these hybrids is <0.2, indicating prevalent and strong incompatibility affecting hybrid fertility (Figure 4). Of note, 58.4% (52/89) of the F2 strains were not able to form tetrads at all, and the underlying incompatibility is not clear, partly because the sample size is too small. We made no attempt to map incompatible genes by examining more strains, because it was not the intent of this study. We also found that strains with strong defects in tetrad formation tend to grow slowly  $(R^2 = 0.45, \ P < 10^{-12}; \ Pearson correlation analysis), suggesting pleiotropic effects of genetic incompatibility.$ 

#### Discussion

Our result seems to be contradictory to a previous study in which only  $\sim 18\%$  of the Sc-Sp F2 hybrids are sterile [24]. In fact, the different levels of aneuploidy of F2 hybrids between the two studies underlie the difference. The overall frequency of tetrasomy in the F2 hybrids of that study is 31%, and the number is 8.5% in our case when a similar approach was used to measure tetrasomy (244 out of 89\*32=2848 chromosome ends show both Sp and Sc signatures) [24], which leads to the proportions of exposed incompatibilities being dramatically different between the two studies. For example, only  $(1-31\%)^2=47.6\%$  of two-locus incompatibilities can be exposed in that study while the number



**Figure 3. No between-chromosome two-locus incompatibility was detected.** The fraction of heterogeneous combination ((*ScSp+SpSc*)/(*ScSc+ScSp+SpSc+SpSp*)) is shown for each of the 5111 block pairs. None is significantly different from 0.5, the expected value, at an FDR of 1%, as determined by Chi-square test. Note that the 4 blocks at the left arm of chromosome 10 were excluded from the analysis. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0018341.g003

is  $(1-8.5\%)^2 = 83.7\%$  in our study. So, the low level of an euploidy helped us to gain a better understanding in the effects of genetic incompatibility.

We used the sporulation frequency and the clonal growth rate at defined lab conditions as the proxies of yeast ferility and yeast viability, respectively, and observed a much higher growth-based fitness compared to sporulation-based fitness for every single F2 hybrid, strongly supporting that genetic incompatibility affects hybrid sterility more than hybrid viability in yeast. It is worth pointing out that a similar pattern was observed within the species of Sc [25,26]. It should be noted that within-chromosome incompatibility [27] was not effectively investigated in this study due to the low recombination rate in the F1 hybrid. Further work is required to know if within-chromosome incompatibility evolves

in a similar fashion as between-chromosome incompatibility does in affecting hybrid fitness. Using whole-chromosome replacement, a previous study examined  $\sim 43\%$  of the yeast genome, and identified no lethal or severe growth-related incompatibility between Sp and Sc [19]. We confirmed the previous result using a different approach, and further showed that the same is true for the rest  $\sim 57\%$  of the genome. When we were preparing the manuscript, a newly published paper examined about one hundred Sc - Sp F1 gametes using much denser markers, and came to the same conclusion that no strong two-locus incompatibility between Sc and Sp exists [28]. In principle, incompatibility involving 3 or more loci could be present. One three-locus lethal incompatibility leads to 12.5% inviable gametes, and 6 such incompatibilities are needed to cause the frequency of inviable

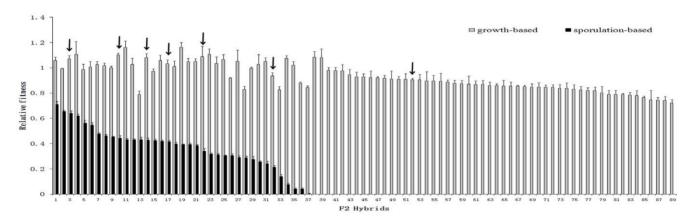


Figure 4. The growth-based relative fitness is significantly ( $P < 10^{-5}$ ; Z-test) higher than the sporulation-based relative fitness in all 89 F2 hybrids after Bonferroni correction for multiple testing. The diploid Sp-YCM361 was used as the wild-type control in calculating relative fitness. Arrows point to strains that are not aneuploid. Error bar shows one standard error of the mean. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0018341.q004

gametes be 55.1% ( $1-0.875^6$ ), a level comparable to the observed frequency (58.4%) of complete sterility for F2 hybrids, and an even larger number of more than three-locus incompatibilities are required to generate a similar proportion of inviable gametes, which seems unlikely given the rarity of two-locus incompatibility.

The molecular mechanism underlying the finding is intriguing. A recent study revealed that MRS1, an St nuclear gene, is incompatible with COX1, an Sp mitochondrial gene [29]. This recessive incompatibility leads to hybrid sterility by disturbing cell metabolism on non-fermentable medium on which yeast sporulates. Interestingly, we found that one of the three major incompatibility-causing sites on the Sc-MRS1 gene is polymorphic [30] (Figure S1), indicating that the derived incompatible allele is evolutionarily young. This case, together with several others found between Saccharomyces species [13,29], suggests that fertility-related incompatibility often results from defects in respiration on non-fermentable media. However, despite of 58.4% of F2 hybrids in our study being completely sterile, only 13.5% (12/89) can not form colonies on the non-fermentable medium YPG (1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, and 3% glycerol) agar, indicating that defects in respiration explain only a part of the fertility-related incompatibilities.

Since clonal growth requires mitosis while sporulation requires meiosis, different sets of genes with different molecular features are involved in the two processes. Presumably, the chance of evolving viability-related incompatibility should be higher than that of evolving fertility-related incompatibility, because there are more genes involved in clonal growth than in sporulation. However, meiosis-related genes are generally expressed at merely detectable levels during asexual clonal growth [31], the major means of reproduction for wild yeast [32]. Recent progress in protein evolution predicts that such genes tend to evolve rapidly, because the deleterious effect of protein mis-folding caused by a nonsynonymous mutation on a lowly expressed gene is relatively small [33]. Using data from our previous work [34] we found that meiosisrelated genes are indeed fast evolving in the yeast (Figure 5). This may partly explain why fertility-related incompatibilities are more common than viability-related incompatibilities, and suggests a neutral view on the evolution of genetic incompatibility as well as speciation. These being said, we caution that natural populations of Sc and Sp are often found in the same habitat [22], a scenario atypical to what the Dobzhansky-Muller model is usually applied to. Also, a recent paper showed that substantial genetic incompatibility affecting both growth and sporulation can evolve between two initially-identical yeast populations after just 500 generations of independent adapted evolution in laboratory [35]. It is hard to reconcile the result with the nearly normal growth of the F1 hybrid of Sc and Sp, two species with as high as  $\sim 15\%$  of sequence divergence. Apparently the unique life cycle, including the fermentation-supported clonal growth and the respiration-supported sporulation, and the evolutionary history of natural Saccharomyces populations should be accounted for, before we can fully understand how speciation was initiated and how genetic incompatibility has evolved in yeast [22].

#### **Materials and Methods**

### Strains and genome information

Unless otherwise stated, the F1 hybrid used in this study was made by crossing gametes of a diploid Sc strain YCM362 (HO, wa3; Y55 background) with gametes of a diploid Sp strain YCM361 (HO, lys2; N17 background), and is a gift of Dr. Calum Maclean. To reconcile our observation at chromosome 10 with a previous finding, we constructed another F1 hybrid by crossing an Sc strain BY4742 (MATalpha; ho, his3, lseu2, lys2, wa3) with an Sp

strain YDG749 (MATa; ho, ura3); The Sp-YDG749 is a gift of Dr. Duncan Greig. The genome information of Sc-Y55 and Sp-N17 was obtained from a recent paper [30].

#### Sample gametes of F1 hybrids

A single colony of the F1 hybrid was inoculated in 50 ml of YEPD (1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, and 2% dextrose) at 30°C until the cell concentration reached  $\sim 1.0 \times 10^8$  cells/ml. The culture was centrifuged, and all cells were transferred into 50 ml of medium containing 0.25% yeast extract, 0.1% dextrose, 0.82% sodium acetate, and 0.18% potassium chloride for sporulation at 30°C. One week later, an aliquot of culture was subject to microscopic examination. Cells were collected by centrifuging, washed twice using sterile water, and re-suspended in 1 ml of sterile water. 100 µl of cell suspension was diluted by adding 900 µl of sterile water, and incubated with 340 U of lyticase (Sigma) for 40 minutes at 30°C, to remove the ascus wall and release spores. The solution was then in 55°C water bath for 15 minutes to kill the remaining diploid F1 hybrids. Spores were collected, washed twice using sterile water, and plated on YEPD agar after appropriate dilution. The YEPD plates were incubated at 30°C for 4 days, single colonies were randomly picked, and streaked on fresh YEPD agar plates. For each strain, a single colony growing on the fresh plate was used for further experiments. Some of the picked strains are remaining heterozygous diploid F1 hybrids, which were identified using two markers that can discriminate Sc from Sp. The first marker (Forward: 5'-GATAGTCTCCAAAGGAAGAG; Reverse: 5'-CAATTTGGT-CATTAGAAGC) is at chromosome 10, and the obtained PCR products can be cut by the restriction enzyme Xba I if the template is from Sp, and can not be cut if the template is from Sc. The second marker (Forward: 5'-GTTTCCAACCTATTCGCAA; Reverse: 5'-GCTGTATGATTGATAAAGAGG) is at chromosome 16, and the obtained PCR products can be cut by the restriction enzyme Xho I if the template is from Sc, and can not be cut if the template is from Sp. We did not use the marker separating the mating types (a/ alpha versus a or alpha) of a yeast cell, because of potential autodiploidization of haploid gametes which would produce homozygous diploid F2. The two markers generated consistent results, and colonies that are heterozygous at the two loci are F1 hybrids, and thus were discarded. A total of 94 F1 gametes were obtained. Note that the identity of these gametes were further assessed with additional 93 markers covering the whole yeast genome (See below).

#### Design markers for genotyping sampled gametes

A set of 93 markers were designed to genotype the 94 gametes, with approximately one marker per 100 kb of the yeast genome. For each marker, a pair of PCR primers was designed, and the PCR products derived from Sc and Sp differ in a specific restriction site (one can be cut while the other can not). For a given gamete, signatures representing both Sc and Sp can sometimes be found by a single marker, suggesting the presence of aneuploidy; in this case, the origin of this marker in this gamete was not assigned.

#### Test genotype relatedness of the 94 gametes

We considered only markers at the two ends of a chromosome to ensure that they segregated largely independently, so from the 16 yeast chromosomes a total of 32 markers were used to evaluate the genotype relatedness. We used 0 and 1 to denote Sc origin and Sp origin, respectively, and did the Pearson correlation analysis for all gamete pairs (94\*93/2=4371 pairs). A minimum number of gametes were discarded to ensure that within the retained gametes no one is significantly related to others at an FDR of  $0.05/4371 \sim 10^{-5}$ .

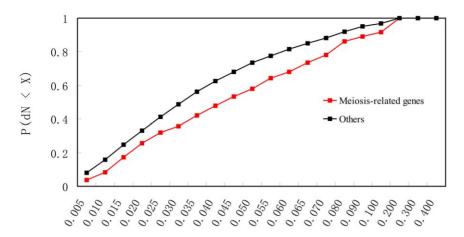


Figure 5. Meiosis-related genes tend to be fast-evolving compared to other genes in Sc (P<10<sup>-3</sup>, Mann-Whitney U test). The number of non-synonymous substitutions per non-synonymous site (dN) was calculated using Sp as the reference [34]. The proportion (y-axis) of genes with dN smaller than a certain number (x-axis) is shown. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0018341.g005

#### Seek for two-locus genetic incompatibility

There are 4 possible combinations between two loci: ScSc, ScSp, SpSc, and SpSp; ScSp and SpSc were considered as heterogeneous combinations. Chi-square test was used to determine whether the frequency of heterogeneous combination ((ScSp+SpSc)/(ScSc+ScSp+SpSc+SpSp)) is significantly different from 0.5, the expected frequency; the frequency of heterogeneous combination was either ScSp/(ScSp+ScSc) or SpSc/(SpSc+SpSp), when one-way incompatibility was considered. We excluded 4 blocks at the left arm of chromosome 10 from analysis, and a total of 5111 block pairs were tested.

#### Check the ploidy of yeast hybrids

Two pairs of PCR primers targeting the MAT locus were designed. The first pair (Forward: 5'-AGTCACATCAA-GATCGTTTATGG; Reverse: 5'-ACTCCACTTCAAGTAA-GAGTTTG) can produce a 544 bp fragment if the MAT locus is a; the second pair (Forward: 5'-AGTCACATCAAGATCGTT-TATGG; Reverse: 5'-GCACGGAATATGGGACTACTTCG) can produce a 404 bp fragment if the MAT locus is alpha. Both of the two fragments will be observed if the cell is diploid.

## Estimate the relative fitness of F2 hybrids

Using markers that can separate the mating types (a/alpha versus a or alpha) of a yeast cell, we confirmed that all the 89 strains have already completed autodiploidization, being homozygous diploid F2 hybrids. Cells were cultured in 50 ml of YEPD at 30°C until the cell concentration reached  $\sim 1.0 \times 10^8$  cells/ml, and the culture was centrifuged and all cells were transferred into 50 ml of medium for sporulation at 30°C. After one week, an aliquot of culture was subject to examination of tetrad formation under microscope, and a total of 100 cells were counted to estimate the frequency (f) of cells having formed tetrads. Three aliquots were examined for each strain. Following the definition of relative fitness [36], the sporulation-based relative fitness (sF) in this work was computed using the formula:

$$sF = f/F_{wildtype}$$

where  $F_{wildtype}$  is the average f of the three examined aliquots for the wildtype strain (Sc-YCM362 or Sp-YCM361); the average sF of the three aliquots was used as the sporulation-based relative fitness of

an F2 hybrid. For the clonal growth rate, cells were cultured in 50 ml of YEPD at  $30^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$  for  $\sim 18$  hours, with an initial concentration of  $\mathrm{OD_{660}} \sim = 0.05$ , and the  $\mathrm{OD_{660}}$  was measured every two hours using the 2800 UV/VIS Spectrophotometer (UNIC Corp., Shanghai). We calculated the doubling time (t) of cells for three consecutive periods at the logarithmic phase. Since relative fitness is defined as the average number of surviving progeny of a particular genotype compared with average number of surviving progeny of competing genotypes after a single generation [36], the growth-based relative fitness (gF) in this work was computed using the formula:

$$gF = 2^{\wedge} (T_{wildtype}/t - 1)$$

where  $T_{wildtype}$  is the average doubling time of the three periods at the logarithmic phase for the wild-type control (the Sc strain YCM362 or the Sp strain YCM361); the average gF of the three periods was used as the growth-based relative fitness of an F2 hybrid.

#### **Supporting Information**

**Figure S1** The partial MRS1 gene sequences of different Sp and Sc strains. Arrows show the non-synonymous substitutions that cause major incompatibility between Sc-MRS1 and Sp-COX1. The red arrow points to the site where the incompatibility-causing mutation  $(A \rightarrow G)$  is not fixed yet in Sc populations. (TIF)

Table S1

(XLS)

Table S2

(XLS)

## Acknowledgments

We thank D. Greig and C. Maclean for providing yeast strains, J. Zhang and W. Qian for valuable comments, and X. Chen and C. Jiang for help with data analysis and manuscript preparation.

#### **Author Contributions**

Conceived and designed the experiments: XH MX. Generated and analyzed the data: MX XH. Wrote the paper: XH MX.

#### References

- 1. Wu CI, Ting CT (2004) Genes and speciation. Nat Rev Genet 5: 114-122.
- 2. Masly JP, Jones CD, Noor MA, Locke J, Orr HA (2006) Gene transposition as a cause of hybrid sterility in Drosophila. Science 313: 1448-1450.
- 3. Rieseberg LH, Willis JH (2007) Plant speciation. Science 317: 910-914.
- 4. Hunter N, Chambers SR, Louis EJ, Borts RH (1996) The mismatch repair system contributes to meiotic sterility in an interspecific yeast hybrid. Embo J 15: 1726-1733
- Dobzhansky T (1936) Studies on Hybrid Sterility. II. Localization of Sterility Factors in Drosophila Pseudoobscura Hybrids. Genetics 21: 113-135
- 6. Muller H (1942) Isolating mechanisms, evolution, and temperature. Biol Symp 6: 71-125
- Ting CT, Tsaur SC, Wu ML, Wu CI (1998) A rapidly evolving homeobox at the site of a hybrid sterility gene. Science 282: 1501-1504.
- 8. Bayes JJ, Malik HS (2009) Altered heterochromatin binding by a hybrid sterility protein in Drosophila sibling species. Science 326: 1538-1541
- Tang S, Presgraves DC (2009) Evolution of the Drosophila nuclear pore complex results in multiple hybrid incompatibilities. Science 323: 779-782
- 10. Presgraves DC, Balagopalan L, Abmayr SM, Orr HA (2003) Adaptive evolution drives divergence of a hybrid inviability gene between two species of Drosophila. Nature 423: 715-719.
- Seidel HS, Rockman MV, Kruglyak L (2008) Widespread genetic incompatibility in C. elegans maintained by balancing selection. Science 319: 589-594.
- 12. Mihola O, Trachtulec Z, Vlcek C, Schimenti JC, Forejt J (2009) A mouse speciation gene encodes a meiotic histone H3 methyltransferase. Science 323:
- 13. Lee HY, Chou JY, Cheong L, Chang NH, Yang SY, et al. (2008) Incompatibility of nuclear and mitochondrial genomes causes hybrid sterility between two yeast species. Cell 135: 1065-1073.
- 14. Bikard D, Patel D, Le Mette C, Giorgi V, Camilleri C, et al. (2009) Divergent evolution of duplicate genes leads to genetic incompatibilities within A. thaliana. Science 323: 623-626.
- 15. Alcazar R, Garcia AV, Kronholm I, de Meaux J, Koornneef M, et al. (2010) Natural variation at Strubbelig Receptor Kinase 3 drives immune-triggered incompatibilities between Arabidopsis thaliana accessions. Nat Genet 42: 1135-1139.
- 16. Presgraves DC (2010) The molecular evolutionary basis of species formation. Nat Rev Genet 11: 175-180.
- 17. Fishman L, Willis JH (2001) Evidence for Dobzhansky-Muller incompatibilites contributing to the sterility of hybrids between Mimulus guttatus and M. nasutus, Evolution 55: 1932-1942.
- 18. Kellis M, Patterson N, Endrizzi M, Birren B, Lander ES (2003) Sequencing and comparison of yeast species to identify genes and regulatory elements. Nature 423: 241-254

- 19. Greig D (2007) A screen for recessive speciation genes expressed in the gametes of F1 hybrid yeast. PLoS Genet 3: e21.
- Greig D, Borts RH, Louis EJ, Travisano M (2002) Epistasis and hybrid sterility in Saccharomyces. Proc Biol Sci 269: 1167-1171.
- 21. Mancera E, Bourgon R, Brozzi A, Huber W, Steinmetz LM (2008) Highresolution mapping of meiotic crossovers and non-crossovers in yeast. Nature 454: 479-485.
- 22. Greig D (2009) Reproductive isolation in Saccharomyces. Heredity 102: 39-44.
- 23. Torres EM, Sokolsky T, Tucker CM, Chan LY, Boselli M, et al. (2007) Effects of aneuploidy on cellular physiology and cell division in haploid yeast. Science 317:
- 24. Greig D, Louis EJ, Borts RH, Travisano M (2002) Hybrid speciation in experimental populations of yeast. Science 298: 1773-1775.
- 25. Gerke JP, Chen CT, Cohen BA (2006) Natural isolates of Saccharomyces cerevisiae display complex genetic variation in sporulation efficiency. Genetics 174: 985-997
- 26. Deutschbauer AM, Davis RW (2005) Quantitative trait loci mapped to singlenucleotide resolution in yeast. Nat Genet 37: 1333-1340.
- 27. Cubillos FA, Billi E, Zorgo E, Parts L, Fargier P, et al. (2011) Assessing the complex architecture of polygenic traits in diverged yeast populations. Mol Ecol.
- Kao KC, Schwartz K, Sherlock G (2010) A Genome-Wide Analysis Reveals No Nuclear Dobzhansky-Muller Pairs of Determinants of Speciation between S. cerevisiae and S. paradoxus, but Suggests More Complex Incompatibilities. PLoS Genet 6: e1001038.
- 29. Chou JY, Hung YS, Lin KH, Lee HY, Leu JY (2010) Multiple molecular mechanisms cause reproductive isolation between three yeast species. PLoS Biol 8: e1000432
- 30. Liti G, Carter DM, Moses AM, Warringer J, Parts L, et al. (2009) Population genomics of domestic and wild yeasts. Nature 458: 337-341.
- 31. Nagalakshmi U, Wang Z, Waern K, Shou C, Raha D, et al. (2008) The transcriptional landscape of the yeast genome defined by RNA sequencing. Science 320: 1344-1349.
- 32. Greig D, Leu JY (2009) Natural history of budding yeast. Curr Biol 19: R886-890
- 33. Drummond DA, Wilke CO (2008) Mistranslation-induced protein misfolding as a dominant constraint on coding-sequence evolution. Cell 134: 341-352.
- 34. Zhang J, He X (2005) Significant impact of protein dispensability on the instantaneous rate of protein evolution. Mol Biol Evol 22: 1147-1155.
- 35. Dettman JR, Sirjusingh C, Kohn LM, Anderson JB (2007) Incipient speciation by divergent adaptation and antagonistic epistasis in yeast. Nature 447: 585-588.
- Crow JF, Kimura M (1970) An introduction to population genetics theory. New York: Harper & Row. xiv, 591 p.