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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