Supplementary Information

Media

Unless stated otherwise, all media were prepared as described previously (Guthrie and Fink, 1991). Solid spider medium was prepared as described previously (Liu et al., 1994). Serum medium consisted of YEPD supplemented with 1% or 10% fetal calf serum. Pre-spo medium was prepared by mixing 1% yeast extract, 0.8% peptone and 10% glucose and autoclaving for 30 min. 5-FOA plates contained SC media w/o uracil, 2% glucose, 1 mg/ml 5-FOA, 270 µM uridine and 2% agar. 2-DOG plates contained 2 mg/ml 2-DOG (Fluka #31050) in place of 5-FOA. 5-FOA/2-DOG plates were the same as 2-DOG plates except they were supplemented with 0.5 mg/ml 5-FOA.

Mating conditions

The parental strains were streaked out and grown overnight at 30°C on YEPD medium containing uridine and adenine. Colonies were picked and re-grown overnight on the same medium. C. albicans MTL "a" and "alpha" strains were then mixed by replica plating onto YEPD medium containing adenine and allowed to grow for 6-8 days at 23°C. Mating plates were replica plated or patched to SD plates lacking both adenine and uridine. Tetraploid products grew on the selection plates and were picked for further analysis.

MTL PCR assay

The tetraploid strains used in this study contained 4 different MTL alleles; wild-type a1, a1 deletion, wild-type alpha 1/alpha 2, and deletion of alpha1/alpha2 genes.
The PCR primers used to distinguish the four alleles have been previously described (Miller and Johnson, 2002). The PCR reactions for alpha1, a1 and Δa1 were run in a single tube; the product sizes were 300 bp, 500 bp and 900 bp, respectively. Similarly, the reactions for alpha1, a1 and Δalpha2 were run in a single tube (PCR product for Δalpha2 allele was 1.3 kb).

References

