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1 **Ice-binding proteins from the fungus *Antarctomyces psychrotrophicus***  
2 **possibly originate from two different bacteria through horizontal gene**  
3 **transfer**

4  
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15  
16 Key words: freeze resistance | ice-binding protein | ascomycete | horizontal gene transfer |  
17 protein structure

18  
19 Databases: Nucleotide sequence data are available in the DDBJ database under the  
20 accession numbers LC378707, LC378707, LC378707 for AnpIBP1a, AnpIBP1b, AnpIBP2,  
21 respectively.

22  
23 Running title: A fungus acquired IBP genes from bacteria.

24  
25 Abbreviations: AnpIBP, *Antarctomyces psychrotrophicus* ice-binding protein; BI, Bayesian  
26 inference; DUF3494, domain of unknown function; HGT, horizontal gene transfer; IBP,  
27 ice-binding protein; IBS, ice-binding site; IR, ice recrystallization; IRI, ice-  
28 recrystallization inhibition; ML, maximum likelihood; M.w., molecular weight; RMSD,  
29 root mean square deviation; TH, thermal hysteresis.

1 **Abstract**

2           Various microbes, including fungi and bacteria, that live in cold environments  
3 produce ice-binding proteins (IBPs) that protect them from freezing. Ascomycota and  
4 Basidiomycota are two major phyla of fungi, and *Antarctomyces psychrotrophicus* is  
5 currently designated as the sole ascomycete that produces IBP (AnpIBP). However, its  
6 complete amino acid sequence, ice-binding property, and evolutionary history have not yet  
7 been clarified. Here, we determined the peptide sequences of three new AnpIBP isoforms  
8 by total cDNA analysis and compared them with those of other microbial IBPs. The  
9 AnpIBP isoforms and ascomycete-putative IBPs were found to be phylogenetically close  
10 to the bacterial ones but far from the basidiomycete ones, which is supported by the higher  
11 sequence identities to bacterial IBPs (40%–72%) than basidiomycete IBPs (29%–36%),  
12 although ascomycetes are phylogenetically distant from bacteria. In addition, two of the  
13 isoforms of AnpIBP share only 44% sequence identity and are not close in the phylogenetic  
14 tree. It is hence presumable that these two AnpIBP isoforms were independently acquired  
15 from different bacteria through horizontal gene transfer (HGT), which implies that  
16 ascomycetes and bacteria frequently exchange their IBP genes. The non-colligative  
17 freezing-point depression ability of a 300  $\mu$ M solution of a recombinant AnpIBP isoform  
18 was not very high (0.7°C), whereas it exhibited significant abilities of ice-recrystallization  
19 inhibition, ice shaping, and cryo-protection against freeze-thaw cycles even at  
20 submicromolar concentrations. These results suggest that HGT is crucial for the cold-  
21 adaptive evolution of ascomycetes, and their IBPs offer freeze resistance to organisms to  
22 enable them to inhabit the icy environments of Antarctica.

23

## 1 **Introduction**

2 Microbes that adapt to low temperatures (or psychrophiles) can inhabit extremely  
3 cold environments, such as the Arctic and Antarctic regions<sup>1,2</sup>. These microbes have  
4 acquired several strategies against freezing that inevitably accompany ice crystal formation  
5 and overcome physical damages. An example of such a strategy is the production of  
6 cryoprotective substances, such as glycerol<sup>3</sup>, trehalose<sup>4</sup>, and ice-binding proteins (IBPs)<sup>5</sup>,  
7 which inhibit ice crystal growth. Nevertheless, cold-survival mechanism and phylogenetic  
8 relationship of microbial IBPs, especially in fungi, are not well understood.

9 Biophysical studies have revealed that IBPs bind to specific planes of ice crystals  
10 to arrest further growth, which contributes to the survival of host organisms in icy  
11 environments<sup>6</sup>. One of the principle functions of IBPs is to inhibit ice recrystallization (IR)<sup>7</sup>,  
12 a phenomenon of larger ice crystal formation at the expense of smaller ones that causes  
13 freezing damages to cells and tissues. IBPs can also modify the shape of ice crystals to  
14 mitigate their harsh texture around microbes<sup>8</sup>. In some animals that have naturally high  
15 (mg ml<sup>-1</sup>) IBP concentrations, IBPs also cause the non-colligative freezing-point depression  
16 termed thermal hysteresis (TH)<sup>9</sup>. Although microbial IBPs are thought to exist at µg/ml  
17 concentrations in the extracellular space, they can exhibit TH when they are concentrated  
18 in the laboratory.

19 Various types of cold-adapted microbes, including bacteria<sup>10</sup>, yeast<sup>11</sup>,  
20 mushrooms<sup>12</sup>, algae<sup>8</sup>, and a copepod<sup>13</sup>, are known to produce IBPs. Most of these microbial  
21 IBPs share a common sequence called the “domain of unknown function (DUF) 3494,”  
22 which comprises approximately 190 amino acid residues exhibiting 30%–70% sequence  
23 identities. X-ray crystallographic studies have shown that these IBPs are commonly folded  
24 into an irregular beta-helical structure accompanying one long alpha-helix<sup>14</sup>.

25 Ascomycetes and basidiomycetes are two major lineages of fungi and are closely  
26 related to each other. In the NCBI database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>), over 200  
27 species of fungal DUF3494 sequences have been deposited, half of which is derived from  
28 ascomycetes and the other half from basidiomycetes. Since DUF3494s have been identified  
29 from microorganisms that live in both cold and non-cold regions, not all of them may be  
30 IBPs. So far none of the ascomycete-derived proteins containing a DUF3494 sequence has  
31 been examined for ice-binding activity, whereas the activity was observed for various IBPs  
32 from basidiomycetes<sup>11,12,15</sup>.

33 Horizontal gene transfer (HGT) is the phenomenon of transmission and  
34 integration of genes between different organisms<sup>16</sup>. HGT is known to provide new  
35 adaptability in microorganisms and allow colonization in new environments<sup>17</sup>. Recently,  
36 the installation of IBP through HGT was suggested for several sea-ice algae<sup>18,19</sup>. The

1 evidence for this hypothesis include the (i) phylogenetic discrepancies of the species and  
2 genes, (ii) lack of IBP genes in closely-related species in warmer regions, and (iii) lack of  
3 intron in some of eukaryote-derived IBP genes. It is hence speculated that the cold  
4 adaptation of the microbes is also indebted to HGT. In addition, Raymond (2014)<sup>20</sup> reported  
5 that two putative IBPs from ascomycetes are less similar to those from basidiomycetes and  
6 suggested HGT in the ascomycetes. However, the primary-to-tertiary structures of  
7 ascomycete IBPs remain to be elucidated.

8 *Antarctomyces psychrotrophicus* is currently the sole ascomycete whose IBP  
9 (AnpIBP) production is confirmed<sup>21</sup>. Only a 20-residue peptide sequence was determined  
10 for the N-terminal region of AnpIBP, whereas the full sequence and homogeneity to known  
11 IBPs that contain the DUF3494 sequence remain unclear. Since *A. psychrotrophicus* is one  
12 of the dominant species isolated from several different substrates in Antarctica, such as  
13 soils<sup>22</sup>, waters in lakes<sup>23</sup>, and marine macroalgae<sup>24</sup>, they are exposed to freeze-thaw cycles.  
14 IBP production may therefore be a key determinant of cold adaptation of *A.*  
15 *psychrotrophicus*. To clarify the evolutionary process and physiological role of ascomycete  
16 IBPs, we analyzed the cDNA and peptide sequences of AnpIBP and examined their  
17 phylogenetic relationship with other microbial IBPs. The model structure and ice-binding  
18 properties of AnpIBP were also examined and compared with other microbial IBPs. We  
19 discuss the cold-adaptation strategy of *A. psychrotrophicus* and the evolutionary  
20 relationship among microbial IBPs based on these results.

## 1 Results

### 3 *Three AnpIBP isoforms were identified from total cDNA analysis*

4 Total cDNA analyses of *A. psychrotrophicus* cultivated at cold ( $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and  
5 moderate ( $15^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) temperatures were performed to obtain the complete sequences of AnpIBP.  
6 We obtained a total of 27,265,280 clean reads ( $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and 27,764,816 clean reads ( $15^{\circ}\text{C}$ )  
7 that are 94.21% and 94.09% of the raw reads, respectively. The de novo assembly identified  
8 a total of 16,659 unigenes of 1,162-nt average length for  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$  and a total of 13,831  
9 unigenes of 1,249-nt average length for  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Blast search identified three candidate  
10 sequences of AnpIBP from the unigenes. These sequences matched a lot of microbial IBP  
11 sequences, such as that of *Chloromonas brevispina* IBP, indicating that AnpIBPs are  
12 homologous to other microbial IBPs that contain the DUF3494 sequence. Two of the three  
13 cDNA sequences were identified only in the cells cultivated at  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$ , suggesting that their  
14 expression occurs only at low temperatures. Fig. 1A shows the previously identified 20-  
15 residue amino acid sequence<sup>21</sup> (native AnpIBP) and three newly translated amino acid  
16 sequences, designated as AnpIBP1a (236 residues), AnpIBP1b (245 residues), and  
17 AnpIBP2 (242 residues, identified as a partial sequence). The former two isoforms are  
18 perfectly identical except for their C-terminal regions (after the 203<sup>th</sup> residue), which were  
19 not observed in other microbial IBPs. In contrast, the former two isoforms (AnpIBP1a and  
20 1b) and the latter (AnpIBP2) exhibited only 44% sequence identity. The C-terminal region  
21 of AnpIBP1a mainly comprises hydrophobic and positively charged residues, whereas that  
22 of AnpIBP1b contains one positive, two negative, and several hydrophobic residues. In  
23 both AnpIBP1a and 1b, the Ala1–Ala20 sequence almost matches the known 20-residue  
24 sequence of native AnpIBP secreted toward the extracellular space. Therefore, the 19-  
25 residue N-terminal sequence before Ala1 (Met18–Ala0: MVS~~A~~F~~M~~I~~L~~C~~V~~L~~G~~S~~A~~F~~V~~S~~N~~A) was assigned to the signal peptide. The molecular weights (M.w.) excluding the signal  
26 peptide were hence estimated to be 21.4 and 23.0 kDa for AnpIBP1a and 1b, respectively.  
27 They are, however, not consistent with the SDS-PAGE result for purified native AnpIBP,  
28 indicating that it is 24 kDa (see below). This discrepancy can be attributed to the post-  
29 translational modification of the native protein, where Asn55 in the glycosylation sequence  
30 Asn-X-Ser/Thr (X is any amino acid residue, except proline) is presumably modified with  
31 N-linked glycan.  
32

33 To obtain information on introns, the genes of AnpIBP1b and AnpIBP2 were  
34 amplified from the *A. psychrotrophicus* genome by PCR with primers based on the cDNA  
35 sequences. The AnpIBP2 gene amplified from the genome were consistent with the cDNA  
36 sequence, indicating the existence of a gene in the genome without an intron. In contrast,

1 the AnpIBP1b gene has two introns (Fig. 1B). Introns 1 and 2 were found to be of length  
2 49 and 63 bp, respectively, and both followed the “GT-AG splicing rule.” Intron 1 was  
3 located near the boundary between the signal peptide and mature IBP domain. In contrast,  
4 intron 2, located at the end of the IBP domain, contained the C-terminal sequence of  
5 AnpIBP1a, including the terminator codon. When intron 2 was spliced, the mRNA product  
6 matched perfectly with the cDNA sequence of AnpIBP1b. This finding indicates that intron  
7 2 can be cleaved by an ambiguous splicing signal for the creation of two types of mRNA  
8 (AnpIBP1a and 1b) from one AnpIBP gene (Fig. 1C).

### 10 ***The beta-helical structure was modeled for AnpIBP***

11 Based on the primary sequence information, the model structures of AnpIBP1a  
12 and AnpIBP2 were constructed using the MODELLER software with five microbial IBP  
13 structures (i.e., TisIBP8, LeIBP, FfIBP, ColIBP, and IBPv\_a) as templates. The principle  
14 constituent of AnpIBP1a was apparently a seven-ladder  $\beta$ -helix with a triangular cross-  
15 section with an accompanying  $\alpha$ -helix alongside (Fig. 2A), which is similar to the  
16 construction in other microbial IBPs<sup>14</sup>. The inward-pointing residues in the model  
17 constructed a hydrophobic core, which is generally indispensable for the stabilization of  
18 the  $\beta$ -helix. The three flat surfaces are called the A, B, and C faces. Among them, the B  
19 face is suggested to be an ice-binding site (IBS) in the known microbial IBP structure. This  
20 putative IBS comprises no regularly arrayed residues (Fig. 2B), different to the hyperactive  
21 IBPs identified from insects<sup>25</sup>. Significantly, most of the outward-pointing residues on the  
22 putative IBS were glycine, alanine, serine, and threonine, which contain a relatively small  
23 side-chain group. The “anchored clathrate water hypothesis<sup>26</sup>” predicts that the  
24 combination of hydroxyl (hydrophilic) and methyl (hydrophobic) groups tends to form a  
25 water network on IBS, which anchors the host protein to the ice crystal surfaces.

26 Although the overall structures of AnpIBP1a and AnpIBP2 were mostly identical  
27 ( $C\alpha$  RMSD = 0.482 Å), the amino acid compositions of their IBSs were different (Fig. 2B).  
28 The IBS of AnpIBP2 is more hydrophilic as it locates more Ser and Thr, but it has fewer  
29 Ala compared with AnpIBP1, suggesting that AnpIBP1 and AnpIBP2 possess different ice-  
30 binding properties.

31 In the model structure of AnpIBP1a, the N-glycosylation site (Asn55) is located  
32 at the N-terminal end of the long  $\alpha$ -helix, which seems distant from the putative IBS. This  
33 assumption is supported by the fact that the removal of glycan did not affect the ice-binding  
34 property (see below). N-glycosylation may function for protein folding and stability rather  
35 than for ice binding, as has been suggested for known IBPs<sup>27</sup>. For both AnpIBP1a and 2,  
36 our modeling approach could not predict the structure of the C-terminal segment following

1 the DUF3494 sequence because this region has no structural template.

### 3 ***IBPs from ascomycetes and basidiomycetes have evolved independently***

4 Protein Blast searches using the full amino acid sequences of AnpIBP1 and 2  
5 showed that the related sequences were mostly DUF3494-containing proteins from  
6 ascomycetes or bacteria. Most of the latter were found to be actinobacteria, such as  
7 *Streptomyces*, *Arthrobacter*, and *Kitasatospora* species. The peptide sequence exhibiting  
8 the highest identity and similarity to AnpIBP1 was a putative IBP from an ascomycete  
9 *Zymoseptoria tritici* (58% and 66%) and that to AnpIBP2 was a putative IBP from a  
10 planctomycete *Paludisphaera borealis* (72% and 76%). Such high identities were also  
11 observed at the nucleotide level; identity of mRNA between AnpIBP1 and the putative IBP  
12 from *Z. tritici* was 59%, and that between AnpIBP2 and *P. borealis* was 61%. The mRNA-  
13 based identity was slightly lower for *P. borealis*, which might be due to a difference of  
14 codon usages (3<sup>rd</sup> codons); GC content of AnpIBP2 was 50%, while that of the IBP from  
15 *P. borealis* was 65%. In contrast, both AnpIBP1 and AnpIBP2 exhibited low sequence  
16 identity with basidiomycete-derived IBPs, such as TisIBP8 from *Typhula ishikariensis* and  
17 LeIBP from *Leucosporidium* sp. AY30 (29%–36%), although ascomycetes and  
18 basidiomycetes are phylogenetically close.

19 Another difference between ascomycete and basidiomycete IBPs was found at a  
20 specific portion of their sequences, which creates a capping structure at the end of their  $\beta$ -  
21 helical domains (Fig. 3). As can be seen in this figure, this portion exhibits a significant  
22 variation in the structures of microbial IBPs, and its construction in the AnpIBP model  
23 showed a significant similarity with that of *Flavobacteriaceae* bacterium isolate 3519-10  
24 (IBPv\_a). Do *et al.* (2014) proposed that microbial IBPs can be divided into two groups  
25 based on their capping structure<sup>28</sup>. Our sequence alignments, however, suggest that  
26 microbial IBPs can be divided into three groups. Group 1 and group 2 have large capping  
27 structures where a disulfide-bond is only contained in the latter, which is identical to the  
28 classification by Do *et al.* Our alignment further suggests the existence of group 3 that  
29 includes ascomycete AnpIBP, bacterial EfcIBP, StaIBP (putative IBP), and IBPv, all of  
30 which have a small capping structure. Similarity of DUF3494 sequences within each group  
31 are high, while those between the groups are low (Table S1). When all fungal putative IBP  
32 sequences in the database (~200) containing the capping loops were aligned, it was found  
33 that ascomycete- and basidiomycete-derived putative IBPs have small and large capping  
34 structure, respectively. In contrast, the capping structures of bacterial putative IBPs are  
35 variable depending on the species.

36 To investigate the evolutionary history of ascomycete IBPs, we created and

1 compared the phylogenetic trees of the microbes based on their DUF3494-peptide  
2 sequence (DUF3494 tree, Fig. 4A) and on their 16S/18S ribosomal RNA genes (rRNA tree,  
3 Fig. 4B). Comparison between these two trees is commonly used to identify the phylogeny  
4 of IBPs<sup>19,29</sup>. In Fig. 4B, ascomycetes, basidiomycetes, bacteria, and algae were separately  
5 categorized, and the former two shared a common node, which is consistent with the  
6 universal tree of their life. Significantly, the DUF3494 tree created by maximum likelihood  
7 (ML) method (Fig. 4A) showed that microbial DUF3494s are separated into three groups  
8 similarly to that in Fig. 3A. The sequences in group 1, 2, and 3 have large, disulfide-bonded,  
9 and small capping structures, respectively. Note that in Fig. 4A, group 3 was sub-divided  
10 into Groups 3a and 3b, as several bacterial sequences including IBPv are different from the  
11 other bacteria, although they have small capping structures. Thus, ascomycetes formed a  
12 different clade from basidiomycetes but shared a common node with several bacteria,  
13 which is inconsistent with the ribosomal RNA tree. The DUF3494 tree (Fig.4A) shows that  
14 AnpIBP1 and 2 (*Antarctomyces psychrotropicus* isoform 1 and 2) belong to different  
15 clades within Group 3A, and the latter shares a common node with a bacterium *P. borealis*.  
16 Such phylogenetic incongruence is generally explained by HGT. Note that almost the same  
17 phylogenetic relationships were observed in the Bayesian inference (BI) tree of DUF3494  
18 sequences, whose bootstrap values were shown in Fig. 4A.

19 The DUF3494 phylogenetic tree is highly similar to that presented by Bayer-  
20 Giraldi, M. et al. (2010)<sup>18</sup> and also consistent with the other reports dealing with HGT of  
21 IBPs. For example, algal *Chloromonas brevispina* and *Chlamydomonas raudensis* IBPs are  
22 distant from the other algal IBPs but close to bacterial and/or ascomycete ones in the  
23 phylogenetic tree, which agrees with the previous reports hypothesizing probable  
24 acquisition of these IBPs by HGT<sup>20,30</sup>. Other examples are IBPs from bacterial symbiont  
25 of *Euplotes focardii*, which were separated into group 3a and 3b and shared a common  
26 node with *S. aurantiaca* or *Flavobacteriaceae* bacterium isolate 3519-10 in the  
27 phylogenetic tree. This also agree with the report presenting that EfcIBPs are possibly  
28 derived from close relatives of these species<sup>31</sup>.

29 To examine whether a difference of the tree-topologies between Figs. 4A and 4B  
30 is ascribed to phylogenetic artefacts, statistical tests denoted “approximately unbiased  
31 (AU) test” and “Shimodaira-Hasegawa (SH) test” were performed. The upper trees in the  
32 red box of Fig. 5 shows the ML and BI trees of the DUF3494-peptide sequences from  
33 bacteria, ascomycetes, and basidiomycetes in group 2 and 3A. Again, topologies of the ML  
34 and BI trees are almost identical, and ascomycetes (reds) are phylogenetically close to  
35 bacteria (yellows) rather than basidiomycetes (greens). We then created the trees with a  
36 topological constraint (denoted Constrained tree 1) that intentionally separates

1 ascomycetes, basidiomycetes, and bacteria into different nodes (i.e., null hypothesis). The  
2 AU and SH tests evaluated small values (0.006–0.018) for ML and BI tress (Fig.5, Test1  
3 table). These results support that a significant phylogenetic incongruence exists between  
4 the host species and DUF3494 sequences.

5 Additional statistical test was performed to confirm whether the AnpIBP isoforms  
6 belong to different clades or not. In this case, the evaluation was performed with using  
7 Constrained trees 2 (Fig. 5, blue boxes), where AnpIBP1 and 2 are monophyly and that  
8 they were placed next to each other. The AU and SH tests evaluated small values  
9 (0.000–0.002) for these trees (Fig.5, Test2 table), suggesting the independency of the  
10 evolutionary processes of these two AnpIBP isoforms.

### 11 12 ***AnpIBP1 is moderately active but creates a lemon-like ice crystal***

13 The recombinant protein of AnpIBP1a was synthesized by employing the *Pichia*  
14 *pastoris* expression system and purified with the combined use of ion-exchange and gel-  
15 filtration chromatographies. The M.w. of purified recombinant AnpIBP1a was estimated to  
16 be 25 kDa by SDS-PAGE (Fig. 6A), inclusive of a 216-residue peptide (of approximately  
17 21.4 kDa in size) and an N-linked glycan bound possibly to the Asn55 glycosylation site.  
18 A smeared band observed between the 25- and 35-kDa regions in SDS-PAGE may be due  
19 to multiple components of the glycan because *P. pastoris*-derived proteins generally do not  
20 migrate to this position. A slightly lower M.w. of native AnpIBP (24 kDa) suggests a  
21 difference in the compositions of the N-glycan attached to the two proteins.

22 Recombinant AnpIBP1a at a concentration of 150  $\mu$ M was capable of stopping the  
23 growth of a single ice crystal and had a TH activity of 0.56°C (Fig. 6B, black). This value  
24 is identical to that of a purified native AnpIBP sample at the same concentration (Fig. 6B,  
25 green), which confirms the accuracy of the determined AnpIBP sequences. It has been well  
26 demonstrated that “moderately active IBP” shapes an ice crystal into a bipyramidal  
27 morphology and exhibits approximately 1°C of the TH activity at millimolar  
28 concentrations<sup>32</sup>. In contrast, a lemon-like ice crystal and approximately a 2°C–4°C  
29 temperature of high TH values is obtained for “hyperactive IBPs” at micromolar  
30 concentrations. Therefore, recombinant AnpIBP1a should be categorized into moderately  
31 active IBPs based on its TH value (0.7°C at 300  $\mu$ M), although this protein simultaneously  
32 showed its ability to create lemon-like ice crystals (Fig. 6C) like a hyperactive IBP. This  
33 lemon-like ice crystal in the AnpIBP1a solution underwent a bursting growth along the *c*-  
34 axis to form a large hexagonal bipyramid (Fig. 6D) when the temperature fell below the  
35 depressed freezing point. These results are indicative of a unique ice-binding manner of  
36 AnpIBP1a.

1 AnpIBP1a contains an N-glycan possibly at Asn55 and an extra C-terminal  
2 segment after the 203<sup>th</sup> residue, which are not conserved in the other microbial IBPs. Hence,  
3 they may contribute to the ice-binding property of this protein. To examine such a  
4 possibility, a non-glycosylated mutant (AnpIBP1a\_N55D) and a mutant containing no C-  
5 terminal segment (AnpIBP1\_N55D) were recombinantly expressed by *P. pastoris* similarly  
6 to the wild type, and their TH activities were assessed. The substitution of Asn55 with Asp  
7 decreased M.w. from 25 to 21 kDa on SDS-PAGE (Fig. 6A), indicating the presence of an  
8 N-glycan at Asn55. The TH and ice-shaping activities of the two mutants were almost  
9 identical to those of the wild type (Fig. 6B). The His-tagged versions of these two mutants  
10 also demonstrated the same TH values as those without the tag. These results indicate that  
11 neither an N-glycan nor the C-terminal segment is involved in ice binding. The average  
12 yields of recombinant AnpIBP1 per culture were found to be approximately 10, 110, 90,  
13 160, and 170 mg/L for AnpIBP1a, AnpIBP1a\_N55D, AnpIBP1\_N55D, His-  
14 AnpIBP1a\_N55D, and His-AnpIBP1\_N55D, respectively.

### 15 16 ***AnpIBP1 strongly inhibits IR***

17 IR is a phenomenon of the increase in the ice crystal size within already frozen  
18 materials. One of the principle abilities of IBP is the inhibition of recrystallization through  
19 binding onto the ice crystal surfaces<sup>6,7</sup>. To evaluate this ability of IBP, termed IR inhibition  
20 (IRI), for recombinant AnpIBP1a wild type, we monitored the growth of ice crystals in a  
21 frozen AnpIBP1a solution supplemented with 30% sucrose after annealing for 60 min at  
22 subzero temperature ( $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). In the absence of AnpIBP1a, an apparent growth of ice  
23 crystals was observed after 60 min of annealing, and the average size of the crystals was  
24 recorded to be approximately  $393\ \mu\text{m}^2$  (Fig. 7). The ice crystal growth was significantly  
25 arrested with the addition of only a small amount of AnpIBP1a ( $5\ \mu\text{M}$ ), where the average  
26 ice crystal size was approximately  $8\ \mu\text{m}^2$ , indicating that this protein possesses strong IRI  
27 activity. On dilution to  $0.5\ \mu\text{M}$ , AnpIBP1a allowed crystal growth up to a size of  $164\ \mu\text{m}^2$ ,  
28 but a further dilution to  $0.05\ \mu\text{M}$  almost failed to stop the growth ( $333\ \mu\text{m}^2$ ). These results  
29 are in good agreement with previous indications that native AnpIBP possesses IRI ability  
30 at approximately a  $2\text{-}\mu\text{M}$  concentration<sup>21</sup>.

### 31 32 ***Native AnpIBP affects the growth of ice crystals even at a very low concentration***

33 We observed a trend of freezing of a potato dextrose broth (PDB) medium in the  
34 absence/presence of AnpIBP, for which a  $3\text{-}\mu\text{L}$  droplet of each sample was frozen on the  
35 stage of a photomicroscope. For the pure PDB medium without AnpIBP, relatively large  
36 ice crystals with a rounded, leaf-like shape were observed (Fig.8A; right). This is the typical

1 observation for a solution without IBP. In contrast, numerous rock-like, fine ice crystals  
2 were generated in *A. psychrotrophicus*-containing medium cultivated at 4°C for 1 month,  
3 thereby including AnpIBP (Fig.8A; left). On a macroscale, the culture supernatant of *A.*  
4 *psychrotrophicus* turned white and opaque (Fig. 8B) when frozen at -20°C, indicating the  
5 formation of numerous fine ice crystals. When this culture medium was loaded onto SDS-  
6 PAGE, no significant band was detected by Coomassie brilliant blue (CBB) staining. These  
7 results again suggest that AnpIBP can create a fine ice texture at the micromolar level.

8 To assess the physiological functions of AnpIBP, we compared the growth of the  
9 mycelia of *A. psychrotrophicus* on potato dextrose agar (PDA) plates before and after 25  
10 cycles of freeze and thawing. A snow mold fungus *T. ishikariensis* was also tested for  
11 comparison. These cell cultures were maintained at -1°C to induce IBP expression before  
12 starting the cycles. It was found that both fungi grew at 10°C without the cycles (Fig. 8C),  
13 where the growth rates were 0.5 cm/day for *A. psychrotrophicus* and 0.1 cm/day for *T.*  
14 *ishikariensis*. Significantly, *A. psychrotrophicus* grew normally on the plate even after the  
15 25 freeze-thaw cycles, while *T. ishikariensis* did not show any growth, indicating that *A.*  
16 *psychrotrophicus* is extremely tolerate to freeze-thaw cycles.

17

## 1 Discussion

2 In cold environments, many psychrophilic microbes, including fungi, produce  
3 IBPs to control ice crystal growth, which has detrimental effects on their tissues. The fungi  
4 are categorized into two major phyla, Ascomycota and Basidiomycota. A sole ascomycete  
5 IBP from *A. psychrotrophicus* (AnpIBP) was initially characterized in our previous report.  
6 Here, we determined the cDNA and peptide sequences of three AnpIBP isoforms to  
7 examine their structures and ice-binding properties, which revealed the uniqueness of their  
8 phylogenetic background and functional abilities.

### 9 10 *cDNA and peptide sequences reveal the structure of AnpIBP*

11 Most of the microbial IBPs are known to contain the DUF3494 sequence, whereas  
12 the DUF3494-containing proteins detected in the ascomycete genomes or cDNA libraries  
13 have not been confirmed to exhibit the ice-binding property. The ascomycete DUF3494-  
14 proteins share a high homogeneity with the three AnpIBP isoforms, and some of them can  
15 be assigned to the microbial IBPs. For example, Kawahara *et al.*<sup>33</sup> reported that several  
16 Antarctic ascomycetes produce extracellular substances that modify the ice crystal shape,  
17 some of which could be IBPs.

18 The N-terminal sequences of AnpIBP1a and AnpIBP1b almost completely  
19 matched with the previously determined sequence of native AnpIBP (Fig. 1A), suggesting  
20 the secretions of both AnpIBP isoforms toward the extracellular space via the signal peptide.  
21 This finding is consistent with the present finding showing that recombinant AnpIBP1a  
22 possesses almost the same TH activity as that of the native AnpIBP (Fig. 6B). In contrast,  
23 AnpIBP2 was not found in the culture supernatant of *A. psychrotrophicus*. Thus, this  
24 isoform may exist in the intracellular space or on the cell surface. Recently, several reports  
25 have shown the existence of such non-secreted IBPs<sup>34,35</sup>.

26 Our intron analysis revealed that AnpIBP1a and 1b are produced from one IBP-  
27 coding region through alternative splicing of the C-terminal non-ice-binding region (Fig.  
28 1C). The existence of two isoforms that differ only at the C-terminal segment evoked a  
29 question about its relevance to the structure and function of this protein. However, the  
30 removal of the segment did not affect the ice-binding property of AnpIBP1a (Fig. 6B). The  
31 extension of the N- or C-terminal sequence has sometimes been observed in several IBPs,  
32 suggesting that these regions are mostly variable and not conserved. Although their  
33 functions have hardly been clarified, several reports have suggested that such additional  
34 sequences are responsible for dimerization<sup>14</sup> or anchoring of the protein to the cell  
35 surface<sup>35,36</sup>. The additional C-terminal sequences of AnpIBP1a and 1b have electrically  
36 opposite features (Fig. 1A). Thus, these segments may be involved in heterodimerization

1 or binding to different substrates other than ice.

### 3 ***AnpIBP isoforms may originate from different bacteria***

4 The comparison of the AnpIBP sequences with that of other microbial IBPs  
5 revealed that AnpIBP1 and AnpIBP2 share high sequence identities with the DUF3434-  
6 containing proteins of both ascomycetes and bacteria (<72%) but poor identities with those  
7 of basidiomycetes (<36%). In the phylogenetic tree of DUF3494 domains (Fig. 4A),  
8 ascomycete DUF3494s, including AnpIBPs, were phylogenetically far from the  
9 basidiomycete ones but close to the bacterial ones in group 3, which is inconsistent with  
10 the phylogenetic relationship of their life (Fig. 4B). This phylogenetic incongruence  
11 suggests that ascomycete IBPs independently evolved from basidiomycete IBPs and that  
12 they were possibly acquired from bacteria through HGT. The statistical tests (Fig. 5, Test  
13 1) further support this HGT hypothesis. These results are in good agreement with the  
14 proposition by Raymond<sup>20</sup> and support the structural similarity in the capping loop region  
15 of DUF3494 proteins (Fig. 3). All of the DUF3494 proteins in group 3 contain a small  
16 capping structure, whereas those from other groups have a different capping structure. This  
17 semi-conserved region may have a significant correlation with the evolutionary process of  
18 microbial DUF3494. Another evidence of the HGT hypothesis is the occurrence of  
19 differences in the number of introns. AnpIBP1 and 2 genes do not possess any introns in  
20 the DUF3494 sequence (Fig. 1B and C), which may be due to the occurrence of HGT from  
21 bacteria. It has been reported that basidiomycete IBPs from yeast<sup>11</sup> and mushrooms<sup>12</sup> have  
22 eight and four introns, respectively. Such a difference between IBPs from ascomycetes and  
23 basidiomycetes implies a difference in their evolutionary history and a relatively recent  
24 acquisition of ascomycete-derived IBP genes compared with those of basidiomycetes.

25 Such phylogenetic incongruence might also be explained by a different gene loss,  
26 in which DUF3494 genes were duplicated in an ancestor of fungi and bacteria, and they  
27 were lost differently during evolutionary process. If this is correct, some of the fungi should  
28 retain two or more kinds of DUF3494 that belong to different groups. All ascomycetes and  
29 basidiomycetes, however, possess only group 3 and group 1 DUF3494s, respectively.  
30 Furthermore, the DUF3494 gene has not been found in the other phyla of fungi, such as  
31 *Zygomycota* and *Chytridiomycota*. Since it is not likely that the DUF3494 genes were lost  
32 in all fungi other than ascomycetes and basidiomycetes, fungal IBP genes were possibly  
33 acquired by HGT.

34 The DUF3494 sequences of ascomycetes and bacteria in group 3 are scattered in  
35 the phylogenetic tree (Fig. 4A). Furthermore, several DUF3494s from bacteria such as  
36 proteobacteria and flavobacteria are separated into the different groups. These results

1 suggest that HGT of IBP occurs frequently.

2 Surprisingly, AnpIBP1 and AnpIBP2 in group 3 are apparently separated into  
3 different nodes. This finding is supported by the low sequence identity between AnpIBP1  
4 and AnpIBP2 (44%), which is much lower than that between AnpIBP1 and ascomycete  
5 IBPs, such as *Z. tritici* IBP (58%), or that between AnpIBP2 and bacterial IBP, such as *P.*  
6 *borealis* IBP (72%). This significantly high sequence identity between AnpIBP2 and *P.*  
7 *borealis*-putative IBP indicates the installation of the IBP gene from this bacterium or its  
8 ancestor; thus, AnpIBP1 and AnpIBP2 presumably originate from different HGT events.  
9 This hypothesis was supported by another statistical test, which also negates monophyly  
10 of AnpIBP1 and 2 (Fig. 5, test 2).

11 In general, HGT hardly occurs between fungi (eukaryote) and bacteria  
12 (prokaryote) because of the difference in codon usage and incompatibility of promoters.<sup>17</sup>  
13 However, it is known that HGT frequently occurs under specific stress from harsh  
14 environmental conditions and provides a selective advantage to the recipient organism<sup>37</sup>.  
15 Thus, extremely cold environments accompanied by ice crystal formation are likely to exert  
16 a strong selection pressure on microorganisms, and there is a strong demand for IBPs to  
17 adapt to this special environment. As a result of positive selection, several HGT events  
18 could occur and IBP-producing microorganisms could survive.

19 Most of the IBPs in group 3 were derived from ascomycetes or actinobacteria,  
20 both of which usually live in the soil, suggesting that the installation of the IBP gene  
21 through HGT progresses under cold soil environments. These microbes tend to form a  
22 community with the surrounding heterotrophic bacteria. In this dense community, physical  
23 contact between fungi and bacteria or among bacteria occurs frequently, thereby increasing  
24 the probability of HGT via a conjugation-like mechanism. Otherwise, the filamentous  
25 microbes may have acquired freely available IBP genes produced by lysis of neighboring  
26 microorganisms in the community. Another possibility is natural transformation due to cell  
27 membrane damage with high salt concentrations caused by ice crystal growth, which  
28 facilitate the incorporation of IBP genes into the cells. Kiko (2010)<sup>13</sup> proposed that sea-ice  
29 habitats create natural transformation conditions, enabling HGT. A similar scenario may be  
30 true in Antarctic soil because the continent is mostly covered with a large amount of snow  
31 and ice blocks.

### 33 ***AnpIBP facilitate the cold adaptation of A. psychrotrophicus***

34 Because *A. psychrotrophicus* is isolated from various environments of  
35 Antarctica<sup>22-24</sup>, AnpIBP could play an important role in its cold adaptation. Our results  
36 suggest that AnpIBP1 is secreted into the extracellular space and is believed to be

1 responsible for controlling ice growth around the cells. Nevertheless, the TH activity of  
2 AnpIBP1 (0.7°C at 300 μM) was not significant, although the environmental temperature  
3 is extremely low. For example, the minimum temperature at King George Island, where *A.*  
4 *psychrotrophicus* was first isolated, is −19.9°C<sup>22</sup>. AnpIBP1 showed both IRI (Fig. 7) and  
5 ice-shaping activities (Fig. 8A and B), even at extremely low concentrations (5 μM). Thus,  
6 the main function of this IBP will be the formation of fine ice crystals during freezing and  
7 the inhibition of IR during melting rather than freezing-point depression, which may lead  
8 to the prevention of freezing damages to the host organism. Indeed, *A. psychrotrophicus*  
9 can tolerate 25 freeze–thaw cycles, whereas the snow mold *T. ishikariensis* cannot (Fig.  
10 8C). HGT between ascomycetes and bacteria may have significant importance for their  
11 cold adaptation and evolution, leading to the wide distribution of *A. psychrotrophicus* in  
12 Antarctica.  
13

## 1 **Materials and methods**

### 3 ***Preparation of cDNA library, and total cDNA analysis of A. psychrotrophicus***

4 *A. psychrotrophicus* strain Syw-1 was isolated from soil collected from Kizahashi-  
5 hama, Skarvsnes on the Soya coast, Antarctica, in 2006 and cultured in our laboratory in  
6 PDB medium. The cultures were kept at either  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 1 month to compare the  
7 efficiency of IBP expression between the two temperatures. Total RNA of *A.*  
8 *psychrotrophicus* was extracted and purified using the RNeasy Plant Mini Kit (QIAGEN,  
9 CA, USA), according to the suggested protocol. Poly (A+) RNA was isolated by oligo (dT)  
10 cellulose chromatography (New England Biolabs, MA, USA). cDNA was synthesized  
11 using the Marathon cDNA Amplification Kit (BD Biosciences Clontech, CA, USA). The  
12 constructed library was sequenced with the Illumina HiSeq™ 2000. The raw reads were  
13 cleaned by removing adaptor-only reads, repeated reads, and low-quality reads by Illumina  
14 Sequencing Analysis Pipeline ver. 1.6. Transcriptome de novo assembly was carried out  
15 with short reads assembling program Trinity<sup>38</sup>. IBP sequences were identified using  
16 BLAST (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>).

17 To confirm the accuracy of the determined cDNA sequences and to obtain intron  
18 information, the AnpIBP1b gene was amplified from the genome of *A. psychrotrophicus*  
19 by PCR with forward primer 5'-ATGGTTTCCGCCTTCATGATCC-3' and reverse primer  
20 5'-TTAGACCTTGAAGAACTTGGCAGA-3', which are the 5'- and 3'-terminal cDNA  
21 sequences of AnpIBP1b, respectively. AnpIBP2 gene was also amplified with a forward  
22 primer 5'-GCATCGTTCGCTGTTCTAGGAG-3' and a reverse primer 5'-  
23 GGAGGTAGTAGTAGTGGTTGTGGT-3'. The genome of *A. psychrotrophicus* was  
24 purified, as described in<sup>39</sup>. The PCR reaction was performed with TaKaRa Ex Taq (TaKaRa,  
25 Shiga, Japan). The PCR product was cloned into a pMD20-T vector (Mighty TA Cloning  
26 Kit; TaKaRa, Shiga, Japan), transformed into *Escherichia coli* JM109, and then sequenced.

### 28 ***Sequence alignment and structural modeling of AnpIBP***

29 Multiple sequence alignment was performed with the Clustal omega tool  
30 (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/clustalo/>) using default parameters. The same tool was  
31 used to examine the sequence identities.

32 The structural models of AnpIBP1a and AnpIBP2 were prepared with  
33 MODELLER (<http://salilab.org/modeller/>) and visualized with Chimera  
34 (<http://www.cgl.ucsf.edu/chimera/>). TisIBP8 (pdb code = 5B5H), LeIBP (3UYU), FfIBP  
35 (4NU2), ColIBP (3WP9), and IBPv\_a (5UYT) were used as templates. A total of 10 models  
36 were created for each isoform, and an energy-minimized structure was selected on the basis

1 of the MODELLER score (DOPE).

### 3 ***Phylogenetic analysis of microbial DUF3494 domains***

4 The MEGA7 software (<http://www.megasoftware.net/>) was used to create the  
5 phylogenetic trees based on the microbial DUF3494s and 16/18S ribosomal RNA  
6 sequences. The former (DUF3494 tree) was made with maximum likelihood method based  
7 on the WAG+F+G model. The bootstrap values were obtained with 500-resamplings. The  
8 latter tree (rRNA tree in Fig. 4B) was prepared by employing the neighbor-joining method  
9 based on the TN93+G model. Only Bayesian inference tree was made by using Mrbayes  
10 software ver. 3.2.6 (<http://www.mrbayes.sourceforge.net/download.php>) with using  
11 400,000 generations (four chains), sampling once every 100 rounds, random starting tree,  
12 WAG amino acid substitution model, and discarding a burn-in of 1,000. The AU test<sup>40</sup> and  
13 SH test<sup>41</sup> were performed with using Treefinder software (<http://www.treefinder.de/>).

### 15 ***Expression and purification of recombinant and native AnpIBPs***

16 Codon-optimized AnpIBP1a gene (Ala<sup>1</sup>–Val<sup>216</sup>) with 5'-terminal *XhoI* and Kex2  
17 signal cleavage sites (ctcgagaaaaaga) and 3'-terminal *NotI* (gcggccgc) sites was synthesized  
18 and digested with the restriction enzymes. The resultant DNA fragment was ligated into  
19 pPICZ $\alpha$  (Thermo Fisher Scientific, MA, USA) digested with the two restriction enzymes.  
20 The expression vector containing the AnpIBP1a gene was linearized using the *PmeI*  
21 restriction enzyme. Transformation of the *P. pastoris* X33 strain was performed using the  
22 *Pichia* EasyComp Transformation Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, MA, USA). The  
23 transformant was selected by Zeocin resistance and the IBP expression level. The selected  
24 transformant was cultured in 80 mL of buffered glycerol complex medium (1% yeast  
25 extract, 2% peptone, 100 mM potassium phosphate at pH 6.0, 1.34% YNB,  $4 \times 10^{-5}$ % biotin,  
26 and 1% glycerol) at 28°C with agitation. When OD<sub>600</sub> reached 10, the cells were harvested  
27 by centrifugation at 7500 rpm for 10 min at room temperature and were then resuspended  
28 in 450 mL of 2 $\times$  buffered methanol complex medium (2% yeast extract, 4% peptone, 200  
29 mM potassium phosphate at pH 6.0, 2.68% YNB,  $8 \times 10^{-5}$ % biotin, and 0.5% methanol).  
30 The cells were cultivated in a 1-L BMJ-01P fermenter (ABLE, Tokyo, Japan) at 20°C.  
31 Methanol was continuously added to the fermenter through a peristaltic pump at a manually  
32 controlled flow rate of 0.5–3.5 mL/h. After 96–120 h of cultivation, the medium containing  
33 IBP was collected by centrifugation and was dialyzed against 20 mM Gly-HCl buffer (pH  
34 3.0). The dialysate was loaded into a High-S (Bio-Rad, CA, USA) column and eluted using  
35 a 0–300-mM NaCl linear gradient over 10-column bed volumes. The antifreeze active  
36 fractions were recovered and dialyzed against 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0). The dialysate was

1 applied into a High-Q (Bio-Rad, CA, USA) column and eluted using a 0–300-mM NaCl  
2 linear gradient over 10-column bed volumes. The recovered fraction was concentrated to a  
3 5-mL volume and further purified by gel-filtration chromatography using Superdex 200  
4 (GE-Healthcare, Amersham, UK) equilibrated with 20 mM Tris-HCl buffer containing 500  
5 mM NaCl. The antifreeze active fractions were collected and dialyzed against water. The  
6 purity of the sample was checked using 16% SDS-PAGE stained with CBB.

7 All mutants were prepared using the KOD-plus Mutagenesis Kit (Toyobo, Osaka,  
8 Japan) and confirmed by DNA sequencing. Then, they were expressed and purified by the  
9 same procedure as that used for the wild types. In the case of His-tagged mutants, the first  
10 purification on the High-S column was substituted with the Ni-NTA column (QIAGEN,  
11 CA, USA) equilibrated with 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0) containing 500 mM NaCl. His-  
12 tagged AnpIBPs were eluted with the same buffer containing 250 mM imidazole.

13 Native AnpIBP was purified from the culture supernatant of *A. psychrotrophicus*,  
14 as described elsewhere<sup>21</sup>.

### 15 16 ***Measurement of TH activity and IRI***

17 The TH activity was measured with a photomicroscope system equipped with a  
18 temperature-controlling system, as described in<sup>42</sup>, with slight modifications. Briefly, IBP  
19 was dissolved in 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0). The sample solution (1  $\mu$ L) in a glass capillary  
20 was placed on the stage and cooled rapidly to approximately  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  until frozen. The frozen  
21 sample was melted slowly until a single ice crystal remained. The temperature at which the  
22 ice crystals melted was recorded as  $T_m$ . The formed ice-crystal was kept at  $T_m - 0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  for  
23 5 min. The temperature was slowly lowered ( $0.1^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$ ). The freezing point ( $T_f$ ) of the  
24 sample was determined as the temperature at which rapid ice growth was observed. The  
25 TH values were evaluated from the absolute value of the difference between  $T_m$  and  $T_f$  (i.e.,  
26  $\text{TH} = |T_f - T_m|$ ).

27 IRI of IBPs was measured by the observation of the change in the ice crystal  
28 morphology under the photomicroscope. Recombinant AnpIBP1 dissolved in 30% sucrose  
29 solution (1.2  $\mu$ L) was sandwiched between two glass plates. The sample was cooled at  
30  $55^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$  until the entire solution was frozen. Then, it was warmed at  $20^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$  up to  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$   
31 and incubated for 1 h. A snapshot was taken every 15 min. The size of the ice crystals was  
32 measured using ImageJ software (<http://imagej.nih.gov/ij/>).

### 33 34 ***Observation of ice crystal morphology in the AnpIBP solution***

35 The *A. psychrotrophicus* culture (3  $\mu$ L) cultivated at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  or pure PDB medium  
36 was placed on a glass plate and observed under a photomicroscope equipped with a

1 temperature controller. The sample solution was frozen entirely by decreasing the  
2 temperature to approximately  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ , which created a tight assembly of numerous single  
3 ice crystals. These crystals were then melted by increasing the temperature to  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$  in order  
4 to decrease the number of ice crystals formed. The ice crystals were then allowed to grow  
5 by decreasing the temperature at the rate of  $1^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$ , and their morphologies were observed.

6 To observe the macroscale ice texture, 25 mL of *A. psychrotrophicus* culture or  
7 pure PDB medium in a 50-mL tube was frozen at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 24 h.

### 9 ***Freezing–thawing cycle experiments of A. psychrotrophicus***

10 The mycelia of *A. psychrotrophicus* and *T. ishikariensis* were cultured in 50 mL  
11 of PDB medium at  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$ . After growth of the mycelia, the cultures were transferred to an  
12 incubator at  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$  to induce IBP expression. After 1 month, the cultures were made to  
13 undergo 25 cycles of freezing at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  and thawing at room temperature. The cells were  
14 grown on a PDA plate at  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and the growth rates of the mycelia were recorded.

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### 20 **Author contributions**

21 TA and ST designed the research. TA, DF, TH, and HK performed the research  
22 and analyzed the data. TA and ST wrote the paper.

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26

## 27 **Figure legends**

28 **Figure 1. Sequence alignment of AnpIBP isoforms and genome structure of the**  
29 **AnpIBP1 gene.** (A) The sequence alignment of translated amino acid sequences of  
30 AnpIBP isoforms identified by total cDNA analysis. Putative N-glycosylation (Asn55)  
31 sites of AnpIBP1 are underlined. Cylinders and arrows indicate alpha-helices and beta-  
32 sheets of the AnpIBP1 model, respectively. Black arrows particularly indicate beta-sheets  
33 that comprise the putative IBS of AnpIBP1. (B) Full-length AnpIBP1 gene in the genome.  
34 Introns are underlined. Terminator codons are shown in italic. (C) Schematic diagram of

1 the genome structure and mature mRNA of AnpIBP. Ca and Cb indicate the C-terminal  
2 segment of AnpIBP1a and AnpIBP1b, respectively. Dotted lines indicate the splice  
3 positions. The AnpIBP1 gene in the genome comprises two introns (I) and three exons (E).  
4 The two types of mRNA are produced by alternative splicing of Exon 2. In all the figures,  
5 the signal peptide, untranslated region, DUF3494 region, and C-terminal segment are  
6 colored by blue, black, red, and yellow, respectively.

7

8 **Figure 2. Structural model of AnpIBP.** (A) The overall structure of AnpIBP1a is  
9 represented with a ribbon model in spectral color gradation from blue (N-terminus) to red  
10 (C-terminus). (B) Amino acid residues of the putative ice-binding sites (B face) of  
11 AnpIBP1a and AnpIBP2. Large and small letters indicate the outward- and inward-  
12 pointing residues, respectively. Serine and threonine residues are indicated in orange and  
13 positively charged residues in red.

14

15 **Figure 3. Sequence alignment of the capping structure between microbial IBPs.** (A)  
16 Multiple sequence alignment among IBPs from *A. psychrotrophicus* (AnpIBP1, 2),  
17 bacterial symbiont of *Euplotes focardii* (EfcIBP), *Leucosporidium* sp. AY30 (LeIBP), *S.*  
18 *aurantiaca* (StaIBP), *T. ishikariensis* (TisIBP8), *Colwellia* sp. SLW05 (ColIBP),  
19 *Flavobacterium frigidis* (FfIBP), *Navicula glaciei* (NagIBP8), and *Flavobacteriaceae*  
20 isolate 3519-10 (IBPv). Sequences corresponding to the capping structure are in blue box.  
21 Cysteine residues involved in the disulfide bond are boxed with yellow. (B) Microbial IBP  
22 structures from each group. The crystal structures of ColIBP (pdb code: 3WP9), TisIBP8  
23 (5B5H), IBPv\_a (5UYT), and EfcIBP (6EIO) and the structural model of AnpIBP1a are  
24 shown as ribbon models, in which the capping structures are colored in blue.

25

26 **Figure 4. Phylogenetic discrepancy between microbial 16S or 18S ribosomal RNA and**  
27 **DUF3494s.** (A) Maximum likelihood tree based on the amino acid sequences of microbial  
28 DUF3494. The sequences confirmed to show ice-binding activity are underlined. (B)

1 Neighbor phylogenetic tree of 16S or 18S ribosomal RNA of microorganisms. In both the  
2 figures, the numbers at the nodes indicate the bootstrap values for 500 replications (<30  
3 are not shown), and the grouping (as in Fig. 3) is shown on the right side. In the DUF3494  
4 tree, bootstrap values by ML and BI methods were shown as black and red, respectively.  
5 The edge colors of the bacterial and the algae markers indicate bacterial phyla as  
6 Proteobacteria (black), Planctomycetes (green), Firmicutes (cyan), Actinobacteria (orange),  
7 Bacteroidetes (purple), and unidentified (yellow) for bacteria, and *Bacillariophyta* (Black),  
8 *Haptophyta* (pink), and *Chlorophyta* (green) for algae.

9

10 **Figure 5. Statistical tests performed on the phylogenetic trees prepared from the**  
11 **DUF3494 gene and the host species.** Statistical tests of HGT tree against constrained tree  
12 in which ascomycetes, basidiomycetes, and bacteria form different clades (Red box).  
13 Statistical tests of HGT tree against constrained tree in which AnpIBP isoforms are  
14 monophyly (Blue boxes). AU and SH test p-values are shown in right side tables. Bootstrap  
15 values for 500 replications are shown at the nodes. Markers are same as in Fig. 4.

16

17

18 **Figure 6. SDS-PAGE, TH activities, and ice crystal morphologies of recombinant**  
19 **AnpIBP1.** (A) SDS-PAGE of purified AnpIBP1a and its mutants. M: Molecular weight  
20 marker; Lane 1, AnpIBP1a; Lane 2, AnpIBP1a N55D; Lane 3, AnpIBP1 N55D; Lane 4,  
21 His-tagged AnpIBP1 N55D; Lane 5, native AnpIBP. (B) The TH activity of AnpIBP and  
22 its mutants. Error bars indicate standard deviations. (C) The comparison of ice crystal  
23 shapes in the IBP solution. (D) Ice crystal morphology of AnpIBP1a. The black arrow  
24 indicates the c-axis direction. Scale bar = 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

25

26 **Figure 7. Concentration-dependence of IRI activity of AnpIBP1a.** (A) IBP  
27 concentration-dependent ice crystal morphologies before and after  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$  incubation. Ice  
28 crystals were observed under a photomicroscope. Scale bar = 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

29

30 **Figure 8. Effect of AnpIBP on ice crystal growth.** (A) Microscopic view of ice crystal  
31 growth in PDB medium with or without native AnpIBP. In IBP (+) medium, *A.*  
32 *psychrotrophicus* was cultured at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 1 month. In the *A. psychrotrophicus* culture, the

1 size of the ice crystals was smaller than that in pure PDB medium. (B) Comparison of  
2 frozen PDB medium with or without AnpIBP. Formed ice was opaque in the presence of  
3 AnpIBP, whereas pure PDB medium was frozen as semi-transparent ice. (C) Mycelium  
4 growth on PDA plates of *A. psychrotrophicus* and *T. ishikariensis* with and without 25  
5 cycles of freezing–thawing. *A. psychrotrophicus* is on the left side, and *T. ishikariensis* is  
6 on the right side.

7

8



1

2 **Table S1.** Sequence identities (%) between selected microbial DUF3494s. The sequences  
3 used here are the same as those used for the phylogenetic analysis (mentioned in Fig. 4A).  
4 Rows of bacteria, algae, basidiomycetes, and ascomycetes are indicated in yellow, blue,  
5 green, and red, respectively. The grouping is the same as in Fig. 3.

6

**Figure 1**

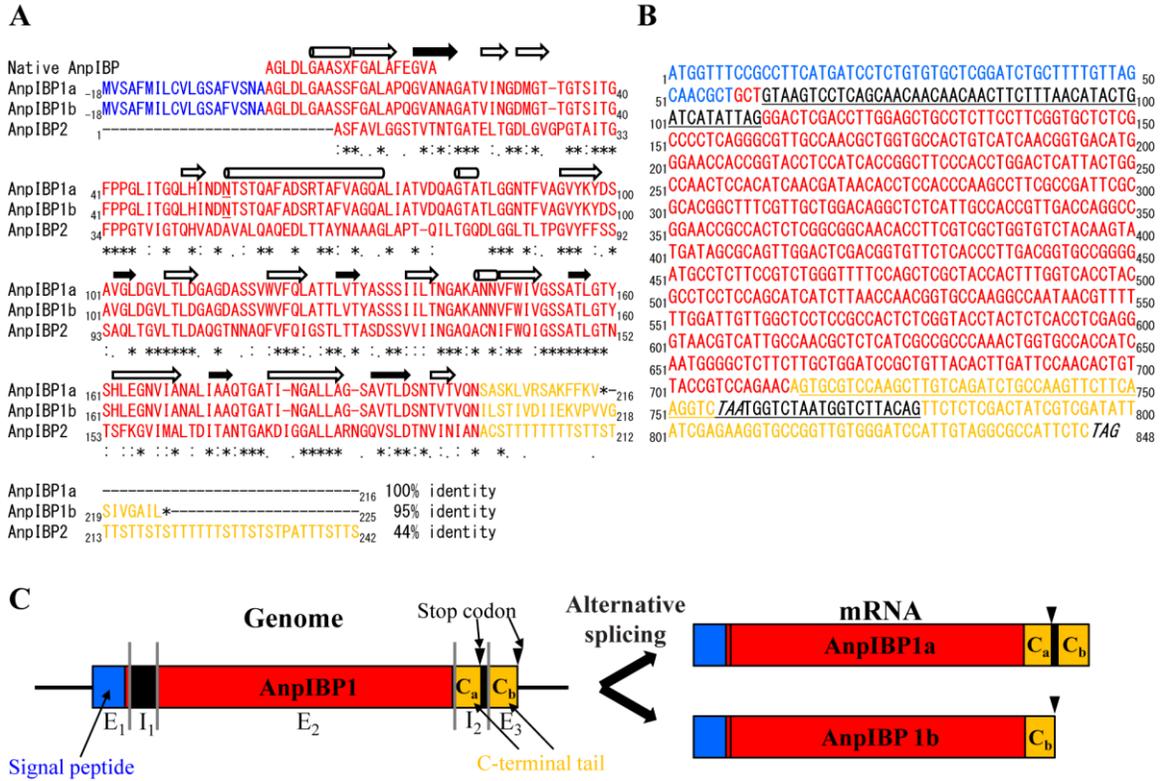
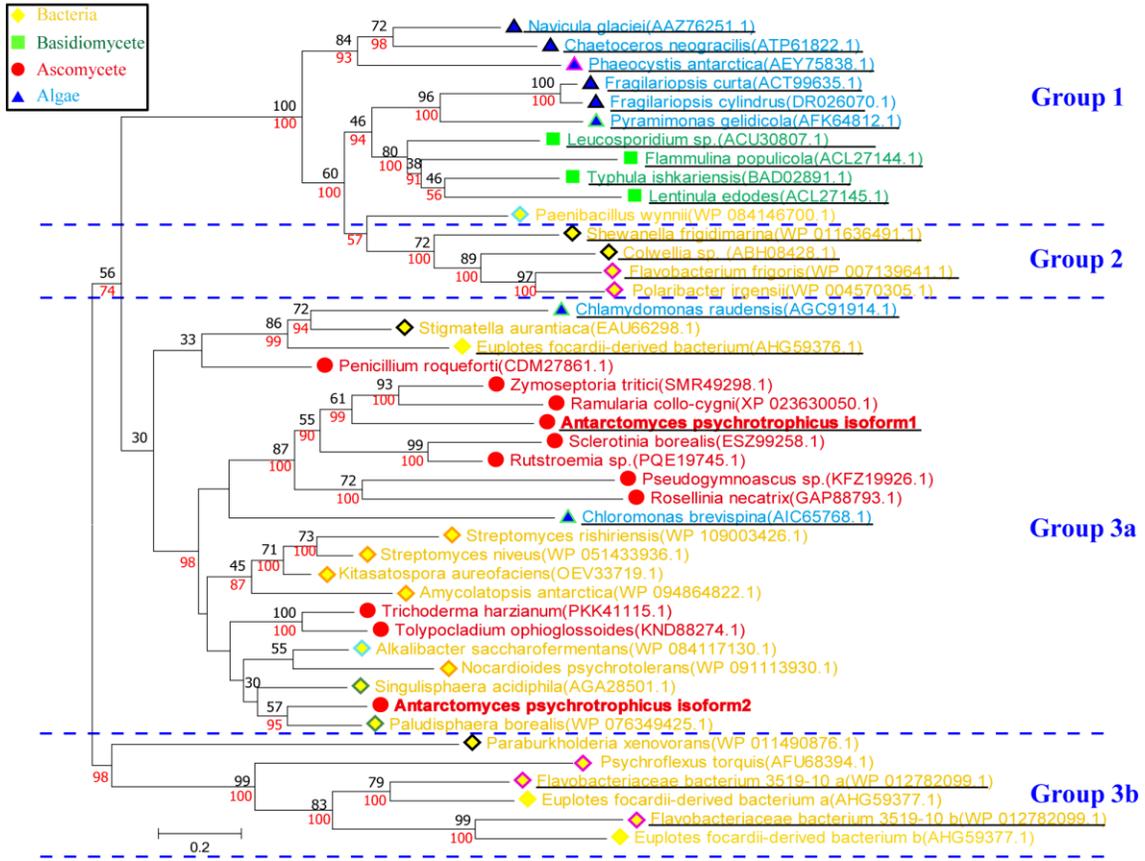


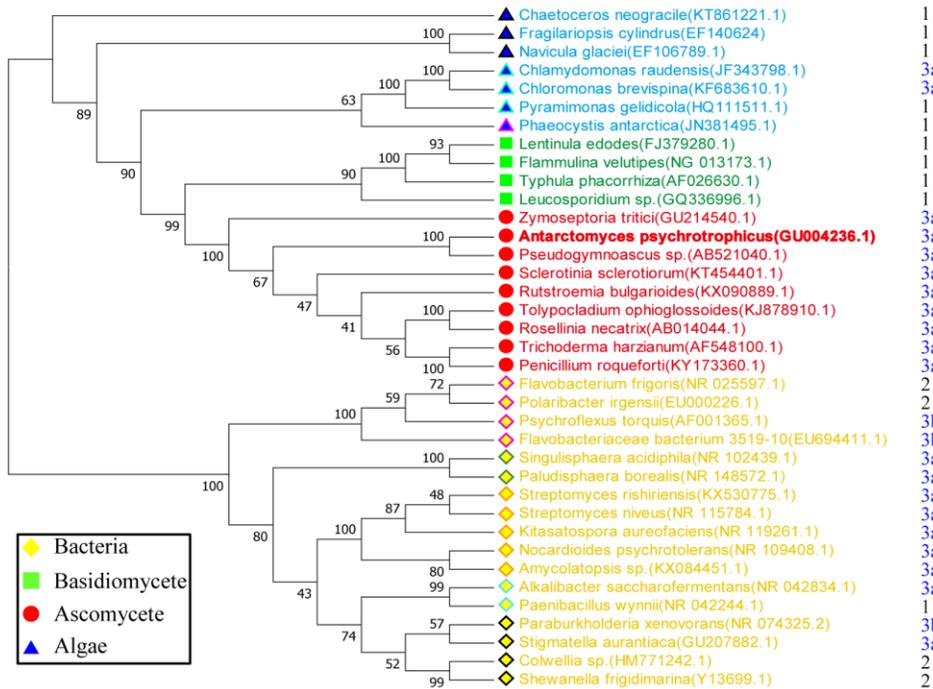


Figure 4

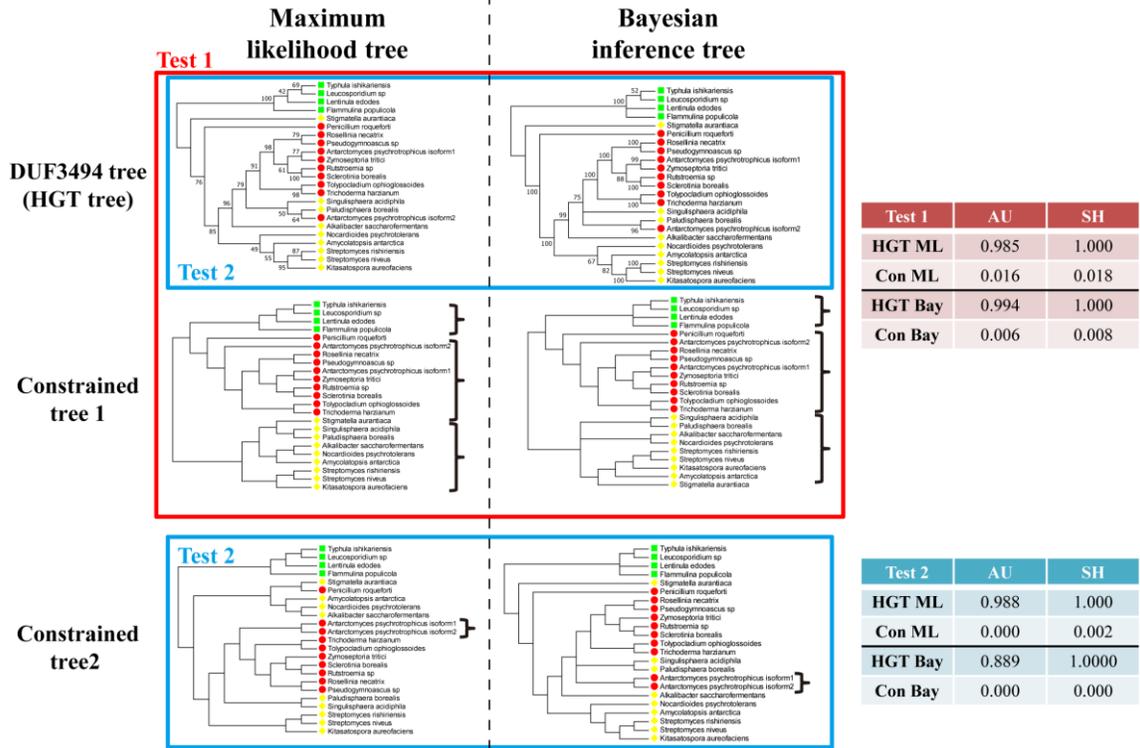
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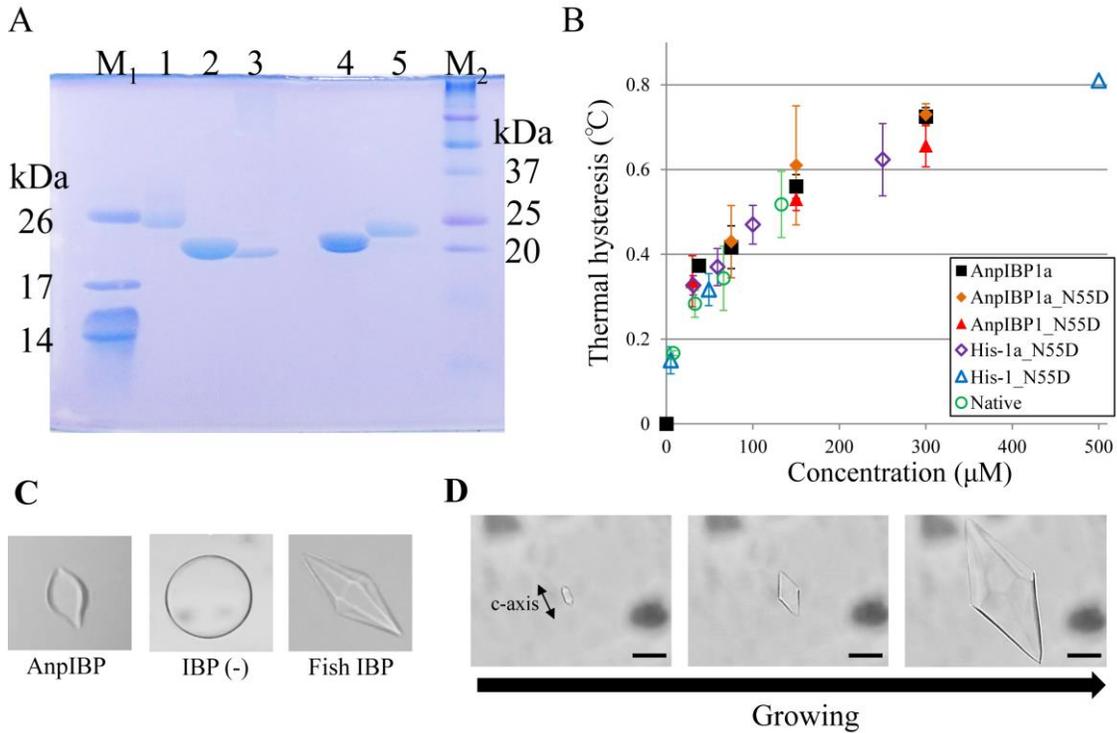
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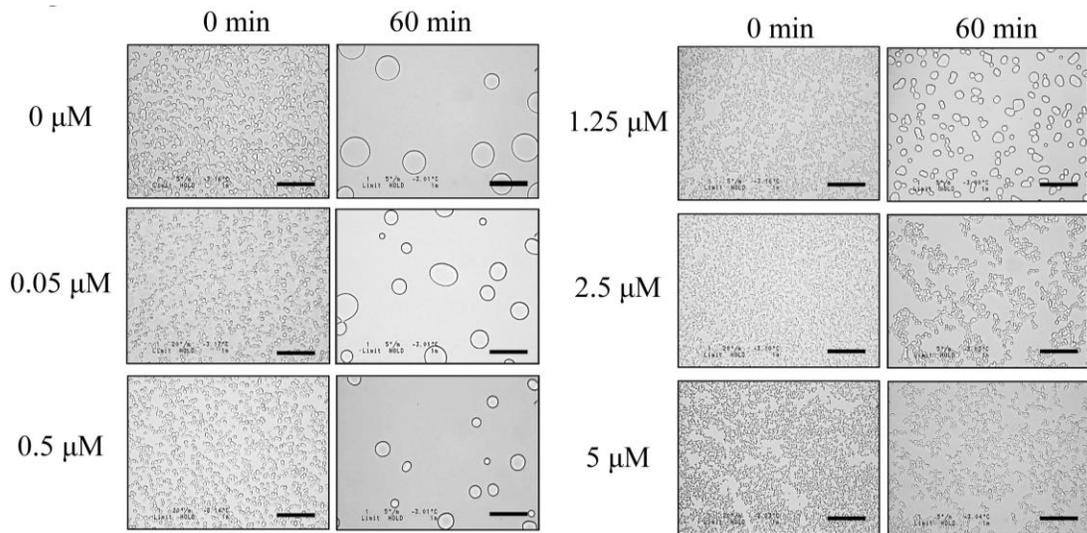
**Figure 5**



**Figure 6**



**Figure 7**



**Figure 8**

