Systematic screen for mutants resistant to TORC1 inhibition in fission yeast reveals genes involved in cellular ageing and growth

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Summary
Target of rapamycin complex 1 (TORC1), which controls growth in response to nutrients, promotes ageing in multiple organisms. The fission yeast Schizosaccharomyces pombe emerges as a valuable genetic model system to study TORC1 function and cellular ageing. Here we exploited the combinatorial action of rapamycin and caffeine, which inhibit fission yeast growth in a TORC1-dependent manner. We screened a deletion library, comprising ~84% of all non-essential fission yeast genes, for drug-resistant mutants. This screen identified 33 genes encoding functions such as transcription, kinases, mitochondrial respiration, biosynthesis, intra-cellular trafficking, and stress response. Among the corresponding mutants, 5 showed shortened and 21 showed increased maximal chronological lifespans; 15 of the latter mutants showed no further lifespan increase with rapamycin and might thus represent key targets downstream of TORC1. We pursued the long-lived sck2 mutant with additional functional analyses, revealing that the Sck2p kinase functions within the TORC1 network and is required for normal cell growth, global protein translation, and ribosomal S6 protein phosphorylation in a nutrient-dependent manner. Notably, slow cell growth was associated with all long-lived mutants while oxidative-stress resistance was not.

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Key words: TOR, S. pombe, Cell growth, Chronological lifespan, Oxidative stress, S6 kinase Sck2, Protein translation

Introduction
Lifespan is not invariably fixed but determined by genetic and environmental factors that are remarkably conserved across organisms. Budding yeast (Saccharomyces cerevisiae) has a long track record in providing fundamental insight into molecular mechanisms of cellular ageing (Kaeberlein, 2010). The distantly related fission yeast (Schizosaccharomyces pombe) is only just emerging as a complementary model for ageing; for example, recent studies have explored effects of glucose starvation on chronological lifespan (CLS), which leads to G2-arrest and death within a few days, while caloric restriction extends lifespan (Roux et al., 2009).

TORC1 can be inhibited by rapamycin, which forms an intracellular complex with the isomerase FKBP12 that then binds to the TOR kinase (Wullschleger et al., 2006). Rapamycin shows a strong inhibitory effect on cell growth in budding yeast (Heitman et al., 1991; Koltin et al., 1991). In fission yeast, on the other hand, rapamycin needs to be combined with caffeine for a strong inhibition of cell growth and division (Ikai et al., 2011; Rallis et al., 2013; Weisman and Choder, 2001). In budding yeast, TORC1 is also inhibited by caffeine, which leads to extended lifespan (Wanke et al., 2008), and deletion of TOR pathway genes or treatment with rapamycin prolongs the CLS (Powers et al., 2006). We have recently analysed the effects of caffeine and rapamycin on multiple cellular processes in fission yeast (Rallis et al., 2013). These drugs lead to diverse phenotypes that depend on TORC1 inhibition such as prolonged CLS, inhibition of global translation, and reprogramming of global gene expression mimicking nitrogen starvation.

TORC1 signaling has been intensely studied, but many aspects of this complex regulatory network remain elusive. Further insight into TOR function will be a driving force for the understanding of TORC1 control and cellular ageing, and for the
design of inhibitors that target specific functions of the network. Genetic interactions such as synthetic lethality can identify proteins that impinge on a common essential function (Baryshnikova et al., 2010; Dixon et al., 2009). Similarly, drug-resistant mutants often show functional relationships with the cellular process targeted by the drug (Baryshnikova et al., 2010).

To uncover proteins related to TORC1 signaling and cellular ageing, we exploit here the growth inhibition by rapamycin and caffeine (Rallis et al., 2013; Takahara and Maeda, 2012) to screen a *S. pombe* deletion library for mutants resistant to the two drugs. Most of the identified mutants have not been implicated in TORC1 signaling before, and they often exhibit altered lifespans and growth rates. We perform additional functional analyses for one of the identified mutants that lacks the putative S6 kinase Sck2p. This study provides groundwork to guide future research in fission yeast and more complex organisms.

### Results

**Screen for deletion mutants resistant to rapamycin and caffeine**

Combined treatment of rapamycin and caffeine leads to a complete growth inhibition in fission yeast cells (Rallis et al., 2013; Takahara and Maeda, 2012). Using a library of 3005 deletion mutants, we screened ~84% of all *S. pombe* non-essential genes to identify mutants resistant to the growth inhibition by the two drugs. As drug-resistant mutants often function within the drug-target pathway, we anticipated that this screen should uncover proteins involved in TORC1 signaling and cellular ageing. A series of different concentrations of rapamycin and caffeine was used in pilot experiments to determine the appropriate doses to inhibit the growth of most deletion strains (see also Rallis et al., 2013). A combination of 100 ng/ml rapamycin and 10 mM caffeine proved effective for screening. The library was spotted on control plates as a growth reference and on plates including rapamycin and caffeine (Fig. 1A). We

![Image](Fig_1.png)

**Fig. 1. Screening strategy and lifespan of mutant cells.** (A) Scheme for the genetic screen for deletion mutants resistant to the growth inhibition by rapamycin and caffeine. YES: yeast extract medium control. (B) Brefeldin A (BFA) sensitivity test using spotting assay for the 33 mutant strains identified in screen, using 2 BFA concentrations as indicated. Red outlines: mutants showing increased resistance to BFA. (C) Analysis of available genetic interactions (Ryan et al., 2012) for 23 of the mutants identified in screen. Blue and red lines represent negative and positive interactions, respectively.
conducted four independent biological repeats of the screen, and all mutants scored for drug resistance are shown in supplementary material Table S1. We focussed on 33 mutant hits that scored positive in at least 3 of the 4 repeats (supplementary material Table S2). We also assessed the library for sensitivity to caffeine (supplementary material Table S3); these results are not further discussed but are provided here as a resource for interested colleagues.

To verify the mutants identified from the deletion library, we independently confirmed all 33 mutant hits by PCR of the genomic-marker junctions created by the gene deletions. Moreover, we back-crossed all mutants to a wild-type strain to show co-segregation of the phenotype with the deletion marker, and three selected deletion mutants were independently recreat ed to check for consistency in phenotypes (Fig. 4A, Fig. 6A,B; Materials and Methods).

The 33 drug-resistant mutants were deleted for genes implicated in biosynthesis, mitochondrial functions, stress response, vacuolar trafficking and transcription. The hit list contained 5 genes (par1, sck2, gsk3, ksp1, god1) that have been linked to TORC1 signaling in other organisms (Georis et al., 2008; Inoki et al., 2006; Santhanam et al., 2004; Unekawa and Klionsky, 2012; Urban et al., 2007), suggesting that the screen uncovered relevant genes. As autophagy and meiotic differentiation are linked to TOR in S. pombe (Matsuo et al., 2007; Unekawa and Klionsky, 2012), two more hits could be rationalized with TOR function: agt20, encoding an autophagy-related protein, and mos3, encoding a meiotic transcription factor (Goldar et al., 2005). The latter shows a similar genetic-interaction signature as genes encoding TOR components (Ryan et al., 2012). There were similarities as well as notable differences to available data from S. cerevisiae. For example, budding yeast ksp1 mutants are also resistant to TORC1 inhibition (Huber et al., 2009), whereas whi2 mutants are sensitive unlike the orthologous SPBP4H10.16c mutants in fission yeast that were resistant.

Drug resistance could generally arise from overactive efflux pumps. The ABC transporter Bfr1p functions as the major caffeine exporter in fission yeast (Calvo et al., 2009). Overactive Bfr1p renders cells resistant to an inhibitor of intracellular transport, Brefeldin A (BFA), while cells lacking Bfr1p are hypersensitive to BFA (Nagao et al., 1995). We therefore examined whether our caffeine-resistant mutants are also BFA-resistant, revealing that 7 out of the 33 mutants were resistant to both drugs (Fig. 1B). Thus, 26 of our mutants could not be explained by altered caffeine efflux pump activity. Although the 7 BFA-resistant mutants seem less promising, some of them might still be related to TORC1 function as suggested by further analyses such as requirement for rapamycin-dependent lifespan extension (see below).

We examined the functional relationships among our mutant hits using a genetic interactome study for fission yeast (Ryan et al., 2012). For 25 out of the 33 hits, genetic interaction data were available. Notably, 23 out of these 25 genes showed at least one genetic interaction with other genes deleted in drug-resistant mutants (Fig. 1C). For example, reb1 (one of the BFA-resistant mutants) showed 11 interactions and par1 showed 9 genetic interactions with our other mutant hits. The occurrence of both positive and negative genetic interactions might reflect the complexity of the TORC1 signaling network that includes feedbacks, cross-talks, and partially redundant pathways. We calculated the number of genetic interactions amongst our 33 genes of interest that have been reported before and are listed in BioGRID (Chatr-Aryamontri et al., 2013). A conservative estimate suggests that the number of observed interactions is 6 times higher than expected by chance, indicating a significant enrichment of genetic interactions among our mutant hits (Permutation test; p=0.0001). We conclude that the genes identified by the screen show substantial functional coherence.

**Mutants with altered lifespan**

We measured the CLS for all 33 drug-resistant mutants identified in the screen compared to a control strain with similar genetic background as the deletion library. Overall, 21 and 5 mutants showed increased and decreased maximal lifespans, respectively (Fig. 2; supplementary material Table S4), while 14 and 7 mutants showed increased and decreased median lifespans, respectively (supplementary material Table S4). The proteins corresponding to the short- or long-lived mutants were not enriched for any particular functions. We also tested maximal lifespans of the long-lived mutants after rapamycin treatment (100 ng/ml): 15 out of the 21 mutants showed no additional extension of maximal CLS when treated with rapamycin (Fig. 3; supplementary material Table S5; indicated with asterisks in Fig. 2). The median CLS for 4 of these mutants (ppr1, hsp104, SPBP35G2.11c, car2) was further increased following rapamycin treatment (p<0.05). The other 11 proteins may therefore be key targets for the full rapamycin-mediated effects on lifespan extension. The remaining 6 out of 21 long-lived mutants did exhibit an additional extension of maximal CLS when treated with rapamycin (supplementary material Fig. S1; p<0.05).

Besides determining CLS with classical colony forming assays, we also established two approaches more suitable for large-scale analyses. First, we defined the time (lag phase) taken for all mutants to resume rapid growth following dilution from OD600 0.6 to 0.1. We then determined the time taken for the mutants to resume growth after 3 days in stationary phase (Powers et al., 2006). The lag phase observed in this experiment reflects a combination of growth rate and proportion of dead cells within the cultures. To obtain a measure of dead cells, we subtracted the lag phase obtained from the dilution experiment (which is based on live cells only) from the lag phase obtained in the stationary phase experiment. Owing to a lower proportion of live cells, short-lived mutant cultures are expected to resume growth later than wild-type cultures while long-lived cultures should resume growth earlier. Using this method, we validated all results for short- and long-lived mutants observed using the classical CLS assays (Fig. 4A, solid red circles). We further verified that the drug-resistant mutants from the Bioneer library contained deletions in the correct genes. To this end, we back-crossed all 33 mutants to a wild-type strain, which resulted in prototroph mutants showing co-segregation of the deletion marker with CLS phenotypes similar to those of the original library mutants (Fig. 4A, open red circles). Moreover, three mutants, sck2, gsk3 and reb1, were independently recreated using standard PCR-based gene deletion (Bähler et al., 1998), with sck2 being separately deleted using both ura4 and kanMX6 markers. The resulting four mutants also showed CLS phenotypes consistent with those of the corresponding library mutants (Fig. 4A, black circles), and in agreement with the classical CLS assays.
As a second approach, we measured the proportion of phloxin B-stained dead cells at successive days in stationary phase, normalised by the number of cells used to obtain the measurements (Fig. 4B). As expected, mutants that resumed growth more rapidly than wild type after three days in stationary phase showed lower phloxin B staining (Fig. 4A,B). The three approaches to determine lifespan correlated reasonably well with each other: mutants with long CLS tend to accumulate less phloxin B and resume growth earlier after stationary phase (Fig. 4C). However, there were a few discrepancies as might be expected; for example, not all cells that fail to grow become immediately phloxin B positive, and the time to resume growth will also depend on the growth kinetics of mutant cells. We propose that the time to resume growth and phloxin B staining provide effective alternative approaches to estimate lifespan for larger-scale assays, which can then be validated using the more time-consuming CLS assay.

Among the 26 short- and long-lived mutants (Fig. 2), only sck2Δ was previously reported to be long-lived in S. pombe (Chen and Runge, 2009; Roux et al., 2006); this mutant is deleted for the putative S6 kinase Sck2p and is further analysed below. Among the remaining 25 S. pombe mutants, only 2 orthologous mutants have been reported to show altered lifespans, and they are short-lived in budding yeast but long-lived in fission yeast (supplementary material Table S2). In addition, one of our 7 mutant hits that showed no effect on lifespan is long-lived in budding yeast (supplementary material Table S2). Thus, our screen uncovered mainly genetic factors not previously known to be involved in cellular ageing, highlighting the complementary insight provided by fission yeast.

Sck2p kinase functions in cell growth and protein translation
We followed up the long-lived sck2Δ mutant with additional functional analyses. To verify the screen result, we first demonstrated that independently generated sck2Δ cells, unlike wild-type cells, showed no caffeine and rapamycin-induced growth inhibition (Fig. 5A).

To reveal global functional relationships of Sck2p, we performed a Synthetic Genetic Array analysis (SGA) (Baryshnikova et al., 2010). We crossed sck2Δ cells against all the other deletion mutants in the library. A control SGA using ade6::natMX4 as a query (that does not alter the fitness of the deletion collection) was performed in parallel and used for colony normalisation. Genetic interactions in three independent experimental repeats were scored. This analysis revealed 112 and 79 genes that showed negative and positive genetic interactions, respectively (supplementary material Table S6). Negative genetic interactions were enriched for the following Gene Ontology categories (supplementary material Table S6): Transcription, RNA Metabolic Process, including genes for tRNA processing, and Signal Transducer Activity/Signal Transduction. The latter lists include genes of the Pka1p cAMP-dependent protein kinase signalling pathway. This finding is consistent with data showing that Sck2p affects lifespan independently of Pka1p (Chen and Runge, 2009; Roux et al., 2006). Positive genetic interactions were enriched for the Gene Ontology categories Organelle.
Organisation and Biogenesis, and Signal Transduction. The first category includes genes for chromatin organisation and chromosome segregation, while the second category includes genes for cell-cycle regulation, cell growth as well as core components of the TORC1 pathway (supplementary material Table S6). Furthermore, mutants in genes regulating autophagy (\textit{aut12}, \textit{arg17}) and phospholipid metabolism (\textit{plb1}) also positively interacted with \textit{sck2}. As positive genetic interactions are often occurring within the same pathway, these data are fully consistent with Sck2p functioning within the TORC1 network.

To uncover genes required for the caffeine and rapamycin resistance of \textit{sck2} cells, we tested all double mutants that showed positive genetic interactions with \textit{sck2} for drug resistance. Interestingly, none of these positive interactors were drug resistant. This analysis uncovered 26 double mutants with similar drug sensitivity to wild-type cells (Fig. 5B). The corresponding genes include \textit{tco89}, encoding a core component of the TORC1 component, autophagy-related genes, and several genes required in cell-cycle regulation. This analysis also uncovered 9 double mutants that actually showed higher drug resistance than \textit{sck2} single mutants (Fig. 5B). The corresponding genes include \textit{tsc2}, encoding a negative regulator of TORC1 signalling, which could explain that double mutants can better overcome TORC1 inhibition by the drugs.

The genetic interaction data suggested that Sck2p is involved in cellular growth control and TORC1 function. Intriguingly, \textit{sck2} cells were smaller upon division, while overexpression of \textit{sck2} resulted in increased cell size compared to wild type (Fig. 5C). These results indicate that Sck2p is involved in cell-size and/or cell-growth control, the latter being corroborated by a slow-growth phenotype of \textit{sck2} cells (Fig. 6B).

Although Sck2p is a putative S6 kinase based on sequence similarity, recent data indicate that it is not required for S6 ribosomal protein phosphorylation (Nakashima et al., 2012). To test whether Sck2p can control protein translation, we compared translational profiles of wild type with 3 independently generated \textit{sck2} strains (deleted with \textit{ura4}, \textit{kanMX6}, and \textit{natMX6} markers), each experiment repeated 3 times independently (i.e. 3 wild-type and 9 \textit{sck2} repeats). The Polysome-to-Monosome (P/M) ratios
in sck2Δ cells were consistently ~30% lower than in wild-type cells (Fig. 5D; supplementary material Table S7), indicating fewer transcripts occupied with ribosomes in sck2Δ cells. This result indicates that Sck2p can positively affect global translation. This analysis was performed with rich YES media while Nakashima et al. did their experiments with minimal EMM media (Nakashima et al., 2012). We therefore analysed the phosphorylation status of S6 ribosomal proteins in different media. Interestingly, in YES, sck2Δ cells did show reduced S6 phosphorylation, while S6 phosphorylation was not affected in EMM glutamate (Fig. 5E). As reported (Nakashima et al., 2012), Sck2p was also not required for S6 phosphorylation in standard EMM (ammonium chloride as nitrogen source; data not shown).

We conclude that Sck2p is involved in S6 phosphorylation in a medium-dependent manner, suggesting that it functions as an S6 kinase depending on available nutrients.

Oxidative stress resistance is not linked with lifespan

Resistance to oxidative or other stresses has been associated with increased CLS (Roux et al., 2009; Zuin et al., 2010).
therefore determined the resistance to oxidative stress in the CLS mutant strains. Two results were notable (supplementary material Fig. S2). First, mutants deleted for functionally related genes did not always exhibit the same phenotypes; for example, of the two endosome genes, the \textit{atg20} \textit{D} mutant was sensitive to H2O2, while the \textit{shd1} \textit{D} mutant was resistant. Second, increased stress resistance was often not associated with increased CLS.

To quantitatively determine stress resistance, we assessed the growth dynamics of CLS mutants in the absence and presence of H2O2. Rapidly growing YES cultures were diluted to \textit{OD600} 0.15 using YES. Cells were then grown in the absence or presence of the stressor. Oxidative stress led to an extended lag phase compared to untreated control cells before growth resumed (supplementary material Fig. S2). Analogous to Fig. 4A, stress-resistant or -sensitive mutants should therefore show shorter or longer lag phases before resuming growth, respectively, compared to wild-type cells. For long-lived mutants, we assessed the original deletion library strains (Fig. 6A, solid red circles), the prototroph back-crossed mutants (Fig. 6A, open red circles) as well as two deletion mutants that were independently reconstituted (Fig. 6A, black circles). For short-lived mutants, we assessed the original deletion library strains (Fig. 6A, solid blue circles) and the prototroph back-crossed mutants (Fig. 6A, open blue circles). As for CLS (Fig. 4A), the independent mutants deleted for the same genes showed similar phenotypes with respect to oxidative stress resistance. Notably, CLS and oxidative stress resistance were poorly correlated: long-lived mutants showed a broad and continuous phenotypic range, from more sensitive to more resistant to oxidative stress than wild type (Fig. 6A). The short-lived mutants seemed to show some tendency towards higher stress sensitivity, but our sample only included five such mutants. We conclude that the increased resistance to oxidative stress is not necessarily associated with longer CLS.

\section*{Slow cell growth is linked to long lifespan}

The CLS mutants reached different maximum cell densities, probably reflecting different efficiencies in utilising available nutrients (supplementary material Fig. S3). Relative to their CLS phenotypes, the mutants did not show any bias with respect to the maximal cell densities reached, which ranged from much lower to much higher than wild type (supplementary material Fig. S3). To further analyse the mutants’ growth properties, we calculated the relative maximum biomass increase as an indicator for growth...
rate (Fig. 6B). Again, this analysis included the original deletion library strains (Fig. 6B, solid circles), prototroph back-crossed mutants (Fig. 6B, open circles), and three independently generated mutants (Fig. 6B, black circles). Notably, all long-lived mutants showed lower growth rates compared to wild type, while 3 of 5 short-lived mutants showed the same or higher growth rates. The 2 short-lived mutants with lower growth rates were deleted for the ortholog of the mitochondrial protein BRP44L (encoded by \textit{SPCC1235.11}) and the prefoldin subunit 1 (encoded by \textit{SPBC1D7.01}); these mutants may be severely impaired for energy production and protein quality control, respectively.

We conclude that in our mutants a slow growth rate was more directly linked to long CLS than oxidative stress resistance. Accordingly, the \textit{S. pombe} mutants previously reported as long-lived are known to grow slowly, including \textit{git3A}, \textit{gpa2A}, \textit{pka1A} and \textit{sck2A} (Roux et al., 2009). The first three of these mutants are not thought to be directly involved in TORC1 function and were not identified in our screen. This result, together with the genetic interaction data (Fig. 1C), illustrates the specificity of the screen for TORC1-related factors.

**Discussion**

A challenge of ageing research remains to uncover all genetic factors determining longevity. We exploited the TORC1-mediated growth inhibition of rapamycin and caffeine to uncover 33 deletion mutants that are resistant to the two drugs. Many of the corresponding genes are expected to function within the TORC1 network. Accordingly, most of the drug-resistant mutants showed altered CLS and growth characteristics. Fig. 6C provides an overview of the identified genes put in a cellular and functional context.
Mitochondria and respiration have been implicated in ageing. Cells deleted for the evolutionary conserved 2-oxoglutarate hydrogenase (encoded by \textit{SPBC3H7.03c}), which functions in the Krebs cycle, were long-lived in our assays. Intriguingly, data from worm (Hamilton et al., 2005) point to a direct lifespan benefit through mild impairment of the Krebs cycle. Indeed, impaired respiration slows standard behavioural rates in worm, upregulates genes involved in cell protection, and activates a pathway known as ‘retrograde response’ (Cristina et al., 2009). The reduced function of these enzymes might decrease the tempo or mode of energy generation, which could regulate longevity through mechanisms similar to caloric restriction. On the other hand, cells deleted for the acetyl-CoA transporter gene \textit{SPAC17H9.08} were short-lived. Besides its function in cellular respiration, the acetyl-CoA transporter also functions in the mevalonate pathway, controlled by the Sty1p stress-activated kinase, and is crucial, among others, for membrane maintenance and integrity (Burg et al., 2008). The short lifespan of this transporter mutant might therefore reflect compromised pathways connected to energy status and cell integrity. Cells lacking the succinate dehydrogenase gene \textit{sdh1} were also short-lived. This finding might reflect that Sdh1p is the only enzyme participating in both the Krebs cycle and in the mitochondrial electron transport chain. Thus, similarly to the acetyl-CoA transporter, more than one process is impaired in \textit{sdh1A} mutants, which may compromise lifespan. Finally, cells deleted for a short chain dehydrogenase gene (\textit{SPAC52I.03}) showed no changes in lifespan. Although, this enzyme is also implicated in respiration, there are 13 short chain dehydrogenases in \textit{S. pombe}, and the absence of phenotype could therefore reflect functional redundancy.

TORC1 is linked with autophagy, which involves vesicle trafficking to recycle cell materials. Loss of two proteins with roles in endocytosis led to long-lived cells: Atg20p, a sorting nexin, and Shd1p, a cytoskeleton-binding protein. A recent report highlights intriguing relationships between neurodegenerative diseases induced by necrosis and endocytosis (Troulaki and Tavernarakis, 2012).

Proper partitioning of damaged proteins between old and new cells is important for replicative lifespan, both in budding and fission yeast (Erjavec et al., 2008). The partitioning requires the protein aggregation remodeling factor Hsp104p whose overexpression increases replicative lifespan in budding yeast (Erjavec et al., 2007). We found that the \textit{hsp104A} mutant had long CLS. This result highlights that the impact of a protein on CLS may be different from that on replicative lifespan.

The relationship between oxidative stress resistance and cellular ageing is much debated in the field. Intriguingly, among the mutant hits identified in our screen, slow growth rather than oxidative stress resistance was associated with longevity. These results suggest that the link between oxidative stress and lifespan (Zuin et al., 2010) might be context-dependent in fission yeast. Our results are consistent with data from worm and flies showing that longevity and stress resistance are not necessarily linked (Blagosklonny, 2008; Doonan et al., 2008), and they are in accordance with the idea that hyper-function of TOR signaling causes ageing (Blagosklonny, 2008; Gems and Doonan, 2009).

**Materials and Methods**

**Strains and media**

For wild-type control strains, we used 972 \textit{h}+, the parental strains for the deletion library, ED666 (\textit{h}+ \textit{ade6-M210 ura4-D18 leu1–32}) and ED668 (\textit{h}+ \textit{ade6-
M216 aoa4-D18 leu1-32). The deletion strains for the screen were obtained from the Bioneer version 2.0 library, which includes 3005 mutants (~84% of all non-essential genes). The sck2 overexpression strain was from the ORFeome collection (Matsuyama et al., 2006). Cell cultures were grown as indicated in yeast extract plus supplements (YES) unless stated otherwise. Deletion strains were backcrossed to 972 h and sequential selections were performed in G418-containing YES agar plates and EMXC plates supplemented with lysine for 57A strains. Liquid cultures were grown at 32°C with shaking at 130 rotations per minute.

Drug sensitivity and stress assays

Cells were grown in liquid YES to an OD600 of 0.5. Ten-fold serial dilutions of cells were spotted, using replica platers for 48-well or 96-well plates (Sigma), onto YES agar plates, with or without H2O2 (0.5 mM, 1 mM and 2 mM), KCl (0.5 M and 1 M), caffeine and rapamycin (10 mM and 100 ng/ml, respectively), or Brefeldin A (40 μM and 80 μM). Plates were incubated at 32°C.

Measurement of cell size at division

Control and drug-treated cells were fixed in 4% formaldehyde for 10 min. at room temperature, washed with 50 mM sodium citrate, 100 mM sodium phosphate, and stained with calcotr or (50 μg/ml). Cells were photographed in a Zeiss microscope using the Velocity acquisition program (PerkinElmer). At least 100 septated cells were counted and analyzed for each condition using the Velocity quantitation package (PerkinElmer).

High-throughput genetic screening

The haploid deletion library was plated onto YES plates containing G418 using a RoToR HDA robot (Singer). Multiple replicate copies of the library were thus obtained. Using the RoToR, the library was compacted into a manageable number of plates and then printed onto plates containing 10 mM caffeine, both singly and in combination with 100 ng/ml rapamycin. Plates containing rapamycin only were not used beyond test experiments, because the mutants showed no differential growth in rapamycin compared to the untreated controls. The plates were incubated at 32°C for 2 days and then manually scored.

Growth assay

Growth curves under normal and stress conditions were automatically determined by the Biologic microfermentation system (m2p-biolabs), using 48-well flowplates, at 1.5 ml volume, 1000 rpm and 32°C. The growth dynamics, maximum growth slopes, and maximum cell densities were calculated using the grofit R package (Kahm et al., 2010). In the resulting growth graphs, units of x-axis are time (hours) while the y-axis shows biomass (arbitrary units) normalized to biomass at time 0.

Chronological lifespan assay

Cells were grown in YES as described (Roux et al., 2009). When cultures reached a stable maximal density, cells were harvested, serially diluted and plated on YES plates. Colony Forming Units (CFUs) were measured at timepoint 0 at the beginning of the CLS curve (i.e. 100% cell survival). CFU measurements were then conducted daily until cultures reached 0.1–1% of the initial cell survival. Error bars represent standard deviations calculated from three independent repeats, with each point measured at least three times at each time point. The reference strains for CLS assays were ED666 and ED668 with same genetic background as the control query SGA (representing the fitness of the library single mutant strains) was calculated as colony sizes. These values were multiplied by the colony-size ratio of sck2 relative to ade6 mutants, representing the fitness of the query. The result was divided by the fitness of the double mutants of the sck2 query. A ratio less than 1 indicated that the double mutant grows worse than the additive combination of the individual single mutants. For our scoring, relative colony-size cutoffs of 0.8 and 1.2 were used for negative and positive interactions, respectively.

Estimation of enrichment in genetic interactions

To statistically assess the number of documented genetic interactions between the hits, we performed permutation tests as previously described (Zhang et al., 2009). Unique genetic interactions for the genes were downloaded from BioGRID (Chatr-Aryamontri et al., 2013), ignoring interactions found more than once. Ten thousand random sets of 25 genes (same number as genetic interactions annotated in BioGRID among our mutant hits) were checked for annotated genetic interactions. Only 2.7 interactions were found on average, compared to 18 interactions in our set of interest, with only 1 random set showing >18 interactions (p<0.0001).

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Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: C.R., L.L.-M. and J.B. Performed the experiments: C.R., L.L.-M. and T.G. Analyzed the data: C.R., J.B. and V.P. Wrote the paper: C.R. and J.B.

Competing Interests

The authors have no competing interests to declare.

References


Fig. S1. Comparison of chronological lifespans of long-lived mutants with (red curves, rap) or without (blue) rapamycin treatment during the growth phase.

Fig. S2. Qualitative and quantitative analysis of stress sensitivity phenotypes of mutant cells. (A) Serial dilutions of mutant cells on plates. In the presence or absence of different concentrations of KCl and H2O2 as indicated. The wild-type reference strain (wt) and different deletion mutants analysed are indicated at left using common names when available and systematic names otherwise. (B) Analysis of growth kinetics in the absence (top) or presence (bottom) of 0.5 mM H2O2. Solid red vertical lines indicate the beginning of growth (end of lag phase), and the red hatched lines indicate maximal growth. The y-axes are relative to time zero biomass measured by light scattering that measures both number and size of cells.
Fig. S3. Growth and maximum cell density analysis of mutant cells. Maximum growth densities do not correlate with longevity. (A) Growth patterns of the 33 mutants from our screen. The y-axes show arbitrary units relative to time zero biomass that is measured by light scattering and is the result of cell counts and cell size. (B) Long- (red dots) or short-lived (blue dots) mutants can grow to either smaller or larger maximum cell densities than the 4 repeated experiments of wild-type reference cells.