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# **SsSm1, a Cerato-platanin family protein, is involved in the hyphal development and pathogenic process of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum***

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## **Highlights**

SsSm1, a Cerato-platanin family protein, is an elicitor protein in *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*. *SsSm1* is involved in hyphal development, affects tolerances to chemical stress response and the *SsSm1* silenced mutants exhibit reduced pathogenicity of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*. Thereby exerting profound effects on the fungal development and virulence potential.

## **Abstract**

The filamentous fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* is an important plant pathogen with a worldwide distribution. It can infect a wide variety of plants, causing serious disease in many types of crops, such as rapeseed, sunflower and soybean. *Sclerotinia* stem rot caused by this fungus affects main crops and has led to great economic loss. Elicitors are a group of compounds that inspire the host plant to produce an immune response against invading pathogens. This study describes a protein that has high homology

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