Microbial Ecology and Biogeography

OF THE

Southern Ocean

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Abstract

Introduction

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The Roseobacter clade is an abundant and ecologically significant group of marine bacteria, found at high (> 15%) abundance in most marine surface environments (Ano (2005) and references therein). Unlike some other major proteobacterial groups which are strongly associated with a particular ecological niche (e.g. the SAR11 clade), roseobacters have diverse metabolic abilities, with members capable (for example) of aerobic anoxygenic phototrophy (Biebl, 2005; Béjà *et al.*, 2002), degradation of dimethylsulfoniopropionate (DMSP) by at least two pathways (Moran *et al.*, 2007; ?), carbon monoxide oxidation (King, 2003) and heterotrophic utilisation of a broad range of substrates (reviewed in (Brinkhoff *et al.*, 2008)). Roseobacters are found in the planktonic fraction as well as in commensal association with phytoplankton and metazoans (reviewed in Ano (2005)).

- 1.2 Microbial ecology of the Southern Ocean
- 1.3 Oceanography of the Southern Ocean
- 1.3.1 Water masses and fronts
- 1.3.2 Effect of climate change
- 1.4 Role of the Polar Front in biogeography
- 1.5 Project questions and hypotheses

The Polar Front as a major biogeographic boundary in the Southern Ocean

2.1 Summary

2.2 Introduction

2.3 Methods

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2.4 Results

- 2.4.1 Metagenomic sequencing
- 2.4.2 Phylogenetic analysis of metagenomic data
- 2.4.3 Functional analysis of metagenomic data
- 2.5 Discussion
- 2.6 Conclusions

Meso-scale biogeographic drivers of planktonic diversity

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