Supplementary Information for

A GPCR-based yeast biosensor for biomedical, biotechnological, and

point-of-use cannabinoid determination

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Supplementary Figure 1. Engineering the chassis strain KM111. The biosensor chassis strain KM111 was constructed by sequentially knocking out three genes (*STE3*, *STE12* and *GPA1*) that encode pheromone pathway components so that they can be replaced by custom parts. In addition, two genes (*SST2* and *FAR1*) that are detrimental to biosensor function were also deleted. First, *STE3* was knocked out by replacing it with the selection marker *URA3* by homologous recombination. Then the marker was removed using Cre/Lox recombination (LoxP sites flanking the selection marker). This approach was repeated to delete *SST2*, then *FAR1*, then *STE12*, and finally, *GPA1*.

Supplementary Figure 2. The basic biosensor. The biosensor strain KM202 was constructed by integrating the *CNR2* coding sequence (gene coding for the CB_2 receptor) controlled by the P_{CCW12} promoter into the receptor module, the Gpa1/Gαi1 chimeric protein-coding sequence with the P_{PGK1} promoter into the adaptor module, *STE12* driven by the P*RET2* promoter into the actuator module, and ZsGREEN with the P*FIG1* promoter into the reporter module. The rest of the biosensors used in this work were constructed in a similar manner except for using different reporter or receptor module parts.

Supplementary Figure 3. Genetic integration of biosensor parts. Each biosensor was constructed by integrating parts into four modules using multipart modular genomic integration. A set of five plasmids containing a receptor part, adaptor part, actuator part, reporter part, and aux part (an empty vector that can be used for the integration of additional parts) were chosen according to the desired biosensor design. These plasmids were linearized and transformed into the chassis strain, where they were orderly integrated into the genome based on matching HR regions in each part. Integration positive colonies were selected using the *URA3* selection marker.

Supplementary Figure 4. Localization of the CB² receptor. Fluorescent microscopy analysis of yeast cells expressing a super-folder GFP-fused CB² receptor (CB2-sfGFP). **(a)** Yeast cell (KM112) carrying an empty vector control (no receptor). **(b)** Example of KM113 yeast cell expressing CB₂ C-terminally fused with sfGFP. **(c)** Example of yeast cell (KM114) expressing the CB₂ receptor fused with the mating factor pre-prosequence (at the N-terminus) and sfGFP (at the C-terminus) (MFαSS-CB2-sfGFP). These results represent single biological replicates.

Supplementary Figure 5. CB² receptor accumulation in enriched yeast plasma membrane preparations. Yeast cells expressing HA-tagged CB₂ receptor (strain KM115) and mating factor-fused and HA-tagged CB₂ (strain KM206) were disrupted and membrane-rich fractions were obtained according to the procedure described in the Materials and methods section. The abundance of $CB₂$ receptor in the cell membranes was determined by western-blotting developed using a primary antibody for the fused HA tag (left panel). As loading control, the stain free detection of total protein from the same gel is shown on the right panel. These results represent single biological replicates.

Supplementary Figure 6. Temperature dependence of biosensor performance. Each of the biosensor strains were incubated with either no cannabinoid or 1 μ M CP55940 at four different temperatures 20°C, 25°C, 30°C or 37 °C. **(a)** The fluorimetric strain KM203 produced the strongest output at 25°C**. (b**) Similarly, the colorimetric strain KM205 also showed highest output at 25°C. **(c)** Likewise, the luminometric strain had the best output at 25°C. Bars correspond to means and dots to individual measurements. n=3 biologically independent samples. Source data are provided in the Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 7. Response time of the biosensor strains. In order to compare the response time of the biosensor strains KM203 (fluorescence), KM205 (betalain color with supplements) and KM206 (luminescence), all three strains were induced with 1μ M CP55940 and their outputs were measured until they reached saturation at 25°C and at 30°C. At 30°C, T₅₀ (time to reach 50% of the maximum signal) was determined to be approximately 4.6 h, 6.1 h and 2.5 h for KM203, KM205 and KM206 respectively. At 25° C, T₅₀ was 8.4 h, 9.1 h and 1.3 h for KM203, KM205 and KM206, respectively. Data presented as mean +/- standard deviation. n=3 biologically independent samples. Source data are provided in the Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 8. Color production of the betalain reporter strains. Betalain reporter strains KM204 (betainin, red) and KM205 (betaxanthins, yellow) were grown on plates containing 1 μM CP55940. KM204 produces a clear red color and KM205 produces a yellow color when induced with the cannabinoid. In the absence of CP55940 (control), neither strain shows color build up.

Supplementary Figure 9. CP55940 dose response of the cannabinoid biosensor strain KM205 with betaxanthin output. Incubation of the stain KM205 with a CP55940 dilution series ranging from 0 to 1 μM results in a dose dependent increase in absorbance at 470 nm (betaxanthin absorbance maximum). Data presented as mean +/- standard deviation. n=3 biologically independent samples. Source data are provided in the Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 10. Absorbance spectra of the coloured compounds produced by the betalain reporter strain KM205 supplemented with L-DOPA and or O-da. Absorbance spectrum (blue) of the supernatant of strain KM205 culture induced with 1 μM CP55940 shows the presence of betaxanthins (peak absorbance wavelength 470 nm) but no betacyanins (peak absorbance wavelength 520 nm). On the other hand, when supplemented with O-da, the spectrum (yellow) reveals the presence of betacyanins (O-da-betacyanin) but no betaxanthins. This clear distinction facilitates the use of the betalain reporter for quantitative assays. Addition of L-DOPA did not have a marked effect on the spectra (grey line, KM205 with DOPA and green line, KM205 with DOPA and O-da). These results represent single biological replicates.Source data are provided in the Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 11. Effect of solvent concentration on biosensor output. The biosensor strain KM206 with luminescence reporter was induced with 1 μM CP55940 in the presence of 1 to 6 % DMSO or ethanol. This revealed that the presence of ethanol has a negative effect on biosensor output. However, the presence of 1 or 2 % DMSO resulted in similar output levels indicating that these concentrations are not significantly detrimental to biosensor output. These results represent single biological replicates. Source data are provided in the Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 12. Effect assay conditions on the performance of the luminescence biosensor strain. Luminescence is a dynamic process, and the output of the biosensor depends on several factors including concentration of luciferase, luciferin, and lysis buffer. In order to find the optimal parameters for our setup, we performed time series varying each parameter. The result indicated the optimal conditions for maximum output to be 2% luciferin and 50% lysis buffer for a 10-15 min incubation time. However, the biosensor showed workable output in a range of conditions, suggesting that, if required, a different set up can also be used. These results represent single biological replicates.Source data are provided in the Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 13. Reproducibility of biosensor sensitivity. Dose-response curves of KM206 induced with CP55940 on three separate days show little variation in biosensor sensitivity (as evaluated from EC₅₀). The calculated values were 1.79 ± 0.35 nM, 1.96 ± 0.22 nM and 1.99 ± 0.21 nM indicating a mean EC₅₀ of 1.93 nM and standard deviation of 0.13 nM or 5.6%. Data presented as mean +/- standard deviation. n=3 biologically independent samples. Source data are provided in the Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 14. Biosensor cells do not accumulate a significant portion of cannabinoids. The biosensor strains can be used to measure cannabinoid concentrations outside of the cells. To rule out that considerable amounts of the cannabinoids are absorbed into biosensor cells affecting the concentration in the media, strain KM206 was incubated for 3 h with 10 µM THC or DMSO and then the relative THC concentration in the cell pellet measured. As a control for THC extraction and recovery from the cell pellet, an equivalent (total) amount of THC was added to an equal weight cell pellet prior to extraction and sample processing, confirming that although THC can be efficiently recovered from the pellet during extraction, there is no considerable accumulation of THC within the cell or the cell membranes during the experiments. Bars correspond to means and dots to individual measurements. n=3 biologically independent samples. Source data are provided in the Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 15. Effect of temperature on biosensor sensitivity. Dose-response curves for KM206 induced with CP55940 at different temperatures shows the relation between temperature and calculated EC₅₀. These values were 0.82 ± 0.10 nM, 1.23 ± 0.19 nM, 1.79 ± 0.35 nM and 2.27 ± 0.45 nM at 20 °C, 25 °C, 30 °C and 37 °C, respectively. Data presented as mean +/- standard deviation. n=3 biologically independent samples. Source data are provided in the Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 16. Time response of the KM206 biosensor with different compounds. The biosensor strain KM206 with luminescence reporter was induced with either 1 μM CP55940 (black), 100 µM THC (red) or 100 μ M JWH-018 (blue) and measurements taken once every hour. Ligand concentrations were selected to be saturating the receptor response. Data presented as mean $+/-$ standard deviation. n=3 biologically independent samples. Source data are provided in the Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 17. The A2A adenosine receptor-based biosensor for monitoring non-specific effect of compounds. This biosensor strain, KM207 was constructed to test potential non-specific inhibitory or activating effects of compounds (i.e. compounds that do not target specifically the CB2 receptor but have a non-specific effect in the yeast cells or the rest of the engineered sensing mechanism). It was constructed by integrating the coding sequence (gene coding for the A_{2A} adenosine receptor) controlled by the P_{CCW12} promoter and the NanoLuc (nLUC) reporter into the receptor module of the chassis strain KM108. This strain has the native *STE12* and *GPA1*.

Supplementary Figure 18. High-throughput screening with the biosensor strain KM205 using the betalain reporter (O-da-betacyanin). A 100 μl-aliquot of yeast culture ($OD_{600} = 5$) containing 0.1 mg/mL DOPA and 0.5 mM O-da was dispensed in each well. Then, 1 µL of the chemical library was dispensed in rows 1 to 11 of each plate. Additionally, DMSO was dispensed in each well of row 1 of each plate (serving as negative control, CTRL-) and a dilution series of CP55940 (1 pM – 1 μ M) to row 12 (positive control, CTRL+). The plates were incubated for 18 h at 30°C and then photographed. Two visible hits, in plate 4 blue arrow and plate 14 black arrow, appeared after the incubation.

Supplementary Figure 19. Purification of the main cannabinoid from *R. columnifera***.** In order to obtain the high degree of purity necessary for NMR structure determination, the cannabinoid containing fraction from the initial preparative HPLC run (Fig. 7C) was further purified by additional preparative HPLC fractionation and biosensor-based cannabinoid determination. Four fractions were collected (green and blue) and fraction 1 (also denoted by a *) was used for NMR.

Supplementary Table 1. List of strains used in this work.

Supplementary Table 2. Determination of the Z' score for high-throughput screening assays. The robustness of HTS assays evaluated by calculating the Z' score for CB₂ agonist and antagonist assays. Six replicates of negative and positive control assays were performed with the biosensor strain KM206. For agonist assays, a saturating concentration of a known agonist, CP55940, was used in the positive control and the equivalent amount of DMSO in the negative control. For antagonist assays, a concentration of CP55940 similar to the EC_{50} (2 nM) was used in negative controls. 2 nM CP55940 together with a saturating concentration of the known antagonist CBD (100 μ M) was used in the positive control.

	$\frac{1}{2}$			
Replicate	Agonist assays		Antagonist assays	
	$+ve$ control	-ve control	$+ve$ control	-ve control
$\mathbf{1}$	3268319	40521	49698	1008028
$\boldsymbol{2}$	3251599	42599	49445	1291849
3	3194136	41276	49786	916747
$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	3199930	40694	46518	1023581
5	2937651	38654	46328	1088882
6	3007764	38990	53157	1017596
μ	3143233	40456	49155	1057781
σ	136975	1464	2519	127204
\mathbf{Z}^{\prime}	0.866		0.614	

Output (Luminescence, RLU)

Supplementary Table 3. List of screening hits.

^aThe label describes the position of each hit in the screening plate. ^bSMILES is a textual representation of the chemical structure.

Supplementary Table 4. List of plant extracts used for bioprospecting. Label indicates the position of the extract in the screening plate.

Collected in surroundings of Cd. Lerdo, Durango, Mexico.

Det Biovidenskabelige Fakultets Have, Botanical Garden, University of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg, Denmark

Collected in surroundings of Zona Arquelogica Bocana del Rio Copalita, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Collected in surroundings of Aeropuerto internacional bahias de Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico.

 Grown from seeds in greenhouse at the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of Copenhagen Denmark

Collected in surroundings of Crucecita, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Collected in surroundings of San Isidro Roaguia, Hierve el Agua, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Collected in surroundings of Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico.

- ¹⁰ Collected in surroundings of Oaxaca city, Oaxaca, Mexico.
¹¹ Collected in surroundings of Playa la entrega Crucecita Oa
- ¹¹ Collected in surroundings of Playa la entrega, Crucecita, Oaxaca, Mexico.
¹² Raw seeds of Cacao were purchased from distributor TrancePlants in Cana
- ¹² Raw seeds of Cacao were purchased from distributor TrancePlants in Canada

Supplementary Table 5. Biosensor signal intensity of *R. columnifera* **fraction dilutions^a .**

^aThe R. columnifera extract was fractionated into 16 fractions and 1-to-10⁵-fold dilutions were made of each fraction. The presence of cannabinoids was assayed by incubating each dilution with the strain KM206 (luciferase reporter). Luminescence values are in RLU.

Position	δ_{H} , mult (<i>J</i> in Hz)	δ_c , type ^a
$\mathbf{1}$	5.51, br. s	125.2, CH
$\overline{2}$	2.06, m	$25.9, \mathrm{CH}_2$
3	1.56, m	27.7, CH ₂
$\overline{4}$	1.67, m	35.8, CH
5	-	37.9, C
6	1.79, dd, $J = 5.2$, 14.1	39.5, CH ₂
	1.63 , m	
7	3.02, m	37.5, CH
8	4.56, m	80.5, CH
9	2.56, dd, $J = 7.8$, 12.1	35.3, CH ₂
	2.30	
10		139.5, C
11		141.0, C
12		172.4, C
13	6.16, d, $J = 2.3$	122.3, $CH2$
	5.70, d, $J = 2.0$	
14	0.94 , s	$20.7, \mathrm{CH}_3$
15	0.96, d, $J = 6.8$	$16.0, \mathrm{CH}_3$

Supplementary Table 6. NMR spectroscopic data (600 MHz, MeOD) of dugesialactone (*δ* in ppm).

 \mathcal{L}_{9} $10₁$ $\boldsymbol{8}$ $= 0$ 12 $\overline{7}$ 3 5 $\overline{11}$ 6 $\overline{14}$ 13 15

a 13C NMR shifts were obtained from HSQC and HMBC spectra.

Supplementary Table 7. The biosensor retains most of its activity after one month of storage. Maximal biosensor activity of the biosensor strain KM206 preserved with 0.1 M K-phosphate pH 7, 0.1% ascorbic acid and nitrogen bubbling was measured by inducing with 100 μ M THC before and after 31 days of storage at $+4$ °C.

Supplementary Table 8. Plasmid construction. All plasmids were construction by USER cloning combining one single-promoter and one ORF (made from one or two fragments) or a two-sided promoter and two ORFs. PCR fragments used here are described in Supplementary Table 9.

Supplementary Table 9. USER fragments used for plasmid construction. These fragments were amplified using primers listed in Supplementary Table 10.

Supplementary Table 10. PCR primers used in this work

 CB2-F ATCAACGGGUAAAATGGAGGAATGCTGGGTGA 3XHA-R ATCAACGGGUAAAATGAGATTTCCTTCAATTTTTACTGCAGTT MFα-F ATCAACGGGUAAAATGAGATTTCCTTCAATTTTTACTGCAGTT GPA1 F ATCAACGGGUAAAATGGGGTGTACAGTGAGTACGCAAA GPA1/Gα1 R CGTGCGAUTCAAAACAAACCACAATCTTTAAGGTTTTGCTGGATGATTAGA STE12 F ATCAACGGGUAAAATGAAAGTCCAAATAACCAATAGTAGAAC STE12 R CGTGCGAUTCAGGTTGCATCTGGAAGGTTTTTAT CYP76AD1F ATCAACGGGUAAAATGGATCATGCTACTTTGGCTATGA CYP76AD1R CGTGCGAUCTATTAGTATCTTGGAATGGGGATCAACT CYP76AD5F ATCAACGGGUAAAATGGATAACACTACCTTGGCTTTGA CYP76AD5R CGTGCGAUCTATTATTTTCTTGGAACGGGAATAACTTG DOPA5GT-F AGCGATACGUAAAATGACTGCTATTAAGATGAACACT DOPA5GT-R CACGCGAUTTATTGTAAAGATGGTTCCAACTTGGCT USER-DOD-F ATCAACGGGUAAAATGAAGGGTACTTACTACATTAACCA USER-DOD-R CGTGCGAUTTAATCAGTCTTTTGAGTAGTGGGA NanoLuc-F ATCAACGGGUAAAATGGTTTTTACTTTGGAAGATTTCG NanoLuc-R CGTGCGAUTACAGGATCTCTTCGAATAATCTATAACCAGTAACGGAGTTAATGGTGACTC ZsGREEN-F ATCAACGGGUAAAATGGCTCAATCTAAGCATGGTTTGA ZsGREEN-R CGTGCGAUTTATGGCAAAGCAGAACCAGAAGC PCCW12-F CACGCGAUTGAACCACACGGTTAGTCCAAAAGG PCCW12-R ACCCGTTGAUTATTGATATAGTGTTTAAGCGAATGACAGAAG PPGK1-F CACGCGAUGTGAGTAAGGAAAGAGTGAGGAACT PPGK1-R ACCCGTTGAUTGTTTTATATTTGTTGTAAAAAGT PRET2-F CACGCGAUACGATGGCTTCTTATCTCACTTCAA PRET2-R ACCCGTTGAUTGTGTATTTCTTTTGATGGAGCTATAG PHHF2-F CACGCGAUTGTGGAGTGTTTGCTTGGATTCTTTAG PHHF2-R ACCCGTTGAUTATTTTATTGTATTGATTGTTGTTTTTGCTACTCT PFIG1-F CACGCGAUGAACTGGTTGATATTATTACTGGTG PFIG1-R ACCCGTTGAUTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTGTTTGTTTGTTTGTTTGTTTAC PTDH3-F CACGCGAUCAGTTCGAGTTTATCATTATCAATACTGCC PSED1-R ACCCGTTGAUCTTAATAGAGCGAACGTATTTTATTTTGCTTG STE3-OL5 TAGAGGCAATTAAATTTGTGTAGGAAAGGCAAAATACTATCAAAATTTTCCAGCTGAAGCTTCGTACGC STE3-OL3 GTAAAAATAAAATACTCCTAGTCCAGTAAATATAATGCGACACTCTTGTGGCATAGGCCACTAGTGGATCTG

- FAR1-OL5 GTCTATAGATCCACTGGAAAGCTTCGTGGGCGTAAGAAGGCAATCTATTACAGCTGAAGCTTCGTACGC
- FAR1-OL3 TTACGACGCATTATATATATTCAGTCATTGCGTAGTATAGACGTGGAGAAGCATAGGCCACTAGTGGATCTG
- SST2-OL5 TATCTGAGGCGTTATAGGTTCAATTTGGTAATTAAAGATAGAGTTGTAAGCAGCTGAAGCTTCGTACGC
- SST2-OL3 AGGACTGTTTGTGCAATTGTACCTGAAGATGAGTAAGACTCTCAATGAAAGCATAGGCCACTAGTGGATCTG
- STE12-OL5 ATAATGAAAACGATGAAGTCAGTAAAGCTACTCCGGGCGAAGTTGAAGAACAGCTGAAGCTTCGTACGC
- STE12-OL3 GAATGAGCTCCACCTTCTTCTGACTGGACCACCAAAGTATTGGAATCCGGGCATAGGCCACTAGTGGATCTG
- GPA1-OL5 AGAACAAAAGAGCCAATGATGTCATCGAGCAATCGTTGCAGCTGGAGAAACAGCTGAAGCTTCGTACGC
- GPA1-OL3 CTCAATACGAACTTCATAGTTTGGGTATCGGTAGCGCAGGTTCGTTTCACGCATAGGCCACTAGTGGATCTG
- sfGFP-linker-F AGGTGGCUCTGGTGGTGGATCAATGCGTAAAGGCGAAGAGCT
- sfGFP-R CGTGCGAUTCATTTGTACAGTTCATCCATACCAT
- CB2-linker-R AGCCACCUCCCTGAGCAGCGTAATCTGGAA
- B-M-R: CTAATAGCCACCTGCATTGG
- STE3-A-F CTGGGTATGGGTGCTAATTT
- STE3-B-R CAATAAGTTTTGGCAACCGT
- FAR1-A F: TTGTTAGGCGGGCAAGAGAGACC
- FAR1-B-R TCCAGGCTGATCATGAAAGTTGGTG
- SST2-A-F CGTTAGAATTGTTGTCTGTC
- SST2-B-R AGAACTTTCTCTTTTGGCTC
- STE12-A-F TAAGCACTGAAGACTTGTTT
- STE12-B-R CACAAGAGACAAAGCCTTGT
- GPA1-F TGTCACTCCGTTTCTAACA
- GPA1-R CTGTAACCTTTCTTGATGGGA

Supplementary Table 11. Sequences of synthetic DNA fragments used in this work.

Uncropped image for Supplementary Figure 5: Scan of the westernblot membrane

Uncropped image for Supplementary Figure 5: Scan of the SDS-PAGE gel.

