SENSOR SYSTEM FOR DETECTING CYANOTOXINS IN SACCHAROMYCES CEREVISIAE

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WHAT AND WHY?

- Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) are a problem in water systems
- Cyanobacteria produce hepatotoxins called microcystins by blooming during warm weather
- Microcystins can cause health risks suchs as headache and diarrhea to humans and animals
- With this sensor, the microcystins can be detected

MICROCYSTIN EFFECTS ON YEAST

- Toxicity mechanism not fully known:
 - inhibition of protein phosphatases 1 & 2a and production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) involved
- Oxidative stress: increased activity of transcription factors → genes of oxidative stress response activated
- S. cerevisiae displays similar MC toxicity effects that occur in higher eukaryotes
- S. cerevisiae VL3 strain has a transporter for MC import

MICROCYSTIN SENSOR FUNCTION



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- The complex binds on the promoter regions involved in the yeast cell's oxidative stress response
- Green fluorescent protein gene is coupled with this promoter, causing the production of GFP

MICROCYSTIN SENSOR FUNCTION

- OSR transcription factors: Yap1p and Skn7p
- Yap1p and Skn7p have binding sites in the promoter areas of OSR genes
 - Skn7p binds to oxidative stress response element (OSRE) and Yap1p to Yap1 response element (YRE)
- One of these genes: thioredoxin peroxidase (**TSA1**)
 - Has one of the best characterized promoter regions that Yap1p and Skn7p bind to





IDENTIFICATION: GFP

- Green fluorescent protein
- Emits green fluorescence under UV light

Detection in laboratory:

- Flow cytometry
- Fluorescent microscopy

TRUTH TABLE

| Microcystine | GFP |
|--------------|-----|
| 1 | 1 |
| 0 | 0 |

SELECTED PARTS

- Fluoroescence expression: yeGFP (BBa_K3402000)
- Promoter: TSA1 (BBa_K1907003)
- Plasmid backbone for promoter: pRS415
- Shuttle vector: pUG6



ASSEMBLY

• Chosen BioBricks parts must belong to the same assembly standard

 \rightarrow ensures compatibility and trouble-free assembly

• RFC[10] is the most commonly used assembly standard: well tested and documented, great diversity

ASSEMBLY: RFC[10]



SOURCES:

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THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?

