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Cdc48 cofactor Shp1 regulates signal-induced SCF^{Met30} disassembly

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Organisms can adapt to a broad spectrum of sudden and dramatic changes in their environment. These abrupt changes are often perceived as stress and trigger responses that facilitate survival and eventual adaptation. The ubiquitin-proteasome system (UPS) is involved in most cellular processes. Unsurprisingly, components of the UPS also play crucial roles during various stress response programs. The budding yeast SCF^{Met30} complex is an essential cullin-RING ubiquitin ligase that connects metabolic and heavy metal stress to cell cycle regulation. Cadmium exposure results in the active dissociation of the F-box protein Met30 from the core ligase, leading to SCF^{Met30} inactivation. Consequently, SCF^{Met30} substrate ubiquitylation is blocked and triggers a downstream cascade to activate a specific transcriptional stress response program. Signal-induced dissociation is initiated by autoubiquitylation of Met30 and serves as a recruitment signal for the AAA-ATPase Cdc48/p97, which actively disassembles the complex. Here we show that the UBX cofactor Shp1/p47 is an additional key element for SCF^{Met30} disassembly during heavy metal stress. Although the cofactor can directly interact with the ATPase, Cdc48 and Shp1 are recruited independently to SCF^{Met30} during cadmium stress. An intact UBX domain is crucial for effective SCF^{Met30} disassembly, and a concentration threshold of Shp1 recruited to SCF^{Met30} needs to be exceeded to initiate Met30 dissociation. The latter is likely related to Shp1-mediated control of Cdc48 ATPase activity. This study identifies Shp1 as the crucial Cdc48 cofactor for signalinduced selective disassembly of a multisubunit protein complex to modulate activity.

SCF-Met30 | Cdc48/p97 | Shp1

he maintenance of protein homeostasis is crucial for eukaryotic cells. The posttranslational modification of a protein by ubiquitin conjugation was first described as the major nonlysosomal mechanism by which proteins are targeted for degradation (1). However, destruction of proteins via the proteasomal pathway is only one of many outcomes of ubiquitylation. The fate of a protein is decided depending on how many ubiquitin molecules are covalently attached and in which fashion ubiquitin chains are formed. The outcomes can be versatile, and, for example, influence abundance, activity, or localization of proteins (2–5). The process of ubiquitin conjugation requires the coordinated reaction of the E1-E2-E3 enzyme cascade. E3 ligases mediate the final step of substrate-Ospecific conjugation (6-8). E3s are the most diverse components in the ubiquitylation machinery and are divided in several classes. The largest group is represented by the multisubunit cullin-RING ligases (CRLs), which include the well-studied subfamily of SCF (Skp1-cullin-F-box) ligases (9, 10). SCFs are composed of four principal components: the RING finger protein Rbx1, the scaffold Cul1, and the linker Skp1 that forms an association platform with different substrate-specific F-box proteins (11, 12).

The punctual degradation of several SCF substrates is essential to ensure normal cell growth. Hence, alterations in SCF component expression or function can often be linked to cancer and other diseases (13, 14). This highlights the importance to better understand SCF ligase regulation and enable their therapeutic targeting. It has long been thought that ubiquitylation by SCF ligases is solely regulated at the level of substrate binding (11, 15). However, an additional mode of CRL regulation was recently discovered. Specific SCF ligases can be inhibited by signal-induced dissociation of the F-box subunit from the core ligase (16, 17). The best studied example is SCF^{Met30}, which controls ubiquitylation of a number of different substrates (16, 18-20). The transcriptional activator Met4 and the cell-cycle inhibitor Met32 are the most critical ones. Together they orchestrate induction of cell cycle arrest and activation of a specific transcriptional response during nutritional or heavy metal stress. This stress response protects cellular integrity, restores normal levels of sulfur-containing metabolites, and activates a defense system for protection against heavy metal stress (18, 21-25). Under normal growth conditions, SCF^{Met30} mediates Met4 and Met32 ubiquitylation. Even though both are modified with the classical canonical destruction signal, a lysine-48-linked ubiquitin chain, only Met32 is degraded via the proteasomal pathway. In contrast, Met4 is kept in an inactive state by the attached ubiquitin chain (19, 26). Both nutrient and heavy metal stress block SCF^{Met30}-dependent ubiquitylation of Met4 and Met32, but through profoundly distinctive mechanisms. Nutrient stress prevents the interaction between the $\mathrm{SCF}^{\mathrm{Met30}}$ ligase and its substrate following the canonical mode of regulation, but cadmium stress leads to active dissociation of the F-box subunit Met30 from the core ligase (21, 22). Remarkably, dissociation is initiated by

Significance

Ubiquitylation affects many important cellular processes and has been linked to a number of human diseases. It has become a synonym for protein degradation, but ubiquitylation also has important nonproteolytic signaling functions. Understanding the molecular concepts that govern ubiquitin signaling is of great importance for development of diagnostics and therapeutics. The cadmium-induced inactivation of the SCF^{Met30} ubiquitin ligase via the disassembly of the multisubunit ligase complex illustrates an example for nonproteolytic signaling pathways. Dissociation is triggered by autoubiquitylation of the F-box protein Met30, which is the recruiting signal for the highly conserved AAA-ATPase Cdc48/p97. Here we show that the UBX cofactor Shp1/p47 is important for this ubiquitindependent active remodeling of a multiprotein complex in response to a specific environmental signal.

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The authors declare no competing interest.

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autoubiquitylation of the F-box protein Met30, which serves as the recruiting signal for the conserved AAA-ATPase Cdc48/p97 (16). Importantly, ubiquitin-dependent recruitment of Cdc48 and dissociation of Met30 from the core ligase are independent of proteasome activity (16).

Cdc48 is involved in many diverse cellular pathways, including extraction of unfolded proteins from the ER (27, 28), discharge of membrane-bound transcription factors (29, 30), and chromatinassociated protein extraction (31-36). However, Cdc48 itself rarely displays substrate specificity. An ensemble of regulatory cofactors tightly controls functions of the ATPase by recruiting it to different cellular pathways (37-39). Shp1 (Suppressor of High copy protein Phosphatase 1 or p47 in mammals) is part of the UBA-UBX family of Cdc48 cofactors (40). The UBA domain binds ubiquitin, with a preference for multiubiquitin chains (41, 42), and the UBX domain is structurally similar to ubiquitin and directly interacts with Cdc48 by mimicking a monoubiquitylated substrate (43-46). An additional domain, the SEP (Shp1/Eyeless/ P47) domain, is involved in trimerization of the cofactor (47, 48). N-terminal of the UBX domain, a short hydrophobic sequence in Shp1 represents an additional Cdc48 binding motif (BS1), which enables a bipartite mode of Shp1 binding to Cdc48 (39, 44, 46, 49).

In yeast, Shp1 is involved in Cdc48-dependent protein degradation via the UPS (43). The Cdc48^{Shp1} complex also interacts with the ubiquitin-fold autophagy protein Atg8 and is a component of autophagosome biogenesis (50). The best studied function of Shp1 relates to activation of protein phosphatase 1 (Glc7), which is important for cell cycle progression (51, 52). Hence, deletion of Shp1 leads to a severe growth phenotype, and cells are prone to genomic instability (43, 52, 53). Here we show that Shp1 is the crucial Cdc48 cofactor for SCF^{Met30} disassembly in response to heavy metal stress. We identified the very C-terminal 22 amino acids to be important for disassembly. Surprisingly, Cdc48 and Shp1 get independently recruited to SCF^{Met30} during cadmium stress, and recruitment depends on SCF^{Met30} autoubiquitylation. Furthermore, initiation of SCF^{Met30} disassembly is triggered by an Shp1 threshold level likely necessary for stimulating ATP hydrolysis by Cdc48 (54).

Results

Shp1 Is Involved in the Cellular Response during Cadmium Stress. The distinct functions of Cdc48/p97 in diverse cellular processes are tightly controlled by a large number of cofactors (38). For mechanical reasons, Cdc48 requires at least two anchor points to generate physical force and make Met30 dissociation possible. We reasoned that deletion of a cofactor necessary for SCF^{Met30} disassembly would result in cadmium sensitivity because defense pathways would not be activated. Deletion of SHP1 rendered yeast cells cadmium-sensitive (16, 43), and we therefore considered Shp1 as a potential cofactor for SCF^{Met30} disassembly. This hypothesis was supported by immunoprecipitation experiments of Met30 that showed Cdc48 and Shp1 are recruited to SCF^{Met30} in response to cadmium exposure (Fig. 1A). We have previously demonstrated that Met30 dissociates rapidly from Skp1 concomitant with Cdc48 recruitment to SCF^{Met30} when cells are exposed to cadmium (16) (Fig. 1A). In shp1 Δ deletion mutants, Met30 dissociation kinetics were severely delayed. Additionally, the amount of Cdc48 in complex with Met30 in the absence of Shp1 was significantly increased even under unstressed growth conditions, and accumulated to even higher levels during cadmium stress (Fig. 1A and SI Appendix, Fig. S1A). Increased Cdc48 binding suggests that the dissociation complex intermediate is trapped in *shp1* Δ mutants, and, importantly, that Shp1 is not required for Cdc48 recruitment, but to trigger Cdc48-catalyzed Met30 dissociation (Fig. 1*A* and *SI Appendix*, Fig. S1*A*). Under normal growth conditions, SCF^{Met30} facilitates the

Under normal growth conditions, SCF^{Met30} facilitates the ubiquitylation of Met4 and thereby represses the cadmium-related stress response (21, 22). Cadmium-triggered dissociation of Met30

leads to SCF^{Met30} inhibition and thereby blocks Met4 ubiquitylation, leading to cell cycle arrest and induction of the transcription of glutathione and sulfur amino acid biosynthesisregulating genes (25). Consistent with Shp1 requirement for SCF^{Met30} disassembly, Met4 remained ubiquitylated during cadmium stress in *shp1*Δ mutants (Fig. 1*B*). Furthermore, the lack of Met4 activation in the absence of Shp1 is reflected in blunted cadmium-induced Met4 target gene activation (Fig. 1*C*). These results and cadmium hypersensitivity of *shp1*Δ cells (16, 43) suggest that Shp1 is critical for the Met4-mediated cadmium stress program.

However, Shp1 is essential for normal mitotic progression, and shp1 Δ mutants grow very slowly (ref. 52 and SI Appendix, Fig. S1B) or are inviable in certain genetic backgrounds (43). Thus, as with all mutations that severely compromise cell proliferation, we were concerned that $shp1\Delta$ deletion strains acquired compensatory mutations that could lead to misinterpretation of results (55). Therefore, we decided to use the auxin-inducible degron (AID) system (56, 57) to acutely down-regulate Shp1 protein levels. Auxin (IAA) mediates the interaction of the F-box protein Tir1 and an AID-tagged protein, leading to the ubiquitylation and proteasomal degradation of the AID-tagged substrate. Shp1 was tagged with a 3×HA-AID-fragment and coexpressed with OsTir in the presence of IAA. Within 30 min of IAA supplementation, Shp1-AID levels were significantly decreased (SI Appendix, Fig. S1C). Even though Shp1 levels were severely down-regulated for several hours, no significant growth defect was observed (SI Appendix, Fig. S1D), indicating that the remaining Shp1 amount was enough to fulfill its function in mitotic progression, or that genomic instability associated with shp1 Δ mutants leads to accumulation of growth-inhibiting mutations over time. We compared cadmium-induced Met30 dissociation between $shp1\Delta$ deletion mutants and auxin-mediated knockdown strains. When Shp1 levels were low (<10% of endogenous amount), cadmium-induced Met30 dissociation was compromised. Although this dissociation phenotype was not as pronounced as in the complete absence of Shp1 (Fig. 1D and SI *Appendix*, Fig. S1*E*), these results confirm an important role of Shp1 in SCF^{Met30} disassembly during heavy metal stress.

Mutation of Functional Domains in Shp1. Several conserved functional domains have been characterized in Shp1 and its mammalian ortholog p47 (39). These include the UBA and UBX domains that characterize this family of Cdc48 cofactors. We wanted to evaluate the importance of these domains and the role of Shp1/Cdc48 interaction for SCF^{Met30} disassembly. The crystal structure of p97 bound to p47, the human orthologs of yeast Cdc48 and Shp1, respectively, has been reported (48). Several regions of p47 contact p97 in this structure. Most notably, the S3/ S4 loop (residues 342 to 345 in p47 and 396 to 398) located in the UBX domain inserts into a hydrophobic pocket formed between two p97 N subdomains. Additional contacts are formed by evolutionarily conserved residues at the very C terminus of p47 (48). Furthermore, we deleted another evolutionarily conserved region (residues 304 to 314 in Shp1) referred to as binding site 1 (BS1) or SHP box, a motif that mediates binding of other proteins to Cdc48 (49, 52, 58, 59). To simplify the nomenclature, we refer to BS1 as Cdc48 interacting domain 1 (CIM1), to the S3/S4 loop as CIM2, and to the last 22 residues of Shp1 as UBX_{Ct} (Fig. 2A and SI Appendix, Fig. S2A). The latter two binding elements are embedded in the UBX domain, but mutation of one element does not interfere with integrity of Cdc48 binding ability through the other element. All mutations were generated at the endogenous locus by CRISPR/Cas9-mediated gene editing. The CIM1 mutation was generated by deleting residues 304 to 314 and the CIM2 mutation by changing the important FPI sequence to GAG. As previously reported (52), mutation of either the CIM1, CIM2, or UBX_{Ct} severely reduced steady-state interaction



Fig. 1. Shp1 is involved in the cellular response during cadmium stress. (*A*) Shp1 is recruited to SCF^{Met30} during cadmium stress. Dissociation kinetics of Met30 from the SCF core ligase are decreased in *shp1* Δ deletion mutants (K.O.). Strains expressing endogenous ^{12xMyc}Met30, Cdc48^{RG56H}, Skp1, and Shp1^{3xHA} in WT or *shp1* Δ cells were cultured at 30 °C in YEPD medium and treated with 100 μ M CdCl₂, and samples were harvested at indicated time points. ^{12xMyc}Met30 was immunoprecipitated, and coprecipitated proteins were analyzed by Western blot. (*B*) Shp1 is necessary for Met4 activation during heavy metal stress. Whole-cell lysates (Totals) of samples shown in Fig. 1*A* were analyzed by Western blot using a Met4 antibody to follow the ubiquitylation and phosphorylation status of Met4. Tubulin was used as a loading control. (*C*) Cadmium-induced gene expression is altered in the absence of Shp1. RNA was extracted from samples shown in Fig. 1*A*. Expression of Met4 arget genes *MET25* and *GSH1* was analyzed by RT-qPCR and normalized to 18S rRNA levels (*n* = 3). Data are presented as mean \pm SD (t test **P* < 0.1, ***P* < 0.01). (*D*) Temporal down-regulation of Shp1 shows its importance during cadmium stress. Strains expressing endogenous ^{12xMyc}Met30, Shp1^{3xHA-AID}, and the F-Box protein ^{2xFLAG}OsTir under the constitutive ADH promoter were cultured at 30 °C in YEPD medium in the absence of 500 μ M auxin for 4 h to deplete endogenous Shp1. Cells were treated with 100 μ M cadmium, and samples were harvested after 20 min of heavy metal exposure. ^{12xMyc}Met30 was immunoprecipitated, and coprecipitated and coprecipitated and the responsure.

of endogenous proteins with Cdc48, while deletion of the UBA domain had no effect (Fig. 2D and SI Appendix, Fig. S2E). Mutant Shp1 proteins were expressed at similar levels, and, in contrast to $shp1\Delta$ deletion mutants, none of the mutant strains showed substantial growth defects (Fig. 2 B and C and SI Appendix, Fig. S2 C and D). We noticed significantly reduced Met30 levels in $shp1\Delta$ mutants, which was not observed in any of the domain mutations (Fig. 2B). Met30 protein stability was not affected, but $shp1\Delta$ mutants showed reduced MET30 RNA expression (SI Appendix, Fig. S2 F and G). The reason for the expression effect is unknown.

The UBX Domain of Shp1 Is Required for SCF^{Met30} Disassembly during Cadmium Stress. We next analyzed the impact of different Shp1 mutants on the response to cadmium stress. We focused these studies on Shp1 Δ CIM2, Δ UBA, and Δ UBX_{Ct} mutants because Shp1 with either Δ CIM1 and Δ CIM2 mutations showed identical behavior in initial experiments (SI Appendix, Fig. S2). As previously shown, the shp1 Δ deletion mutants were hypersensitive toward cadmium exposure (16, 43) (Fig. 3A). ΔUBX_{Ct} mutants were also cadmium-sensitive, albeit only moderately, whereas all other Shp1 domain mutants tolerated cadmium exposure (Fig. 3A and *SI Appendix*, Fig. S3A). Cadmium sensitivity caused by defects in the SCF^{Met30} system is due to a lack of Met4 activation and the resulting blocked induction of a defense program mediated by Met4-dependent gene transcription. Met4 activation can be monitored by appearance of deubiquitylated Met4 and induction of genes such as MET25 and GSH1 in response to cadmium stress (16, 21, 22). These are sensitive indicators to monitor functionality of the SCF^{Met30} system. Consistent with the cadmium sensitivity assay, $shp1\Delta$ and Δubx_{Ct} mutants were unable to fully activate Met4 as demonstrated by maintained ubiquitylated Met4 during cadmium stress (Fig. 3B). All other Shp1 variants

responded similarly to wild-type cells and completely blocked Met4 ubiquitylation (Fig. 3B). These findings were further confirmed by analysis of cadmium-induced expression of Met4 target genes. *shp1-\DeltaUBA* and *shp1-\DeltaCIM2* showed induction of *MET25* and *GSH1* similarly to wild-type Met4. However, *shp1-\Deltaubx_{Ct}* mutants failed to efficiently activate gene expression, consistent with persistent Met4 ubiquitylation and cadmium sensitivity of this mutant (Fig. 3C).

These experiments cannot distinguish between a general requirement of Shp1 for Met4 activation and the cadmium signalspecific pathway we propose. In addition to heavy metal stress, methionine starvation blocks Met4 ubiquitylation and induces a similar transcriptional response program (18). However, Met4 activation by methionine stress is achieved through disruption of the Met30/Met4 interaction and not by SCF^{Met30} disassembly (16, 22). Importantly, Met4 activation in response to methionine starvation was unaffected in *shp1* mutants, demonstrating a specific requirement for Shp1 in the SCF^{Met30} disassembly pathway (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S3 *B* and *C*).

We next directly evaluated cadmium-induced SCF^{Met30} disassembly in *shp1* mutants. *shp1-\Delta ubx_{Ct}* mutants showed very slow Met30 dissociation, and the majority of Met30 remained in complex with the core ligase during heavy metal stress (Fig. 3*D*). In contrast, all other mutants were indistinguishable from wildtype cells (Fig. 3*D*). In summary, our results indicate that an intact UBX domain of Shp1 is required for SCF^{Met30} disassembly during cadmium stress. Importantly, even though both Δ CIM2 and Δ UBX_{Ct} mutants showed severely decreased Shp1 interaction with Cdc48 (Fig. 2*C*), only *shp1-\Delta ubx_{Ct}* mutants were deficient in SCF^{Met30} disassembly. Hence, the role of Shp1 in SCF^{Met30} during heavy metal stress is independent of a stable Cdc48–Shp1 interaction, but requires a specific contact between



Fig. 2. Characterization of functional domains in Shp1. (*A*) Schematic of Shp1 and its known functional domains and motifs. UBA, ubiquitin-associated domain (6 to 46); SEP, Shp1, eyeless and p47 domain (238 to 313); UBX, ubiquitin regulatory X domain (346 to 420); CIM 1, Cdc48-interacting motif 1 (LGGFSGQGQRL; 304 to 314 distal of SEP domain, also known as BS1); CIM2, Cdc48-interacting motif 1 (FPI; 396 to 398 in the UBX domain). (*B*) Expression levels of Shp1 mutants. Steady-state levels of indicated proteins were compared from strains expressing endogenous ^{12xMyc}Met30, Cdc48^{RGS6H}, Skp1, and the various Shp1 mutants as indicated (all 3×HA-tagged). Δ UBA, deletion of residues 1 to 50; Δ CIM2, 396 to 398 FPI residues were replaced with GAG; Δ UBX_{ct}, deletion of aa 401 to 423 or *shp1* gene knocked out (K.O.). Proteins were analyzed by Western blotting with tubulin as a loading control. (*C*) Shp1 mutants as indicated time points to measure optic density at 600 nm. (*D*) Cdc48 binding is significantly decreased in Δ CIM2 and Δ UBX_{ct}. Shp1 mutants. SHP1^{3xHA} variants were immunoprecipitated, and coprecipitation of Cdc48^{RGS6H} was analyzed by Western blotting. The Shp1 K.O. strain was used as a background control. Results shown in *B* and *D* are representative blots from three independent experiments.

Cdc48 and Shp1 that is mediated by a contact interface at the very C terminus of Shp1.

Met30 Dissociation Kinetics during Heavy Metal Stress Are Dependent on Shp1 Abundance. We next monitored Cdc48 and cofactor re-cruitment, as well as kinetics of SCF^{Met30} disassembly in the $shp1-\Delta ubx_{Cl}$ mutant. Immunoprecipitated SCF^{Met30} formed a complex with Cdc48 and Shp1 \DBX_{Ct} even under unstressed growth conditions (Fig. 4A), further supporting that stable Cdc48-Shp1 binding is not required for recruitment of either. However, disassembly kinetics of SCF^{Met30} in *shp1* Δ and *shp1*- Δubx_{Ct} mutants were severely delayed, demonstrating that physical separation of Met30 from the core SCF relies on Shp1, and specifically on its very C-terminal residues (Fig. 4*A* and *SI Appendix*, Fig. S4*A*). The slow disassembly of SCF^{Met30} in *shp1-\Deltaubx_{Ct}* mutants is also reflected in delayed Met4 activation indicated by persisting Met4 ubiquitylation (Fig. 4B). Surprisingly, similar to $shp1\Delta$ deletion mutants, the amount of Cdc48 in complex with Met30 under unstressed growth conditions was significantly increased in shp1- Δubx_{Ct} mutants (Fig. 4A and SI Appendix, Fig. S4D). This increased steady-state binding of Cdc48 to SCF^{Met30} in *shp1* mutants may be a result of the blocked dissociation and likely reflects accumulation of a dissociation intermediate (Fig. 4A and SI Ap*pendix*, Fig. S4C). Furthermore, even though Shp1- Δ UBX_{Ct} does not efficiently interact with Cdc48 (Fig. 2D), both Cdc48 and Shp1 Δ UBX_{Ct} are efficiently recruited to SCF^{Met30} (Fig. 4A), indicating that both proteins are independently recruited to SCF^{Met30}. However, due to the higher steady-state binding of both Cdc48 and Shp1 Δ UBX_{Ct} in *shp1-\Deltaubx_{Ct}* mutants, the fold recruitment induced by cadmium stress was reduced for both proteins (Fig. 4A and SI Appendix, Fig. S4B). This decreased

enrichment was not due to partial loss of Cdc48 binding because Shp1 Δ CIM2, which shows a similar reduction in Cdc48 binding (Fig. 2D), was recruited to SCF^{Met30} at similar levels as wild-type Shp1 (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S4*E*). Importantly, despite the decreased fold enrichment, the total amount of bound Cdc48 during cadmium stress is significantly higher in *shp1* Δ and *shp1-\Deltaubx_{Ct}* mutants than wild-type cells (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S4*D*), likely a reflection of accumulation of the usually transient enzyme/substrate (SCF^{Met30}/Cdc48) complex due to the blocked dissociation process. These results suggest that both Cdc48 and Shp1 are independently recruited to SCF^{Met30}. However, their interaction through the C-terminal portion of the UBX domain on Sph1 is necessary to mediate Met30 dissociation.

The human Shp1 homolog p47 has a concentration-dependent effect on Cdc48 activity (54). We therefore investigated if SCF^{Met30} bound Shp1 levels correlated with Met30 dissociation during cadmium stress, and whether blocked disassembly in $shp1-\Delta ubx_{Ct}$ mutants was due to reduced Shp1 ΔUBX_{Ct} in the dissociation complex. The AID system enabled us to titrate Shp1 levels, ranging from endogenous to about 10-fold lower levels (Fig. 4C). Met30 dissociation was attenuated when Shp1-AID levels were decreased, revealing a correlation between Shp1 abundance and cadmium-induced SCF^{Met30} disassembly (Fig. 4D and SI Appendix, Fig. S4F). A significant dissociation defect was observed only when Shp1-AID levels were reduced by more than 75%. Importantly, Shp1 Δ UBX_{Ct} amounts recruited to the SCF^{Me30}/Cdc48 complex are significantly above the Shp1 thresh-old level necessary for complete SCF^{Me30} disassembly (Fig. 4 Aand C, 1 h IAA, and SI Appendix, Fig. S4H). Thus, the defect of Met30 dissociation observed in $shp1-\Delta ubx_{Ct}$ mutants is not due to reduced Shp1 Δ UBX_{Ct} recruitment, but reflects requirement of



Fig. 3. The UBX domain of Shp1 is required for SCF^{Met30} disassembly during cadmium stress. (*A*) *shp1-\DeltaUBX_{ct}* mutants are cadmium-sensitive. Indicated strains were cultured to logarithmic growth phase, cells were counted, and serial dilutions spotted onto YEPD plates supplemented with or without 50 μ M CdCl₂. Plates were incubated for 2 d at 30 °C. (*B*) The UBX domain is important for Met4 activation during heavy metal stress. Strains shown in Fig. 3*A* were cultured at 30 °C in YEPD medium and treated with 100 μ M CdCl₂ for 20 min. Whole-cell lysates were analyzed by Western blotting using a Met4 antibody to follow the ubiquitylation and phosphorylation status of Met4. Tubulin was used as a loading control. (*C*) Insufficient Met4 activation in *shp1-\DeltaUBX_{ct}* mutants is reflected in *MET25* and *GSH1* RNA levels. Strains as indicated were grown at 30 °C in YEPD medium treated with 100 μ M CdCl₂, and samples were harvested after 40 min exposure. RNA was extracted, and expression of Met4 target genes *MET25* and *GSH1* was analyzed by RT-qPCR and normalized to 18S rRNA levels (*n* = 3). Data are presented as mean \pm SD (*t* test **P* < 0.1, ***P* < 0.05, ****P* < 0.01). (*D*) *shp1\DeltaUBX_{ct}* mutants show altered dissociation kinetics during cadmium stress. ^{12xMyc}Met30 of lysates shown in Fig. 3*B* was immunoprecipitated, and copurified proteins were analyzed by Western blotting. Results shown in *B* and *D* are representative blots from three independent experiments.

UBX-mediated interaction with Cdc48 to stabilize the complex and trigger the dissociation process.

Shp1 Trimerization Regulates Met30 Dissociation during Heavy Metal Stress. The ATPase activity of p97/Cdc48 can be influenced by its cofactors, and, initially, human p47 was described to inhibit p97 activity (60). Yet, a more recent study suggests that ATPase regulation by p47 is more complex. In vitro, p47 showed a biphasic regulation of p97 (54). ATPase activity was strongly inhibited at relatively low p47 concentration (phase 1). However, at higher stoichiometric amounts of the cofactor, ATPase activity was stimulated (phase 2). The authors suggest, that in phase 1, p47 is found as a monomer on p97, whereas phase 2 reaches maximum p97 activity when the majority of p47 is in the form of trimers (54). We hypothesized that, at low amounts, Shp1 facilitates maximum inhibition of Cdc48 ATPase activity. Upon cadmium exposure, Shp1 is recruited to SCF^{Met30}, increasing the local concentration of the cofactor. This increase might lead to Shp1 trimerization and stimulation of ATP hydrolysis, followed by separation of Met30 from the core SCF. Hence, we next deleted the SEP domain (aa 232 to 297) required for the trimerization of the cofactor. Consistent with previous reports (61), the SEP domain is not important for Cdc48/Shp1 interaction (SI Appendix, Fig. S5G). Deletion of Shp1 leads to cadmium hypersensitivity (16, 43), and also the *shp1-\Deltasep* cells showed sensitivity toward cadmium exposure, indicating the importance of Shp1 trimerization (Fig. 5A and SI Appendix, Fig. S5A). Importantly, unlike shp1 Δ cells under unstressed conditions, the trimerization mutants do not manifest a growth phenotype, demonstrating that the SEP domain deletion does not affect general Shp1 function (Fig. 5A and SI Appendix, Fig. S5B). As mentioned earlier, cadmium sensitivity indicates a defect in the Met4-regulated transcriptional defense program. Indeed, upon heavy metal exposure,

shp1-\Deltasep mutants did not show fully activated Met4, indicated by persistent Met4 ubiquitylation (Fig. 5B) and attenuated Met4 target gene response during cadmium stress (Fig. 5C). Furthermore, *shp1-\Deltasep* mutants did not show a defect in Met4 activation in response to methionine starvation, demonstrating a specific requirement of Shp1 trimerization for SCF^{Met30} regulation in response to cadmium (SI Appendix, Fig. S5C). Consistent with these findings, dissociation of Met30 from the core ligase as well as Cdc48 and Shp1 recruitment in response to cadmium stress were severely delayed in the *shp1-\Deltasep* trimerization mutant. Similar to shp1 Δ and shp1- Δ ubx_{ct}, shp1- Δ sep was deficient in SCF^{Met30} disassembly (Fig. 5D and SI Appendix, Fig. S5D). Under unstressed conditions, immunoprecipitated SCF^{Met30} formed a complex with Cdc48 and Shp1 Δ SEP. The fold enrichment of Shp1 Δ SEP into SCF^{Met30} is significantly decreased, most likely due to inability of trimerization of the cofactor (Fig. 5D and SI Appendix, Fig. S5E). Similar to *shp1* Δ and the c-terminal truncation mutants, the amount of Cdc48 in complex with Met30 in shp1-Asep mutants was increased, and accumulated to even higher levels upon heavy metal exposure, indicating an accumulation of a usual transient intermediate state of the dissociation reaction (Fig. 5D and SI Appendix, Fig. S5F). Taken together, these results support that trimerization, and therewith local increase of the cofactor concentration on SCF^{Met30}, might lead to Cdc48 ATPase stimulation necessary for active complex dissociation.

Discussion

Cdc48 is an exceptionally versatile protein, and substrate specificity is thought to depend on cofactors (38). During heavy metal stress, Cdc48 plays a critical role in signal-induced disassembly of the SCF^{Met30} ubiquitin ligase complex (16). Our results show that the UBA-UBX cofactor Shp1 is critical for this process. Like Cdc48, Shp1 is recruited into SCF^{Met30} upon cadmium exposure



Fig. 4. Met30 dissociation during cadmium stress depends on Shp1 abundance. (A) Cadmium-induced recruitment of Shp1 to SCF^{Met30} is significantly decreased in Δ UBX_{ct} mutants. Strains expressing endogenous ^{12xMyc}Met30, Cdc48^{RGS6H}, Skp1, and Shp1^{3xHA}, or Δ UBX_{ct} Shp1^{3xHA}, were cultured at 30 °C in YEPD medium treated with 100 μ M CdCl₂, and samples were harvested at indicated time points. Whole-cell lysates (Totals) were prepared, ^{12xMyc}Met30 was immunoprecipitated, and copurified proteins were analyzed by Western blotting. (*B*) *shp1-\DeltaUBX_{ct}* mutants show delayed Met4 activation. Whole-cell lysates shown in Fig. 4A were analyzed by Western blotting using a Met4 antibody to follow the ubiquitylation and phosphorylation status of Met4. Tubulin was used as a loading control. (C) Met30 dissociation kinetics dependent on Shp1 abundance. Strains expressing endogenous ^{12xMyc}Met30, Shp1^{3xHA-AID}, and the F-Box protein ^{2xFLAG}OSTir under the constitutive ADH promoter were cultured at 30 °C in YEPD medium in the absence and presence of 500 μ M auxin for the indicated time to gradually down-regulate endogenous Shp1-AID levels. Cells were exposed to 100 μ M CdCl₂, and samples were harvested after 20 min. ^{12xMyc}Met30 was immunoprecipitated, and copurified Skp1 and Shp1-AID were analyzed by Western blotting. Results shown in *A*-C are representative blots from three independent experiments. (*D*) Densitometric analysis of Fig. 4C shows a correlation between Shp1-AID abundance and Met30 dissociation from the SCF core during cadmium stress. Purple line indicates densitometric analysis of Western blot band intensities of Shp1-AID totals. Time point 0 was set to 1. Turquoise line indicates coimmunoprecipitated Skp1 signals normalized to immunoprecipitated ^{12xMyc}Met30 signals to quantify F-box protein dissociation from the core ligase after 20 min of cadmium exposure. Orange triangles correspond to the values obtained from Fig. 1A and *SI Appendix*, Fig. 51A, quantifications of *shp14*.

(Fig. 1A and SI Appendix, Fig. S1A). Interestingly, the prominent heterodimeric Ufd1/Npl4 cofactor pair also gets recruited to Met30 under heavy metal stress conditions (SI Appendix, Fig. S6 A and B). However, temperature-sensitive ufd1-2 and npl4-1 mutants do not exhibit cadmium sensitivity, Met4 activation defects, or a dissociation phenotype during heavy metal stress (16). Likely cadmium-induced recruitment of Ufd1/Npl4 reflects their canonical function in this context and is necessary for targeting dissociated Met30 for degradation by the proteasome. Cadmium stress generates an excess of ubiquitylated "Skp1-free" Met30, which is rapidly degraded by a noncanonical pathway via a Cdc53-dependent, but Skp1-independent, proteolytic pathway (62). This pathway is necessary to prevent substrate shielding by Met30 that is separated from SCF (62). Consistent with this model, Met30 that cannot associate with Skp1 due to deletion of the F-box motif (Met $30^{\Delta F-box}$) is stabilized in temperaturesensitive ufd1-2 and npl4-2 mutants (SI Appendix, Fig. S6C). Therefore, we speculate that there might be two populations of Cdc48 complexes involved in processing of SCF^{Met30} during cadmium stress. The Cdc48^{Shp1} complex is required for the dis-assembly of the SCF^{Met30} complex and Cdc48^{Ufd1/Npl4} for degradation of unbound Met30 via the proteasomal pathway.

Surprisingly, Met30 protein levels were significantly decreased in *shp1* Δ mutants compared to wild-type cells (Figs. 1A and 2B). While Shp1 is involved in the degradation of a Cdc48-dependent model substrate (43), the half-life of Met30 is unaffected in *shp1* Δ cells and all other *shp1* mutant variants we tested (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S2F). However, *MET30* RNA levels were significantly decreased in the *shp1* Δ knockout strain (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S2G). Accordingly, low Met30 protein levels are due to a transcriptional defect. Since all other Shp1 mutants showed normal RNA levels, we hypothesize that altered transcription might be associated with other aspects of Shp1 function (52).

Closer examination of functional domains in Shp1 revealed several interesting findings. We expected that the UBA domain with its ubiquitin binding ability plays a role in Shp1 recruitment to Met30, which is autoubiquitylated during heavy metal stress (16). Additionally, it has been proposed that UBA domains can inhibit ubiquitin chain elongation (63). However, deletion of the UBA domain in Shp1 did not show any cadmium-specific phenotypes and is not required for SCF^{Met30} or Met4 regulation (Fig. 3).

It was also unexpected that Cdc48 and Shp1 were indepen-dently recruited to SCF^{Met30} upon cadmium exposure (Figs. 1A and 3A and SI Appendix, Fig. S4E) because Shp1 is believed to be constitutively bound to Cdc48 to fulfill its cellular tasks (44, 49, 50). While independent recruitment of Cdc48 is supported by results in cells lacking Shp1 (Fig. 1A), autonomous recruitment of Shp1 was suggested based on experiments using mutant versions of Shp1 with dramatically reduced Cdc48 steady-state binding activity. We can therefore not completely exclude that, under normal conditions, Shp1 is corecruited as a Cdc48-associated cofactor. However, we can conclude that independent binding sites for Cdc48 and Shp1 exist on SCF^{Met30} that drive recruitment. Furthermore, the interaction of Shp1∆CIM2 with Cdc48 is dramatically compromised (Fig. 2D), yet Shp1 Δ CIM2 is efficiently recruited to SCF^{Met30}, and *shp1-\Deltacim2* mutants disassemble and effectively inactivate SCF^{Met30}, indistinguishable from wild-type cells (Fig. 3 and *SI Appendix*, Fig. S4*E*). These findings further support two independent binding sites for Cdc48 and Shp1 on SCF^{Met30}, and the proposed model that mechanical transmission of forces to separate Met30 from the core SCF requires at least two anchor points.



Fig. 5. Shp1 trimerization regulates Met30 dissociation during heavy metal stress. (*A*) shp1- Δ sep mutants indicate cadmium sensitivity. Strains expressing endogenous ^{12×Myc}Met30, Cdc48^{RGS6H}, Skp1, and Shp1^{3×HA}, or Δ SEP Shp1^{3×HA}, were cultured to logarithmic growth phase, cells were counted, and serial dilutions spotted onto YEPD plates supplemented with or without 50 μ M CdCl₂. Plates were incubated for 2 d at 30 °C. (*B*) The SEP domain is necessary for Met4 activation during heavy metal stress. Whole-cell lysates (Totals) of strains shown in Fig. 5*A* were analyzed by Western blot using a Met4 antibody to follow the ubiquitylation and phosphorylation status of Met4. Tubulin was used as a loading control. (C) Decreased cadmium-induced gene expression in the absence of the SEP domain. RNA was extracted from samples shown in Fig. 5*B*. Expression of Met4 target genes *MET25* and *GSH1* was analyzed by RT-qPCR and normalized to 18S rRNA levels (*n* = 3). Data are presented as mean \pm SD (*t* test **P* < 0.1, ***P* < 0.05, ****P* < 0.01). (*D*) Dissociation kinetics of Met30 from the SCF core ligase are decreased in *shp1-\Deltasep mutants*. Indicated strains were cultured at 30 °C in YEPD medium and treated with 100 μ M CdCl₂, and samples were harvested after 20 and 40 min, respectively. ^{12×Myc}Met30 was immunoprecipitated, and coprecipitated proteins were analyzed by Western blot. Results shown in *B* and *D* are representative blots from three independent experiments.

Truncation of the last 22 residues of Shp1 (ΔUBX_{Ct}), like mutation of the CIM2 domain, results in severely reduced steady-state binding to Cdc48 (Fig. 2*D*). However, in contrast to *shp1-\Delta cim2* mutants, *shp1-\Delta UBX_{Ct}* mutants fail to efficiently disassemble SCF^{Met30} and activate Met4 (Fig. 3). The reduced interaction with Cdc48 cannot be the reason for failure to dissociate Met30 because Shp1 Δ CIM2 is equally deficient in Cdc48 interaction, yet recruitment to SCF^{Met30} and Met30 dissociation is undistinguishable from wild-type cells (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S4*E*). Our results more likely suggest that the C terminus of the UBX domain is important for proper topological assembly of a functional disassembly complex to stimulate the Cdc48 ATPase activity and generate the required force for Met30 dissociation. In addition, the residues we deleted are potential posttranslational modification sites in the human ortholog p47 (64, 65). Lack of these modifications might hinder correct interactions of the disassembly complex.

This necessity for the 22 C-terminal residues of Shp1 to trigger disassembly but dispensability for recruitment presents as a separation of function mutant that allows formation but not activation of the disassembly complex. Consequently, we observed accumulation of Cdc48 on SCF^{Met30} in *shp1-* Δ *UBX_{Ct}* mutants, which likely presents a dissociation intermediate, trapped just before the step of SCF^{Met30} disassembly. Surprisingly, even during normal, unstressed growth conditions, the usually very low amount of Cdc48 in complex with Met30 is significantly increased in *shp1-* Δ *UBX_{Ct}* mutants (Fig. 4*A*), suggesting continuous low-level dissociation of Met30 from the core SCF. This process may be part of a quality control mechanism that monitors proper assembly of the ubiquitin–ligase complex.

While Cdc48/p97 can bind to ubiquitin directly in vitro (29), UBX cofactors are thought to be adaptors that regulate the interaction between Cdc48 and ubiquitylated substrates (44). Under normal growth conditions, Met30 is ubiquitylated at low levels, but cadmium stress drastically increases Met30 autoubiquitylation (16). This autoubiquitylation is the recruitment signal for Cdc48, and, given that Cdc48 recruitment is independent of Shp1 and Npl4/Ufd1 (Figs. 1*A* and 3*A*) (16), a direct interaction with ubiquitylated Met30 is likely. However, we conclude that Shp1 is likely required to properly orient the complex, activate the ATPase activity, and provide a second attachment point for transmission of the mechanical force.

Initially, we used the AID system for induced down-regulation of Shp1 to study acute loss of Shp1 function and eliminate possible indirect effects caused by secondary mutations acquired by the shp1 Δ deletion strain. However, it also became a handy tool to closer examine dependence of SCF^{Met30} disassembly on different levels of Shp1. This question was interesting because different concentration-dependent binding modes of p47 to p97 have been suggested to control p97 ATPase activity (54). Decreased Shp1-AID levels resulted in impaired SCF^{Met30} dissociation (Fig. 1D), and titration of Shp1-AID levels uncovered a correlation between Shp1 abundance and disassembly (Fig. 4 C and D). This phenomenon is likely related to a need for a minimum concentration of Shp1 in the dissociation complex to activate Cdc48. When first discovered, human p47 was described as an inhibitor of p97 activity (60). However, a later study showed a more complex mechanism of ATPase regulation by p47, in which higher concentrations of p47 bound to p97 relieve inhibition of p97 ATPase activity (54). The authors suggest that a transition from monomeric to trimeric p47 on p97 is responsible for this effect (54). We hypothesized that, when Shp1 is present at low amounts, Cdc48 activity is maximally inhibited. During heavy metal stress, the recruitment of the cofactor leads to a local increase of Shp1 in SCF^{Met30}. This might trigger trimerization of Shp1, potentially leading to Ccd48 ATPase stimulation necessary for Met30 dissociation. Accordingly, we show that deletion of the SEP domain, which is important for Shp1 trimerization, leads to a Met30 dissociation defect during cadmium stress.

In summary, our study identifies the UBA-UBX family member Shp1 as the key cofactor for signal-induced disassembly of SCF^{Met30}. We show that the ATPase Cdc48 and Shp1 are recruited independently to SCF^{Met30} during cadmium stress, but interaction through the C-terminal end of the Shp1 UBX domain

is necessary to activate the dissociation complex and catalyze separation of Met30. Additionally, the local increase of Shp1 in SCF^{Met30} might lead to ATPase stimulation required for efficient complex dissociation. These results provide insight into ubiquitin-dependent, signal-induced, active remodeling of multiprotein complexes to control their activity.

Methods

Plasmids, Yeast Strains, and Growth Conditions. Yeast strains used in this study are isogenic to 15DaubD, a bar1D ura3Dns, a derivative of BF264-15D (66). Specific strains are listed in SI Appendix, Table S1. The 9×MYC tag of pADH OsTir9×MYC::URA (57) was exchanged with a 2×FLAG tag by amplification of the vector using primers 1 and 2 (SI Appendix, Table S3). The PCR fragment was digested with BamHI and ligated to generate pADH_OsTir2×FLAG::URA. The plasmid was linearized with Stul and transformed into yeast strain PY1. Next, The AID fragment was amplified from the pKAN-pCUP1-9×MYC-AID plasmid using primers 3 and 4 (SI Appendix, Table S3) and inserted via Gibson assembly into the AscI linearized pFA6a-3×HA::TRP plasmid to generate the tagging vector pFA6a-3×HA-AID::TRP. A PCR fragment using primers 13 and 14 (SI Appendix, Table S3) was amplified and transformed into PY1+pADH_OsTir2×FLAG::URA. This strain was transformed with YCpLEUpmet30_9×MYCMET30 to generate PY2230. For CRISPR/Cas9-edited yeast strains, the vector pML107 (67), which contains both sgRNA and Cas9 expression cassettes, was used. To generate the guide RNA sequences, the "CRISPR Toolset" (http://wyrickbioinfo2.smb.wsu.edu/crispr.html) was consulted. pML107 was linearized using SwaI, and hybridized primers for gRNAs as shown in SI Appendix, Table S3, were inserted via Gibson assembly to generate pML107-Shp1 vectors (SI Appendix, Table S2). The vectors were transformed together with the hybridized 90mer oligos containing the Shp1-specific repair sequence into PY1630 to generate marker-free Shp1::3×HA mutants shown in SI Appendix, Table S1. All other strains used were generated using classic PCRbased gene modification methods (68). Generated plasmids and strains were verified by sequencing. All strains were cultured in standard media, and standard yeast genetic techniques were used unless stated otherwise (69). References to the use of cadmium (Cd²⁺) are specifically to cadmium chloride (CdCl₂). For cell spotting assays, strains were cultured to logarithmic growth phase, sonicated, and then counted. Serial dilutions were made and spotted onto YEPD plates supplemented with or without indicated amounts of CdCl₂ via a pin replicator (V&P Scientific).

Protein Analysis. For Western blot analyses and immunoprecipitation assays, yeast whole-cell lysates were prepared under native conditions in Triton X-100 buffer (50 mM Hepes, pH 7.5, 0.2% Triton X-100, 200 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 1 mM DTT, 10 mM Na-pyrophosphate, 5 mM EDTA, 5 mM EGTA, 50 mM NaF, 0.1 mM orthovanadate, 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride [PMSF], and 1 mg/mL each leupeptin and pepstatin). Cells were homogenized in a screw-cap tube with 0.5-mm glass beads and Antifoam Y-30 using an MP FastPrep 24 (speed 4.0, 3 × 20 s). Lysates were separated from glass beads and transferred into 1.5-mL reaction tubes (USA Scientific). Lysates

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were cleared by centrifugation (10 min, 14,000 \times g at 4 °C). For Western blot analyses, proteins were separated by SDS/PAGE and transferred to a polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) membrane. Proteins were detected with the following primary antibodies: anti-Met4 (1:20,000; a gift from M. Tyers), anti-Skp1 (1:5,000; a gift from R. Deshaies, Amgen, Thousand Oaks, CA), anti-Cdc48 (1:20,000; a gift from E. Jarosch, Max-Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin, Germany), anti-Myc (1:2,000; Santa Cruz, 9E10), anti-HA (1:2,000; Santa Cruz, F7), anti-RGS6H (1:2,000; Qiagen), and antitubulin (1:2,000; Santa Cruz). Western blot results shown are representative blots from three experiments with independent cultures. Band intensities of immunoblots were quantified using either ImageJ or the Bio-Rad Image Lab software. For immunoprecipitation of 9×MYC-tagged proteins, 1 mg of total protein lysate was incubated in Triton X-100 buffer-equilibrated MYCtrap beads (Chromotek) in a final volume of 500 µL overnight at 4 °C on a nutator. The next day, beads and supernatants were separated by centrifugation (2 min, 100 \times g at 4 °C). Beads were washed three times in 1 mL Triton X-100 buffer plus inhibitors at 4 °C. Beads were resuspended in 2× Laemmli buffer and boiled for 5 min to elute proteins. For immunoprecipitation of $3 \times$ HA-tagged proteins, 1 mg of total protein lysate in a final volume of 500 μ L was incubated with 1 μg of anti-HA Y-11 (Santa Cruz; discontinued) for 2 h at 4 °C on a nutator. Triton X-100 buffer-equilibrated protein A Sepharose (Sigma-Aldrich) was added and incubated overnight at 4 °C on a nutator. The next day, beads and supernatants were separated by centrifugation (2 min, $100 \times g$ at 4 °C). Beads were washed three times in 1 mL Triton X-100 buffer plus inhibitors at 4 °C. Beads were resuspended in $2\times$ Laemmli buffer and boiled for 5 min to elute proteins.

RNA and RT-qPCR. Yeast RNA was prepared using the RNeasy Plus Mini Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's protocol. cDNA synthesis was performed using Super Script II Reverse Transcriptase Kit (Invitrogen). A total of 1.5 µg of RNA was transcribed into cDNA according to the manufacturer's protocol. The synthesized cDNA was diluted 1:15 in nuclease-free water. qPCR was performed with a Bio-Rad CFX Connect RT-PCR machine using the Bio-Rad iTaq Universal SYBR Green SuperMix, and 4 µL of the cDNA 1:15 dilution was used in a 20-µL reaction as a template. Primers were used at a final concentration of 0.2 µM. Sequences of primers are as follows: *MET25F*, GCACCACCTTCTTATGTTTCG; *MET25R*, AGCAGCAGCACCACCTCCTTC; GSH1F, TGACAGCATCACAGGACCAG; GSH1R, GGAAGCCAGTTTCGCCTCTTC; 18SrRNAF, GTGGTGCTAGCATTGGTGGTTAT; and 18SrRNAR, CGCTTACTAGGAATTCCT-CGTTGAA. 18S rRNA was used as a normalization control for each sample. The $\Delta\Delta$ Ct method was used for analysis. Data are presented as mean \pm SD.

Data Availability. All data discussed are included within the paper and the provided *SI Appendix*.

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