

290 metagenome-assembled genomes from the Mediterranean Sea: a resource for marine microbiology

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The *Tara Oceans* Expedition has provided large, publicly-accessible microbial metagenomic datasets from a circumnavigation of the globe. Utilizing several size fractions from the samples originating in the Mediterranean Sea, we have used current assembly and binning techniques to reconstruct 290 putative high-quality metagenome-assembled bacterial and archaeal genomes, with an estimated completion of $\geq 50\%$, and an additional 2,786 bins, with estimated completion of 0-50%. We have submitted our results, including initial taxonomic and phylogenetic assignments, for the putative high-quality genomes to open-access repositories for the scientific community to use in ongoing research.

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2 **microbiology**

3
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12

13 **Abstract**

14 The *Tara Oceans* Expedition has provided large, publicly-accessible microbial metagenomic
15 datasets from a circumnavigation of the globe. Utilizing several size fractions from the samples
16 originating in the Mediterranean Sea, we have used current assembly and binning techniques to
17 reconstruct 290 putative high-quality metagenome-assembled bacterial and archaeal genomes,
18 with an estimated completion of $\geq 50\%$, and an additional 2,786 bins, with estimated completion
19 of 0-50%. We have submitted our results, including initial taxonomic and phylogenetic
20 assignments, for the putative high-quality genomes to open-access repositories for the scientific
21 community to use in ongoing research.

22

23 **Introduction**

24 Microorganisms are a major constituent of the biology within the world's oceans and act
25 as the important linchpins in all major global biogeochemical cycles¹. Marine microbiology is
26 among the disciplines at the forefront of advancements in understanding how microorganisms
27 respond to and impact the local and large-scale environments. An estimated 10^{29} Bacteria and
28 Archaea² reside in the oceans and represent an immense amount of poorly constrained, and ever
29 evolving genetic diversity.

30 The *Tara Oceans* Expedition (2003-2010) encompassed a major endeavor to add to the
31 body of knowledge collected during previous global ocean surveys to sample the genetic
32 potential of microorganisms³. To accomplish this goal, *Tara Oceans* sampled planktonic
33 organisms (viruses to fish larvae) at two major depths, the surface ocean and the mesopelagic.
34 The amount of data collected was expansive and included 35,000 samples from 210 ecosystems³.
35 The *Tara Oceans* Expedition generated and publically released 7.2 Tbp of metagenomic data
36 from 243 ocean samples from throughout the global ocean, specifically targeting the smallest
37 members of the ocean biosphere, the viruses, Bacteria and Archaea, and picoeukaryotes⁴. Initial
38 work on these fractions produced a large protein database, totaling >40 million nonredundant
39 protein sequences and identified >35,000 microbial operational taxonomic units (OTUs)⁴.

40 Leveraging the publically available metagenomic sequences from the “girus” (giant virus;
41 0.22-1.6 μm), “bacteria” (0.22-1.6 μm), and “protist” (0.8-5 μm) size fractions, we have
42 performed a new joint assembly of these samples using current sequence assemblers (Megahit⁵)
43 and methods (combining assemblies from multiple sites using Minimus2⁶). These metagenomic
44 assemblies were binned using BinSanity⁷ in to 290 high-quality (low contamination) microbial
45 genomes, ranging from 50-100% estimated completion. Environmentally derived genomes are
46 imperative for a number of downstream applications, including comparative genomes,

47 metatranscriptomics, and metaproteomics. This series of genomic data can allow for the
48 recruitment of environmental “-omic” data and provide linkages between functions and
49 phylogenies. This method was initially performed on the seven sites from the Mediterranean Sea
50 containing microbial metagenomic samples (TARA007, -009, -018, -023, -025 and -030), but
51 will continue through the various Longhurst provinces⁸ sampled during the *Tara Oceans* project
52 (Figure 1). All of the assembly data is publically available, including the initial Megahit
53 assemblies for each site from the various size fractions and depths and putative (minimal quality
54 control) genomes.

55

56 **Materials and Methods**

57

58 A generalized version of the following workflow is presented in Figure 2.

59

60 *Sequence Retrieval and Assembly*

61 All sequences for the reverse and forward reads from each sampled site and depth within
62 the Mediterranean Sea were accessed from European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
63 utilizing their FTP service (Table 1). Paired-end reads from different filter sizes from each site
64 and depth (e.g., TARA0007, girus filter fraction, sampled at the deep chlorophyll maximum)
65 were assembled using Megahit⁵ (v1.0.3; parameters: --preset, meta-sensitive). To keep consistent
66 with TARA sample nomenclature, “bacteria” or “BACT” will be used to encompass the size
67 fraction 0.22-1.6 μm . All of the Megahit assemblies were pooled in to two tranches based on
68 assembly size, $\leq 1,999\text{bp}$, and $\geq 2,000\text{bp}$. Longer assemblies ($\geq 2\text{kb}$) with $\geq 99\%$ semi-global
69 identity were combined using CD-HIT-EST (v4.6; -T 90 -M 500000 -c 0.99 -n 10). The reduced
70 set of contiguous DNA fragments (contigs) was then cross-assembled using Minimus2⁶ (AMOS
71 v3.1.0; parameters: -D OVERLAP=100 MINID=95). This assembly method is available on
72 Protocols.io at <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.hfqb3mw>.

73

74 *Metagenome-assembled Genomes*

75 Sequence reads were recruited against a subset of contigs ($\geq 7.5\text{kb}$) constructed during the
76 secondary assembly (Megahit + Minimus2) for each of the *Tara* samples using Bowtie2⁹ (v4.1.2;
77 default parameters). Utilizing the SAM file output, read counts for each contig were determined
78 using featureCounts¹⁰ (v1.5.0; default parameters). Coverage was determined for all contigs by
79 dividing the number of recruited reads by the length of the contig (reads/bp). Due to the low
80 coverage nature of the samples, in order to effectively delineate between contig coverage
81 patterns, the coverage values were transformed by multiplying by five (determined through
82 manual tuning). Transformed coverage values were then utilized to cluster contigs in to bins
83 utilizing BinSanity⁷ (parameters: -p -3, -m 4000, -v 400, -d 0.9). Bins were assessed for the
84 presence of putative microbial genomes using CheckM¹¹ (v1.0.3; parameters: lineage_wf). Bins
85 were split in to three categories: (1) putative high quality genomes ($\geq 50\%$ complete and $\leq 10\%$
86 cumulative redundancy [% contamination – (% contamination \times % strain heterogeneity \div 100));
87 (2) bins with “high” contamination ($\geq 50\%$ complete and $\geq 10\%$ cumulative redundancy); and (3)
88 low completion bins ($< 50\%$ complete).

89

90 The high contamination bins containing approximately two genomes, three genomes, or
91 ≥ 4 genomes used the BinSanity refinement method (Binsanity-refine; -m 2000, -v 200, -d 0.9)
92 with variable preference values (-p) of -1000, -500, and -100, respectively. The resulting bins
93 were added to one of the three categories: putative high quality genomes, high contamination

93 bins, and low completion bins. The high contamination bins were processed for a third time with
94 the Binsanity-refine utilizing a preference of -100 (-p -100). These bins were given final
95 assignments to either the putative high quality genomes (some putative genomes had >10%
96 cumulative contamination, but have been designated) or low completion bins.

97 Any contigs not assigned to putative high-quality genomes were assessed using
98 BinSanity using raw coverage values. Two additional rounds of refinement were performed with
99 the first round of refinement using preference values based on the estimated number of
100 contaminating genomes (as above) and the second round using a set preference of -10 (-p -10).
101 Following this binning phase, contigs were assigned to high quality bins (*e.g.*, *Tara*
102 **Mediterranean** genome 1, referred to as TMED1, etc.), low completion bins with at least five
103 contigs (0-50% complete; TMED1c1, etc. lc, low completion), or were not placed in a bin
104 (Supplemental Table 1 & 2).

105

106 *Taxonomic and Phylogenetic Assignment of High Quality Genomes*

107 The bins representing the high quality genomes were assessed for taxonomy and
108 phylogeny using multiple methods to provide a quick reference for selecting genomes of interest.
109 Taxonomy as assigned using the putative placement provided via CheckM during the pplacer¹²
110 step of the analysis to the lowest taxonomic placement (parameters: tree_qa -o 2). This step was
111 also performed for all low completion bins.

112 Two separate attempts were made to assign the high quality genomes a phylogenetic
113 assignment. High quality genomes were searched for the presence of the full-length 16S rRNA
114 gene sequence using RNAmmer¹³ (v1.2; parameters: -S bac -m ssu). All full-length sequences
115 were aligned to the SILVA SSU reference database (Ref123) using the SINA web portal
116 aligner¹⁴ (<https://www.arb-silva.de/aligner/>). These alignments were loaded in to ARB¹⁵ (v6.0.3),
117 manually assessed, and added to the non-redundant 16S rRNA gene database (SSURef123
118 NR99) using ARB Parsimony (Quick) tool (parameters: default). A selection of the nearest
119 neighbors to the *Tara* genome sequences were selected and used to construct a 16S rRNA
120 phylogenetic tree. Genome-identified 16S rRNA sequences and SILVA reference sequences
121 were aligned using MUSCLE¹⁶ (v3.8.31; parameters: -maxiters 8) and processed by the
122 automated trimming program trimAL¹⁷ (v1.2rev59; parameters: -automated1). Automated
123 trimming results were assessed manually in Geneious¹⁸ (v6.1.8) and trimmed where necessary
124 (positions with >50% gaps) and re-aligned with MUSCLE (parameters: -maxiters 8). An
125 approximate maximum likelihood (ML) tree with pseudo-bootstrapping was constructed using
126 FastTree¹⁹ (v2.1.3; parameters: -nt -gtr -gamma; Figure 3).

127 High-quality genomes were assessed for the presence of the 16 ribosomal markers genes
128 used in Hug, *et al.* (2016)²⁰. Putative CDSs were determined using Prodigal (v2.6.3; parameters:
129 -m -p meta) and were searched using HMMs for each marker using HMMER²¹ (v3.1b2;
130 parameters: hmmsearch --cut_tc --notextw). If a genome had multiple copies of any single
131 marker gene, neither was considered, and only genomes with ≥ 8 markers were used to construct
132 a phylogenetic tree. Markers identified from the high quality genomes were combined with
133 markers from 1,729 reference genomes that represent the major bacterial phylogenetic groups (as
134 presented by IMG²²). Archaeal reference sequences were not included; however, none of the
135 putative archaeal environmental genomes had a sufficient number of markers for inclusion on the
136 tree. Each marker gene was aligned using MUSCLE (parameters: -maxiters 8) and automatically
137 trimmed using trimAL (parameters: -automated1). Automated trimming results were assessed (as
138 above) and re-aligned with MUSCLE, as necessary. Final alignments were concatenated and

139 used to construct an approximate ML tree with pseudo-bootstrapping with FastTree (parameters:
140 -gtr -gamma; Figure 4).

141

142 *Relative Abundance of High Quality Genomes*

143 To set-up a baseline that could approximate the “microbial” community (Bacteria, Archaea and
144 viruses) present in the various *Tara* metagenomes, which included filter sizes specifically
145 targeting both protists and viruses, reads were recruited against all contigs generated from the
146 Minimus2 and Megahit assemblies $\geq 2\text{kb}$ using Bowtie2 (default parameters). Some assumptions
147 were made that contigs $< 2\text{kb}$ would include, low abundance bacteria and archaea, bacteria and
148 archaea with high degrees of repeats/assembly poor regions, fragmented picoeukaryotic
149 genomes, and problematic read sequences (low quality, sequencing artefacts, etc.). All relative
150 abundance measures are relative to the number of reads recruited to the assemblies $\geq 2\text{kb}$. Read
151 counts were determined using featureCounts (as above). Length-normalized relative abundance
152 values were determined for each high quality genome for each sample:

$$153 \quad \frac{\frac{\text{Reads}}{\text{bp}} \text{ per genome}}{\sum \frac{\text{Reads}}{\text{bp}} \text{ all genomes}} \times \frac{\sum \text{Recruited reads to genomes}}{\sum \text{Recruited reads to all contigs } (\geq 2\text{kb})} \times 100$$

154

155 *Data Availability*

156 This project has been deposited at DDBJ/ENA/GenBank under the BioProject accession
157 no. ##### and drafts of genomes are available with accession no. #####-#####. Additional files
158 have been provided and are available through FigShare
159 (<https://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.3545330>), such as: all contigs from Minimus2 + Megahit
160 output used for binning and community assessment; contig read counts per sample; the putative
161 genome contigs and Prodigal-predicted nucleotide and protein putative CDS FASTA files; the
162 ribosomal marker HMM profiles; reference genome markers; high quality genome markers; low
163 completion bins, and contigs without a bin. All contigs generated using Megahit from each
164 sample are available through iMicrobe (<http://data.imicrobe.us/project/view/261>).

165

166 **Results**

167 *Assembly*

168 The initial Megahit assembly was performed on the publicly available reads for *Tara*
169 stations 007, 009, 018, 023, 025, 030. Starting with 147-744 million reads per sample, the
170 Megahit assembly process generated 1.2-4.6 million assemblies with a mean N_{50} and longest
171 contig of 785bp and 537kb, respectively (Table 1). In general, the assemblies generated from the
172 *Tara* samples targeting the protist size fraction (0.8-5 μm) had a shorter N_{50} value than the
173 bacteria size fractions (mean: 554bp vs 892bp, respectively). Assemblies from the Megahit
174 assembly process were pooled and separated by length. Of the 42.6 million assemblies generated
175 during the first assembly, 1.5 million were $\geq 2\text{kb}$ in length (Table 2). Several attempts were made
176 to assemble the shorter contigs, but publicly available overlap-consensus assemblers (Newbler
177 [454 Life Sciences], cap3²³, and MIRA²⁴) failed on multiple attempts. Processing the $\geq 2\text{kb}$
178 assemblies from all of the samples through CD-HIT-EST reduced the total to 1.1 million contigs
179 $\geq 2\text{kb}$. This group of contigs was subjected to the secondary assembly through Minimus2,
180 generating 158,414 new contigs (all $\geq 2\text{kb}$). The secondary contigs were combined with the

181 Megahit contigs that were not assembled by Minimus2. This provided a contig dataset consisting
182 of 660,937 contigs, all ≥ 2 kb in length (Table 2; further referred to as data-rich-contigs).

183

184 *Binning*

185 The set of data-rich-contigs was used to recruit the metagenomic reads from each sample
186 using Bowtie2. The data-rich-contigs recruited 15-81% of the reads depending on the sample. In
187 general, the protist size fraction recruited substantially fewer reads than the girus and bacteria
188 size fractions (mean: 19.8% vs 75.0%, respectively) (Table 1). For the protist size fraction, the
189 “missing” data for these recruitments likely results from the poor assembly of more complex and
190 larger eukaryotic genomes. The fraction of the reads that do not recruit in the girus and bacterial
191 size fraction samples could be accounted for by the large number of low quality assemblies (200-
192 500bp) and reads that could not be assembled due to low abundance or high complexity (Table
193 2).

194 Unsupervised binning was performed using both transformed and raw coverage values
195 for a subset of 95,506 contigs from the data-rich-contigs that were ≥ 7.5 kb (referred to further as
196 binned-contigs). Binning using the transformed coverage data generated 237 putative high-
197 quality genomes (12 putative genomes are of slightly lower quality with $>10\%$ redundancy and
198 have been noted) containing 15,032 contigs (Supplemental Information S1). Contigs not in
199 putative genomes were re-binned based on raw coverage values, generating 53 additional
200 putative high-quality genomes encompassing 3,348 contigs. In total, 290 putative high-quality
201 genomes were generated with 50-100% completion (mean: 69%) with a mean length and number
202 of putative CDS of 1.7Mbp and 1,699, respectively (Supplemental Information S1). All other
203 contigs were grouped in to bins with at least five contigs, but with estimated completion of 0-
204 50% (2,786 low completion bins; 74,358 contigs; Supplemental Information S2) or did not bin
205 (2,732 contigs). Nearly a quarter of the low completion bins (24.7%) have an estimated
206 completion of 0%.

207

208 *Taxonomy, Phylogeny, & Potential Organisms of Interest*

209 The 290 putative high-quality genomes had a taxonomy assigned to it via CheckM during
210 the pplacer step. All of the genomes, except for 20, had an assignment to at least the Phylum
211 level, and 83% of the genomes had an assignment to at least the Class level (Supplemental
212 Information S1).

213 Phylogenetic information was determined for as many genomes as possible. Genomes
214 were assessed for the presence of full-length 16S rRNA genes. In total, 37 16S rRNA genes were
215 detected in 35 genomes. 16S rRNA genes can prove to be problematic during the assembly steps
216 due the high level of conservation that can break contigs²⁵ (Figure 3). Additionally, the
217 conserved regions of the 16S rRNA, depending on the situation, can over- or under-recruit reads,
218 resulting in coverage variations that can misplace contigs in to the incorrect genome. As such,
219 several of the 16S rRNA phylogenetic placements support the taxonomic assignments, while
220 some are contradictory. Further analysis should allow for the determination of the most
221 parsimonious result.

222 Beyond the 16S rRNA gene, genomes were searched for 16 conserved, syntenic
223 ribosomal markers. Sufficient markers (≥ 8) were identified in 193 of the genomes (67%) and
224 placed on a tree with 1,729 reference sequences (Figure 4). Phylogenies were then assigned to
225 the lowest taxonomic level that could be confidently determined. These putative results reveal a
226 number of genomes were generated that represent multiple clades for which environmental

227 genomic information remains limited, including: *Planctomycetes*, *Verrucomicrobia*,
228 *Marinimicrobia*, *Cyanobacteria*, and uncultured groups within the *Alpha*- and
229 *Gammaproteobacteria*.

230 231 *Relative Abundance*

232 A length-normalized relative abundance value was determined for each genome in each
233 sample based on the number of reads recruited to the data-rich-contigs. The relative abundance
234 for the individual genomes was determined based on this portion of the dataset (Supplemental
235 Information S3). In general, the genomes had low relative abundance (maximum relative
236 abundance = 1.9% for TMED155 a putative *Cyanobacteria* at site TARA023 from the protistan
237 size fraction sampled at the surface; Supplemental Table 1). The high-quality genomes
238 accounted for 1.57-25.16% of the approximate microbial community as determined by the data-
239 rich-contigs (mean = 13.69%), with the ten most abundant genomes in a sample representing
240 0.61-10.31% (Table 1).

241 242 **Concluding Statement**

243 The goal of this project was to provide preliminary putative genomes from the *Tara*
244 *Oceans* microbial metagenomic datasets. The 290 putative high-quality genomes and 2,786 low
245 completion bins were created using the 20 samples and six stations from the Mediterranean Sea.

246 Initial assessment of the phylogeny of these metagenomic-assembled genomes indicates
247 several new genomes from environmentally relevant organisms, including, approximately 14
248 new *Cyanobacteria* genomes within the genera *Prochlorococcus* and *Synechococcus* and 33 new
249 SAR11 genomes. Additionally, there are putative genomes from the marine *Euryarchaeota* ($n =$
250 11), *Verrucomicrobia* ($n = 17$), *Planctomycetes* ($n = 14$), and *Marinimicrobia* ($n \approx 5$).
251 Additionally, the low completion bins may house distinct viral genomes. Of particular interest
252 may be the 40 bins with 0% completion (based on single-copy marker genes), but that contain
253 >500kb of genetic material (including 3 bins with >1Mb). These large bins lacking markers may
254 be good candidates for research in the marine “giant viruses” and episomal DNA sources
255 (plasmids, etc.).

256 It should be noted, researchers using this dataset should be aware that all of the genomes
257 generated from these samples should be used as a resource with some skepticism towards the
258 results being an absolute. Like all results for metagenome-assembled genomes, these genomes
259 represent a best-guess approximation of a taxon from the environment²⁶. Researchers are
260 encouraged to confirm all claims through various genomic analyses and accuracy may require
261 the removal of conflicting sequences.

262 263 **Acknowledgements**

264 We are indebted to the *Tara Oceans* project and team for their commitment to open-
265 access data that allows data aficionados to indulge in the data and attempt to add to the body of
266 science contained within. And we thank the Center for Dark Energy Biosphere Investigations (C-
267 DEBI) for providing funding to BJT and JFH (OCE-0939654).

268 269 **Author Contributions**

270 BJT conceived of the project, performed all of the methods and analyses, and wrote the
271 manuscript. RS provided the origins of the workflow and invaluable feedback during the
272 execution of the methods and analyses. EDG provided feedback and troubleshooting using the

273 pre-release version of BinSanity. JFH provided funding. RS and JFH contributed to manuscript
274 editing and polishing. All authors have read the submitted draft of the manuscript.

275

276 **Legends**

277

278 Table 1. Statistics for Megahit assemblies, recruitment to data-rich-contigs, and relative
279 abundance of high-quality genome results for each sample

280

281 Table 2. Assembly statistics at various steps during processing

282

283 Figure 1. Map illustrating the locations and size fractions sampled for the *Tara Oceans*
284 Mediterranean Sea datasets. Girus, ‘giant virus’ size fraction (0.22-1.6 μm). Bact, ‘bacteria’ size
285 fraction (0.22-1.6 μm). Prot, ‘protist’ size fraction (0.8-5.0 μm).

286

287 Figure 2. Workflow used to process *Tara Oceans* Mediterranean Sea metagenomic datasets.

288

289 Figure 3. FastTree approximate maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree constructed with 37 and
290 785 16S rRNA genes from putative high-quality genomes and references, respectively.

291

292 Figure 4. Cladogram of a FastTree approximate maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree
293 constructed using 16 syntenic, single-copy marker genes for 193 high-quality genomes and 1,729
294 reference genomes. Leaves denoting the position of the TMED genomes have been indicated by
295 extending beyond the edge of the tree. Sequence alignment is available in Supplemental
296 Information S4. Phylogenetic tree newick file is available in Supplemental Information S5.

297

298 **Supplemental Information**

299

300 Supplemental Information S1. Statistics, taxonomic and phylogenetic assignments for the
301 putative high-quality genomes.

302

303 Supplemental Information S2. Statistics and CheckM taxonomy for low completion bins.

304

305 Supplemental Information S3. Relative abundance values determined for each genome based the
306 length-normalized fraction of reads recruited to the genome relative to reads recruited for the
307 data-rich-contigs.

308

309 Supplemental Information S4. Concatenated MUSCLE alignment file of 16 ribosomal marker
310 proteins used to construct Figure 4.

311

312 Supplemental Information S5. Newick file of concatenated 16 ribosomal marker proteins,
313 including FastTree determined local support values using the Shimodaira-Hasegawa test.

314

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Figure 1(on next page)

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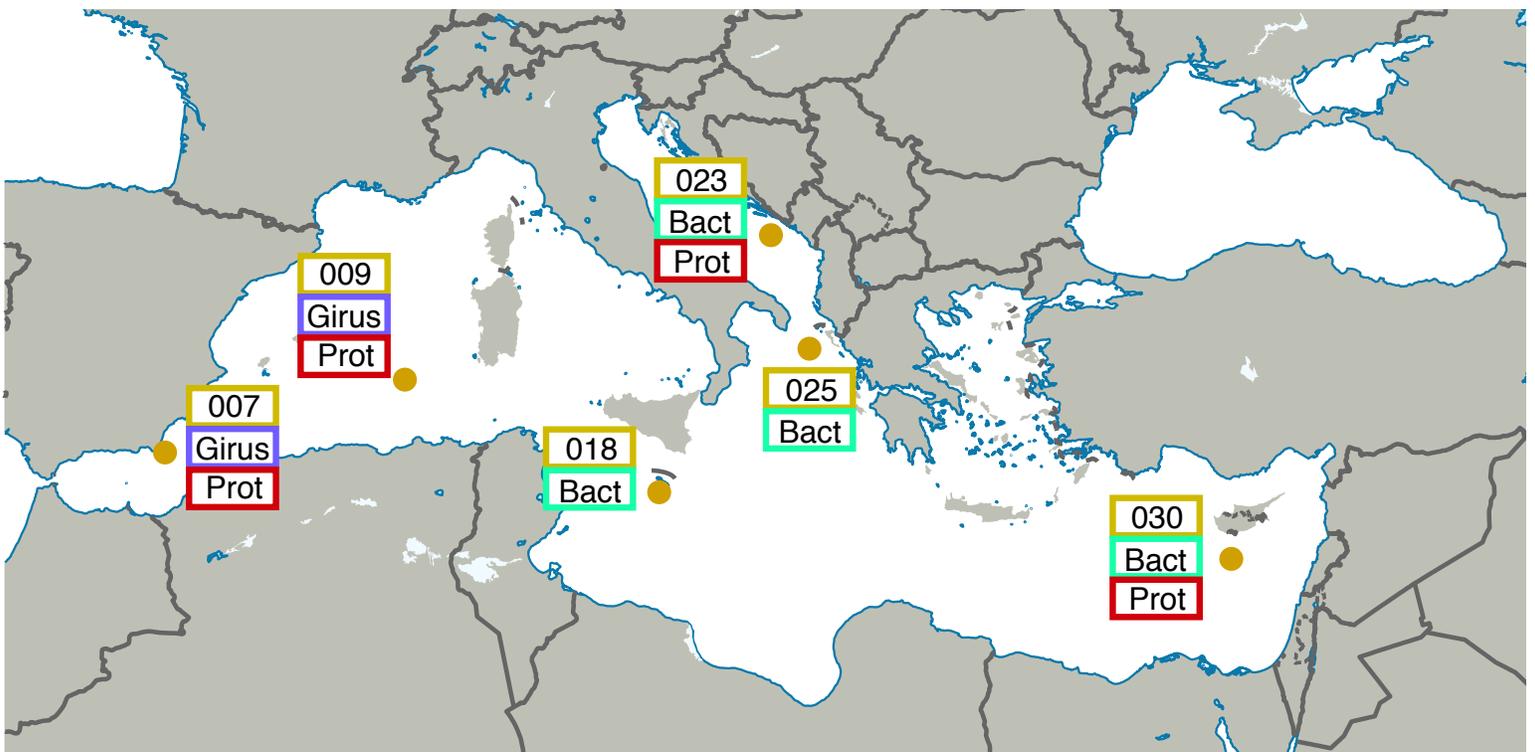


Figure 1. Map illustrating the locations and size fractions sampled for the Tara Oceans Mediterranean Sea datasets. Girus, 'giant virus' size fraction (0.22-1.6 μm). Bact, 'bacteria' size fraction (0.22-1.6 μm). Prot, 'protist' size fraction (0.8-5.0 μm)

Figure 2(on next page)

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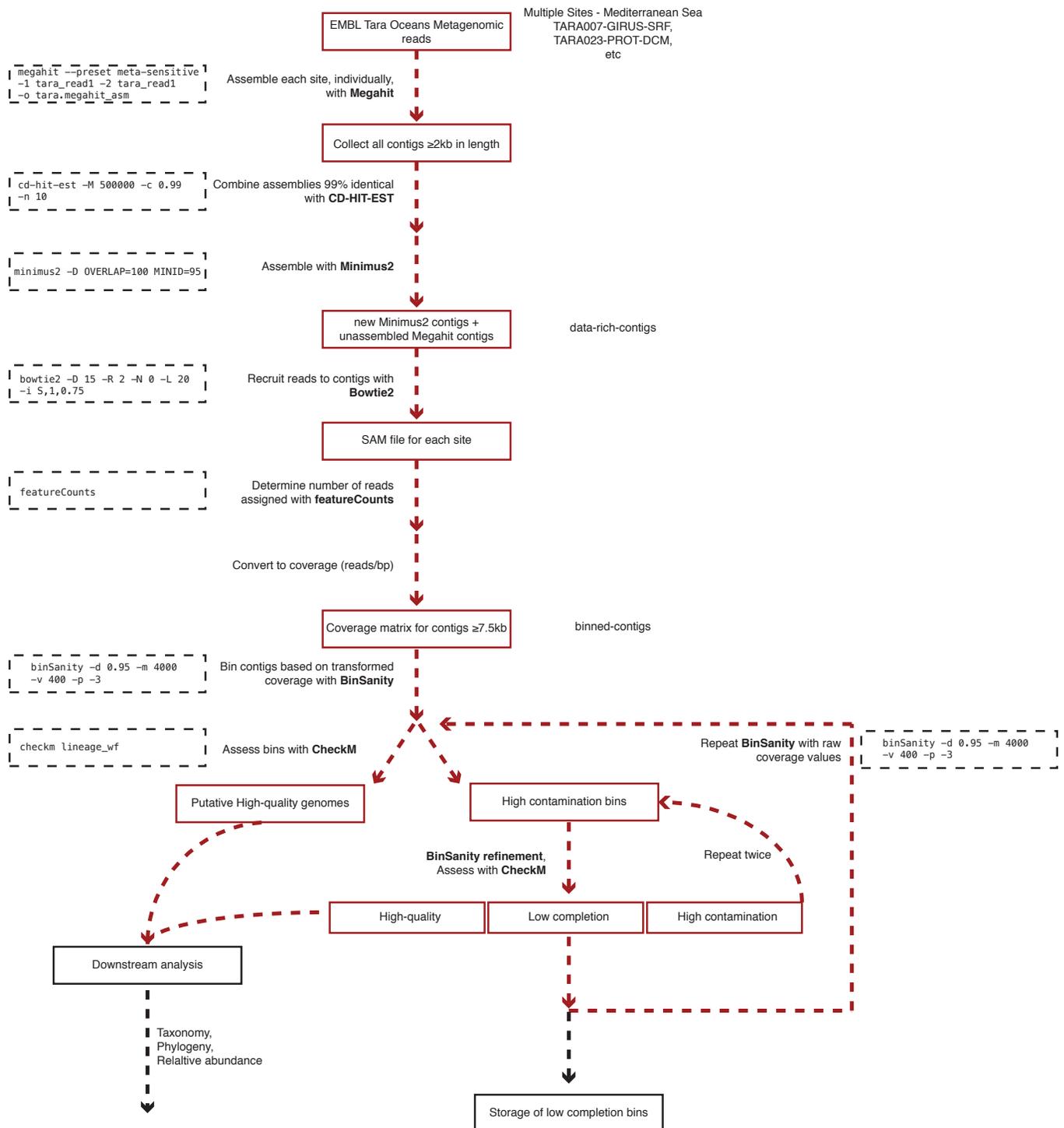


Figure 2. Workflow used to process Tara Oceans Mediterranean Sea metagenomic datasets. Black hash boxes, program or tool used with parameters.

Figure 3(on next page)

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Figure 3. FastTree approximate maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree constructed with 37 and 785 16S rRNA genes from putative high-quality genomes and references, respectively.

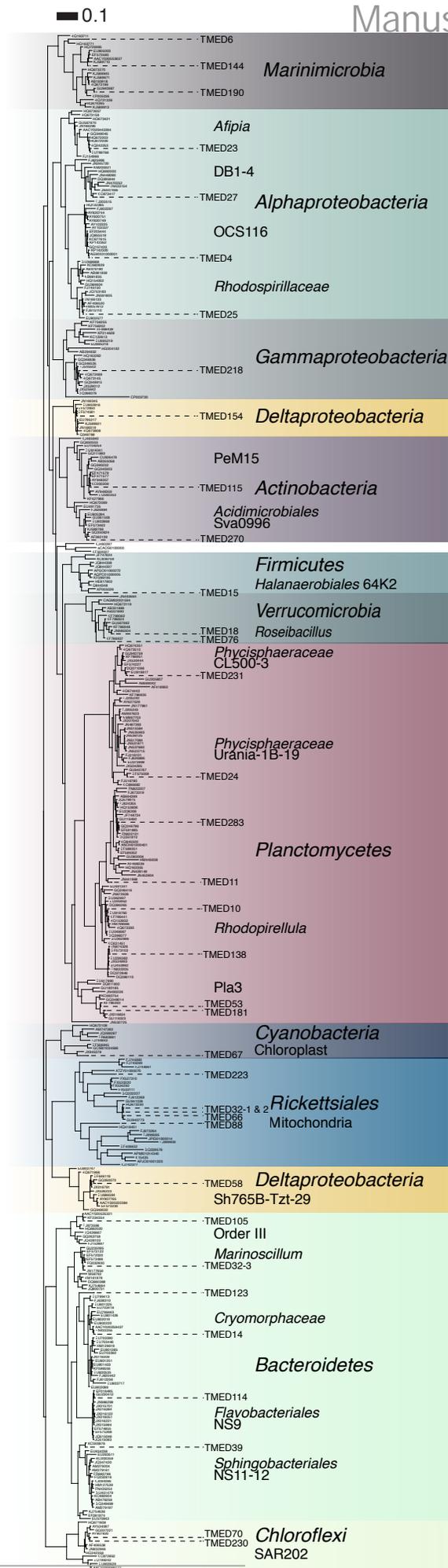


Figure 4(on next page)

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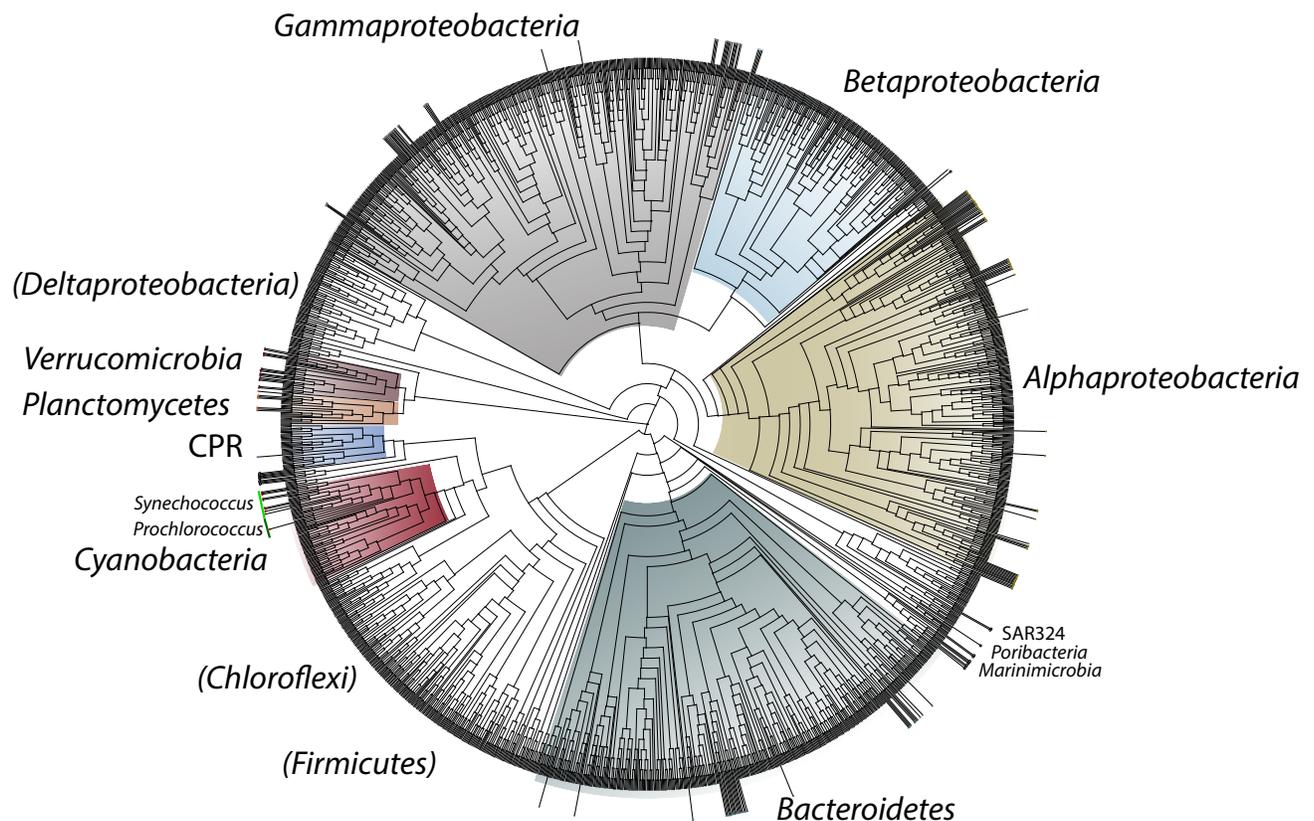


Figure 4. Cladogram of a FastTree approximate maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree constructed using 16 syntenic, single-copy marker genes for 193 high-quality genomes and 1,729 reference genomes. Leaves denoting the position of the TMED genomes have been indicated by extending beyond the edge of the tree. Sequence alignment is available in Supplemental Information S4. Phylogenetic tree newick file is available in Supplemental Information S5.

Table 1 (on next page)

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Table 1. Statistics for Megahit assemblies, recruitment to data-rich-contigs, and relative abundance of high-quality genome results for each sample

TARA Sample Site	Size Fraction (Girus, Bacteria, or Protist)	Depth (Surface or DCM*)	No. of reads	No. of initial Megahit assembly	N50 ^a (bp; initial Megahit assembly)	Longest initial Megahit assembly (bp)	Recruitment (% data-rich-contigs)	Relative abundance ^b of high-quality genomes (%)	Relative abundance ^b of ten most abundant genomes (%)
TARA007	Girus	DCM	178,519,830	1,318,470	828	220,754	72.84	14.64	6.35
TARA007	Girus	Surface	221,166,612	1,308,847	861	211,946	81.74	14.83	6.12
TARA007	Protist	DCM	744,458,992	4,667,618	654	188,635	19.45	8.60	3.18
TARA007	Protist	Surface	265,432,098	2,590,120	564	18,444	25.58	1.57	0.61
TARA009	Girus	DCM	416,553,274	2,796,841	831	1,643,839	69.48	14.16	6.32
TARA009	Girus	Surface	489,617,426	1,787,467	929	1,142,851	68.85	12.29	4.76
TARA009	Protist	DCM	329,036,110	1,938,636	613	95,724	22.07	13.35	4.20
TARA009	Protist	Surface	370,813,078	1,700,350	588	292,050	22.53	15.97	6.17
TARA018	Bacteria	DCM	408,021,182	2,520,645	840	1,573,060	76.22	11.49	3.18
TARA018	Bacteria	Surface	414,976,308	2,604,031	816	2,086,508	75.80	11.03	3.02
TARA023	Bacteria	DCM	147,400,552	1,273,576	830	213,456	76.08	13.29	4.09
TARA023	Bacteria	Surface	149,566,010	1,237,617	825	134,179	75.98	13.82	4.01
TARA023	Protist	DCM	508,610,652	2,707,801	734	336,689	28.23	25.07	7.83
TARA023	Protist	Surface	397,044,232	2,246,571	593	397,140	23.00	25.16	10.31
TARA025	Bacteria	DCM	386,627,816	2,516,865	806	388,546	69.77	14.55	5.35
TARA025	Bacteria	Surface	457,560,422	2,326,838	857	330,773	75.57	10.99	3.18
TARA030	Bacteria	DCM	346,837,034	1,968,945	1097	508,775	80.16	10.31	2.57
TARA030	Bacteria	Surface	478,785,582	1,639,697	1194	204,976	77.70	7.26	2.64
TARA030	Protist	DCM	426,896,616	1,620,343	616	478,892	15.12	17.83	5.13
TARA030	Protist	Surface	430,029,974	1,838,588	628	287,782	22.36	17.60	6.73

*DCM - deep chlorophyll maximum

^aN50 - length of DNA sequence above which 50% of the total is contained

^brelative abundance - determined using the reads recruited data-rich-contigs

Table 2 (on next page)

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Table 2. Assembly statistics at various steps during processing

Contig Grouping	No. of contigs	N50*	Total sequence (bp)
Megahit assemblies 200-499bp	24,999,285	n.d.	9,293,098,676
Megahit assemblies 500-1,999bp	16,103,221	n.d.	13,382,057,993
Megahit assemblies ≥ 2 kb	1,517,360	4,658	6,691,877,664
Megahit assemblies ≥ 2 kb (post-CD-HIT-EST)	1,126,975	4,520	4,894,479,496
Minimus2 contigs	158,414	15,394	1,727,079,865
Minimus2 + unassembled Megahit contigs ≥ 2 kb (data-rich-contigs)	660,937	5,466	3,612,405,904
Minimus2 + unassembled Megahit contigs ≥ 7.5 kb (binned-contigs)	95,506	20,556	1,725,063,313

*N50 - length of DNA sequence above which 50% of the total is contained