



# Comprehensive metabolic profiling of *Geotrichum candidum* and comparison with *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

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1 **Title**

2 Comprehensive metabolic profiling of *Geotrichum candidum* and comparison with  
3 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

4

5 **Short title**

6 Comprehensive metabolic profiling of *G. candidum*

7

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6

**1 Abstract**

2 *Geotrichum candidum* is a dimorphic yeast used in cheese processing. However, to our  
3 knowledge, no major metabolites have been identified to date in *G. candidum* except for  
4 some amino acid and fatty acid metabolites. This has limited research on the commercial  
5 use of *G. candidum*. In this study, we aimed to analyze temporal changes in the intra- and  
6 extra-cellular metabolites of *G. candidum* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* as reference,  
7 cultured in YM medium. As a result of metabolite analysis, *G. candidum* proclivity to  
8 accumulate the pentose phosphate pathway compounds, which is involved in nucleic acid  
9 synthesis, after 48 h of cultivation in comparison to *S. cerevisiae*. In addition, *G.*  
10 *candidum* accumulated higher amounts of the antioxidant glutathione in the medium than  
11 did *S. cerevisiae*. In addition, *G. candidum* accumulated large amounts of B vitamins such  
12 as pantothenic acid and nicotinic acid in the medium. Finally, we examined the potential  
13 of *G. candidum* as a host for the production of useful compounds, such as pantothenic  
14 acid. When cultured in medium supplemented with the pantothenic acid precursor  $\beta$ -  
15 alanine, *G. candidum* produced 12-fold higher amounts of pantothenic acid (30  $\mu$ M) than  
16 that by *S. cerevisiae*. This study indicates that *G. candidum* accumulates various useful  
17 compounds that are dissimilar to those produced by *S. cerevisiae*. Furthermore, *G.*  
18 *candidum* has the potential to produce useful chemicals under appropriate culture  
19 conditions.

20

**21 Keywords**

22 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Geotrichum candidum*, Ultrastructure, Metabolome analysis,  
23 Pantothenic acid

24

25

## 1 Introduction

2 Yeasts have been widely used to produce various foods and metabolites; for example,  
3 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is used in the production of beer, bread, and wine (1), and  
4 yeasts such as *Geotrichum candidum* are important for the surface ripening of cheese (2).  
5 *G. candidum* is a dimorphic yeast existing in, both, the yeast and hyphal forms (3). This  
6 morphological switch may be associated with gene expression and/or metabolomic  
7 changes. Certain strains of *S. cerevisiae* are known to undergo a morphological change to  
8 pseudohyphal due to changes in gene expression upon nitrogen starvation (4). However,  
9 the determinants of *G. candidum* dimorphism and the effects of cell morphology on  
10 cheese production remain unknown.

11 The key to the ideal utilization of yeast is to understand the distinct metabolomic features  
12 of each yeast strain. This understanding has further developed by recent advances in the  
13 mass spectrometry (MS)-based identification and quantification of metabolites, leading  
14 to the data-driven engineering of yeasts to optimize fermentation or the production of  
15 useful metabolites. This is particularly true for the model yeast *S. cerevisiae*, in which  
16 metabolomic data can be readily validated by genetic manipulation and multi-omics  
17 information can be integrated (5).

18 In a previous study, we developed an ion pair-free liquid chromatography-tandem mass  
19 spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) method for quantitative metabolite profiling, which permitted  
20 the high-precision quantification of more than 100 metabolites (6). In the present study,  
21 we used this method and aimed to characterize metabolites from *G. candidum* using *S.*  
22 *cerevisiae* as a reference strain. Majority of the metabolic pathways in *S. cerevisiae* have  
23 been extensively characterized and a well-developed metabolic and genetic database.  
24 (*Saccharomyces* Genome Database; <https://www.yeastgenome.org>). On the other hand,  
25 although the absence of a dedicated database for *G. candidum*, genomic information is

1 readily accessible (Genbank accession number; GCA\_001402995.1) (7). A limited  
2 number of research have been conducted regarding the metabolic processes of *G.*  
3 *candidum*. In a previous study, the metabolism of sulphur amino acids, branched-chain  
4 amino acids, and fatty acids, which are involved in the production of volatile compounds  
5 that affect the flavor of cheese, was investigated in *G. candidum* (8). On the other hand,  
6 in this study, we conducted a comprehensive analysis of an expanded array of metabolites  
7 encompassing central metabolic pathways in yeast, in order to explore novel applications  
8 of *G. candidum*, including the production of valuable chemical compounds. This study  
9 also may provide some insights regarding the dimorphism of yeast at the molecular level  
10 and its applications in cheese ripening and other industrial applications.

11

## 12 **Materials and methods**

### 13 **Strains and media**

14 *G. candidum* ATCC 204307 (ATCC, Manassas, VA, USA) and *S. cerevisiae* BY4741  
15 (Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) were used in this study. Precultivation was  
16 performed in a test tube with 10 mL yeast and mold (YM) medium [3.0 g/L yeast extract  
17 (Difco Laboratories, Detroit, MI, USA), 3.0 g/L malt extract, 5.0 g/L peptone, and 10 g/L  
18 glucose] in a shaker incubator at 180 rpm for 48 h at 25 °C. For metabolome analysis, the  
19 precultured cells were then inoculated into a new shake flask with 200 mL YM medium  
20 to an initial optical density at 600 nm (OD<sub>600</sub>) of 0.5, and cultivated in a shaker incubator  
21 at 180 rpm and 25 °C. For pantothenic acid production, the glucose concentration in the  
22 YM medium was varied to 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, or 100 g/L, under the same conditions.

23

### 24 **Transmission electron microscopy**

25 Yeast cells were collected from 5 mL of culture medium after main cultivation by

1 centrifugation at  $3,000 \times g$  for 5 min at 4 °C. Collected cells were washed thrice with  
2 distilled water. Cells were prefixed with 2 % glutaraldehyde in 40 mM phosphate buffer  
3 pH 7.2 (9). The samples were washed thrice with 100 mM phosphate buffer. Post-fixation  
4 was performed with 1.2 % potassium permanganate overnight at 4 °C and embedded in  
5 Epon812. Ultrathin sections were stained with 4 % uranyl acetate and 0.4 % lead citrate,  
6 and observed using a transmission electron microscope (TEM; JEM 1011; JEOL, Tokyo,  
7 Japan) operating at 80 kV.

8

### 9 **Sample preparation for metabolome analysis**

10 Intracellular metabolites were prepared using leakage-free quenching and cold methanol  
11 extraction (10). Briefly, 5 mL of broth was withdrawn and injected (<1 s) into a tube  
12 containing 7 mL of pure methanol cooled to -40 °C. The mixture was quickly vortexed  
13 and placed back in the cryostat (-40 °C). The extracellular medium was obtained using  
14 centrifugation at  $5000 \times g$  and -20 °C for 5 min. After decantation, 10  $\mu$ L of 17  $\mu$ M (+)-  
15 10-camphorsulfonic acid was added to the samples as an internal standard. For  
16 determining dry cell weight, yeast cells were collected from 5 mL of broth by  
17 centrifugation at  $5,000 \times g$  for 5 min. Collected cells were washed twice with distilled  
18 water, and then freeze-dried using the FreeZone 2.5 Plus system (Labconco, Kansas City,  
19 MO, USA).

20

### 21 **Metabolite analysis using LC-MS/MS**

22 Quantitative analysis of more than 100 metabolites, including organic acids, amino acids,  
23 nucleosides, nucleotides, coenzymes, and other small molecules, was performed using  
24 LC-MS/MS as described previously (6). The LC-MS/MS system consisted of a Nexera  
25 X2 high-performance liquid chromatograph and an LCMS-8060 triple-quadrupole mass

1 spectrometer (Shimadzu Corporation, Kyoto, Japan). LC-MS/MS analysis was  
2 performed using the following conditions: column, Discovery HS F5-3 (2.1 mm × 150  
3 mm, particle size: 3 μm, pentafluorophenylpropyl as a stationary phase, Sigma-Aldrich);  
4 mobile phase, 0.1 % (v/v) formic acid in water (A) and 0.1 % (v/v) formic acid in  
5 acetonitrile (B); The flow rate was 0.25 mL/min with a gradient of 0-2 min - 0 % B, 2-5  
6 min - linear gradient from 0 % B to 25 %, 5-11 min - linear gradient from 25 % B to 35 %,  
7 11-15 min - linear gradient from 35 % B to 95 %, 15-20 min - kept at 95 % B; 20–20.1  
8 min - linear gradient from 95 % B to 0 %, 20.1-35 min - kept at 0 % B (re-equilibrate);  
9 injection volume: 3 μL; column temperature, 40 °C; nebulizer flow, 3.0 L/min, drying gas  
10 flow, 10.0 L/min; heating gas flow, 10 L/min; desolvation line temperature, 250 °C;  
11 interface temperature, 300 °C; block heater temperature, 400 °C. The other MS  
12 parameters were determined via auto-tuning. The acquired data were analyzed for peak  
13 selection using Traverse MS (version 1.2; Reifycs Inc., Tokyo, Japan). The multiple  
14 reaction monitoring conditions, including the collision energy and fragmentation voltage  
15 of each metabolite, were set automatically with the aid of LabSolution (Shimadzu), using  
16 a standard solution (1 μmol/L).

17

### 18 **High-performance liquid chromatographic analysis**

19 Glucose and ethanol concentrations in the fermentation medium were analyzed using a  
20 high-performance liquid chromatograph (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) equipped with an  
21 Aminex HPX-87H column (7.8 mm × 300 mm, particle size 9 μm; Bio-Rad, Hercules,  
22 CA, USA) and a RID-10A refractive-index detector (Shimadzu). The system was  
23 operated at 65 °C, with 5 mM H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> as the mobile phase at a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min.

24

### 25 **Ammonia analysis of culture medium**

1 Ammonia concentration in the culture supernatant was assessed using LabAssay™  
2 Ammonia (Fujifilm Wako Pure Chemical Corporation, Osaka, Japan) according to the  
3 manufacturer's protocol.

4

#### 5 **Glycogen analysis**

6 Yeast cells were collected from 1.5 mL of culture medium after main cultivation by  
7 centrifugation at  $3,000 \times g$  for 5 min at 4 °C. Collected cells were washed twice with  
8 distilled water and then freeze-dried using the FreeZone 2.5 Plus system (Labconco).  
9 Extraction and analysis of intracellular glycogen was determined as described previously  
10 (11).

11

#### 12 **Results and discussion**

##### 13 **Growth profiles of *S. cerevisiae* BY4741 and *G. candidum* ATCC 204307 in YM** 14 **medium**

15 We cultured *G. candidum* and *S. cerevisiae* as reference organisms in YM  
16 medium. The glucose-consumption rate of *S. cerevisiae* (0.61 g/L/h) was approximately  
17 1.8 times faster than that of *G. candidum* (0.34 g/L/h) (Fig. 1A). *S. cerevisiae* produced  
18 glycerol (1.1 g/L) and ethanol (5.4 g/L) at 48 h of culture, whereas *G. candidum* did not  
19 produce these metabolites (Fig. 1B,C). The maximum cell amount of *S. cerevisiae*  
20 reached 2.5 g-dry cell weight/L, whereas that of *G. candidum* reached 8.3 g-dry cell  
21 weight/L at 48 h and 72 h of cultivation, respectively (Fig. 1D). *G. candidum* showed a  
22 high cell density without ethanol production, suggesting that it is a Crabtree-negative  
23 yeast strain. The initial pH of the medium was approximately 6.2; with *S. cerevisiae*, the  
24 pH decreased continuously during culture and reached a value of 4.4 after 168 h of  
25 cultivation (Fig. 1E), whereas with *G. candidum*, the pH decreased to 4.3 after 24 h of

1 cultivation and then slowly increased to 6.1 after 168 h of cultivation.

### 3 **Metabolome analyses of *S. cerevisiae* BY4741 and *G. candidum* ATCC 204307**

4 To characterize the metabolism of *G. candidum*, intracellular and extracellular  
5 metabolites from *S. cerevisiae* BY4741 and *G. candidum* ATCC 204307 (at 4, 8, 24, 48,  
6 72, 96, 120, 144, and 168 h of cultivation) were quantitatively analyzed using LC-MS/MS.

7 The intracellular amounts of pentose phosphate (PP) pathway compounds, such  
8 as fructose 6-phosphate, xylulose 5-phosphate, sedoheptulose 7-phosphate, and ribulose  
9 5-phosphate, increased in *G. candidum* compared to those in *S. cerevisiae* after 48 h of  
10 culture (Fig. S1), when glucose was depleted. The major tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle  
11 compounds detected in the culture media differed between *S. cerevisiae* and *G. candidum*  
12 (Fig. S2). *S. cerevisiae* showed higher extracellular accumulation of 2-oxoglutarate,  
13 succinate, fumarate, and malate than those in *G. candidum* after 48 h of cultivation. In  
14 contrast, the accumulations of citrate, aconitate, and isocitrate were higher in *G. candidum*  
15 than those in *S. cerevisiae* after 48 h of culture.

16 There was no difference in nucleic acid accumulation between *S. cerevisiae* and  
17 *G. candidum* (data not shown). However, accumulations of the nucleobases, uracil and  
18 thymine, and ribonucleosides, guanosine, uridine, and cytidine, were higher in the culture  
19 medium of *G. candidum* than those in the culture medium of *S. cerevisiae* (Fig. S3).

20 The intracellular accumulation of major amino acids (except methionine) was  
21 lower in *G. candidum* than that in *S. cerevisiae* (Fig. 2). In *S. cerevisiae*, methionine and  
22 asparagine were completely consumed, whereas most of the other amino acids remained  
23 in the medium (Fig. 3). In contrast, in *G. candidum*, almost all amino acids, except  
24 glutamate and aspartate, were depleted from the medium after 72 h of cultivation. As an  
25 amino acid-related compound with characteristic differences, the accumulation of 4-

1 hydroxyproline, a proline derivative, in the culture medium was higher in *G. candidum*  
2 than that in *S. cerevisiae* (Fig. S4). The tripeptides, glutathione and ophthalmic acid, are  
3 known antioxidants. The intracellular accumulation of these compounds was higher in *S.*  
4 *cerevisiae* than that in *G. candidum* (Fig. S5A). In contrast, the extracellular accumulation  
5 of these compounds was higher in *G. candidum* (Fig. S5B).

6       Regarding water-soluble B vitamins, *G. candidum* accumulated more  
7 pantothenic acid (vitamin B5) in the medium than that by *S. cerevisiae* (Fig. S6). Both  
8 the strains accumulated similar amounts of niacinamide (vitamin B3) in the culture  
9 medium, whereas nicotinic acid accumulation was slightly higher in *G. candidum* than  
10 that in *S. cerevisiae*. In contrast *S. cerevisiae* accumulated more intracellular niacinamide  
11 and nicotinic acid than did *G. candidum* (Fig. S7). Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide  
12 (NAD) and nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide hydrogen (NADH), which are derivatives  
13 of niacinamide, accumulated to a greater extent in *S. cerevisiae* than those in *G. candidum*.  
14 NAD and NADH are involved in aging and longevity, and have recently attracted  
15 industrial attention.

16       Among the vitamin-like compounds, dimethylglycine and the choline  
17 derivatives acetylcholine, carnitine, and acetylcarnitine were more abundant in *G.*  
18 *candidum* than those in *S. cerevisiae* (Fig. S6).

19       Metabolomic analysis showed that *G. candidum* intracellularly accumulated PP-  
20 pathway compounds and extracellularly accumulated nucleic acids. As *G. candidum* is  
21 superior to *S. cerevisiae* in growth, it is reasonable that *G. candidum* synthesizes higher  
22 amounts of these growth-essential compounds than does *S. cerevisiae*. The Crabtree-  
23 negative yeasts, *Pichia pastoris* and *Candida utilis*, are known to have stronger metabolic  
24 fluxes in the PP pathway than those in *S. cerevisiae* (12). One reason for the intra- and  
25 extracellular accumulation of glutathione and ophthalmic acid in both *S. cerevisiae* and

1 *G. candidum* may be a reduction in oxidative stress. Glutathione is a cellular antioxidant  
2 currently being investigated. Many antioxidants used to block oxidative stress are  
3 chemically converted into oxidation products that react with glutathione to form  
4 glutathione adducts, which protect against free radicals (13,14). Ophthalmic acid is an  
5 analogue of glutathione, wherein the cysteine group of glutathione is replaced by L-2-  
6 aminobutyrate; it has recently attracted attention as a biomarker of oxidative stress and is  
7 presumed to have an antioxidant effect similar to that of glutathione (15, 16).

8         In *S. cerevisiae*, the pH in the medium gradually decreased during cultivation. In  
9 contrast, in *G. candidum*, the pH of the medium initially decreased but gradually  
10 increased after glucose depletion (Fig. 1E). A similar trend in pH was also reported in a  
11 previous study of *G. candidum* (17). *G. candidum* can utilize sugars, such as glucose, and  
12 amino acids as carbon sources; the consumption of amino acids contributes to the  
13 formation of ammonium ions, thus increasing pH (17). In this study, *G. candidum*  
14 consumed most of the amino acids that were originally present in the medium or released  
15 after 72 h of culture. In contrast, some amino acids, such as cysteine and aspartic acid,  
16 were not consumed by *G. candidum*. In addition, some organic acids such as succinate,  
17 fumaric acid, and 2-oxoglutaric acid, released into the medium by *G. candidum*, were  
18 consumed after 24 h of culture, which might have contributed to the increase in pH. *G.*  
19 *candidum* is used in cheese production. Amino acid metabolism is a major process in the  
20 formation of aromatic compounds in cheese. Volatile sulfur-containing compounds  
21 produced by the metabolism of methionine, as well as organic acids and aldehydes  
22 produced by the metabolism of leucine, isoleucine, valine, and tyrosine, are known  
23 components contributing to the aroma of cheese. Although leucine was not detected in  
24 the present culture, *G. candidum* consumed these amino acids to a greater degree than  
25 that by *S. cerevisiae*.

1

**2 Changes in the intracellular structure with morphological changes over time**

3 *G. candidum* is a dimorphic yeast species, displaying, both, hyphal and yeast-like  
4 morphologies. As the first step in the morphological change, fully grown hyphae initially  
5 form septa and then desorb to produce columnar conidia called arthrospores, which  
6 appear to have a yeast-like morphology (18). In this study, changes in the morphology  
7 and intracellular structure of *G. candidum* during culture in YM medium were observed  
8 using TEM, to elucidate the relationship between morphological changes and changes in  
9 the intra- and extracellular metabolites of *G. candidum* (Fig. 4). At 4 h of culture, the cells  
10 of *G. candidum* grew from 10 to 20  $\mu\text{m}$ ; after 8 h of culture, they further grew to 20–  
11 30  $\mu\text{m}$  and adopted a hypha-like structure with connected cell walls. After 48 h of culture,  
12 the spores were transformed into articular asexual spores. This was consistent with amino  
13 acid consumption. In *G. candidum*, the formation of yeast-like mitotic cells is enhanced  
14 on the depletion of nitrogen sources rather than carbon sources (19). Here, mitotic cells  
15 were observed after 96 h of culture when the amino acids, which served as nitrogen  
16 sources, were depleted. On the other hand, accumulation of ammonia was observed in the  
17 culture medium (Fig. S8). This result suggested that among nitrogen sources, depletion  
18 of amino acids affected morphological changes of *G. candidum*. Previous study has also  
19 suggested a relationship between amino acid consumption and morphological changes in  
20 *G. candidum* (20). We focused on changes in the number of mitochondria, nuclei, and  
21 vacuoles as characteristic changes in the cells. The number of mitochondria was  
22 approximately 6–20 at the start of culture but increased to 23–38 at 4 h and to  
23 approximately 35–60 at 8 h of cell growth. In the state where conidia were present (96 h  
24 of culture), the number returned to approximately 10–34. In eukaryotes, the metabolism  
25 of the TCA cycle occurs in the mitochondria; therefore, an increase in the number of

1 mitochondria suggests enhancement of the TCA cycle. In *G. candidum*, the extracellular  
2 accumulation of citric, aconitic, and isocitric acid increased up to 48 h during cell  
3 proliferation (Fig. S2). The number of nuclei increased from 2–5 at 4 h of culture to 3–7  
4 at 8 h of culture due to the elongated cells; however, at other culture times, this number  
5 was 1–4 per section. There was a tendency for the number of vacuoles to be low (0–3) at  
6 48 h of preculture and high (3–12) at 96 h. There was large variation within the same  
7 culture time, and no distinct differences were observed at different culture times. In this  
8 study, we did not observe any significant morphological changes or changes in  
9 intracellular structure after 96 h of culture. In addition, a very high electron density  
10 structure (black appearance) was observed in the cells of *G. candidum*. Remarkable  
11 aggregation was observed in cell sections at 96 h (Fig. 4). The details of the electron-  
12 dense structures are unknown; however, similar structures observed in *S. cerevisiae*  
13 contain glycogen (21). In fact, after 96 h of cultivation, glycogen accumulation was  
14 observed in both *G. candidum* (4.0  $\mu\text{g}$  glucose equivalents /mg-dry cell weight) and *S.*  
15 *cerevisiae* (2.2  $\mu\text{g}$  glucose equivalents/mg-dry cell weight) (Fig. S9). After 96 h, we  
16 observed autophagy-like cytoplasmic incorporations, wherein the structures were fused  
17 (Fig. S10).

18

### 19 **Evaluation of pantothenic acid production by *G. candidum***

20 Metabolomic analysis showed that pantothenic acid (also known as vitamin B5) is a  
21 characteristic product of *G. candidum*. As a constituent of coenzyme A (CoA),  
22 pantothenic acid is involved in important reactions in the metabolic pathways of glucose  
23 and fatty acids (22).

24 In this study, we investigated the effects of culture conditions and addition of the  
25 precursor  $\beta$ -alanine on pantothenic acid production, to verify the potential of *G. candidum*

1 as a natural host for its production.

2 First, we investigated the effect of altering the amount of glucose used as the substrate on  
3 the amount of pantothenic acid produced. In this experiment, cells were cultured in YM  
4 medium containing 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, or 100 g/L glucose, and glucose consumption,  
5 growth, and pantothenic acid production were examined. *G. candidum* consumed up to  
6 40 g/L of glucose. In 14-day cultures with initial glucose concentrations of 50 and 100  
7 g/L, residual glucose levels of 4.5 and 65.4 g/L, respectively, were observed. The OD  
8 value was the highest when cultured with 40 g/L glucose, reaching 27.8 after 14 days of  
9 culture. The production of pantothenic acid was highest when the yeast was cultured at  
10 40 g/L or 100 g/L and it reached 30  $\mu$ M after 14 days of culture (Fig. 5).

11 Pantothenic acid is produced by the condensation of pantoate with  $\beta$ -alanine through the  
12 action of pantoate- $\beta$ -alanine ligase. We therefore added 2.5 g/L of  $\beta$ -alanine to a medium  
13 containing 40 g/L glucose to evaluate its effect on pantothenic acid production. As a result,  
14 40 g/L of glucose was completely consumed after 9 days and the amount of pantothenic  
15 acid reached 40  $\mu$ M after 14 days of culture; therefore, a 30 % increase in pantothenic  
16 acid production was observed on addition of  $\beta$ -alanine, compared to that where  $\beta$ -alanine  
17 was not added (Fig. 6). Furthermore, concerning the amount of pantothenic acid produced  
18 per dry cell weight, *G. candidum* consistently exhibited higher values than *S. cerevisiae*  
19 (Fig. S11).

20 The increase in pantothenic acid production in *G. candidum* was only 10  $\mu$ M upon  
21 addition of 28 mM (2.5 g/L)  $\beta$ -alanine. On the other hand, *S. cerevisiae* produced almost  
22 no pantothenic acid even with the addition of  $\beta$ -alanine. Therefore, although the wild type  
23 strain of *G. candidum* does not have a high conversion efficiency of  $\beta$ -alanine to  
24 pantothenic acid, it is considered to be more suitable host for pantothenic acid production  
25 than *S. cerevisiae*. Additionally, since *G. candidum* does not produce ethanol as a by-

1 product, it may be able to produce higher amounts of pantothenic acid than *S. cerevisiae*.

2 There have been several studies on the production of pantothenic acid using *Escherichia*  
3 *coli* (23). Another advantage of using yeast as a host is that it is resistant to phage  
4 contamination, which is a problem in industrial production of *E. coli* (24).

5 There have been very few basic studies on *G. candidum*, and until now, the major intra-  
6 and extra-cellular changes in metabolites during culture have been unknown. In this study,  
7 we found that *G. candidum* proliferates vigorously and accumulates compounds of the  
8 pentose phosphate pathway, maintains high metabolic activity even after nutrient  
9 depletion, and exhibits a characteristic metabolic profile of stress-resistant substances  
10 including antioxidants (such as glutathione), vitamins (such as pantothenic acid and  
11 nicotinic acid), and various amino acids (such as hydroxyproline) (Table S1). Many  
12 compounds accumulated in *G. candidum* are commercially useful, indicating that *G.*  
13 *candidum* is a potential host for the production of several useful compounds.

#### 14 15 **Conflict of interest**

16 The authors declare no conflicts of interest associated with this manuscript.

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3

1 **Figure legends**

2 **Fig. 1** Cultivation of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* BY4741 (diamonds) and *Geotrichum*  
3 *candidum* ATCC204307 (squares) in YM medium. Time course of (A) glucose, (B)  
4 glycerol, and (C) ethanol concentrations during cultivation. (D) Dry cell weight and (E)  
5 pH is also monitoring during cultivation. Error bars indicate the standard deviations of  
6 three independent experiments.

7

8 **Fig. 2** Intracellular amino acid concentrations of *S. cerevisiae* B4741 (diamonds) and *G.*  
9 *candidum* ATCC204307 (squares) cultured in YM medium. The x-axis shows time (h).  
10 The y-axis shows the relative intensity of metabolites. Relative intensity of each  
11 metabolite was normalized by the internal standard and dry cell weight. Error bars  
12 indicate the standard deviations of three independent experiments.

13

14 **Fig. 3** Extracellular amino acid concentrations of *S. cerevisiae* BY4741 (diamonds) and  
15 *G. candidum* ATCC204307 (squares) cultured in YM medium. The x-axis shows time (h).  
16 The y-axis shows the relative intensity of metabolites. Relative intensity of each  
17 metabolite was normalized by the internal standard. Error bars indicate the standard  
18 deviations of three independent experiments.

19

20 **Fig. 4** Morphological and ultrastructure analysis of *G. candidum* ATCC204307.

21

22 **Fig. 5** Evaluation of pantothenic acid production by *G. candidum* ATCC204307 cultured  
23 in YM medium with various glucose concentrations. Time course of (A) glucose  
24 concentration, (B) dry cell weight, and (C) pantothenic acid estimated concentration  
25 during cultivation. Pantothenic acid was analyzed by LC-MS/MS, yet the influence of

1 matrix effects was disregarded. Initial glucose concentration is shown by the following  
2 symbols: open circles, 10 g/L; open triangles, 20 g/L; open diamonds, 30 g/L; open  
3 squares, 40 g/L; crosses, 50 g/L; closed circles, 100 g/L. Error bars indicate the standard  
4 deviations of three independent experiments.

5

6 **Fig. 6** Evaluation of pantothenic acid production by *S. cerevisiae* BY4741 (diamonds)  
7 and *G. candidum* ATCC204307 (squares) cultured in YM medium with 2.5 g/L  $\beta$ -alanine.  
8 Time course of (A) glucose concentration, (B) dry cell weight, and (C) pantothenic acid  
9 estimated concentration during cultivation. Pantothenic acid was analyzed by LC-MS/MS,  
10 yet the influence of matrix effects was disregarded. Error bars indicate the standard  
11 deviations of three independent experiments.

12

Fig. 1

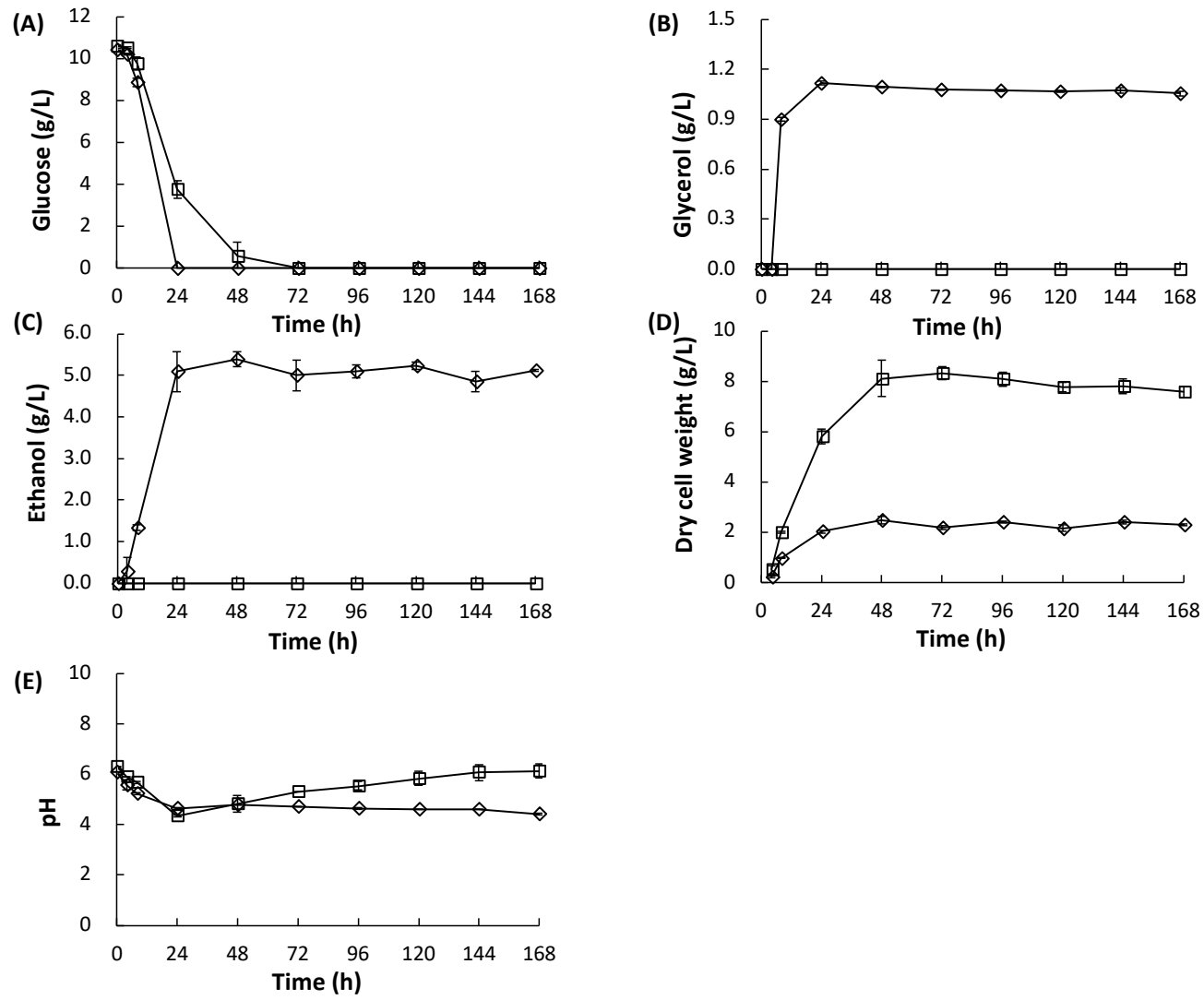


Fig. 2

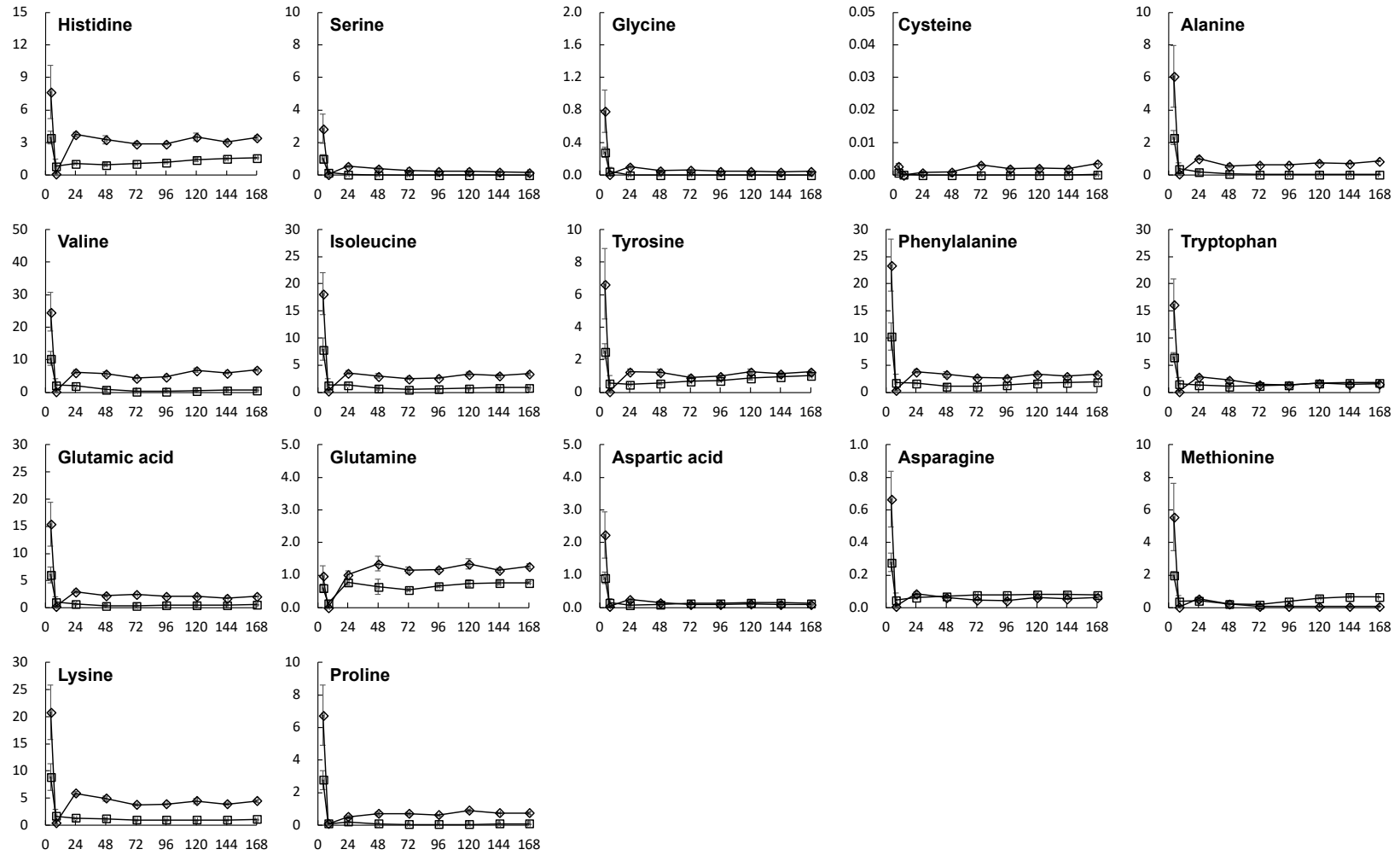


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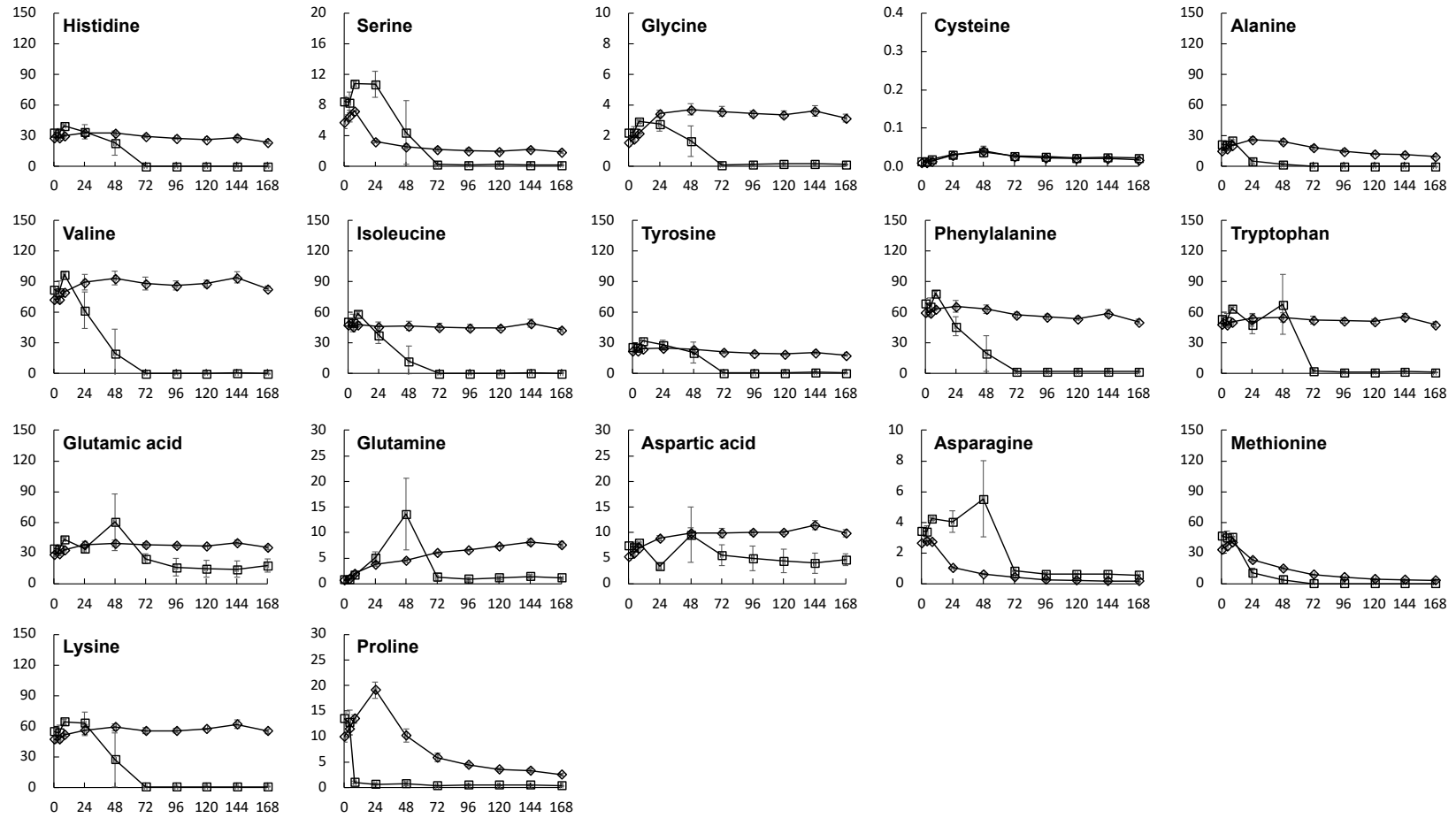


Fig. 4

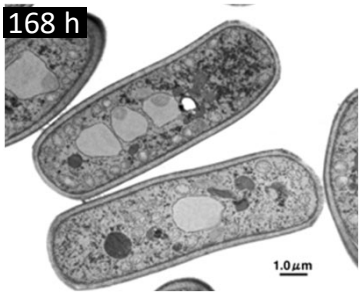
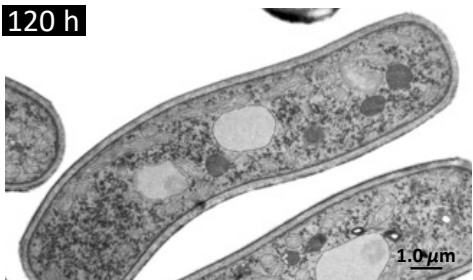
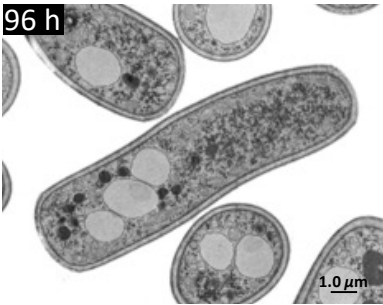
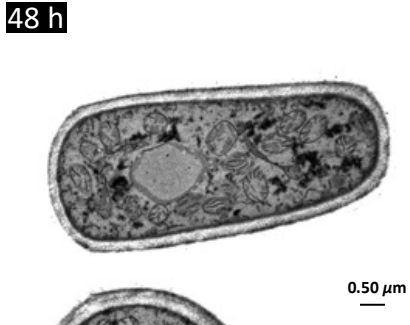
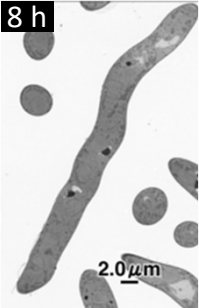
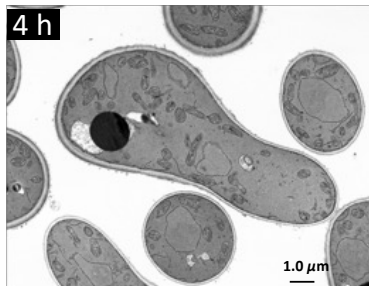


Fig. 5

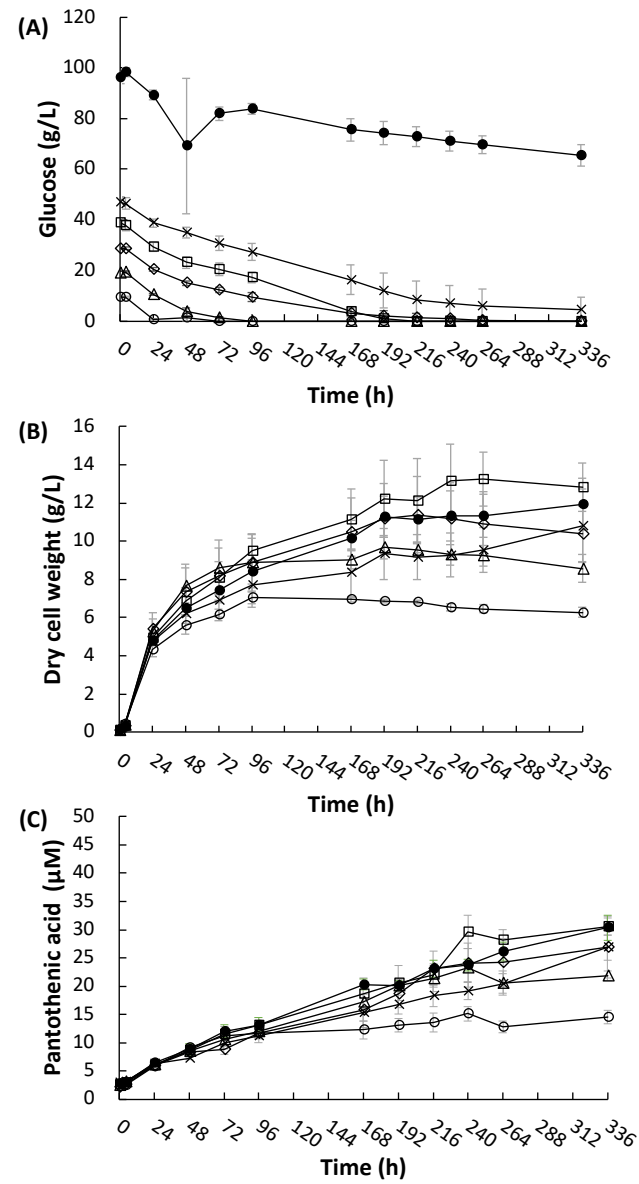


Fig. 6

