

1 **Mitotic recombination between homologous chromosomes drives genomic diversity in**
2 **diatoms**

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53 **SUMMARY**

54 Diatoms, an evolutionarily successful group of microalgae, display high levels of intraspecific
55 genetic variability in natural populations. However, the contribution of various mechanisms
56 generating such diversity is unknown. Here we estimated the genetic micro-diversity within a
57 natural diatom population and mapped the genomic changes arising within clonally
58 propagated diatom cell cultures. Through quantification of haplotype diversity by next-
59 generation sequencing and amplicon re-sequencing of selected loci, we documented a rapid
60 accumulation of multiple haplotypes accompanied by the appearance of novel protein
61 variants in cell cultures initiated from a single founder cell. Comparison of the genomic
62 changes between mother and daughter cells revealed copy number variation and copy-neutral
63 loss of heterozygosity leading to the fixation of alleles within individual daughter cells. The
64 loss of heterozygosity can be accomplished by recombination between homologous
65 chromosomes. To test this hypothesis, we established an endogenous read-out system and
66 estimated that the frequency of interhomolog mitotic recombination to be under standard
67 growth conditions 4.2 events per 100 cell divisions. This frequency is increased under
68 environmental stress conditions, including treatment with hydrogen peroxide and cadmium.
69 These data demonstrate that copy number variation and mitotic recombination between
70 homologous chromosomes underlie clonal variability in diatom populations. We discuss the
71 potential adaptive evolutionary benefits of the plastic response in the interhomolog mitotic

72 recombination rate, and we propose that this may have contributed to the ecological success
73 of diatoms.

74

75 **INTRODUCTION**

76 Diatoms, with as many as 100 000 estimated species, colonize a wide range of marine,
77 freshwater and terrestrial environments¹. Given their often vast census population size,
78 diatoms possess high intraspecific genetic variation. Natural diatom population samples
79 comprise between 87 to 100% clonal diversity as measured by microsatellite markers and a
80 gene diversity ranging from 39 to 88%, suggesting that clonal lineages are significantly
81 diverged². However, many species reproduce asexually for long periods, and hence, some of
82 this gene diversity is present as clonal diversity². For example, the model diatoms
83 *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* and *Thalassiosira pseudonana* have never been observed to
84 produce F1 progeny^{3,4} and in many other diatom species, sex is restricted by cell size⁵. Due to
85 the mechanics of diatom cell wall formation from inorganic silica, the cell size of mitotically
86 dividing cells in a population decreases over time with only cells under a species-specific size
87 threshold being sexually competent. The period necessary to reach this threshold can last
88 months to years^{3,6-8}. So how do diatoms generate novel genetic variation that is required for
89 adaptive evolution?

90 Genetic variation is generated by three evolutionary forces: mutation, recombination
91 and gene flow. Ultimately, all novel genetic variation stems from mutations, whereas the two
92 other forces merely shuffle this variation between haplotypes or genotypes (i.e.
93 recombination), or between populations (gene flow)^{9,10}. Mutation rates in diatoms appear to
94 be at a similarly low level as in green algae¹¹ and coccoliths¹², but given their often large
95 population size, considerable variation can be generated by the input of new mutations^{13,14}.
96 However, not all variation generated in a clonal lineage is readily available to selection due to
97 recessivity and clonal interference, i.e. the competition between different beneficial
98 mutations that occur in individuals within the same clonal lineage^{15,16}. Potentially beneficial

99 variation can become “locked inside” in a poorly adapted genotype, and sexual reproduction
100 can relax this evolutionary constrained. The random assortment of alleles from both parents
101 during meiotic recombination^{17,18} generates novel genotypes, which form the substrate for
102 natural selection.

103 In the absence of sex, mitotic interhomolog recombination can also generate novel
104 genotypes. Here, we define mitotic interhomolog recombination as the genetic exchange
105 between the haplotypes of the same individual that occurs in vegetative cells, when the
106 homologous chromosome is used as a template for homologous recombination, including
107 both crossing over and gene conversion events. As this can result in potentially harmful loss
108 of heterozygosity (LOH), chromosome rearrangements and consecutively mosaicism leading
109 to the onset of cancer in multicellular organisms, such recombination is typically strongly
110 suppressed in nearly all studied eukaryotes^{19,20}. However, mitotic recombination is common
111 to many asexual and facultatively sexual species, including yeast^{21,22}, ascomycete fungi²³, and
112 oomycetes²⁴.

113 Here, we show that novel variation can be generated in diatom clonal populations
114 through mitotic recombination. We discuss how such variation may benefit adaptive evolution
115 under exposure to stress, and we hypothesize about the role this could play in the
116 evolutionary dynamics during clonal competition.

117

118 **RESULTS**

119 **Intraspecific SNV variability within a natural diatom population**

120 Previously, microsatellite-based approaches have demonstrated a high level of
121 intraspecific genetic variability in natural diatom populations². However, as there is no good
122 evidence of genome-wide intraspecific diversity, we first sought to quantify the extent of

123 genome-wide intraspecific variability within natural diatom populations in situ using genome-
124 wide metagenomic read recruitments from the Tara Oceans expeditions ¹ to expand on
125 previous knowledge. Diatom models commonly considered for fundamental genomic analyses
126 and that are easily transformable, such as *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*, are however poorly
127 retrieved in global environmental datasets such as the *Tara Oceans* metagenomes¹. The most
128 abundant diatom genera in terms of assigned 18S rRNA V9 rDNA reads in this dataset belong
129 to *Chaetoceros* and *Fragilariopsis*, which account, respectively, for 23.1% and 15.5% of the
130 total number of reads. While there are currently no whole-genome sequences from any
131 *Chaetoceros* species, the genome of *Fragilariopsis cylindrus* is available and presents elevated
132 genomic variability with around 25% of its diploid genome corresponding to highly divergent
133 loci²⁵. This genome was therefore chosen to explore diatom genomic variability in situ in the
134 environment. We recruited metagenomic reads from *Tara Oceans* metagenomes using the *F.*
135 *cylindrus* reference genome (mapping stringency >95% identity) and examined micro-diversity
136 traits at the level of single nucleotide variants (SNVs)²⁶⁻²⁸. We were able to retrieve a large
137 number of environmental sequences to this genome from Station 86 in the Southern Ocean
138 (near the Antarctic peninsula, 64°30'88" S, 53°05'75" W), from both the surface (5m depth;
139 mean coverage of 51.7X over genome) and deep chlorophyll maximum (DCM; 35m depth;
140 mean coverage of 58.46X) layers. Overall, 89.64% (24,326) of *F. cylindrus* genes (total of 30.95
141 Mb) displayed coverage values similar to the entire genome in these two metagenomes and
142 were considered for downstream analyses (see Methods). Within the scope of these genes,
143 we identified 619,947 and 592,929 SNVs in the surface and DCM metagenomes, respectively
144 (Data S1), which corresponds to an SNV density of ~2% (i.e., one SNV every 50 nucleotides).
145 All the genes contained at least one SNV, with SNV density ranging from ~0.02% to ~10% (Data
146 S1). Among these, 3,822 of these genes displayed SNV density <1% in both metagenomes. This

147 analysis suggests that the average nucleotide identity of the genomes considered is about
148 98%, supportive of the existence of a single population displaying thousands of micro-diversity
149 genomic traits. Parallel metabarcoding-based surveys based on 18S rRNA revealed sequences
150 most homologous to *F. cylindrus* in the samples from Station 86. Among the competing
151 nucleotides in the metagenomes, A-G and C-T transitions each contributed 30% of SNVs,
152 followed by the transversions A-C (13%), G-T (13%), A-T (10%) and C-G (4%). These statistics
153 were highly similar for the two metagenomes, with a comparable transition to transversion
154 ratio of around 1.5. Yet, of all the SNVs identified, only 429,530 (54.83%) were common to the
155 two metagenomes (Figure S1). We, therefore, conclude from this analysis that natural
156 populations of diatoms can harbour a large amount of micro-diversity, which is not restricted
157 to microsatellites but is present genome-wide.

158

159 **Genome-wide haplotype diversity**

160 In natural populations, the impact of sexual reproduction cannot be ruled out, and
161 given the vast census population size, their high nucleotide diversity is perhaps not surprising.
162 However, previous studies have hinted at genomic variability within laboratory clones, such
163 as extensive allelic diversity in the pennate polar diatom *F. cylindrus*²⁵ and differences
164 between *P. tricornutum* cultures belonging to the same strain derived originally from a single
165 cell²⁹. Correspondingly, we noticed the presence of multiple haplotypes instead of the
166 expected two when sequencing various genomic loci in cultures clonally grown from a single
167 cell of *P. tricornutum* as well as of *Seminavis robusta*, grown under conditions that preclude
168 sexual reproduction. To map the distribution of loci with multiple haplotypes in these diatom
169 species, we took advantage of two available genome-wide datasets: short-read Illumina
170 sequencing was used to identify a set of reliable SNPs (single-nucleotide polymorphism,

171 present in at least 20% of reads) and PacBio and MinION long-read sequencing were used to
172 identify the number of haplotypes in *S. robusta* and *P. tricornutum*, respectively (Figure S2).
173 To decrease the error rate in long read sequencing, we used PacBio Circular Consensus
174 Sequences (CCS) reads and canu³⁰ for self-correction of both PacBio and MinION reads. Next,
175 we removed repeat regions and counted the number of combinations formed by confident
176 SNPs in individual reads in 1kb windows and selected loci with at least three haplotypes
177 supported each by a minimum of two reads. This analysis uncovered 1,405 of such loci in *S.*
178 *robusta* (125.6 Mb genome size) and 3,380 loci in *P. tricornutum* (27.4 Mb) (Figure 1A-D, Table
179 1, Figure S3, Data S2). To examine whether the number of uncovered haplotypes could be
180 caused by a high error rate in long-read sequencing datasets, we performed an equivalent
181 counting in available datasets from a haploid *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (12 Mb) culture
182 derived from a single cell³¹ and diploid *Arabidopsis thaliana* (135 Mb) datasets derived from
183 multiple inbred plants^{32,33}, where loci with multiple haplotypes are not expected. This yielded
184 only 3 and 83 loci with multiple haplotypes in *S. cerevisiae* and *A. thaliana*, respectively (Data
185 S2).

186

187 **Accumulation of novel haplotypes**

188 Genome-wide haplotype counting via long-read sequencing can suffer from increased
189 sequencing noise and as the datasets were derived from cultures with different cultivation
190 history, we could not conclude on the rate of the appearance of novel haplotypes. We,
191 therefore, validated the genome-wide data by observing selected loci from newly isolated,
192 single-cell cultures (Figure S4). For *S. robusta*, we profiled three loci identified in the genome-
193 wide haplotype analysis in three independent cultures, four months after single diploid cell

194 isolation. To overcome the potential problem of artefact generation during DNA amplification,
195 we used emulsion PCR followed by Sanger sequencing of cloned PCR products. While the
196 control mixture of two different alleles returned the two original haplotypes after PCR, we
197 observed 2 to 6 haplotypes for the endogenous *S. robusta* loci (Figure 2A, Table 2) by manually
198 examining the combinations of reliable SNPs in individual Sanger sequencing reads. Due to the
199 low efficiency of emulsion PCR reactions, we were not able to sequence the founder cell.
200 However, in every case, two prominent haplotypes were supported by a higher number of
201 reads, possibly representing the haplotypes present in the founder cell, whereas the
202 additional haplotypes presumably appeared during the four months in culture.

203 Independently, haplotype diversity and the rate at which new haplotypes appeared
204 were analyzed for 62 *P. tricornutum* 2-kb loci using emulsion PCR followed by PacBio amplicon
205 sequencing. Five loci (G32 to G36) were amplified at 1 month (T1) and 6 months (T6) after
206 single-cell isolation, whereas the remaining 57 loci were amplified at T6 only. The
207 heterozygosity of selected loci was profiled by SNP calling on the culture used for amplification
208 at T1. Again, we used the short-read sequencing dataset to identify reliable SNPs and counted
209 the number of haplotypes per locus formed by their combinations in corrected PacBio
210 amplicon reads. The control reactions for random errors and artificial haplotype detection
211 yielded the expected one and two haplotypes, respectively, demonstrating that the emulsion
212 PCR, PacBio library preparation, and sequencing did not generate artefacts (Figure S4, Data
213 S3). The number of recovered haplotypes varied between 1 and 15 (Figure 2C, Figure S4 and
214 Data S3), with 6 loci displaying a single haplotype, 5 loci with two haplotypes, and 51 loci
215 displaying at least three haplotypes. For four out of five loci amplified at both T1 and T6, an
216 increase in the number of haplotypes was observed in the T6 sample (Figure 2B, Figure S4)
217 despite deeper sequencing coverage of the T1 samples, suggesting that haplotypes

218 accumulate over time (Table 3). We analyzed the impact of haplotype variability on protein
219 sequence in 20 genes fully covered by amplicon sequencing and found six for which the
220 different haplotypes resulted in more than two putative protein variants, with up to six
221 variants in the diatom-specific gene *Phatr3_J47122* (Figure 2D, Figure S4, Table S1).

222 Although only one locus was identified as homozygous by SNP calling in T1, five
223 additional loci with single haplotypes were found in T6 sequencing (Figure 2C, Figure S4).
224 These loci were identified as being heterozygous by SNP calling in T1, suggesting a loss of
225 heterozygosity (LOH)³⁴. Moreover, the novel haplotypes that accumulated in both *S. robusta*
226 and *P. tricornutum* cultures were recombinants lacking *de novo* mutations. Such new
227 combinations are typically generated during sexual reproduction through the meiotic
228 recombination of homologous chromosomes³⁵.

229

230 **Genome-wide detection of loss of heterozygosity and copy number variation**

231 Although interhomolog recombination is rare in vegetative cells, we tested whether it
232 could be the source of haplotype diversity in clonal diatom populations as sexual reproduction
233 was excluded in our cultures. We sought to detect LOH and copy number variation (CNV)
234 events in *P. tricornutum* under controlled conditions over a defined number of cell divisions.
235 Three independent mother cultures (MC1 - MC3) were initiated from a single cell isolate and
236 cultivated under conditions allowing approximately a single cell division per day (Figure 3A,
237 Figure S5). After 30 days (T1), three single cells were again isolated from each mother culture
238 to obtain nine daughter cultures (DC1.1 - DC3.3) that were harvested 30 days later (T2). At
239 both T1 and T2, part of the mother cultures was also harvested. Following genome
240 resequencing and SNP calling of all cultures, a pairwise comparison between the individual

241 daughter cultures and their respective mother cultures was performed to identify novel CNVs
242 and tracts of at least three consecutive SNPs that were lost in the daughter culture.

243 Changes in comparison with the mother cultures were found in four out of nine
244 daughter cells. One copy-neutral 8016 bp LOH, where one allele of the locus was replaced by
245 the other allele, was observed in DC1.2, three copy-neutral LOH events (296 bp, 614 bp and
246 1644 bp in length) and a 31.4 kb duplication covering 14 genes were observed in DC1.3 culture,
247 and one 30.9 kb and one 156.9 kb deletion were detected in cultures DC3.1 and DC2.1,
248 respectively, and were confirmed by Sanger re-sequencing or qPCR (Figure 3, Figure S5, Table
249 S2, Data S3). Besides the LOH events that were unique to a respective daughter culture, we
250 identified several regions with reduced SNP density common to all cultures. SNP density was
251 ten times lower than the genome average over almost the entire chromosome 19, and
252 seventeen and thirty-eight times lower at the extremities of chromosomes 27 and 28,
253 respectively, in comparison with the rest of the chromosome (Figure S5). These regions were
254 not found to be SNP poor when sequencing the same *P. tricornutum* strain from other
255 laboratories³⁶⁻³⁸.

256 Profiling of the functional effect of 2914 SNPs in LOH regions revealed 59 SNPs
257 (0.362%) with possible high impact on gene function, 650 (3.984%) with low, 702 (4.303 %)
258 with moderate and 14,903 (91.351%) with modifier effect according to SnpEff
259 categorization³⁹. Most SNPs with a high effect on protein function were found in the 156.9 kb
260 deletion on chromosome 26. This deletion was identified in the primary analysis as six LOH
261 regions and confirmed as a single deletion only after Sanger resequencing of LOH border
262 regions. Therefore, we were only able to analyze the effect of the 19 SNPs with high effect
263 found in the regions identified in the primary LOH analysis (Data S3) and found 3 SNPs that

264 caused a loss of function by introducing a premature stop codon in the respective gene (Data
265 S3).

266

267 **Copy-neutral loss of heterozygosity at the *PtUMPS* locus**

268 While the mechanism behind the observed deletions and duplication remains difficult
269 to interpret, the copy-neutral LOH events require an exchange of genetic information between
270 homologous chromosomes. To estimate the rate of interhomolog recombination in *P.*
271 *tricornutum*, we established a tractable endogenous readout system for copy-neutral LOH
272 detection, based on three strains containing two different mutant alleles of the *PtUMPS* gene,
273 generated through gene editing^{40,41}. In strain *ptumps-1bp*, the 1 bp indel mutations in the two
274 alleles occur at a position only 1 bp apart, in strain *ptumps-320bp* they are separated by 320
275 bp and in strain *ptumps-1368bp* by 1368 bp (Figure 4A). As the *PtUMPS* protein is required for
276 uracil biosynthesis, cells with a wild-type (WT) allele can synthesize uracil, but also convert 5-
277 fluoroorotic (5-FOA) acid into the toxic 5-fluorouracil (5-FU), resulting in cell death. In contrast,
278 mutant cells are resistant to 5-FOA but are uracil auxotrophs. The *ptumps-/-* strains were
279 cultivated under non-selective conditions for 14 days (with uracil and without 5-FOA) to
280 permit potential recombination at the *PtUMPS* locus (Figure S6). Subsequently, 5×10^7 cells
281 from the culture were plated on a medium without uracil to select cells that underwent
282 recombination at the *PtUMPS* locus and restored the WT allele. We recovered no colonies in
283 strain *ptumps-1bp*, confirming that the WT allele was not restored by a random mutation, 12
284 colonies in strain *ptumps-320bp* and 83 colonies in strain *ptumps-1368bp* (Figure 4B, Data S4-
285 S5). Moreover, sequencing of *PtUMPS* alleles from ten *ptumps-1368bp* colonies and five
286 *ptumps-320bp* colonies corroborated the restoration of the WT allele through copy-neutral
287 LOH events (Figure 4C, Figure S6).

288 Next, the *PtUMPS* system was used to obtain an estimate of the interhomolog
289 recombination frequency. A total of 2×10^7 cells per replica from 5-FOA- and uracil-
290 supplemented medium (preventing recombination at the *PtUMPS* locus) were directly plated
291 onto medium without uracil to select only those cells that were in the process of interhomolog
292 recombination during a single round of cell division. The average frequency of interhomolog
293 recombination was 4.2 per 100 cell divisions per genome (Figure 4D, Data S4-S5),
294 approximately ten times higher than the rate reported for *S. cerevisiae* after recalculation per
295 cell division^{42,43}.

296 To test whether the rate of interhomolog recombination can be influenced by
297 environmental conditions, we employed the *PtUMPS* readout system to test the effect of the
298 DNA double-strand break inducing drug zeocin⁴⁴ and three physiologically relevant stresses:
299 hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), which is produced by various phytoplankton groups and can act as
300 a signalling molecule as well as cause oxidative damage⁴⁵, the trace metal cadmium⁴⁶, which
301 contaminates aquatic environments, and a polyunsaturated aldehyde (E,E)-2,4-Decadienal
302 that is involved in diatom intercellular signalling, stress surveillance, and defence against
303 grazers, but which can trigger lethality at high concentrations^{47,48}. For each mock and stress
304 treatment, 25×10^6 cells per replica were transferred from 5-FOA- and uracil-supplemented
305 medium to medium containing uracil for 24 h, thus allowing a maximum of one cell division.
306 Next, cells were plated on a selective medium without uracil to recover cells that restored the
307 WT *PtUMPS* allele through interhomolog recombination. Only the zeocin treatment resulted
308 in the appearance of uracil prototrophic colonies in both *ptumps-1bp* and *ptumps-1368bp* in
309 a dose-dependent manner (Figure 4E). Sequencing of *ptumps-1bp* colonies revealed
310 restoration of the *PtUMPS* WT allele through *de novo* mutations (Figure S6). We thus suppose
311 that zeocin treatment induced robust DNA damage. No *ptumps-1bp* colonies were observed

312 in the other treatments hinting at a lack of *de novo* mutations. Whereas the (E, E)-2,4-
313 Decadienal treatment did not influence the rate of interhomolog recombination, we found a
314 positive, concentration-dependent effect of H₂O₂ and cadmium on the number of recovered
315 colonies (Figure 4F-G, Data S4-S5). These data illustrate that environmental stresses increase
316 the frequency of recombination between homologous chromosomes.

317

318 **DISCUSSION**

319 Analysis of environmental samples of subpopulations of the diatom *F. cylindrus*
320 showed that they harbour extensive genome-wide SNV diversity. However, as *F. cylindrus* is
321 not easily accessible to genome manipulation methods, we investigated the possible
322 underlying mechanism in commonly used diatom model species. By following the number of
323 haplotypes in cultures of *S. robusta* and *P. tricornutum* initiated from a single cell, we
324 documented that both diatom species rapidly accumulate recombined haplotypes throughout
325 the genome. The resulting novel SNP combinations in protein-coding genes can give rise to
326 novel protein variants that were not present in the founder cell, potentially contributing to
327 the physiological divergence of individual subclones in the clonal population. Additionally, a
328 comparison of genomic changes between mother cultures and their respective daughter
329 cultures revealed the appearance of copy-neutral LOH and CNV events over a brief period. We
330 hypothesize that CNVs arise from ectopic recombination or non-homologous end-joining⁴⁹⁻⁵¹.
331 In the copy-neutral LOH events, the information from the homologous chromosome either
332 replaces the original allele in case of a gene conversion event, or it leads to reciprocal
333 exchange in case of mitotic crossing over. Subsequent sister chromatid segregation during
334 mitosis may cause LOH tracts in the daughter cell(s), resulting in the fixation of polymorphisms

335 in a homozygous state^{19,20}, further contributing to phenotypic differences within the clonal
336 population.

337 Estimating the rate of the mitotic interhomolog recombination per cell division
338 revealed that the frequency in *P. tricornutum* exceeds by ten times the frequency in the yeast
339 *S. cerevisiae*, the key model in mitotic recombination research^{42,43}. Although this comparison
340 does not take into account the possible differences between the diatom and yeast outcomes
341 of the interhomolog recombination, it suggests that such recombination is highly common in
342 *P. tricornutum* and that the constraints preventing the use of homologous chromosomes as a
343 template for homologous recombination might be relaxed in diatoms. The capability to rapidly
344 fix novel SNVs in a population through LOH could explain the differences observed in the
345 metagenomes of *F. cylindrus* subpopulations of the surface and DCM samples from the same
346 station.

347 We demonstrated that the rate of mitotic recombination increased under
348 environmental stress, which suggests that it has a degree of phenotypic plasticity. A similar
349 increase was documented for both meiotic and mitotic recombination in various organisms
350 including yeasts^{52,53}, plants⁵⁴⁻⁵⁶ and metazoans⁵⁷⁻⁵⁹ and has important implications for
351 evolution. Recombination related genomic changes were shown to shape the genomes of
352 pathogenic fungi such as *Candida albicans*, where the frequency increases under stress and
353 during host infections and contributes to the fitness advantage of resulting clones⁶⁰, as well
354 as in the oomycete *P. ramorum* where extensive runs of homozygosity (ROH) differentiate
355 individual invasive lineages²⁴. However, in both pathogenic species, the recombination
356 involved preferentially the repetitive regions and transposons, and the exact frequency is not
357 known. By contrast, repetitive sequences were excluded in our analysis, and recombinant
358 haplotypes were found to be equally dispersed throughout the *P. tricornutum* genome.

359 Besides *de novo* LOH events, the analysis of mother and daughter cells revealed the
360 presence of regions with low SNP density common to all sequenced strains. These regions
361 were not detected as being low in SNP content in *P. tricornutum* Pt1 strains from other
362 laboratories^{36,37} and a similar situation was reported for other genomic regions²⁹. Low
363 heterozygosity regions can also arise due to inbreeding or purifying selection at a linked
364 genetic loci. However, as *P. tricornutum* has never been observed to reproduce sexually in
365 laboratory conditions, we propose that these might represent past LOH events in the ancestor
366 cell of the respective population. Low SNP density regions have also been observed in
367 presumably asexual isolates of the centric diatom *Thalassiosira pseudonana*⁴. It was
368 speculated that the loss of heterozygosity in these regions due to inbreeding resulted in the
369 fixation of mutations in genes required for sexual reproduction. In the light of high levels of
370 mitotic interhomolog recombination in *P. tricornutum*, an alternative cause of the decrease in
371 heterozygosity could be LOH accompanying such recombination.

372 Many diatom species accomplish rapid population expansion through clonal
373 reproduction⁶¹. During this phase of exponential growth, a small difference in fitness can have
374 a large effect on the eventual population number reached by each clonal lineage. However,
375 significant environmental changes are likely to deteriorate the fitness of any well-adapted
376 lineage. Yet, without sexual reproduction, each clonal lineage is limited in its adaptive
377 response by the variation contained within its genome. We hypothesize that mitotic
378 recombination can exploit the non-additive genetic variation (i.e. dominance and epistatic
379 variation) that is present within each genome but hidden from natural selection^{62,63}.

380 Plastic response in mitotic recombination could offer at least three important fitness
381 advantages during clonal competition. Firstly, the evolution of asexual microbes is generally
382 not limited by the number of beneficial single-point mutations, but rather, by overcoming

383 clonal interference and combining multiple mutations into a single genotype. For example,
384 beneficial mutations are readily available in yeast, but they compete with one another in the
385 population for fixation⁶⁴⁻⁶⁶. Mitotic recombination can relax the evolutionary constraints
386 imposed by clonal interference, by generating novel combinations of alleles. Alleles can thus
387 be ‘tried and tested’ against slightly different genomic backgrounds, which increases the
388 probability of finding a superior combination of multiple mutations. Mitotic recombination
389 thus can not only uncover hidden dominance variation by making loci homozygous, but it can
390 also reveal epistatic variation by creating novel allelic combinations that would otherwise not
391 have arisen. This could be particularly important during periods of environmental change and
392 stress, enabling the clonal lineage to discover other fitness peaks in a dynamic fitness
393 landscape⁶⁷.

394 Secondly, density and frequency-dependent processes are likely to regulate clonal
395 expansion. Lewontin put this succinctly: “a genotype is its own worst enemy, its fitness will
396 decrease as it becomes more common”⁶⁸. Such negative frequency dependence is likely to
397 play an important role in asexual species, particularly during and after clonal expansion. The
398 ability to generate novel genotypes during mitotic recombination could mitigate this effect,
399 reducing the competition between clone-mates, and generating a more diffuse target for
400 antagonistically coevolving species, such as pathogens.

401 Thirdly, generating evolutionary novelty, either through mutation or recombination,
402 does impose a fitness cost to the individual or clonal lineage, i.e. a genetic load⁶⁹. In a well-
403 adapted genotype, each mitotic recombination event is more likely to reduce fitness than to
404 increase it. However, occasionally, some mitotic recombination events could be selectively
405 advantageous, and this is more likely to occur if the clonal genotype is not optimally adapted
406 to its environment²². In diatoms such as *P. tricornutum*, natural selection thus trades off the

407 costs of the ‘mitotic recombination load’ against the potential benefits realized by such
408 recombination. These benefits include reducing possible negative frequency-dependent
409 effects, and uncovering hidden dominance and epistatic variance, enabling the genotype to
410 climb or discover a fitness peak in the adaptive landscape. In other words, there may be an
411 optimum level of mitotic recombination, depending on the stability of the environment, the
412 match between the phenotype and the environment, and the amount of negative frequency-
413 dependent selection. We hypothesize that phenotypic plasticity may enable lineages to track
414 this optimal level of mitotic recombination, with natural selection favouring an increased rate
415 under stressful environmental conditions. Alternatively, stressful environmental conditions
416 could increase the mitotic recombination rate, for example by impairing DNA repair
417 mechanisms. The question not answered by our experiments is whether the observed
418 increase in mitotic recombination during stress is adaptive. We propose this is plausible, and
419 that this hypothesis provides an interesting avenue for future research.

420

421 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

422 We thank Dr. Nicole Poulsen for providing GK-359 and GK-333 plasmids and Dr. Annick Bleys
423 and Dr. James Matthew Watson for proofreading the manuscript. This research was supported
424 by BOF project GOA01G01715 to L.D.V., K.V. and W.V.; Erwin Schrödinger fellowship from
425 Austrian Science Fund (project J3692-B22) to P.B.; Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation grant
426 (GBMF 4966), a Région Midi-Pyrénées grant (15058490 financial support for Accueil d’Equipes
427 d’Excellence), an ANR JCJC grant (ANR-16-CE05-0006-01), and the 3BCAR Carnot Institute
428 funding to D.J. and F.D.; C.N. and C.B. were supported by European Research Council (ERC)
429 under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program through the
430 project DIATOMIC (grant agreement No. 835067) to C.B.

431

432 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

433 P.B. and L.D.V. conceptualized the study. P.B. initiated, designed and performed experiments
434 and bioinformatics analysis on *P. tricornutum* and *S. robusta*. M.S. performed sequencing of
435 uracil prototrophic colonies. D.J. generated *ptumps* mutant strains. C.N and T.D. performed
436 the *F. cylindrus* metagenome assembly and analysis, I.V. helped with diatom culture
437 maintenance. C.M.O-C. and E.M. provided bioinformatic datasets. P.B. and C.V.O. wrote the
438 manuscript, generated all figures and data visualizations. L.D.V., K.V., F.D., C.B., W.V., K.S.
439 supervised the research. P.B., L.D.V, K.V., W.V., F.D, K.S., C.B., C.V.O., T.M. reviewed and edited
440 the manuscript.

441

442 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

443 The authors declare no competing interests.

444

445 **MAIN FIGURE TITLES AND LEGENDS**

446 **Figure 1. Genome-wide distribution of haplotypes in *P. tricornutum* and *S. robusta*.** (A-B)
447 Distribution of the detected number of haplotypes per 1 kb loci in *S. robusta* contigs above 20
448 kb (A) and *P. tricornutum* chromosomes 1-33 (B). From outside to inside: loci with more than
449 two haplotypes (red), loci with two haplotypes (blue), loci with a single haplotype (grey), gene
450 density*, SNP density* (black), GC content*; * per 10 kb. (C-D) Example of a representative
451 genomic region from *S. robusta* (C) and *P. tricornutum* (D). The chromosome is represented
452 by a grey rectangle. Above the chromosome: loci with single haplotype (grey bars), loci with
453 two haplotypes (blue bars) and loci with more than two haplotypes (red bars). Below

454 chromosome from top to bottom: gene density**, SNP density** (grey line), GC content**;
455 ** per 1 kb. See also Figures S1-S3 and Data S1-S2.

456

457 **Figure 2. Accumulation of novel haplotypes in cultures freshly initiated from a single cell.** (A)
458 Quantification of haplotypes on three loci in three *S. robusta* cultures (SR1-3) four months
459 after cultivation from a single cell. (B-C) Quantification of the number of haplotypes in *P.*
460 *tricornutum* at 1 month (T1) and 6 months (T6) after cultivation from a single cell. (B)
461 Quantification of the number of haplotypes at loci G32-G36 detected at T1 and T6. (C)
462 Quantification of the number of haplotypes detected at T6 (orange outline). Categories of the
463 shift in the number of haplotypes from founder cell to the number of haplotypes detected at
464 T6 are on the x-axis in the format: expected in founder cell > observed at T6, the number of
465 haplotypes on the y-axis. The size of the circle corresponds to the number of cases in a given
466 category. In (A-C) the expected two haplotypes in the founder cells are indicated in blue. (D)
467 Schematic representation of predicted proteins variants in Phatr3_J47122 gene. The top line
468 shows the position of amino acid variants on the protein indicated by red flags. Green regions
469 depict conserved domains according to the CDD/SPARKLE database ⁷⁰. The lines below
470 represent individual predicted variants. See also Figures S4, Table S1 and Data S3.

471

472 **Figure 3. Genome-wide detection of LOH in *P. tricornutum* mother and daughter cultures**
473 **after 30 days.** (A) Position of copy-neutral LOHs (orange), duplication (dark blue) and deletions
474 (red) in individual daughter cultures. Heterozygous regions are in light blue, blank space – no
475 SNPs. Nominators at the left refer to the daughter cell (DC) culture, whereas the lowercase
476 digit indicates the chromosome number. (B) Zoomed-in regions with detected LOH,

477 duplication or deletion events in the respective mother and daughter cultures (DC). Blue dots
478 – heterozygous SNPs, orange dots – homozygous SNPs in copy-neutral LOHs, red dots - SNPs
479 in deletions, grey area – sequence coverage. (C) Confirmation of a DNA duplication event on
480 chromosome 23 by qPCR in daughter culture DC1.3. The position of target loci (red boxes) is
481 shown in the upper part. The bar chart depicts the fold change in comparison to the MC1T1
482 sample on control loci D, E and F. Blue dots – heterozygous SNPs, dark blue - SNPs in
483 duplication. See also Figure S5, Table S2 and Data S3.

484

485 **Figure 4. Detection of LOH events at the *P. tricornutum* *PtUMPS* locus.** (A) Schematic of
486 alleles in the *PtUMPS* strains. Homologous chromosomes are depicted as grey bars with exons
487 in blue and green, loss-of-function indel mutations are in red, purple and orange bars
488 represent silent SNPs between the two original alleles. (B-C) Recombination in *PtUMPS*
489 mutant strains during 14 days of cultivation under non-selective conditions. (B) The number
490 of recovered uracil prototrophic colonies per strain. (C) Examples of sequenced recombinant
491 alleles in one *ptumps-320bp* and two *ptumps-1368bp* colonies. (D) Estimation of the
492 interhomolog recombination frequency per thousand cell divisions. Each dot represents one
493 replica. (E–H) Recombination events in response to stress-induced by (E) zeocin; (F) H₂O₂; (G)
494 cadmium and (H) 2,4-Decadienal. *ptumps-1bp* replicas are depicted in shades of grey, *ptumps-*
495 *1368bp* replicas are depicted in shades of blue. See also Figure S6 and Data S4-S5.

496

497

498 **TABLES**

499 **Table 1. Characteristics of loci with multiple haplotypes found in *S. robusta* and *P.***

500 ***tricornutum***

	Whole-genome average		Loci with multiple haplotypes	
	Total number	Percent	Total number	Percent
<i>Seminavis robusta</i> (1405 loci)				
GC content		48.5 %		48.8 %
SNPs total	489799	100 %	7714	100%
SNPs in intergenic regions	149782	30.58 %	2662	34.50 %
SNPs in protein coding genes	339890	69.39 %	5050	65.47 %
Intron	17300	3.53 %	233	3.03 %
Exon	322590	65.86 %	4817	62.44 %
Functional RNAs	127	0.03 %	2	0.03 %
<i>Phaeodactylum tricornutum</i> (3380 loci)				
GC content		48.77 %		49.04 %
SNPs total	290164	100%	22531	100%
SNPs in intergenic regions	110727	38.16 %	6767	30.03 %
SNPs in protein coding genes	178906	61.65 %	15735	69.83 %

Intron	16271	5.61 %	1242	5.51 %
Exon	162635	56.04 %	14493	64.32 %
Pseudogenes	425	0.15 %	27	0.12 %
Functional RNAs	106	0.04 %	2	0.01 %

501

502 **Table 2. Verification of haplotype diversity in *S. robusta* at three selected loci in three**
 503 **cultures (Sr1 – Sr3) through emulsion PCR amplification, cloning and Sanger sequencing of**
 504 **individual clones**

Locus	Number of SNPs	Culture	Number of haplotypes at 4 months after single cell isolation	Number of supporting reads for each haplotype
Sro_contig211: 7509-8241				
	11	Sr1	5	26; 15; 1; 1; 1
	11	Sr2	4	23; 18; 8; 1
	11	Sr3	3	26; 25; 2
Sro_contig2103: 8397-9162				
	5	Sr1	3	19; 12; 1
	5	Sr2	3	8; 6; 1
	5	Sr3	2	24; 13
Sro_contig872: 16034-16975				
	4	Sr1	3	24; 16; 1
	4	Sr2	5	19; 14; 1; 1; 1
	4	Sr3	6	29; 19; 3; 2; 1; 1
Sro_contig556:54453-55487 - control mix of plasmids containing two alleles of the locus				
	3	-	2	44; 19

505

506

Table 3. Change in number of recovered haplotypes over time in *P. tricornutum*

Locus name	Coordinates	Number of SNPs	Samples harvested at 1 month after single cell isolation		Samples harvested at 6 months after single cell isolation	
			Number of haplotypes	Coverage	Number of haplotypes	Coverage
G32	13:103145-105183	10	8	3903	12	878
G33	27:205731-207770	18	6	5712	8	988
G34	20:101923-103985	28	4	3140	8	654
G35	12:519921-521994	12	9	2992	10	706
G36	2:961633-963692	12	8	5225	8	688

507

508

509 **STAR METHODS**

510

511 **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

512 **Lead Contact**

513 Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will
514 be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Lieven De Veylder (lieven.deveyder@psb.vib-ugent.be)

515

516 **Materials Availability**

517 Material generated in this study is available upon request from the lead contact

518

519 **Data and Code Availability**

520 Raw sequencing data were deposited to the Sequence Read Archive (SRA) under BioProject
521 accessions PRJNA658511 and PRJNA658224. SRA accession numbers for individual samples
522 are listed in Data S3. Processed datasets were uploaded to zenodo: Aligned and processed
523 long-read sequencing datasets *S. robusta* PacBio, *P. tricornutum* MinION reads and SNP
524 selected for haplotype counting for both species are available at
525 <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4005721>. Aligned PacBio amplicon sequencing reads,
526 reference file and selected biallelic SNPs used in haplotype counting are available at
527 <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4005643>. Processed datasets from LOH detection in mother
528 and daughter cultures including ILLUMINA reads aligned to the reference *P. tricornutum*
529 genome used for SNP calling, SNP calls for individual samples and jointly called SNPs on all
530 samples are available at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4006016>. **Code availability**

531 The haplotype coding script to count haplotypes in long-read sequencing datasets is available
532 on zenodo, at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4001752>. A version of the haplotype counting
533 script that outputs the combination of bases at selected SNP sites is available on zenodo, at
534 <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4173002>. All other data are available from the authors upon
535 request.

536

537 **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**

538

539 Diatoms datasets and strains

540 Datasets and strains used in this study are summarized in Data S3. The *S. robusta* D6 reference
541 strain (accession number DCG 0498) is available from the BCCM/DCG diatom culture collection
542 at Ghent University (<http://bccm.belspo.be/about-us/bccm-dcg>). Publicly available genomes
543 of *S. robusta* strain D6 ⁷¹ <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/browser/view/CAICTM010000000> and *P.*
544 *tricornutum* Pt1 8.6 (CCMP2561) strain ⁹¹
545 https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/browser/view/GCA_000150955.2 and next-generation
546 sequencing datasets were used for our analysis.

547

548 Diatom cultivation conditions

549 Both *S. robusta* strain D6 and *P. tricornutum* strain Pt1 subculture MC2 were cultivated in 1x
550 TMB medium consisting of 34.5 g/L of Tropic Marin Bio-Actif sea salt (Tropic Marin, Germany)
551 and 0.08g/L sodium bicarbonate (Sigma-Aldrich) supplemented with 1x Guillard's (F/2) Marine
552 Water Enrichment Solution (Sigma-Aldrich), 100 µg/mL ampicillin, 50 µg/mL gentamycin and
553 100 µg/mL streptomycin in 12 h/12 h light/dark cycle. *P. tricornutum* cultures were cultivated
554 at 20°C, under photosynthetic LED light with an intensity of 160 µmol photons m⁻² s⁻¹ and with

555 100 rpm shaking. *S. robusta* cultures were cultivated at 18°C with approximately 85 μmol
556 photons $\text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ from cool-white fluorescent lights.

557

558 **METHOD DETAILS**

559 Estimation of intra-specific variability in *Fragilariopsis cylindrus* metagenomes

560 *Tara* Oceans metagenomic reads from 0.8-5 μm , 5-20 μm , 20-180 μm , 180-2000 μm and 0.8-
561 2000 μm size fractions were mapped against the FASTA file of the *Fragilariopsis cylindrus*
562 CCMP 1102 genome ²⁵ (available at <http://genome.jgi-psf.org/Fracy1/Fracy1.home.html>)
563 using Bowtie2 v2.3.4.332 with a 95% identity filter. Two depths, surface (5m depth) and deep
564 chlorophyll maximum (DCM; 35m depth), both located in the epipelagic mixed layer ⁹² from
565 Station 86 situated in the Southern Ocean (near the Antarctic peninsula, 64°30'88" S,
566 53°05'75" W), displayed vertical sequence coverage superior or equal to 10X for three size
567 fractions (0.8-5, 5-20 and 0.8-2000 μm) and were thus selected for further analysis. Using
568 SAMtools v1.10.33, the resulting SAM files were converted into BAM files and for each sample
569 the BAM files of the three different size fractions were merged to increase the coverage (final
570 mean coverage 51.75X and 58.46X for surface and DCM respectively). Downstream analyses
571 were performed with the *anvi'o* platform⁷³ to generate profile databases based on the BAM
572 files that were combined into a merged profile database. Genes were imported into *anvi'o* at
573 the level of individual exons. Then, the program "anvi-summarize" was used with the "init-
574 gene-coverages" flag to characterize the mean coverage of each gene in the surface and DCM
575 samples. Genes that were considered for downstream analyses ($n = 24,326$) were invariably
576 detected within a population niche (here the metagenome) ⁹³. These genes had to occur in
577 the two samples and their mean coverage in each sample had to remain within a factor 3 of
578 the mean coverage of all 27,137 genes in the same metagenome. The filtering step based on

579 gene level coverage values is critical to remove outlier genes that may recruit reads from other
580 related genera or species that potentially co-occurred in the samples (e.g., the 18S rRNA gene
581 will recruit reads from other genera due to its high evolutionary stability, and genes from
582 closely related species will display higher coverage values compared to the species-specific
583 genes). Additionally, it allows to remove genes with hypervariable regions that will not recruit
584 reads, preventing the subsequent analysis of single nucleotide variants (hereafter referred to
585 as SNVs) ⁹⁴. Finally, the intra-population variability of *F. cylindrus* was analysed across the
586 selected genes and in the two samples using the programme “anvi-gen-variability-profile”,
587 which provided tables reporting SNVs and their nucleotide frequencies in the recruited reads
588 (Data S1). We defined SNVs as positions displaying at least 10% variation from the consensus
589 nucleotide and with a mean vertical coverage $\geq 20X$ in the two samples. The variability tables
590 were imported into R v4.0.1 to compute the number of variable positions and SNV density (i.e.
591 the number of positions with SNVs for each exon in the selected genes divided by the
592 corresponding exon length) for each exon. Gene-level mean coverage, number of variable
593 positions and SNV density were computed using the information from the individual exons.

594

595 Genome-wide haplotype counting in *S. robusta* and *P. tricornutum* next-generation
596 sequencing data

597 For both *S. robusta* and *P. tricornutum* genome-wide haplotype counting, a reliable single
598 nucleotide polymorphism (hereafter referred to as SNP; in contrast to SNVs found in
599 metagenomes from natural populations, SNP had been supported by at least 20% of reads in
600 the sample from laboratory single strain) set was first identified in ILLUMINA short-read
601 sequencing datasets and then used for counting of the number of haplotypes in the PacBio RS
602 II and MinION long reads. The ILLUMINA and PacBio data of *S. robusta* from

603 <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/browser/view/PRJEB36614> and ILLUMINA and Minion data of *P.*
604 *tricornutum* from <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/browser/view/PRJNA487263>. Because in long-
605 read sequencing the error rate for indels is higher than for SNPs, indels were ignored in our
606 analysis.

607

608 *SNP calling*: SNP calling on ILLUMINA short-read sequencing was done using GATK
609 HaplotypeCaller 3.7.0⁸⁰. In short, adapters and reads with a quality score below 20 were
610 removed from ILLUMINA reads using BBduk2⁷⁵ with minlen=35 qtrim=rl trimq=20 hdist=1 tbo
611 tpe options and custom adapter reference file. Next, the respective reads were aligned to *S.*
612 *robusta* v1 assembly CAICTM010000001-CAICTM010004752 (European Nucleotide Archive)
613 or *P. tricornutum* v2 assembly2 GCA_000150955.2 (European Nucleotide Archive) using
614 Burrows-Wheeler Alignment Tool (BWA)⁷⁶ algorithm BWA-MEM with -M option. Unmapped
615 and multi-mapped reads were removed using SAMtools⁷⁷ view with -h -F 4 -q 1 options.
616 Aligned reads were then sorted using picard-tools 1.8.0⁷⁸ SortSam and duplicate reads were
617 marked with MarkDuplicates and indexed with BuildBamIndex. Read base quality scores were
618 adjusted by two round of recalibration. Here, SNPs and indels were called by GATK
619 HaplotypeCaller⁷⁹ and filtered with a set of hard filters using SelectVariants; QD < 2.0, FS >
620 60.0, MQ < 40.0, MQRankSum < -12.5, ReadPosRankSum < -8.0 for SNPs and QD < 2.0, FS >
621 200.0, ReadPosRankSum < -20.0 for indels. Recalibration table was generated with
622 BaseRecalibrator and recalibrated reads were printed with PrintReads. After the second round
623 of recalibration, germline SNPs were called using HaplotypeCaller with --genotyping_mode
624 DISCOVERY. Next, reliable biallelic SNPs were selected using SelectVariants with --
625 restrictAllelesTo BIALLELIC -selectType SNP and QD < 2.0, QUAL < 30.0, SOR > 3.0, FS > 60.2,
626 MQ < 40.0, MQRankSum < -12.5, ReadPosRankSum < -8.0, AF > 0.2 and DP < 10 options.

627 Repeat regions and low complexity DNA sequences in *S. robusta* and *P. tricornutum* were
628 identified using RepeatModeler 1.0.9⁸¹ and masked using RepeatMasker 4.0.5⁸², and SNPs in
629 these regions were removed from the dataset using BEDtools⁸³ subtract algorithm. Finally,
630 selected fields (CHROM, POS, REF, ALT) from the SNP dataset were extracted from the vcf file
631 to a table and split into independent files by contig/chromosome using awk.

632

633 *S. robusta* PacBio reads processing: Circular Consensus Sequences (CCS) were obtained with
634 smrtanalysis 2.3.0 (PacBio) with minFullPasses 0 option. CCS reads were then self-corrected
635 using canu 1.4³⁰ with canu_correct genomeSize=136.0m errorRate=0.035 -pacbio-raw
636 options and trimmed with canu_trim genomeSize=136.0m errorRate=0.035 -pacbio-corrected
637 options. Corrected reads were mapped to the reference genome using BLASR⁸⁹ with -sam -
638 clipping soft options. The CIGAR string was corrected with samfixcigar, soft-clipped bases were
639 removed with biostar84452 from jvarkit⁸⁴ and uniquely mapped reads with mapping quality
640 >20 were selected using SAMtools⁷⁷. Coverage was estimated using GATK 3.7.0
641 DepthOfCoverage. SAMtools view and awk were used to split the PacBio reads to separate
642 files per contig.

643

644 *P. tricornutum* MinION reads processing: MinION reads were self-corrected using canu 1.4³⁰
645 with canu_correct genomeSize=30m errorRate=0.144 -nanopore-raw options. Reads were
646 aligned to the genome using GraphMap⁸⁵ with default settings and uniquely mapped reads
647 were selected using SAMtools view. The CIGAR string was corrected with samfixcigar, soft-
648 clipped bases were removed with biostar84452 from jvarkit. Coverage was estimated using
649 GATK 3.7.0 DepthOfCoverage. SAMtools view and awk were used to split the PacBio reads to
650 separate files per contig.

651

652 *Haplotype counting:* The haplotype counting was done with a custom script based on bash,
653 awk and Sam2Tsv from jvarkit (<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4001752>). In short, a record
654 for every base in each processed PacBio/MinION read with the position, reference and the
655 actual base was obtained using Sam2Tsv from jvarkit⁸⁴. Next, only positions of SNPs selected
656 in ILLUMINA reads were retained. The record was divided into fixed windows of max 1 kb from
657 the first SNP and haplotypes for selected sites were written for each read separately. Reads
658 containing an indel or another base than the reference or the alternative base at the selected
659 SNP position or not covering the 1 kb region were removed and the number of haplotypes and
660 number of supporting reads for each haplotype was counted using awk. Loci with multiple
661 haplotypes were selected from the record of the number of haplotypes per 1 kb with the
662 number of supporting reads with the following conditions: at least three haplotypes had to be
663 supported each by at least 2 reads, the locus had to be at least 100 bp long and the coverage
664 had to be below 100x to remove repeat regions that were not masked. Visualization of
665 haplotype counting data was done using Circos⁸⁶ and karyoploteR⁸⁸.

666

667 *Haplotype counting in control genomes:* As a control for haplotype counting overcounting due
668 to high error rate in long-read sequencing data, the genome assembly, ILLUMINA and PacBio
669 sequencing data publicly available for haploid yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* GLBRCY22-3³¹
670 grown from single colony <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/PRJNA279877> and for
671 several diploid *Arabidopsis thaliana* Ler plants^{32,33} from
672 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/PRJNA311266> and
673 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/237120> were used. The SNP calling, PacBio data

674 processing and haplotype counting were done as described above and are summarized in Data
675 S2.

676

677 Calculation of the error rate in self-corrected long-read sequencing data used for haplotype
678 counting.

679 The long-read sequencing technology is known to have a higher error rate than the short-read
680 sequencing technology⁹⁵. To improve the read quality, we generated circular consensus
681 sequencing (CCS) reads for the PacBio datasets and used self-correction for both PacBio and
682 MinION reads (detailed description is available in the Methods). The self-correction was
683 preferred over the correction by ILLUMINA reads, as the ILLUMINA reads were used for calling
684 an SNP dataset and this could introduce bias in subsequent haplotype counting. The long-
685 sequencing reads were further processed after alignment to the genome by removal of soft
686 clipping, correction of CIGAR string and selection of uniquely mapped reads. The error rate in
687 corrected and aligned PacBio and MinION files was estimated using Alfred⁹⁰ (Table S8).

688 The haplotype counting script processes only positions of reliable SNPs selected in
689 ILLUMINA sequencing data and removes all reads containing insertions or deletions or other
690 bases than the expected reference and alternative allele at the selected sites. Therefore, only
691 the mismatch rate is relevant for the haplotype counting. Each position with a mismatch can
692 result in one of the other three bases different from the reference. If the probability of
693 mismatch to the reference is considered identical for each possible mismatched base, it is
694 equal to one third. As only one of these bases is accepted by the haplotype counting script,
695 the final probability of a mismatch at positions of reliable SNPs is equal to one-third of the
696 mismatch rate. Thus, the probability of error at selected SNP sites used for haplotype

697 determination ranged between 1.46% for *S. robusta* PacBio genome-wide sequencing and
698 0.05% for *P. tricornutum* T1 amplicon re-sequencing (Table S8).

699

700 Resequencing of *S. robusta* and *P. tricornutum* loci with multiple haplotypes

701 *DNA extraction:* DNA for deep sequencing was harvested and isolated by the CTAB DNA
702 extraction method. Cells from approximately 500 mL of exponentially growing *S. robusta* and
703 *P. tricornutum* cultures were harvested by centrifugation at 1216 x g for 5 min. The
704 supernatant was discarded and the cell pellet was resuspended in 400 µl of CTAB buffer (1%
705 (w/v) CTAB, 100 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 10 mM EDTA pH 8, 700 mM NaCl and freshly added 4 µg
706 RNase A). *S. robusta* cells were disrupted by agitation with glass/zirconium beads (0.1-mm
707 diameter; Biospec) on a bead mill (Retsch) for three times 1 min at frequency 20 Hz. Samples
708 were incubated for 30 min at 60°C and afterwards let to cool down on the ice for 15 min. Next,
709 250 µl of chloroform:isoamylalcohol 24:1 was added and the samples were mixed manually
710 for 1 min. Phases were separated by centrifugation at 20 000 x g for 10 min. The upper
711 aqueous phase was transferred to a new tube and DNA was precipitated by the addition of an
712 equal volume of isopropanol followed by centrifugation for 15 min at 20 000 x g. The DNA
713 pellet was washed with 70% ethanol, air-dried and resuspended in 50 µl of 10 mM Tris-HCl
714 pH 8.5.

715 *Emulsion PCR:* Loci for re-sequencing of haplotypes were selected from the list of loci with
716 multiple haplotypes obtained through genome-wide haplotype detection. Three loci were
717 selected in *S. robusta* for Sanger sequencing verification (Table 2) and 62 loci for PacBio
718 amplicon sequencing verification in the case of *P. tricornutum* (Table S3). Primers for
719 amplification were designed manually (Data S3). To avoid PCR recombination artefacts^{96,97},
720 selected loci were amplified by emulsion PCR using the MICELLULA DNA Emulsion &

721 Purification Kit (roboklon, Germany) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The DNA
722 concentration was measured on NanoDrop (ThermoFisher Scientific) and the number of DNA
723 template copies per μg of DNA was calculated according to the genome size of the respective
724 diatom. A maximum of 10^7 DNA molecules was used per single emulsion PCR reaction. The
725 PCR reaction mix consisted of 1x OptiTaq PCR buffer B (roboklon), 200 μM dNTP mix, 2 μM of
726 each forward and reverse primer, DNA template with 10^6 - 10^7 molecules, 1 mg/mL acetylated
727 BSA and 2.5U Opti Taq DNA polymerase (roboklon) in 50 μL of total volume. The emulsion mix
728 was prepared separately by mixing 220 μL of emulsion component 1, 20 μL of emulsion
729 component 2 and 60 μL of emulsion component 3 per PCR reaction. The 50 μL PCR reaction
730 was mixed with 300 μL of emulsion mix and emulsion was created by continuous vortexing at
731 1400 rpm at 4°C for 5 min. Each emulsion PCR reaction was split into three PCR tubes and run
732 with the following parameters: 94°C initial denaturation for 2 min, 26 cycles of 94°C
733 denaturation for 15 s, 56°C annealing for 30 s and 72°C extension with 1 kb/min relative to the
734 amplified fragment length, followed by a final extension at 72 °C for 10 min. The emulsion was
735 broken by the addition of 1 mL of isobutanol and vortexing. Next, 400 μL of Orange-DX solution
736 was added and reactions were gently mixed and centrifuged for 2 min at 20 000 x g. The
737 organic phase was removed and the aqueous phase was transferred to a Micellula spin column
738 activated by 40 μL of DX buffer. Columns were centrifuged at 11 000 x g for 1 min, washed
739 first with 500 μL of Wash-DX1 buffer, and then with 650 μL of Wash-DX2 buffer and the
740 leftovers of buffer were removed by an additional centrifugation for 2 min. PCR products were
741 eluted in 50 μL of Elution-DX buffer (all components: roboklon).

742

743 Sanger sequencing of *S. robusta* amplicons

744 *S. robusta* emulsion PCR products were cloned into the pGEM-T vector (Promega) according
745 to the manufacturer's instructions. In brief, the A overhangs were added by incubation of PCR
746 product with 10 μ M dNTP mix and 1U of Taq DNA polymerase (Invitrogen) at 72°C for 10 min.
747 Then, 3.5 μ L of PCR product was mixed with 5 μ L of 2x ligase buffer, 0.75 μ L of pGEM-T vector
748 and 2.25 U of T4 DNA ligase (all Promega) and incubated for 12 h at 4°C. Ligation mixtures
749 were transformed through electroporation into *E. coli* DH5alpha cells and transformants were
750 selected on LB supplemented with 100 μ g/mL ampicillin (Duchefa). Clones containing cloned
751 PCR products were selected by Sanger sequencing with pGEM-5 and pGEM-6 primers (Data
752 S3). Sequencing results were aligned with the reference using Clustal Omega ⁹⁸, and
753 haplotypes were manually assembled for each clone. Two alleles of Sro_contig556:54453-
754 55487 (Data S3) were cloned into the pGEM-T vector and an equimolar mix of these two
755 plasmids was used for emulsion PCR as a control for artefact generation. To simulate
756 conditions similar to emulsion PCR reactions on *S. robusta* genomic DNA, 10⁶-10⁷ molecules
757 of *S. robusta* genomic DNA were added and the control samples were amplified with pGEM-3
758 and pGEM-4 primers (Data S3). The PCR products were again cloned into the pGEM-T vector
759 and sequenced with pGEM-5 and pGEM-6 primers. For counting the number of found
760 haplotypes, we considered only SNPs that were found in SNP call (so only the reference and
761 alternative allele at a selected position). Therefore, if the base at the SNP position was neither
762 reference nor an alternative base identified in the SNP call, the read was discarded. We
763 considered the probability of mismatch to the reference identical for each possible
764 mismatched base, and therefore one third. With 99.99% accuracy of the Sanger sequencing
765 (1 error per 10,000 sequenced base pairs) and the probability of mismatch turning the base
766 to the wrong reference/alternative allele being one third, the final probability of error at
767 selected sites is 1: 30,000.

768

769 *P. tricornutum* cultures and PacBio amplicon sequencing and haplotype counting

770 13 intergenic loci and 59 loci overlapping with coding regions (Table S3) were selected based
771 on an SNP call on T1 cell culture and the list of loci with more than two haplotypes for PacBio
772 Sequel amplicon sequencing. All loci were amplified by emulsion PCR as described above with
773 primers listed in Data S3. In the case of low amplification efficiency, the emulsion PCR was
774 repeated. Purified PCR products were concentrated using Genomic DNA Clean & Concentrator
775 (Zymo Research) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Amplifications of *CFP*, *GFP* and
776 *YFP* genes were used for control reactions for random mistakes and control reactions for
777 artificial haplotypes detection. The *CFP*, *GFP* and *YFP* sequences (Table S2 and Data S3) were
778 amplified by emulsion PCR with primers binding to vector backbone (Data S3) from GK-333-
779 CFP, GK-359 and GK-333-YFP plasmids respectively (GK-333, GenBank⁷² accession MW934548
780 and GK-359, GenBank accession MW934549 were a gift from Dr. Nicole Poulsen, Center for
781 Molecular Bioengineering at TU Dresden). Control reactions for random errors consisted of
782 separately amplified GFP and YFP and control reactions for PCR-mediated recombination
783 consisted of mixed amplification of CFP+GFP and CFP+YFP (Table S2). Amplicons were pooled
784 together into two samples. Sample 1 contained 63 *P. tricornutum* endogenous 63 amplicons
785 from DNA harvested at a T6 time point, YFP amplified separately and CFP+GFP amplified in
786 one reaction. Sample 2 contained 5 *P. tricornutum* endogenous 5 amplicons from DNA
787 harvested at a T1 time point, GFP amplified separately and CFP+YFP amplified in one reaction.
788 Samples were barcoded, mixed in 9:1 ratio and sequenced on 1 PacBio Sequel SMRT cell at
789 Novogene (UK).

790 Circular Consensus Sequence (CCS) reads were obtained with SMRT Link 8.0.0 software
791 (PacBio) with --min-length 500 --max-length 2400 --min-passes 4 --by-strand and mapped to

792 the reference loci with BLASR⁸⁹ with default settings. The CIGAR string was corrected with
793 samfixcigar, soft-clipped bases were removed with biostar84452 from jvarkit⁸⁴ and reads with
794 mapping quality >20 were selected using SAMtools⁷⁷. Next, the haplotype number per locus
795 was counted as described above. Only haplotypes supported either by at least 1% of valid
796 reads or at least two reads if read count was lower than 200 were selected (Table S3). The
797 genes fully covered by PacBio amplicons were manually annotated to detect putative variants.

798

799 LOH and CNV detection

800 *Cultures started from a single cell:* To isolate single cells from *P. tricornutum* cultures, an
801 aliquot from the respective culture was diluted to 10⁶, 10⁹ and 10¹² in the growth medium.
802 200 µl of diluted culture were spread on a 120 x 120 mm Petri dish (Corning Gosselin) with
803 solid medium prepared with 17.25 g/L of Tropic Marin Bio-Actif sea salt solid and 10 g/L of
804 Plant Tissue Culture Agar (Neogen) supplemented with 1x Guillard's (F/2) Marine Water
805 Enrichment Solution (Sigma-Aldrich), 100 µg/L ampicillin, 50 µg/L gentamycin and 100 µg/L
806 streptomycin, and the plates were incubated at room temperature with a 12-h/12-h light/dark
807 cycle. Plates were checked for the presence of colonies after 14 days and single colonies were
808 transferred from the plate with the highest dilution factor that contained colonies into liquid
809 TMB medium using a pipette tip. This procedure was used to isolate and start three colonies
810 from a single cell from the Pt1 culture to obtain mother cultures MC1, MC2 and MC3. Thirty
811 days after mother culture isolation (T1 time point), daughter cells DC1.1-DC3.3 were isolated
812 from the respective mother cultures (Figure S5). Cultures for deep sequencing were harvested
813 twice; at time point T1 part of the mother cultures was harvested at time point T1, and 30
814 days later at time point T2 all cultures in the experiment were harvested.

815 Estimation of cell division rate: To pre-test the number of cell divisions per 6 days in our culture
816 conditions, 1×10^6 cells were inoculated on day 1 in 6 replicas and the number of cells was
817 counted after 6 full days). The average number of cells after 6 days was 8.03×10^6 . Using the
818 following formula: $N_t = N_0 2^{tf}$, where $N(t)$ is the number of cells at time t , N_0 is the initial
819 number of cells, t is the time in days and f is the frequency of cell cycles per unit time, the cell
820 division rate was estimated to be around 0.501 cell division per day. The actual rate of cell
821 division can be higher if cell mortality is counted.

822 *Illumina sequencing, SNP calling, LOH and CNV detection:* DNA for deep sequencing was
823 harvested and isolated by the CTAB DNA extraction method as described above. Paired-end
824 libraries were prepared with the NEBNext Ultra DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (NEB) with a
825 500-bp insert size and sequencing was performed on a 2×150 bp Illumina NextSeq500 Medium
826 at the VIB Nucleomics Core (Leuven, Belgium). Adapters and reads with a quality score below
827 20 were removed using BBduk⁷⁵ with `minlen=35 qtrim=r trimq=20 hdist=1 tbo tpe` and
828 custom adapter reference file. Trimmed reads were aligned to *P. tricornutum* v2 assembly
829 GCA_000150955.2⁹¹ (European Nucleotide Archive) using Burrows-Wheeler Alignment Tool
830 (BWA)⁷⁶ algorithm BWA-MEM and processed and re-calibrated as described above. After the
831 second round of recalibration, SNPs were called in three different ways:

832 *Germline SNP calling with GATK HaplotypeCaller a) joint genotyping with GATK 4.2.1 and b)*
833 *for individual samples with GATK 3.7.0:* First, germline SNPs were called with HaplotypeCaller
834 with either a) `-ERC GVCF` option and gVCF files were combined with CombineGVCFs and then
835 jointly genotyped with GenotypeGVCFs b) or without the `-ERC GVCF` option and joint
836 genotyping. SNPs were filtered with `QD < 2.0, QUAL < 30.0, SOR > 3.0, FS > 60.2, MQ < 40.0,`
837 `MQRankSum < -12.5, ReadPosRankSum < -8.0` and `DP < 10` and indels with `QD < 2.0, QUAL <`
838 `30.0, FS > 200.0, ReadPosRankSum < -20.0, DP < 10` using VariantFiltration and filtered SNPs

839 and indels were removed with SelectVariants. These set of germline SNPs were used to build
840 a Panel of Normals for following pairwise comparison of mother and daughter cell cultures
841 using Mutect2 and for cross-verification of LOH regions identified in Mutect2.

842 *Pairwise comparison of mother and daughter cultures with GATK Mutect2:* All GATK algorithms
843 were version 4.2.1 if not stated otherwise. First, SNPs were called on each sample with
844 Mutect2 in tumour-only mode. Next, a vcf file for each sample was created by moving the
845 sample-level AF allele-fraction annotation were moved into the INFO field for each sample
846 using VariantsToTable. The Panel of Normals was prepared using the germline SNPs dataset
847 for individual samples generated by HaplotypeCaller as a germline-resource by first calling the
848 SNPs for each sample with Mutect2 in tumour-only mode, then merging all files with
849 CombineVariants (GATK3.7.0) and finally creating the Panel of Normals with
850 CreateSomaticPanelOfNormals. A Panel of Normals file for each pairwise comparison was
851 prepared by masking germline variants from the respective individual samples using germline
852 SNPs called by HaplotypeCaller using CatVariants (GATK3.7.0) to merge SNPs from both
853 samples and then masking them using SelectVariants with -XL option. Finally, LOH regions and
854 *de novo* mutations were detected by Mutect2 SNP call with vcf file with sample-level AF allele-
855 fraction in the INFO field used as --germline-resource, the respective masked Panel of Normals
856 file used as -pon, --genotype-germline-sites true and either the mother culture used as
857 tumour sample and daughter culture used as normal to detect LOH events in the daughter
858 culture or vice-versa to detect *de novo* mutations in daughter culture (Table S5 and Data S3).

859 Called SNPs were filtered with FilterMutectCalls and filtered SNPs were removed with
860 SelectVariants --excludeFiltered. As a control, the T1 with T2 time point of each mother culture
861 were compared. A minimum of three consecutive SNPs missing in the daughter or T2 mother
862 culture was considered as a LOH event and all LOH regions were reexamined in the datasets

863 of germline SNPs obtained either by individual SNP calling or joint genotyping. The nature of
864 the LOH was judged by comparison of coverage of the LOH region and its surrounding
865 heterozygous borders and through Sanger resequencing of the LOH border (Tables S5 and
866 Data S3).

867 *CNV detection:* The copy-number variation was detected using GATK 4.1.7 CNV detection
868 pipeline. First, intervals list with bin length set to 100 bp and `-interval-merging-rule`
869 `OVERLAPPING_ONLY` was prepared with `PreprocessIntervals` and collect raw counts were
870 collected using `CollectReadCounts` and CNV panel of normals was generated by
871 `CreateReadCountPanelOfNormal` with `--minimum-interval-median-percentile 5.0` setting.
872 Standardized copy ratios and denoised copy ratios were obtained using `DenoiseReadCounts`
873 against a panel of normals. Reference and alternative allele counts at common germline sites
874 called on all samples by `HaplotypeCaller` in GVCF mode and jointly genotyped were obtained
875 using `CollectAllelicCounts` for each sample. Segments of contiguous copy ratios were acquired
876 by `ModelSegments` in a paired analysis with `--denoised-copy-ratios` and `--allelic-counts` from
877 the daughter culture and `--normal-allelic-counts` from the respective mother culture.
878 Amplified, deleted and copy-neutral segments were called with `CallCopyRatioSegments` with
879 default settings and plotted using `PlotModeledSegments`. Detected CNV events were cross-
880 verified in the datasets of germline SNPs obtained by SNP calling and joint genotyping and in
881 estimated coverage counts per 10 bp obtained using `bedtools 2.2.28 coverage`. Further,
882 identified LOH in tandem repeat on chromosome 5 in DC1.2 was verified by Sanger sequencing
883 and duplication on chromosome 23 in DC1.3 was confirmed by qPCR quantification (see
884 below).

885 *Re-sequencing of identified LOH events in mother versus daughter cell culture comparison and*

886 *CNV analysis:* The nature of LOH events identified by pairwise comparison between mother

887 and daughter cell culture was first judged by visual comparison of the sample coverage at the
888 LOH region and the neighbouring region. Next, the region was amplified by emulsion PCR as
889 described in the Methods, PCR products were cloned into the pGEM-T vector and individual
890 clones were sequenced. If the LOH region sequence was found together with both alleles of
891 neighbouring heterozygous SNP(s), the region was considered as copy-neutral LOH. If only a
892 single allele was found and the coverage data corresponded, the region was considered as a
893 deletion. Predicted heterozygous SNPs in regions between identified LOH events on
894 chromosome 26 in DC2.1 culture were amplified by a standard PCR using Phusion High-Fidelity
895 DNA Polymerases (Thermo Scientific) according to the manufacturers' instructions and
896 sequenced by Sanger sequencing to verify their heterozygosity (Data S3). The same approach
897 was used to verify the hetero/homozygosity of three SNPs on chromosome 27 that were
898 predicted as LOH in culture DC2.2, but was called as homozygous by independent SNP calling
899 also in the mother culture MC2. The LOH on chromosome 5 in DC1.2 was identified as CNV,
900 but PCR amplification confirmed the presence of two alleles with different length (differing in
901 1960 bp). The longer allele contained a tandemly duplicated region while in the short allele
902 the duplication was missing. Subsequent Sanger sequencing of alleles showed that culture
903 DC1.2 contains two short alleles with LOH of SNPs in the surrounding region (Figure S5 and
904 Data S3). The effect of SNPs found in was profiled using SnpEff³⁹. First, pre-build SnpEff *P.*
905 *tricornutum* database was downloaded and records for SNPs in LOH regions were selected
906 using bedtools intersect⁸³. The selected SNP variants were annotated using snpEff with
907 default settings. SNPs annotated with "HIGH" effect were selected using grep and their exact
908 effect was manually annotated.

909 *qPCR quantification of duplication at chromosome 23 in DC1.4 culture:*

910 The relative copy number variation on chromosome 23 was examined in daughter cultures
911 DC1.1, DC1.2 and DC1.3 in comparison with mother culture MC1 by quantitative real-time PCR
912 (qPCR). DNA was extracted as described above and concentration was adjusted to 48 pg/ μ L
913 for each sample. Two primer pairs were designed into the region containing putative
914 duplication on chromosome 23 in DC1.3, two primer pairs were located on chromosome 23
915 outside the duplicated region and two primers pairs were targeting loci outside of
916 chromosome 23, one on chromosome 6 and one on chromosome 22 (Data S3). qPCR was
917 performed using the SYBR Green kit (Roche) with 100 nM primers and 0.125 μ L DNA in a total
918 volume of 5 μ L per reaction. qPCR amplification reactions were run and analyzed on the
919 LightCycler 480 (Roche) with following cycling conditions: 10 min polymerase pre-incubation
920 at 95°C and 45 cycles of amplification at 95°C for 10 s, 60°C for 15 s, and 72°C for 15 s. Melting
921 curves were recorder after the last cycle by heating from 65 to 95°C. All qPCR amplicons were
922 sequenced by Sanger sequencing to confirm their integrity. For each reaction, three technical
923 repeats were performed. Data were analyzed using qbase+ (Biogazelle)⁹⁹ with a copy number
924 analysis option and with the mother culture MC1 as a reference sample and loci on the distal
925 arm of chromosome 23 (locus D) chromosome 6 (locus E) and chromosome 22 (locus F) as
926 reference targets.

927

928 PtUMPS read-out system

929 *PtUMPS* cultures: Strains *ptumps-1bp* and *ptumps-1368bp* were generated based on a
930 previously described protocol⁴¹. Briefly, Cas9 ribonucleoprotein (RNP) complexes were
931 assembled to target the *PtUMPS* locus, at either the gUMPS1 site or the gUMPS4 site (Data
932 S3). An equimolar mixture of RNP gUMPS1 and RNP gUMPS4 (4 μ g each) was bombarded into
933 wild-type *P. tricornutum* Pt1 8.6 (CCMP2561) cells. Two rounds of selection were made on

934 silicate-free F/2 medium (Sigma) plates supplemented with 50 µg/mL uracil (Sigma) and 300
935 µg/mL 5-fluoroorotic acid (5-FOA; ThermoFisher). Cell lysates were then prepared to serve as
936 a template for genotyping. PCRs using the Q5 High Fidelity DNA polymerase (New England
937 Biolabs) and primers UMPS_5UTR_F and UMPS_3UTR_R (Data S3) were performed to amplify
938 the *PtUMPS* locus. The generated amplicons were subcloned employing the CloneJET PCR
939 cloning kit (Thermo Scientific) and analyzed through Sanger sequencing. The *ptumps-320bp*
940 strain was prepared and described previously under the name UA17⁴¹. *PtUMPS* mutant strains
941 were maintained in conditions described above in 1xTMB medium supplemented with
942 50 µg/mL uracil and 100 µg/mL 5-FOA to prevent the restoration of the wild-type allele.

943 *PtUMPS 14 day cultivation in non-selective conditions:* Cells densities of *ptumps-1bp*, *ptumps-*
944 *320bp* and *ptumps-1368bp* were estimated using Bürker counting chamber and 20x10⁶ cells
945 from were harvested by centrifugation at 1216 x g for 5 minutes. The cell pellet was washed
946 four times with 50 mL of 1xTMB medium, then resuspended in 750 mL of 1x TMB medium
947 supplemented with 50 µg/mL uracil and resulting cultures were cultivated in 12h/12h
948 light/dark cycle. After 7 days, another 750 mL of fresh medium supplemented with uracil were
949 added. After 14 days, cultures were harvested by centrifugation, cell density was estimated
950 and 50x10⁶ cells from the culture were washed four times with TMB medium and plated on
951 1% agar ½ TMB medium 245 x 245 mm Nunc™ Square BioAssay plates (ThermoFisher) and
952 incubated in 18h/6h light/dark cycle at 20°C for 6 weeks. The resulting colonies were manually
953 counted (Data S4 and S5). Colonies selected for sequencing of *PtUMPS* locus were transferred
954 to fresh 1xTMB medium and grown cell cultures were harvested as described above. The
955 *PtUMPS* locus was amplified with primers PtUMPS-1 and PtUMPS-2 (Data S3) using two
956 consecutive rounds of emulsion PCR. PCR products were cloned to pGEM-T vector and
957 sequenced by Sanger sequencing.

958

959 Estimation of interhomolog recombination frequency:

960 ~50x10⁶ cells of three *ptumps-1bp* and five independent *ptumps-1368bp* cell subcultures
961 started from a single cell were harvested by centrifugation at 1216 x g for 5 minutes. The cell
962 pellet was washed four times with 50 mL of 1xTMB medium, then resuspended in 1xTMB
963 medium. The cell density was determined and 2 to 6 replicas of either 25x10⁶ or 20x10⁶ cells
964 were immediately plated on 1% agar ½ TMB medium and incubated as described above and
965 incubated in 18h/6h light/dark cycle at 20°C for 6 weeks. The resulting colonies were manually
966 counted (Data S4 and S5).

967 The frequency of interhomolog recombination was calculated based on the number of uracil
968 prototrophic colonies after the immediate transfer of *ptumps-1368bp* strain from 5-FOA- and
969 uracil-supplemented medium (only mutant cells survive) on plates without uracil (only cells
970 that restored the wild-type allele survive). As the recombination that restored the wild-type
971 *PtUMPS* allele had to occur within 1368-bp region, first, the incidence of LOH events per 1000
972 bp was estimated for each replica by dividing the number of colonies by 1.38. The exact
973 nuclear genome size of *P. tricornutum* was determined from the genome fasta file using awk
974 as 27,450,724 bp. Taking into account the genome length and number of plated cells, the
975 recombination rate was recalculated per whole genome of 100 cells. As the copy-neutral LOH
976 is detectable in half of the cases of mitotic interhomolog recombination due to random
977 segregation of sister chromatids during mitotic metaphase, the number was multiplied by 2
978 to obtain the rate of mitotic recombination. The average value obtained from data for all
979 replicas was 4.2 x 10⁻². The rate of reciprocal cross-overs on a 120-kb region in *S. cerevisiae*
980 was estimated at 4 x 10⁻⁵ per cell division and the rate of gene conversion events as 3.5 x 10⁻⁶
981 per cell division⁴² or 3.3 x 10⁻³ per cell division for interstitial LOH, 1.4 x 10⁻³ for terminal LOH

982 genome-wide⁴³. The frequency of reciprocal cross-overs and gene conversion on a 120-kb
983 region were combined and recalculated first per 1 kb and subsequently per 11.89 Mb *S.*
984 *cerevisiae* genome. The resulting rate of interhomolog recombination in *S. cerevisiae* was
985 calculated as 4.3×10^{-3} in the case of 120 kb region or 4.7×10^{-3} in the case of the genome-
986 wide studies.

987

988 Effect of treatment with cadmium, H₂O₂ and (E,E)-2,4-decadienal on interhomolog
989 recombination at PtUMPS locus

990 The ranges of concentrations of chemicals used for treatments were first surveyed in
991 literature, then selected concentrations were tested by treatment of Pt1 *P. tricornutum* strain
992 for seven days. Afterwards, the cell survival of mock and treated cells was compared and the
993 maximal dose that did not cause a decrease in cell density was selected as the maximal dose
994 in the respective experiment. *ptumps-1bp* and *ptumps-1368bp* cell cultures were harvested
995 by centrifugation at 1216 x g for 5 minutes and the cell pellet was washed four times with 50
996 mL of 1xTMB medium, then resuspended in 50 mL of 1xTMB medium. Cell density per mL was
997 estimated and 25×10^6 cells per replica were transferred to 200 mL of 1xTMB medium
998 supplemented with 50 µg/mL uracil and respective treatment or mock treatment. For zeocin
999 treatment, zeocin was added to the final concentration (InvivoGen) was added to final
1000 concentrations of 1 µg/mL and 10 µg/mL from 1000x stock solution. For cadmium treatment,
1001 CdCl₂ (Sigma-Aldrich) was added to final Cd²⁺ concentrations of 5 µg/L and 50 µg/L from 4000x
1002 stock solution. For H₂O₂ treatment, a 30% solution of H₂O₂ (Merck) was added to a final
1003 concentration of 5 µM or 50 µM H₂O₂. For (E,E)-2,4-Decadienal treatment, 200 µL of DMSO
1004 was added to the mock-treated cell cultures and (E,E)-2,4-Decadienal (Sigma-Aldrich) was
1005 added to 0.1 µM and 1 µM final concentration from 1000x and 100x concentrated stock

1006 solution respectively. Cultures were incubated for 24h in 12h/12h light/dark cycle at 20°C,
1007 under photosynthetic LED light with an intensity of 160 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ and with 100 rpm
1008 shaking. Afterwards, all samples were harvested by centrifugation at 1216 x g for 5 minutes
1009 and cell pellets were washed four times with 50 mL of 1xTMB medium and plated on 1% agar
1010 $\frac{1}{2}$ TMB medium as described above and incubated in 18h/6h light/dark cycle at 20°C for 6
1011 weeks. The resulting colonies were manually counted (Data S4 and S5).

1012

1013 **Quantification and statistical analysis**

1014 No sample-size calculations were performed. Sample sizes were determined to be adequate
1015 based on preliminary experiments and feasibility. The interhomolog mitotic recombination
1016 rate measured in three ptumps-1bp and five ptumps-1368bp independent biological
1017 replicates, each with two to six technical replicas. The influence of environmental stresses on
1018 interhomolog mitotic recombination rate was performed in three biological replicas. The
1019 number of biological replicates for each data panel is indicated in the figure panel, in
1020 Supplementary data and the source data files. No randomization was performed (not
1021 applicable). Data exclusions: A threshold was set to count haplotypes in long-read sequencing
1022 for genome-wide and re-sequencing experiments to remove false-positive data as described
1023 above. No other data were excluded from this study.

1024

1025 **DATA SX TITLES AND LEGENDS:**

1026

1027 **Data S1. Details of the SNV positions and densities in the selected genes in *F. cylindrus***
1028 **metagenomes. Related to STAR Methods and Figure S1.**

1029 A) SNV positions of the exons present in the core genes, for the surface metagenome (10%
1030 divergence from consensus, at least 20X coverage in both samples). B) SNV positions of the
1031 exons present in the core genes, for the DCM metagenome (10% divergence from consensus,
1032 at least 20X coverage in both samples). C) SNV densities (%) of the exons present in the core
1033 genes. D) SNV densities (%) of the core genes (filtered by mean coverage).

1034

1035 **Data S2. List of loci with more than two haplotypes detected genome-wide in profiled**
1036 **organisms. Related to STAR Methods and Figures 1 and S2-S3.**

1037 A) List of loci with more than two haplotypes detected in genome-wide analysis in *S. robusta*.

1038 B) List of loci with more than two haplotypes detected in genome-wide analysis in *P.*

1039 *tricornutum*. C) List of loci with more than two haplotypes detected in genome-wide analysis

1040 in *A. thaliana*. and D) List of loci with more than one haplotype detected in the genome-wide

1041 haplotype analysis in *S. cerevisiae*. E) Overview of genome-wide haplotype counting in diatoms

1042 *S. robusta* and *P. tricornutum*, yeast *S. cerevisiae* and plant *A. thaliana*. F) Error rate in

1043 processed long-read sequencing data used for haplotype counting estimated by Alfred.

1044

1045 **Data S3. Details of re-sequencing of loci with multiple haplotypes, analysis of genetic**
1046 **changes in daughter cells and materials used throughout the study. Related to STAR**
1047 **Methods and Figures 1-4 and S2-6.**

1048 A) List of *S. robusta* loci used for Sanger sequencing verification of haplotype diversity. B) List

1049 of *P. tricornutum* 2-kb loci used for PacBio amplicon sequencing verification of haplotype

1050 diversity. C) The number of haplotypes at control amplicons obtained by PacBio amplicon

1051 sequencing. Only haplotypes supported by at least 1% of reads from the total read count or

1052 at least 2 reads were added to the haplotype count. D) The number of haplotypes of *P.*

1053 *tricornutum* loci used for the verification of haplotype diversity by PacBio amplicon
1054 sequencing, six months after single-cell isolation. Only haplotypes supported by at least 1% of
1055 reads from the total read count or at least 2 reads were added to the haplotype count. E)
1056 Position of alleles in genes used as for a control amplification in emulsion PCR experiments. F)
1057 De novo SNPs identified by pairwise comparison of mother and daughter cultures in the
1058 genome-wide LOH analysis. G) SNPs with high effect on protein function fixed by LOHs and
1059 deletions. H) Genes covered by duplication on chromosome 23 in DC1.3. I) List of diatom
1060 datasets and strains. J) List of oligonucleotides used throughout the study.

1061

1062 **Data S4. Photographs of plates with uracil prototrophic colonies resulting from mitotic**
1063 **interhomolog recombination. Related to STAR Methods and Figures 4 and S6.**

1064

1065 **Data S5. Counts of *ptumps-1bp* and *ptumps-1368bp* uracil prototrophic colonies. Related to**
1066 **STAR Methods and Figures 4 and S6.**

1067 A) Counts of *ptumps-1bp*, *ptumps-320bp* and *ptumps-1368bp* uracil prototrophic colonies
1068 after a 14-day cultivation in non-selective conditions. B) Counts of *ptumps-1bp* and *ptumps-*
1069 *1368bp* uracil prototrophic colonies after immediate transfer from 5-FOA- and uracil-
1070 supplemented medium to medium without uracil. C) Counts of *ptumps-1bp* and *ptumps-*
1071 *1368bp* uracil prototrophic colonies after 24-h zeocin treatment in non-selective conditions.
1072 D) Counts of *ptumps-1bp* and *ptumps-1368bp* uracil prototrophic colonies after 24-h H₂O₂
1073 treatment in non-selective conditions. E) Counts of *ptumps-1bp* and *ptumps-1368bp* uracil
1074 prototrophic colonies after 24-h cadmium treatment in non-selective conditions. F) Counts of
1075 *ptumps-1bp* and *ptumps-1368bp* uracil prototrophic colonies after 24-h (E,E)-2,4-Decadienal
1076 treatment in non-selective conditions.

1077

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