

# Siphonophore Phylogeny

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## Abstract

## Introduction

Siphonophores (Fig. 1) are among the most abundant gelatinous predators in the open ocean, and play an important ecological role in oceanic waters (Williams and Conway, 1981; Purcell, 1981; Pugh, 1984; Pugh et al., 1997; Pagès et al., 2001). Siphonophores, which belong to Hydrozoa (Cnidaria), are found at all depths in the ocean. *Physalia physalis*, the Portuguese man of war, floats at the surface and, as a result, is the most familiar siphonophore species (Totton, 1960). Most siphonophores species are planktonic, living in the midwater where some grow to be longer than 30 meters in length (Mackie et al., 1987). There is also a small clade of benthic siphonophores, the Rhodaliidae (Pugh, 1983), that are tethered to the bottom for part of their lives. In all, there are currently 188 valid described species.

Siphonophores remain poorly known, in large part because they are fragile and difficult to collect. They have, however, been of great interest for more than 150 years due to their very unique structure and development (Mackie et al., 1987; Mapstone, 2014). Like many other cnidarians, they are colonial – they grow by incomplete asexual reproduction. Each siphonophore colony arises from a single embryo that forms the protozooid, the first body. A growth zone then arises that asexually produces other genetically identical zooids (Carré, 1967, 1969; Carré and Carré, 1991, 1995). These zooids are each homologous to a solitary animals, but are physiologically integrated (Totton and Bargmann, 1965; Mackie et al., 1987; Dunn and Wagner, 2006). Siphonophores differ significantly from all other colonial animals in terms of colony structure, development, and the degree to which they are functionally specialized (Beklemishev, 1969; Cartwright and Nawrocki, 2010). Each zooid is functionally specialized for a particular task (e.g feeding, reproducing, swimming) (fig. 2) (Dunn and Wagner, 2006), and they are arranged in a repeating species-specific pattern.

Understanding the unique ecology, morphology, and development of siphonophores requires an understanding of their phylogenetic relationships. The relationship of siphonophores to other hydrozoans has been difficult to resolve (Cartwright et al., 2008; Cartwright and Nawrocki, 2010; Zapata et al., 2015), but there has been

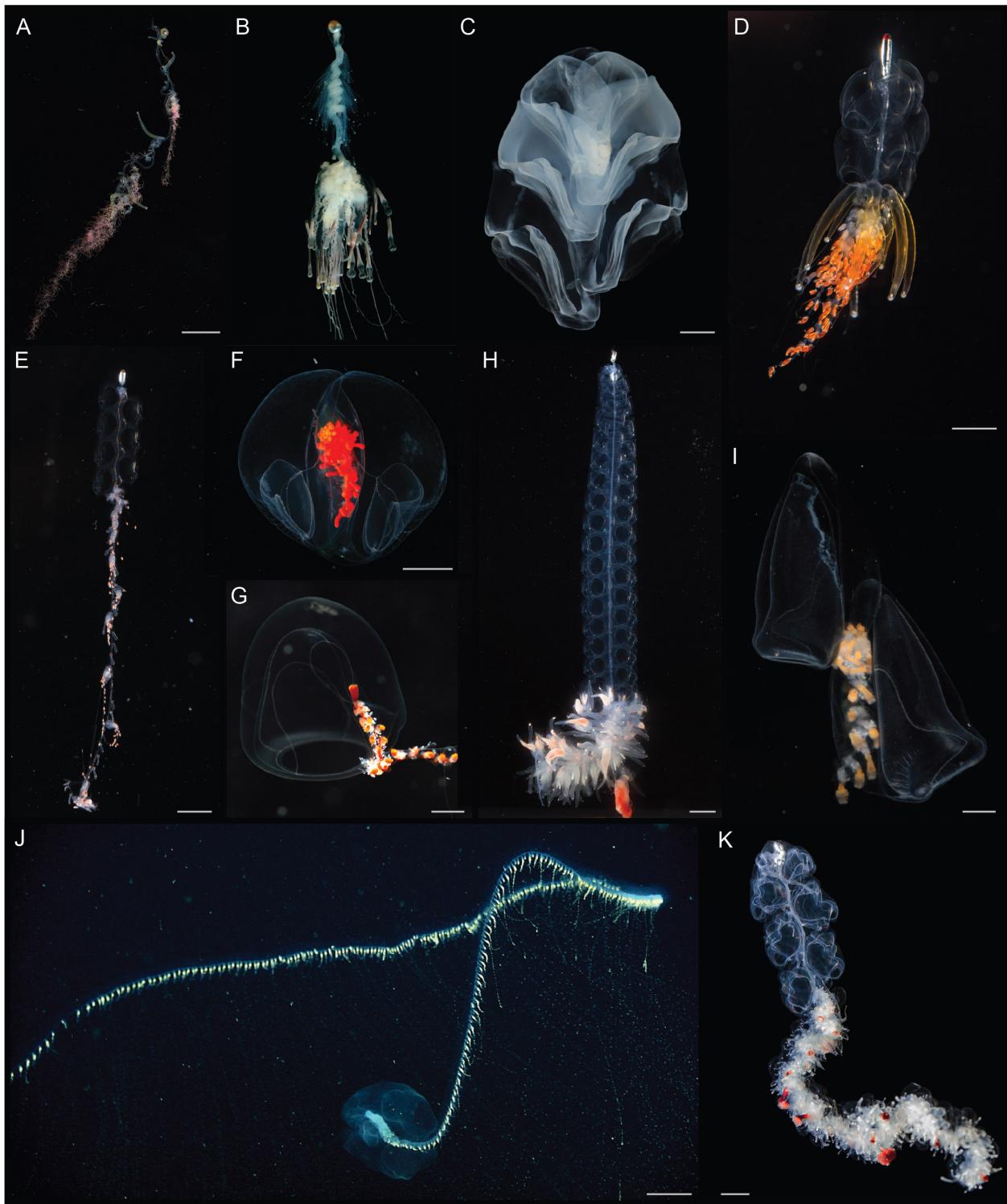


Figure 1: Photographs of representatives of the major groups of siphonophores. (A) *Rhisophysa eysenhardtii*, scale bar = 1 cm. (B) *Bathypysa conifera*, scale bar = XXX. (C) *Hippopodius hippopus*, scale bar = 5 mm. (D) *Physophora hydrostatica*, scale bar = 5 mm. (E) *Nanomia bijuga*, scale bar = 1 cm. (F) *Desmophyses haematogaster*, scale bar = 5 mm. (G) *Sphaeronectes christiansonae*, scale bar = 2 mm. (H) *Lychnagalma utricularia*, scale bar = 1 cm. (I) *Kephyes hiulcus*, scale bar = 2 mm. (J) *Praya dubia*, scale bar = 4 cm . (K) *Apolemia* sp., scale bar = 1 cm.

progress on their internal relationships. A siphonophore phylogeny (Dunn et al., 2005) based on two genes (16S, 18S) from 52 siphonophore taxa advanced several long standing questions about siphonophore biology. These include the relationships of the three historically recognised groups, Cystonectae, Physonectae, and Calycophorae. The cystonects were found to be sister to all other siphonophores, while the calycophorans were nested within physonects. The name Codonophora was given to this clade of physonects and calycophorans (Dunn et al., 2005).

Major questions remained after this early work, though. There was, in particular, little support for important deep relationships within Codonophora. Resolving deep relationships within Codonophora is key to resolving the evolution of several character traits, including sexual systems (monoecy vesus dioecy) or the gain and loss of particular zooids, such as palpons. Here we present a broadly sampled phylogenomic analysis of Siphonophora, assessing transcriptomic data from 33 siphonophore species and 10 outgroup species (2 outgroups were excluded). Using 1071 genes shared across species, we find strong support for important relationships within the siphonophore phylogeny. Using this phylogeny, we reconstruct the evolutionary history of characters central to their unique biology, including zooid type, life history traits, and habitat.

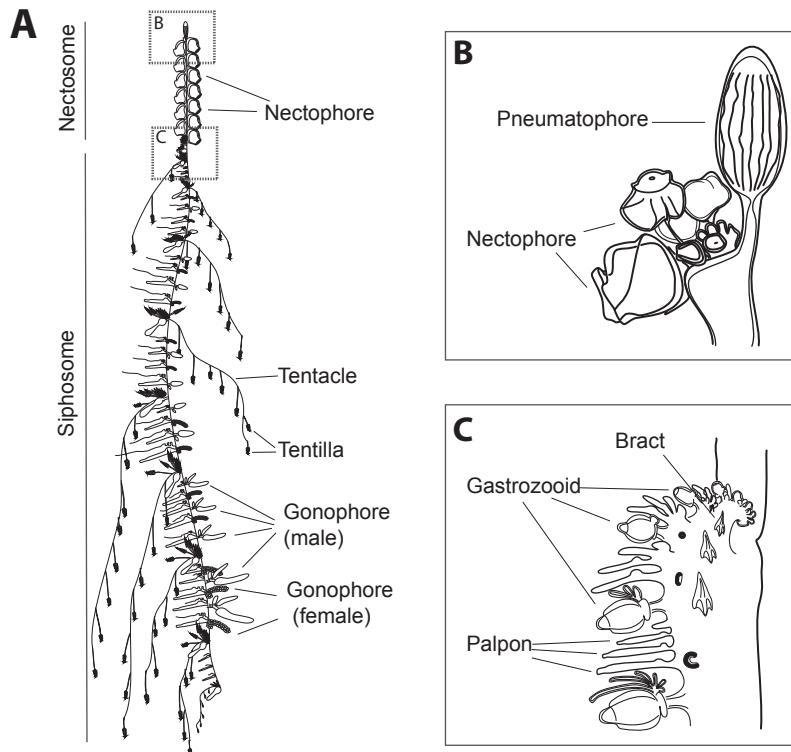


Figure 2: Schematic of the siphonophore *Nanomia bijuga*, oriented with the anterior of the colony at the top, and the ventral side to the left. Adapted from [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nanomia\\_bijuga\\_whole\\_animal\\_and\\_growth\\_zones.svg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nanomia_bijuga_whole_animal_and_growth_zones.svg), drawn by Freya Goetz. (A) Overview of the whole mature colony. (B) Inset of the nectosomal growth zone with pneumatophore. A series of buds gives rise to nectophores. (C) Inset of the siphosomal growth zone. Probuds subdivide to give rise to zooids in repeating-units (cormidia). Cormidial boundaries are marked by a gastrozooid.

## Methods

This manuscript is an executable document computed directly from the data, providing an explicit and reproducible description of all findings. All scripts for the analyses are available in a git repository at

[https://github.com/caseywdunn/siphonophore\\_phylogeny\\_2017](https://github.com/caseywdunn/siphonophore_phylogeny_2017). The most recent commit at the time of the analysis presented here was ae645fcf19a16b4d6eafe19a4f709ec141910732.

## Collecting

Collection data on all examined specimens, a description of the tissue that was sampled from the colony, collection mode, sample processing details, mRNA extraction methods, sequencing library preparation methods and sequencing details are summarized in supplementary table 1. Monterey Bay and Gulf of California specimens were collected by remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) or during blue-water scuba dives. *Chelophyses appendiculata* and *Hippopodius hippopus* specimens were collected in the bay of Villefranche-sur-Mer, France, during a plankton trawl on 04/13/11. Available physical vouchers have been deposited at the Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard University), Cambridge, MA, or had been previously deposited at the United States National Museum (Smithsonian Institution), Washington, DC. Accession numbers are given in supplementary table 1. In cases where physical vouchers were unavailable we provide photographs to document species identity (see git repository).

## Sequencing

When possible specimens were starved overnight in filtered seawater at temperatures close to ambient water temperatures at the time point of specimen collection (see supplementary document). mRNA was extracted directly from tissue using a variety of methods (see supplementary document): Magnetic mRNA Isolation Kit (NEB, #S1550S), Invitrogen Dynabeads mRNA Direct Kit (Ambion, #61011), Zymo Quick RNA MicroPrep (Zymo #R1050), or from total RNA after Trizol (Ambion, #15596026) extraction and through purification using Dynabeads mRNA Purification Kit (Ambion, #61006)- in case of anticipated very small total RNA quantities, only a single round of bead purification was performed; or Trizol directly into the Illumina TruSeq Stranded Library Kit. Extractions were performed according to the manufacturer's instruction. Any resulting higher rRNA read counts were dealt with further downstream in the bioinformatics workflow. Libraries were prepared for sequencing using the Illumina TruSeq RNA Sample Prep Kit (Illumina, #FC-122-1001, #FC-122-1002), the Illumina TruSeq Stranded Library Prep Kit (Illumina, #RS-122-2101) or the NEBNext RNA Sample Prep Master Mix Set (NEB, #E6110S). We collected long read paired end Illumina data for *de novo* transcriptome assembly. In the case of large tissue inputs, libraries were sequenced separately for each tissue, subsequently subsampled and pooled *in silico*. Libraries were sequenced on the HiSeq 2000, 2500, and 3000 sequencing platforms (see supplementary document).

## Analysis

New data were analysed in conjunction with 13 publically available datasets, with a total number of 43 species. Sequence assembly, annotation, Maximum Likelihood (ML) phylogenetic analysis were conducted with the tool Agalma (Dunn et al., 2013), v. 1.00, and Bayesian Inference (BI) analyses were conducted using Phylobayes(Lartillot et al., 2009) v. 1.7a-mpi. Source code for all analysis steps, sequence alignments, sampled and consensus trees, and voucher information are available in a git repository [https://github.com/caseywdunn/siphonophore\\_phylogeny\\_2017](https://github.com/caseywdunn/siphonophore_phylogeny_2017).

Two outgroup species, *Atolla vanhooffeni* and *Aegina citrea*, were removed from the final supermatrix and phylogeny due to low gene occupancy (gene sampling of 20.8% and 14.5% respectively in a 50% occupancy matrix with 2,203 genes). ML analyses were conducted on the unpartitioned supermatrix using the WAG+Γ model of amino acid substitution, and bootstrap values were estimated using 1000 replicates. BI was conducted using two different CAT models, CAT-Poisson and CAT-GTR (Lartillot and Philippe, 2004). Two independent MCMC chains were run under the CAT-GTR model, and four independent MCMC chains were run under the CAT-Poisson model. The CAT-GTR and CAT-poisson models did not converge after a long CPU time, and only the results from the CAT-poisson model are included here.

Morphological character data used in trait mapping were obtained from the literature, or from direct observation of available voucher material. Depth distribution data was queried from the MBARI VARS (

<http://www.mbari.org/products/research-software/video-annotation-and-reference-system-vars/>, (Schlining and Stout, 2006)) database (with assistance and permission from SHD Haddock), including records from several MBARI cruises. We used stochastic character mapping to infer the probable evolution of traits on the tree in R using the `phytools` package (Revell, 2012, Huelsenbeck et al. (2003)). Subsequent analyses were conducted in R and integrated into this manuscript with the `knitr` package. See Supplementary Information for R package version numbers.

## Hypothesis testing

We used the Swofford-Olsen-Waddell-Hillis (SOWH) test (Swofford et al., 1996) to evaluate two hypotheses: (i) physonects are monophyletic (Totton and Bargmann, 1965); (ii) monoecious species are monophyletic (Dunn et al., 2005). As the sexual system of *Rudjakovia sp* is unclear, we carried out two tests of the monophyly of monoecy, one with *Rudjakovia sp* included as a monoecious species, and one without. We used SOWHAT (Church et al., 2015a) dev. version 0.39 (commit fd68ef5733c095c7000a4f92dc8c0daaddeec3b9) to carry out the SOWH tests in parallel with the default options and an initial sample size of 100 (source code can be found in the git repository). For each hypothesis we defined a topology with a single constrained node that was inconsistent with the most likely topology (figure 3 x). We used a threshold for significance of 0.05 and following the initial 100 samples, we evaluated the confidence interval around the p-value to determine if more samples were necessary.

## Results and Discussion

### Species phylogeny and hypothesis testing

Specimens were collected in the eastern Pacific Ocean, Mediterranean, and the Gulf of California (table 1). All sequence data have been deposited in the sequence read archive (SRA). The analyses presented here consider 33 siphonophore species and 8 outgroup species. This includes new data for 30 species. Summary statistics for expression libaries are given in supplementary table x. In the final analyses, we sampled 1,071 genes to generate a supermatrix with 60% occupancy and a length of 378,468 amino acids (gene occupancy matrix - supplementary figure 1).

Maximum likelihood analyses had 1000 replicates. We ran 4 phylobayes chains, and visual inspection of the traces indicated that a burn in of 400 trees was sufficient for all runs. This left 15847 trees in the posterior. The phylobayes chains did not converge after a long CPU time, and uncertainty remains around the placement of *Erenna richardi*, and also *Nanomia bijuga*. Within the ML analysis, the placement of *Erenna richardi* is also unstable. Alternative topologies for these nodes are shown in figure 3 x.

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These findings are largely consistent with a previous analysis based on two genes (16S and 18S ribosomal RNA) (figure 3) (Dunn et al., 2005). There is strong support for the Cystonectae as sister to all other siphonophores, the Codonophora. We also find strong support for Calycophorae nested within the paraphyletic “Physonectae”, and for the Apolemidae as sister to all other Codonophora. Multiple nodes that were not resolved in the previous two-gene analysis do receive strong support in this 1,071-gene transcriptome analysis. There is strong support for the Pyrostephidae as sister to all non-Apolemid codonophorans. Within the clade that is sister to the Pyrostephidae, we find two main clades, the Calycophorae and a clade we call the Euphysonectae, which includes the remaining non-Apolemid, non-Pyrostephid “Physonectae”. Given the relatively shallow sampling of this analysis, we define the Euphysonectae as the clade consisting of *Agalma elegans* and all taxa that are more closely related to it than to the Calycophorae.

In this phylogeny, *Physophora gilmeri* along with *Lychnagalma utricularia* (both not included in previous phylogeny) are sister to the Agalmatidae *sensu stricto*, a clade restricted to *Agalma*, the Athorybiidae, *Halistemma* and *Nanomia* (Dunn et al., 2005). In the rDNA study, *Physophora hydrostatica* (sister species to *P. gilmeri*) was sister to the Forskaliidae with low support. *Cordagalma cordiforme* (= *Cordagalma ordinatum*) (Pugh,

| New data | Species                              | SRA Number | Depth (m)       | Lat Lon           |
|----------|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|          | <i>Agalma elegans</i>                |            | 3 - 20          | 35.56 N 122.55 W  |
| Y        | <i>Bargmannia elongata</i>           |            | 412/805/636/818 | 36.12 N 122.67 W  |
| Y        | <i>Frillagalma vityazi</i>           |            | 407             | 36.69 N 122.05 W  |
| Y&N      | <i>Nanomia bijuga</i>                |            | 414/387         | 36.60 N 122.15 W  |
|          | <i>Physalia physalis</i>             | SRS431081  |                 |                   |
|          | <i>Abylopsis tetragona</i>           | SRX288276  |                 |                   |
|          | <i>Aeginia citrea</i>                | SRS893439  |                 |                   |
|          | <i>Aiptasia pallida</i>              | SRX231866  |                 |                   |
|          | <i>Alatina alata</i>                 | SRS893440  |                 |                   |
| Y        | <i>Apolemia rubriversa</i>           |            | 767             | 36.70 N 122.05 W  |
|          | <i>Atolla vanhoefeni</i>             | SRS893451  |                 |                   |
| Y        | <i>Chelophyes appendiculata</i>      |            | 0-30            |                   |
| Y        | <i>Chuniphyes multidentata</i>       |            | 327             | 36.79 N 122.00 W  |
|          | <i>Clytia hemisphaerica</i>          |            |                 |                   |
| Y        | <i>Cordagalma sp</i>                 |            | 252             | 36.70 N 122.06 W  |
|          | <i>Ectopleura larynx</i>             | SRX315375  |                 |                   |
| Y        | <i>Erema richardi</i>                |            | 1044            | 36.61 N 122.38 W  |
| Y        | <i>Forskalia asymmetrica</i>         |            | 253             | 36.80 N 122.00 W  |
| Y        | <i>Hippopodius hippopus</i>          |            | 0-30            | 43.69 N 7.315 E   |
|          | <i>Hydra magnipapillata</i>          |            |                 |                   |
|          | <i>Hydractinia symbiolongicarpus</i> | SRX474878  |                 |                   |
| Y        | <i>Kephyses ovata</i>                |            | 452             | 36.36 N 122.81 W  |
| Y        | <i>Lilyopsis fluoracantha</i>        |            | 320             | 36.69 N 122.04 W  |
| Y        | <i>Lychnagalma utricularia</i>       |            | 431             | 36.69 N 122.04 W  |
| Y        | <i>Marrus claudanielis</i>           |            | 1427            | 36.07 N 122.29 W  |
|          | <i>Nematostella vectensis</i>        |            |                 |                   |
| Y        | <i>Physonect sp</i>                  |            | 1463            | 36.70 N 122.57 W  |
| Y        | <i>Podocoryna carnea</i>             |            |                 |                   |
| Y        | <i>Prayidae D27SS7</i>               |            | 1363            | 35.48 N 123.64 W  |
|          | <i>Prayidae D27D2</i>                | SRX288432  |                 |                   |
| Y        | <i>Resomia ornicephala</i>           |            | 322             | 35.48 N 123.86 W  |
| Y        | <i>Rhizophysa filiformis</i>         |            | 10              | 27.23 N 110.46 W  |
| Y        | <i>Stephalia dilata</i>              |            | 3074            | 35.62 N 122.67 W  |
| Y        | <i>Apolemia lanosa</i>               |            | 1073            | 36.70 N 122.08 W  |
| Y        | <i>Apolemia sp</i>                   |            | 461             | 36.60 N 122.15 W  |
| Y        | <i>Bargmannia amoena</i>             |            | 1251            | 36.70 N 122.08 W  |
| Y        | <i>Bargmannia lata</i>               |            | 1158            | 36.067 N 122.30 W |
| Y        | <i>Rudjakova sp</i>                  |            | 334             | 36.00 N 122.42 W  |
| Y        | <i>Thermopalia sp</i>                |            | 3255            | 36.39 N 122.67 W  |
| Y        | <i>Physophora gilmeri</i>            |            | 242             | 36.36 N 122.40 W  |
| Y        | <i>Halistemma rubrum</i>             |            |                 | 24.68 N 109.90W   |
| Y        | <i>Athorybia rosacea</i>             |            |                 | 22.92 N 108.36 W  |
| Y        | <i>Diphyes dispar</i>                |            | 0-30            | 35.93 N 122.93 W  |

Table 1: Table 1. A complete list of specimens collected for this work. New data indicated by Y, blank fields indicate that data are already published.

2016) was previously unresolved, while in this analysis *Cordagalma* sp is in a clade with *Forskalia asymmetrica*, falling outside of the Agalmatidae *sensu stricto*. *Cordagalma* has traditionally been placed within the Agalmatidae *sensu lato* (Totton and Bargmann, 1965), although the Agalmatidae is considered to be a catch-all family in need of revision (Pugh, 2006,Pugh (1998), Dunn et al. (2005)).

Within the calyphorans, taxon sampling is shallower, however there is broad agreement with the previous analysis. Calyphorans have in the past been split into convenient groupings of prayomorph and diphymorph based on morphology (after (Mackie et al., 1987)). *Craseoa lathetica* and *Desmophyes* sp are sister to *Hippopodius hippopus* in this study, while in the previous study, the relationship between *Craseoa lathetica* and the clade including *Hippopodius hippopus* was unresolved. As in the previous study, this phylogeny indicates that the prayomorphs are paraphyletic.

We tested the following three alternative phylogenetic hypotheses against the most likely tree topology: (i) physonect siphonophores are monophyletic, (ii) monoecious siphonophores (not including *Rudjakova* sp.) are monophyletic, and (iii) monoecious siphonophores (including *Rudjakova* sp.) are monophyletic (figure 3 xx). In all three cases the alternative hypothesis was rejected (p-value <0.01, confidence interval: <0.001 - 0.03).

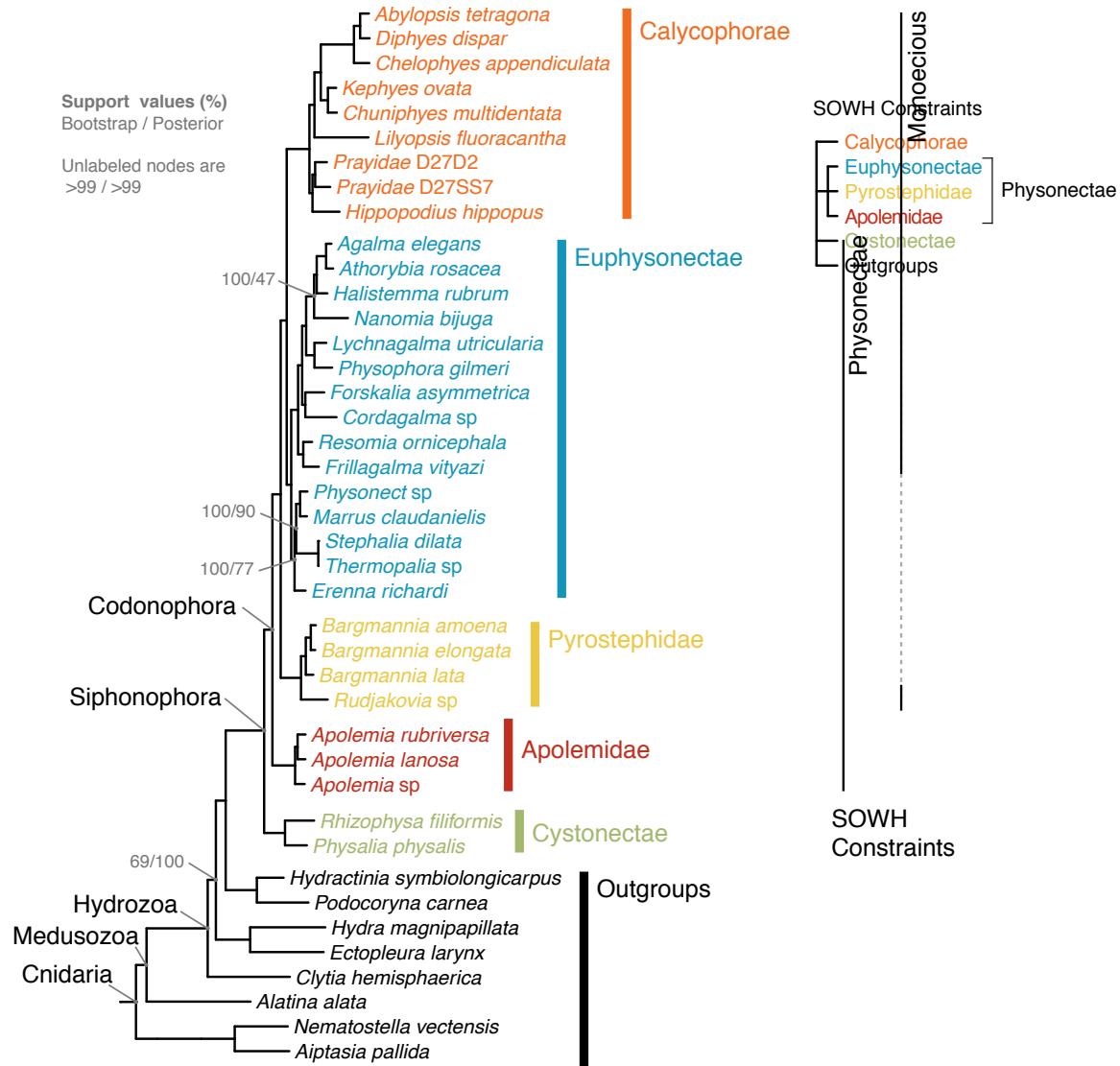


Figure 3: Phylogram of siphonophore relationships. Node labels indicate bootstrap support percent, unnumbered nodes have 100% support. The image was rendered with ggtree (Yu et al., 2016).

## Character Evolution

The morphological character matrix, and all the code used to generate the character mapping is available in the git repository and in the supplementary materials. A number of traits were mapped to branches on the phylogeny, including: the presence/absence of palpons, tentilla, bracts, pneumatophores, nectosome, and eudoxia, monoecy vs dioecy, the orientation of nectosome relative to siphosome, as well as the median vertical distribution (Fig. 4, 5, S2-5).

### Evolution of Monoecy

Siphonophores colonies are either monoecious (male and female gonophores are on the same colony) or dioecious (male and female gonophores are on different colonies). Previous analyses suggested that the common ancestor of siphonophores was dioecious, and there is a single gain of monoecy within the Codonophora; however the lack of resolution of deep relationships within the codonophora made it impossible to rule out alternative evolutionary scenarios (Dunn et al., 2005). The current better-resolved tree model (Fig. 5a), indicates that monoecy in siphonophores evolved twice from a dioecious ancestor, in the branch leading to Calycophorae and in the branch leading to Agalmatids *sensu lato*. There is a small probability for an alternative scenario featuring a single gain of monoecy before the split of the Codonophora, with a subsequent shift to dioecy in the *Marrus-Erenna* clade.

### The Evolution of Zooid Types

One of the most striking aspects of siphonophore biology is their diversity of unique zooid types (Beklemishev, 1969; Cartwright and Nawrocki, 2010). For example, the siphonophore genus *Forskalia* has 6 basic zooid types (pneumatophore, nectophore, gastrozooid, palpon, bract, and gonophore), and a total of 10 counting subtypes (4 types of bract, male & female gonophores). Diphyomorphs have more than 1 type of nectophore, while Cystonects have none. Here we reconstruct the evolutionary origins of the different zooid types on the present transcriptome tree (Fig. 4).

Nectophores are retained modified medusae that Codonophora use for coordinated colony-level swimming. The nectosome is the region of the colony that develops from the nectosomal growth zone (Fig. 1B). Unlike the siphosomal growth zone, the nectosomal growth zone does not bud gastrozooids, but nectophores (and in the case of *Apolemia*, also palpons). Siphonophore nectophores are exclusively found on the nectosome -with the exception of *Physalia physalis* (which has no nectosome, and grows small nectophores near the gonodendra). It is possible that the common ancestor of siphonophores had a nectosome, which has lost on the branch leading to Cystonects. We cannot exclude with certainty the alternative hypothesis of a nectosome-less ancestor followed by a gain of the nectosome in the branch leading to the Codonophora. It is suggested that the nectosome arose as a duplication of the siphosome, followed by functional specialization in propelling the colony (Dunn and Wagner, 2006). The nectosome has been lost within Codonophora in the genus *Athorybia*.

Following the colony development orientation framework (Haddock et al., 2005), the nectosome can be located in a dorsal or a ventral position. Our ancestral reconstructions for this character (Fig. S4) show that a ventrally-oriented nectosome was the ancestral form in siphonophores, and that a dorsal nectosome has evolved twice independently, in the branches leading to the Agalmatidae *sensu stricto* and the branch leading to the *Bargmannia* species.

Bracts are highly reduced zooids unique to siphonophores, but they are only present in the Codonophora. As with the nectosome, we have ambiguity determining whether the common ancestor of siphonophores had bracts or not. The common ancestor of Codonophora had only one bract subtype, which was lost in Hippopodidae, *Physophora hydrostatica* (however, they are present in its sister species, *P. gilmeri* included in the present phylogeny), and in *Gymnophraia lapislazula* (not included in present phylogeny). Bracts are functional for protection of the delicate zooids and to help maintain neutral buoyancy. Some calycophorans

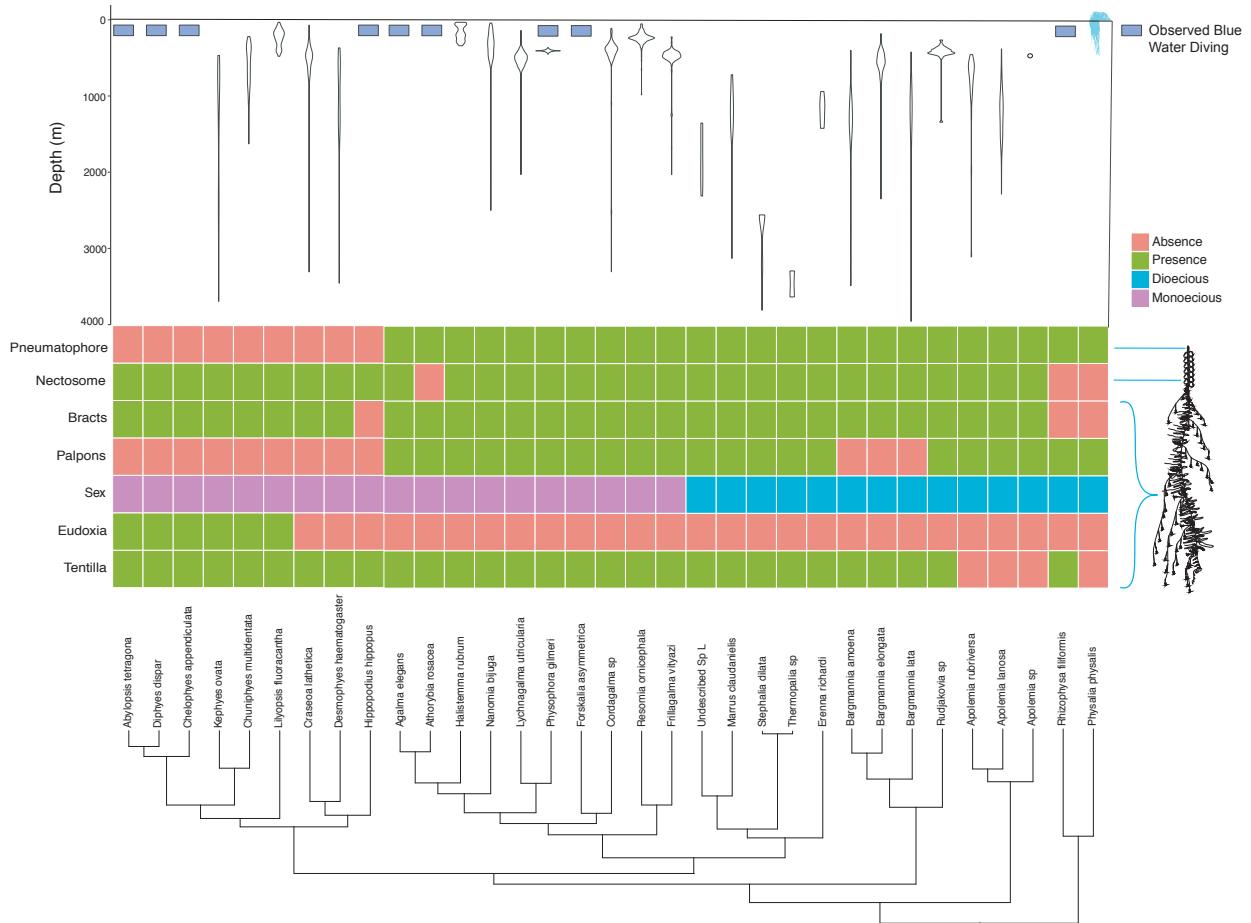


Figure 4: Siphonophore phylogeny showing the distribution of the main anatomical characters and the bathymetric distributions of the different species.

are able to actively exclude sulphate ions in their bracts to adjust their buoyancy along the colony (Bidigare & Biggs, 1980).

The ancestral siphonophore had a pneumatophore (Fig. 1B), since both Cystonects and most Codonophorans possess one (Fig. 4). It is not considered a zooid, as it is not formed by budding but by invagination at the aboral end of the planula during early development (Leloup, 1935; Garstang, 1946; Carré, 1969). The pneumatophore is a gas filled float located at the anterior end of the colony, which helps the colony float and maintain its orientation in the water column. Recent evidence of neural arrangement in the pneumatophore of *Nanomia bijuga* suggests it could also gather information on relative pressure changes (and thus depth changes), helping regulate geotaxis (Church et al., 2015b). The pneumatophore was lost in the Calycophorae and never gained again in that clade. Calycophorans rely on the ionic balance of their gelatinous nectophores and bracts to retain posture and neutral buoyancy (Mackie, 1974).

Palpons are modified mouthless gastrozooids used for digestion and circulation of the gastrovascular fluid (Mackie et al., 1987). They were present in the common ancestor of siphonophores (Fig. 5b), retained in most species, but lost three times independently in the branches leading to *Pyrostephidae* (represented here by the genera *Bargmannia* and *Rudjakovia*), in Calycophorans, and in *Marrus claudanielis*. These taxa might have found other avenues to effectively circulate nutrients across the colony.

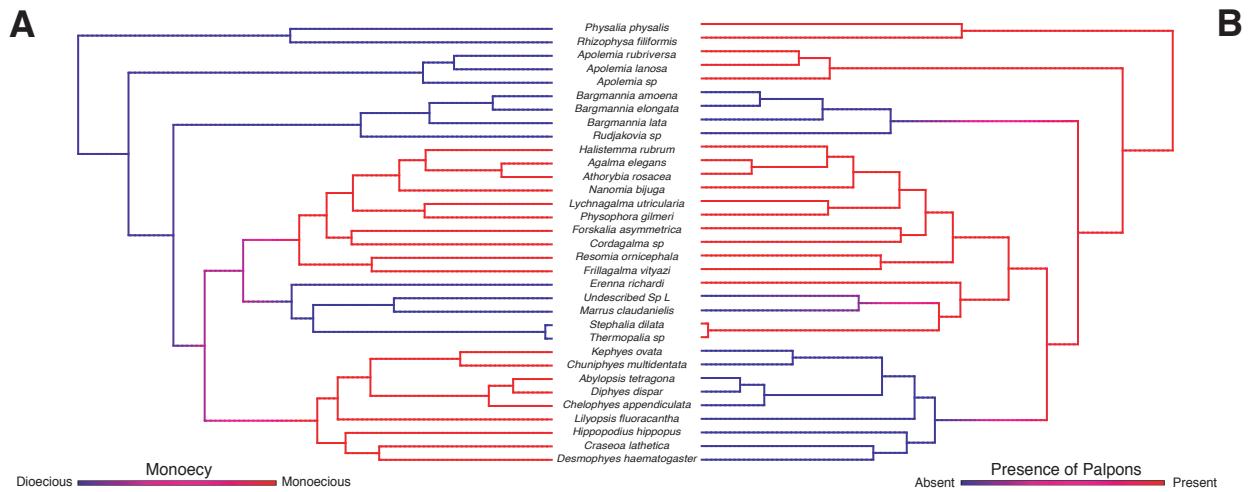


Figure 5: Stochastic mapping reconstruction of the evolutionary history of A) palpon zooids, and B) distribution of sexual zooids on the colonies. The color gradients show the reconstructed probability estimate of the discrete character states along the branches. Intermediate values reflect uncertainty.

### The Gain and Loss of Tentilla

The most complex nematocyst batteries of Cnidaria can arguably be found among the siphonophores, hanging in regularly spaced tentacle side branches called tentilla [fig 1A]. Most hydrozoans, including the clade that contains siphonophores, bear simple tentacles (tentacles with no side branches). It is still an open question whether the common ancestor of Siphonophora had simple or branched tentacles. The only siphonophores genera regarded as lacking tentilla are *Physalia physalis* and *Apolemia* spp., and *Bathyphysa conifera*. Since *B. conifera* is the only member of the *Rhizophysidae* (and of the *Bathyphysa* genus) lacking tentilla, we can safely assume this is a case of secondary loss. When we reconstruct the evolution of this character on the current phylogeny, 70% of simulations support a common ancestor bearing tentilla, with two independent losses leading to *Physalia* and *Apolemia* (Fig. S2). However, this leaves a 30% support for a simple-tentacled common ancestor followed by 2 independent gains of tentilla in the branches leading to *Rhizophysidae* and (*Bargmannia*, *Diphyes*).

A key issue here is how we code for absence of tentilla, especially for the case of *Physalia physalis*. The

tentacles of this species, when uncoiled, show very prominent, evenly spaced, bulging buttons which contain on their ectoderm all active and functionally arranged nematocysts used by the organism for prey capture. Siphonophore tentilla are complete diverticular branchings of the tentacle ectoderm, mesoglea, and gastrovascular canal (lined by endoderm). Hessinger & Ford 1988 (in the Biology of Nematocysts) described *Physalia*'s buttons as enclosing individual fluid-filled chambers connected by narrow channels to the tentacular canal, lined by endoderm. This suggests they are not just ectodermal swellings, but probably are reduced tentilla. When we code *Physalia physalis* as tentilla bearing, the results for the character reconstruction lead to a more robust support for a tentilla-bearing common ancestor followed by a single loss of tentilla in the branch leading to *Apolemidae* (Fig. S3).

### The Evolution of Vertical Habitat Use

Siphonophores are abundant predators in the pelagic realm, ranging from the surface (*Physalia physalis*) to bathypelagic depths (Fig. 4, S5) (Mapstone, 2014). While there are some pleustonic (*Physalia*) and benthic (*Rhodaliidae*) siphonophores, the phylogeny indicates that the siphonophore common ancestor was probably planktonic, as most extant siphonophore taxa are. Some siphonophore species (such as *Bargmannia lata*) have been observed at abyssopelagic depths near 4000m. An interesting question that arises from these facts is what was the evolutionary history of siphonophore vertical habitat use of the water columns. Using the present phylogeny, we reconstructed the median depth changes along the phylogeny under a Brownian Motion model (Fig. S5). This model indicates a mesopelagic common ancestor, with several independent transition events to epipelagic (light blue) and bathypelagic (dark blue) waters. This reconstruction only included species recorded using an ROV, thus it excludes many other independent colonizations of the epipelagic habitat. Species such as *Hippopodius hippopus*, *Athorybia rosacea*, *Diphyes dispar*, and *Chelophyses appendiculata* are often encountered blue water diving less than 20m from the surface (Fig. 4). There was only a single transition to benthic lifestyle on the stem of *Rhodaliidae*, and a single transition to a pleustonic lifestyle in the stem of *Physalia physalis*. Further research should address whether these transitions are following evolutionary changes in feeding habits and prey availability.

## Conclusions

### Acknowledgements

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## Supplementary Information

### Agalma analysis

### Stochastic Character maps

### Software versions

This manuscript was computed on Thu Nov 30 19:29:02 2017 with the following R package versions.

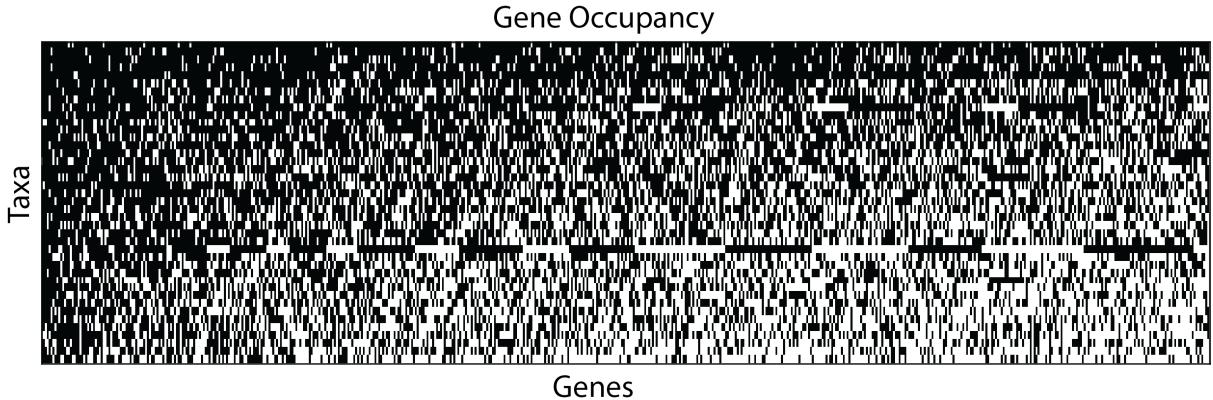


Figure S1: 60% gene occupancy matrix for 41 species across 1,071 genes. Genes and species are sorted by sampling, the best sampled shown in the upper left.

|               | K         | PICvar obs | PICvar rnd | P-value | Z-score    |
|---------------|-----------|------------|------------|---------|------------|
| Nectosome     | 0.7576982 | 0.20867575 | 0.4509123  | 0.2465  | -0.5781193 |
| Palpons       | 2.5304645 | 0.13420510 | 1.3415077  | 0.0010  | -2.0010797 |
| Tentilla      | 2.9207926 | 0.06470251 | 0.5832560  | 0.0010  | -1.1126360 |
| Pneumatophore | 3.9936316 | 0.06932454 | 1.0899517  | 0.0010  | -1.7503710 |
| Bracts        | 1.8939427 | 0.08917691 | 0.4722325  | 0.0020  | -0.8714136 |

Table S1: Phylogenetic signal in the binary traits, including Blomberg's K statistic, the mean observed PIC variance, the random variance of PICs, p-value of the comparison of observed and random variance, and the z-score.

```
R version 3.4.1 (2017-06-30)
Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin15.6.0 (64-bit)
Running under: OS X El Capitan 10.11.3

Matrix products: default
BLAS: /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/3.4/Resources/lib/libRblas.0.dylib
LAPACK: /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/3.4/Resources/lib/libRlapack.dylib

locale:
[1] en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/C/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8

attached base packages:
[1] grid      parallel   stats      graphics   grDevices  utils      datasets 
[8] methods   base     

other attached packages:
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[9] phangorn_2.2.0   phytools_0.6-20  picante_1.6-2    nlme_3.1-131
[13] vegan_2.4-4     lattice_0.20-35  permute_0.9-4    ape_4.1
[17] hutan_0.5.0     FactoMineR_1.39  factoextra_1.0.5  gridExtra_2.3
[21] seriation_1.2-2 fields_9.0       maps_3.2.0       spam_2.1-1
[25] dotCall64_0.9-04 ggtree_1.9.4    treeio_1.1.2    cowplot_0.8.0
[29] xtable_1.8-2    jsonlite_1.5     knitr_1.17      digest_0.6.12
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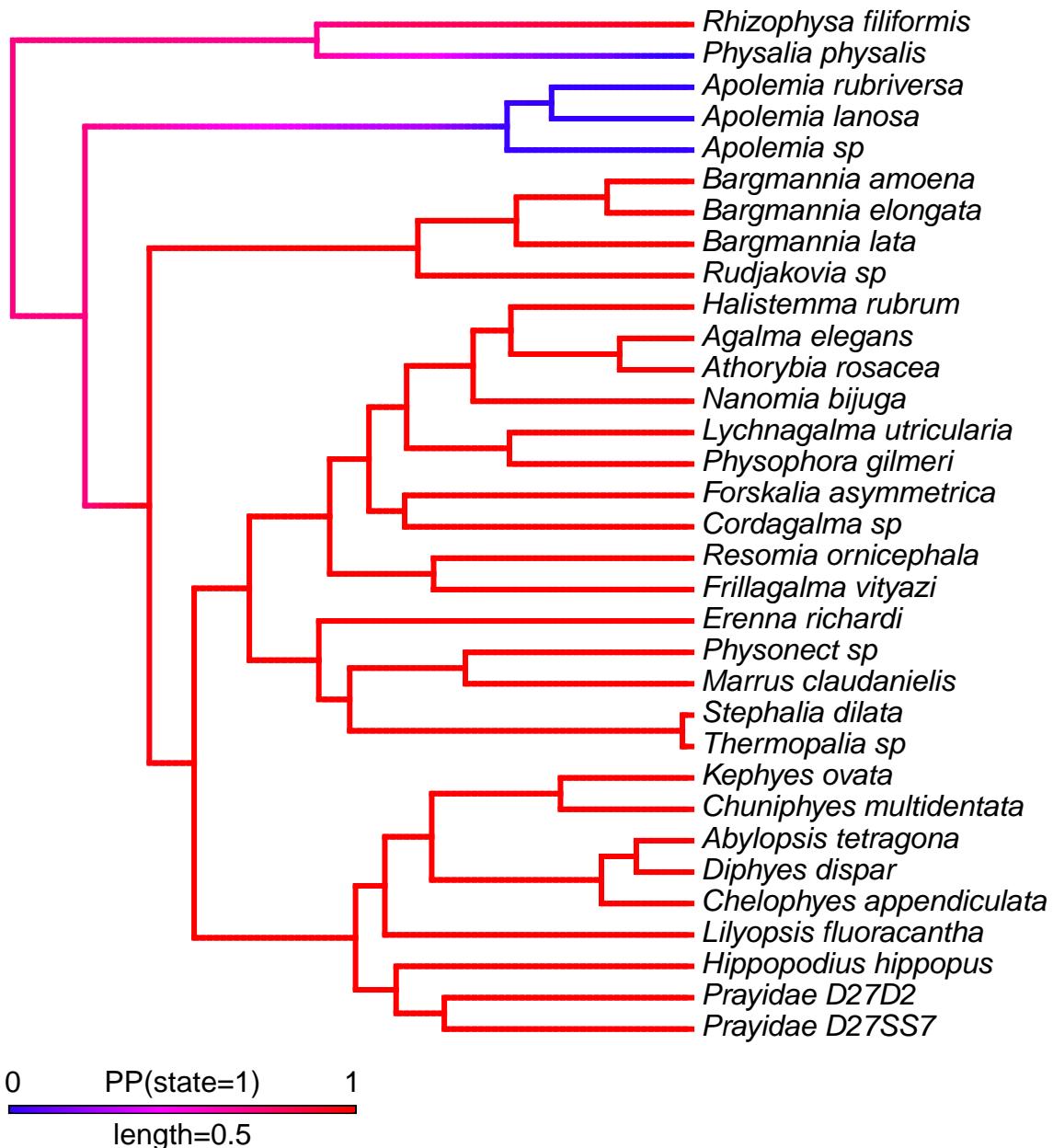


Figure S2: Stochastic character map of presence of tentilla

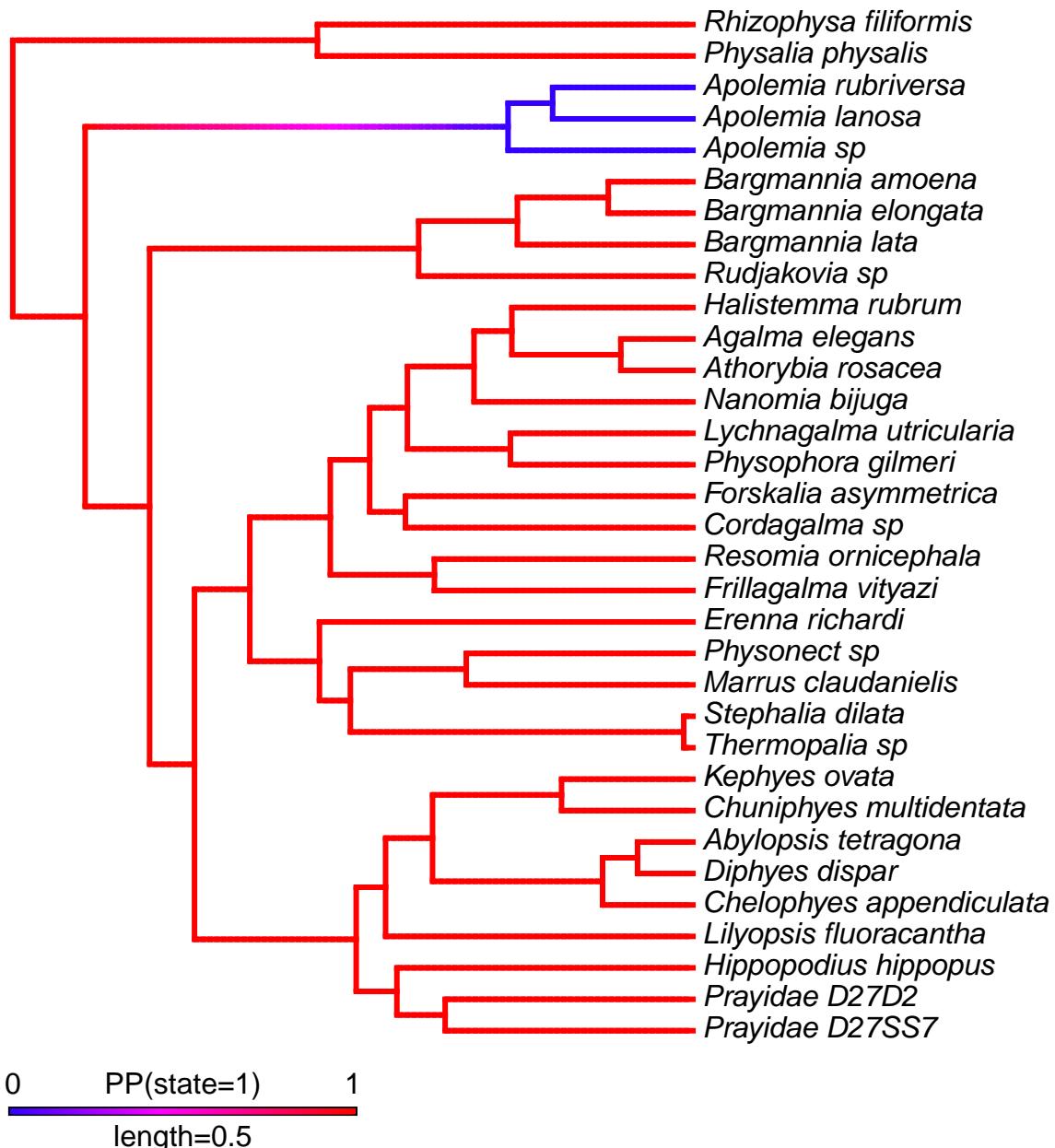


Figure S3: Stochastic character map of presence of tentilla with *Physalia* included

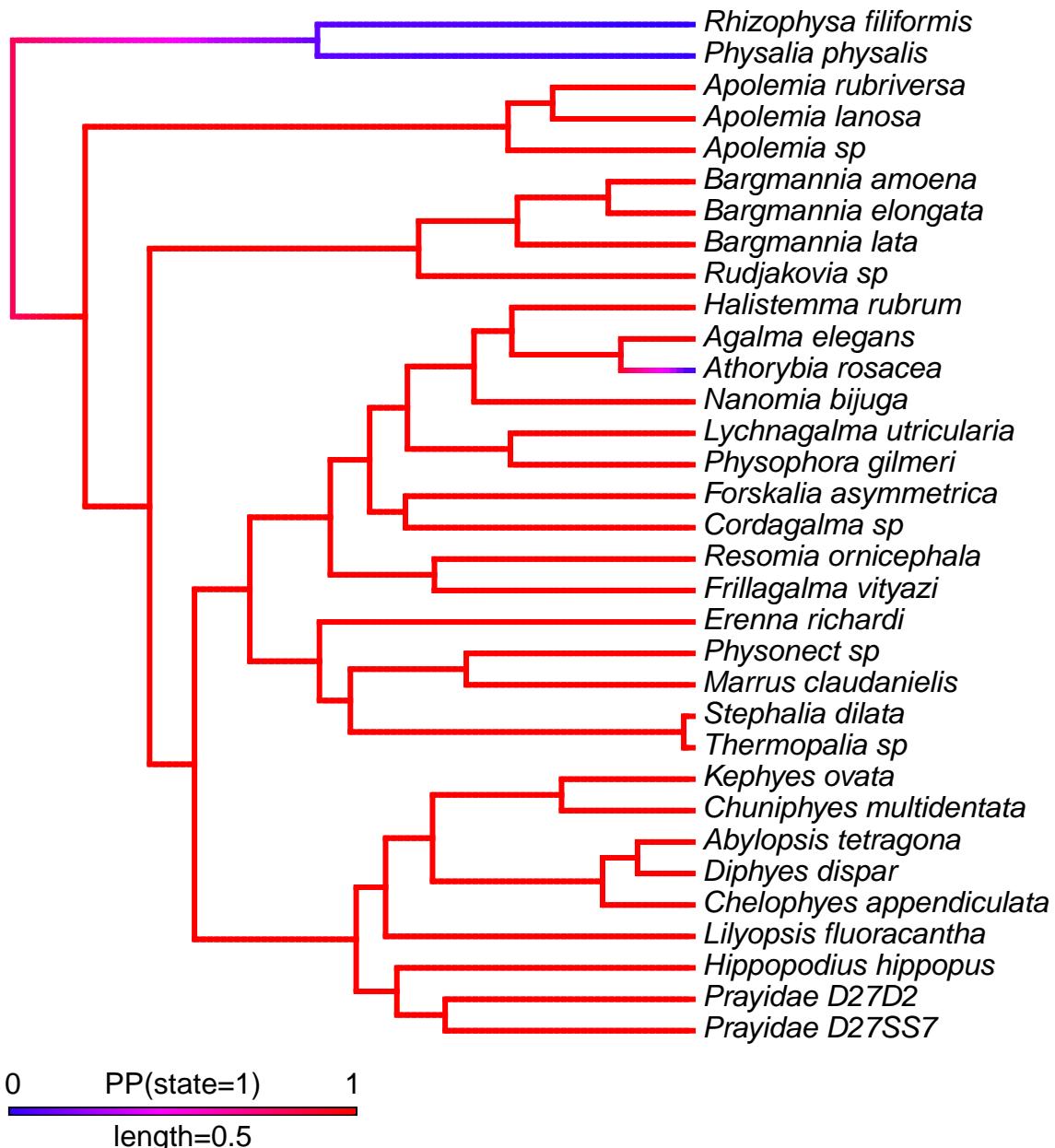


Figure S4: Stochastic character map of presence of nectosome

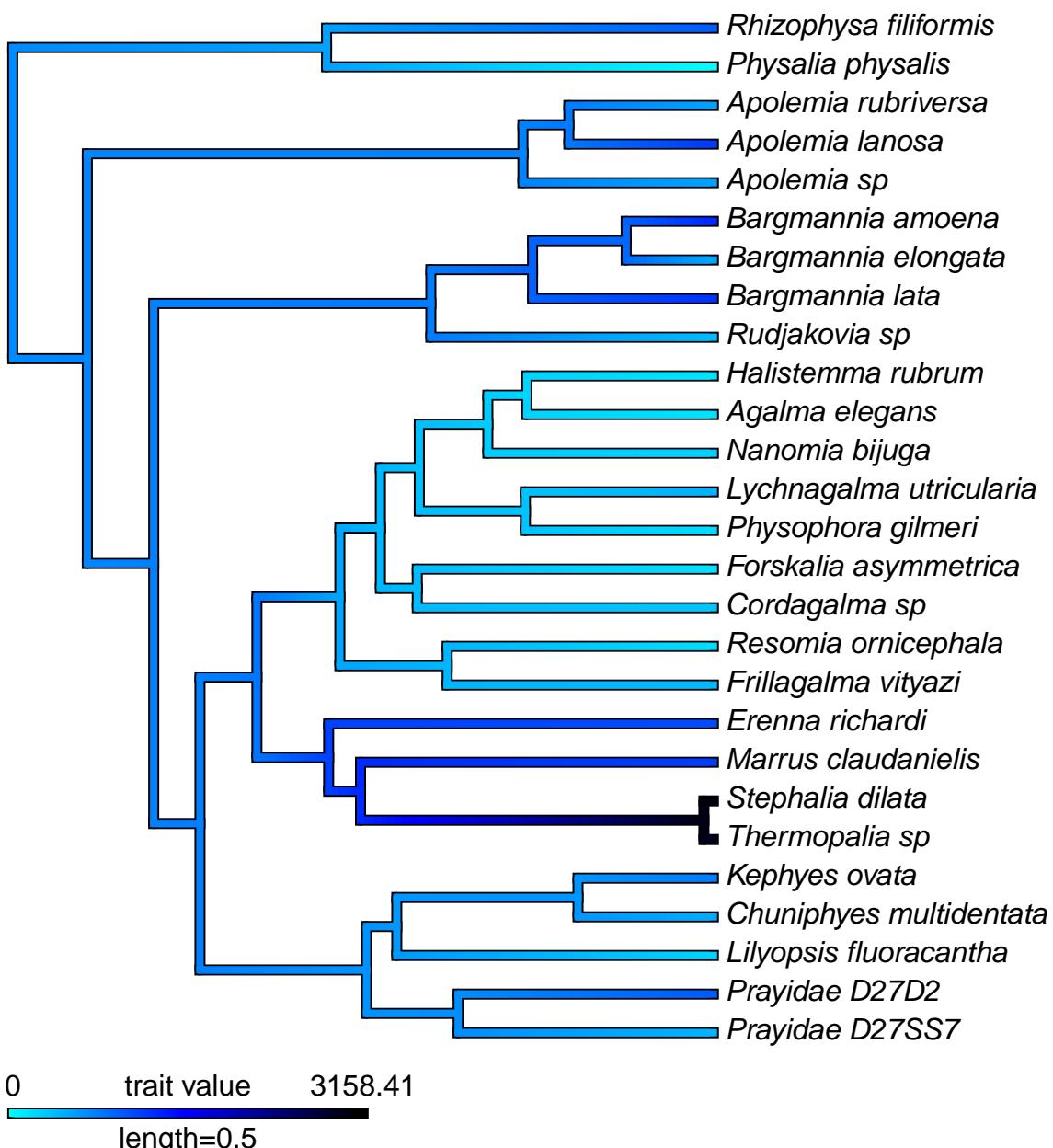


Figure S5: Stochastic character map of median depth of species

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