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## **OPEN** 309 metagenome assembled microbial genomes from deep DATA DESCRIPTOR sediment samples in the Gulfs of **Kathiawar Peninsula**

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Prokaryoplankton genomes from the deep marine sediments are less explored compared to shallow shore sediments. The Gulfs of Kathiawar peninsula experience varied currents and inputs from different on-shore activities. Any perturbations would directly influence the microbiome and their normal homeostasis. Advancements in reconstructing genomes from metagenomes allows us to understand the role of individual unculturable microbes in ecological niches like the Gulf sediments. Here, we report 309 bacterial and archaeal genomes assembled from metagenomics data of deep sediments from sites in the Gulf of Khambhat and Gulf of Kutch as well as a sample from the Arabian Sea. Phylogenomics classified them into 5 archaeal and 18 bacterial phyla. The genomes will facilitate understanding of the physiology, adaptation and impact of on-shore anthropogenic activities on the deep sediment microbes.

### **Background & Summary**

Marine microbiome is considered as the largest environment on earth which has many secrets concealed into it<sup>1,2</sup>. Many marine microbes play a key role in biogeochemical cycles. However, high proportions of microbes remain uncultured in vitro<sup>3</sup> and so instead of analysing the microbes individually, cultivation-independent genome-level characterization methods notably single-cell genomics and metagenomics are frequently being applied for microbiome analysis<sup>4</sup>. Amplicon sequencing based cultivation-independent studies are enriching the microbial diversity knowledge of various hitherto less studied environmental niche, specifically within the marine resources. However, amplicon analysis is just a preliminary step in metagenomics as it focuses only on one gene for the community diversity assessment.

With the view of studying the marine microbial community for determination of its composition in terms of diversity as well as function, whole metagenomics has become the preferred approach. Recently, it has been realized that the actual understanding of metagenomics data can be obtained by individual genome binning, which eventually also enhances the microbial genome database<sup>5</sup>. This requires use of various complex computational algorithms including those relying on previous data findings viz., the supervised classifiers and the unsupervised classifiers that rely on sequence specific features like the GC content, k-mer frequency and coverage estimation for binning the genomes. Most of the recently developed tools for binning include a combined approach of both the algorithms<sup>6</sup>. Binning aids in revealing the link between the potential functional genes in a given microbiome to its taxonomy.

The unique properties of the Gulfs of Kathiawar Peninsula like extreme tidal variations, different sediment texture and physicochemical variations make them an ideal place for studying the microbial diversity. Varied

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Metagenome	Bioproject ID (EBI and MGnify)	EBI accession	MGnify accession	Pooled assembly accession (NCBI)
А	PRJEB26614/ERP108616/MGYS00002380	ERS2466930	MGYA00475148	GCA_012974985.1/JABAOH00000000 [Bioproject: PRJNA623070, Sample: GOC_A_pooled]
GOCS1		ERS2466926	MGYA00166412	
GOCS2		ERS2466927	MGYA00166413	
GOCS3		ERS2466928	MGYA00475145	
GOCS4		ERS2466929	MGYA00166411	
GOKS1	PRJEB26615/ERP108617/MGYS00002379	ERS2466931	MGYA00166409	GCA_012974765.1/JABAHS000000000 [Bioproject: PRJNA622989, Sample: GOKZ_pooled]
GOKS2		ERS2466932	MGYA00166408	
GOKS3		ERS2466933	MGYA00166410	
GOKS4		ERS2466934	MGYA00475146	

 Table 1. Data availability of metagenomic sequence reads used to compute the pooled assembly and further MAGs.

Quality standard	Quality	Criteria used for quality standard	# MAGs meeting quality standard	Remark		
	High	Criteria 1: >=90% completeness Criteria 2: <=10% contamination Criteria 3: >=5 kb N50	71	_		
<u>Current manuscript</u>	Medium	Criteria 1: 70–90% completeness Criteria 2: <= 10% contamination Criteria 3: Failing high quality standard	120	_		
	Low	Failing medium quality standard	118	-		
Minimum Information about	High	Criteria 1: >=90% completeness Criteria 2: <=5% contamination Criteria 3: genes for >=18/20 tRNAs Criteria 4: genes for 5 S, 16 S, 23 S rRNAs	46	46 MAGs fullfilled the criteria 1 to 3, however, 37 from these MAGs lacked one or more rRNA gene/s (criteria 4)		
<u>Genome (MIMAG)</u> Bowers et al. 2017	Medium	Criteria 1: >= 50% completeness Criteria 2: <= 10% contamination Criteria 3: Failing high quality standard	186	_		
	Low	Failing medium quality standard	77	_		

 Table 2. Details of the number of MAGs from this study passing MIMAG quality standards.

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onshore anthropogenic activities may have imparted unique features to the microflora of the Gulfs. Study of microbial diversity and functions in the mentioned Gulfs have largely been focused on cultivation based approaches and very few molecular studies have been conducted on the shore sediments. Additionally, the presence of several on-shore industries like fertilizer, chemicals, oil refineries, power plants and ASSBRY (Alang Ship Breaking Yard) may have also influenced the deeper sediment microbiome leading to their variable gene profile<sup>7</sup>. Our previous insights into the pelagic sediment resistome profile by metagenomics approach have shown that the deeper sediments, earlier thought to be primeval are actually hosting microbes with a concerning number of resistance genes<sup>7,8</sup>. This acted as a propeller to the present study wherein we tried to look deeper into the metagenomics data of the samples collected from the Gulfs of Kathiawar Peninsula and a sample from the Arabian Sea by sorting individual prokaryoplankton genomes from the data using the binning approach.

We successfully reconstructed 309 Metagenome Assembled Genomes (MAGs) from the nine sediment metagenomics sequences (Table 1) from Gulf of Khambhat (GOC), Gulf of Kutch (GOK) and Arabian Sea (A) by differential coverage approach and considering the GC percent and tetranucleotide frequencies. Out of the 309 MAGs, 39 were archaeal genomes (Online-only Table 1) and 270 were bacterial genomes (Online-only Table 2). Seventy-one were high quality drafts with a completeness of  $\geq$ 90% and contamination <10%, 120 were medium quality (completeness: 70–90%, contamination: <10%) and the remaining 118 were draft genomes with a final completeness of  $\geq$ 50%. The distribution of the bins as per the MIMAG quality standards<sup>9</sup> is described in Table 2. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of multiple MAGs from the studied sites.

Single nucleotide polymorphisms were correlated to quality of bins to understand the influence of strain heterogeneity on the fragmentation of the MAGs (Fig. 1). Phylogenomic analysis revealed that the archaeal populations were quite different in two Gulfs, with GOC bins (n = 15) encompassing 3 major phyla: Thaumarchaeota and Aenigmarchaeota from the DPANN superphylum andBathyarchaeota. The GOK genomes (n = 24) were falling under the Bathyarchaeota, Thaumarchaeota, Euryarchaeota and the Korarchaeota phyla (Figs. 2 and 3). Based on the community profile assessment of the samples by considering all the reads, the above mentioned archaeal phyla represented <3% of the total microbial population at each sample site. Majority of the phyla were those reported earlier in the marine and estuarine environments, with most having few or no cultured represent-atives<sup>10,11</sup>. The observed genomes like Thaumarchaeota have been reported to be nitrifiers in the sediment niche, thus, the insights into their gene content will provide details on the functional significance of the archaea in the



**Fig. 1** Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were called for the MAGs reported here and compared with (**a**) quality, (**b**) sample site and (**c**) N50. The values were plotted as box plot with Min/Max whiskers and line in the middle corresponding to the mean value.



Fig. 2 The distribution of MAGs across archaeal and bacterial phyla in the studied sites. Four MAGs that were classified only up to the domain level have not been depicted here.

respective sample site. Genomes from Thaumarchaeota were recovered from both the sites (Fig. 2). Nevertheless, the difference in the populations observed in two Gulfs can also be studied based on the predicted roles of the genomes and correlation with the niche properties.





Among the bacterial members, five phyla were commonly observed between the Gulfs viz., *Proteobacteria, Zixibacteria, Gemmatimonadetes, Dadabacteria* and *Planctomycetes* (Figs. 2 and 4). Among the common bacterial phyla, *Proteobacteria* majorly comprised of Gammaproteobacteria members which are the most abundant reported bacteria in the marine sediments and have been reported to perform versatile roles including metabolite production, hydrocarbon degradation, acetate assimilation and many more<sup>12,13</sup>. *Zixibacteria* and *Dadabacteria* MAGs have been reported from marine environments as an evolutionary phyla and these have been observed to play role in the nutrient cycling of the niche<sup>14,15</sup>. Apart from these, few genomes in GOC encompassed *Bacteroidetes*, FCB superphylum, *Armatimonadates, Acidobacteria*, Chloroflexi and *Aminicenantes* phyla; while those in GOK were falling under *Actinobacteria*, KSB1, *Saccharibacteria* (TM7), *Nitrospinae, Caldithrix, Verrucomicrobia* and *Balneolaeota*. Species belonging to *Nitrospinae* are reported to be exclusively abundant in marine niche, where they play a role in nitrite oxidization, as well as these are ubiquitously observed in sites demanding thermoprotection<sup>16,17</sup>. Community profiling of the samples by considering all the reads revealed that the MAGs identified within *Proteobacteria* (>40%) and *Chloroflexi* (~15%) phyla represented a substantial population, while rest of the MAGs corresponded to 0.01% to 5% of the total microbial community at each sample site (details in Supplementary Table 1a and b).

The genomic bins described here would prominently enhance the repertoire of microbial genomic information from the Gulfs of Kathiawar Peninsula. It will also provide the insights for better understanding the effects of on-shore activities on the microbiome of deeper sediment in the Gulfs. In the long term, the data will fortify further applications of the genomic information for 1) understanding the microbes involved in the marine nutrient



Fig. 4 Bacterial clades having  $\geq 10$  MAGs classified as the same level are collapsed and represented by triangles, size of which is proportional to the number of genomes collapsed in the taxa level which is also mentioned in the parentheses. Validity of the tree is indicated by filled black circles, size indicates bootstrap between 80 to 100%. The *Akkermansiaceae* (phylum: *Verrucomicrobia*) was arbitrarily taken as the root, the tree may be considered as unrooted<sup>34</sup>.

cycling, 2) open gates for bioprospection of novel thermophilic and halophilic enzymes and 3) allow understanding of microbial-host and microbial-niche interactions as the phylum distribution reflects the variability across the 2 Gulfs under study.

### Methods

**Sample collection and whole metagenome sequencing.** The sediment samples were collected and sequenced for whole metagenomics using Illumina HiSeq platform as described earlier<sup>7,8</sup>. In brief, one-meterlong sediment cores were collected from 9 locations across the 2 Gulfs, Gujarat state and open Arabian Sea by sailing through boats. The cores were maintained in cold storage and processed by cutting into halves without disturbing the sediments. 10 cm of sediment from top, middle and bottom of the core each was distributed into 3 sterile 50 ml collection containers. They were further used for assessment of physicochemical properties, metagenomic DNA isolation and culturing purpose. DNA was isolated in multiplicates to reach desired quantity using the MoBio Power Soil DNA isolation Kit (Qiagen, Germany). The DNA from each core section was pooled in equimolar concentrations for whole metagenomics sequencing. The sequences were quality filtered for adaptor removal and a minimum quality score of 20.

**Metagenomics assembly.** The quality filtered reads of four GOK samples were used for pooled assembly using CLC Genomics Workbench v11.0 with default parameters except a k-mer size of 31 and a minimum contig

length of 1 Kb, which resulted into 478 Mb of assembled data. Similarly, the four samples of GOC along with the A sample were included in another set of pooled assembly of 779 Mb. The raw reads from each of the individual nine samples were mapped against the two assemblies for coverage estimation using CLC Genomics Workbench. The coverage and the BAM files were obtained for further binning process.

Genome binning. Metagenome assembled genomes (MAGs) were binned from both the assemblies using Maxbin v2.0<sup>6</sup> using the full reference marker set of genes for bacteria and archaea. More than 900 bins were initially obtained from the pooled datasets. The quality of bins was checked by CheckM v1.1.0 using the lineage-specific workflow and the bins were assessed based on its completeness and contamination values<sup>18</sup>. Contigs with outlier values for the GC percentage and tetranucleotide frequency were removed from the bins for lowering the contamination levels. The assessed bins were further refined using RefineM v0.0.22 by individual genomic properties, taxonomy and SSU based approaches. Further, the individual output of the genomic properties was used as input for the other methods, viz., output bins from the genomic property refined program was further filtered by taxonomic method and so on. The refined bins were re-assessed using CheckM v1.1.0<sup>18</sup>. It was observed that the refinement using the genomic properties which screens for any outlier contigs/scaffoled in a MAG in terms of GC percent, tetranuceotide frequency and coverage did improve the bins in terms of their completeness. While, the taxa based refinement gave an overall improvement of  $\sim 2\%$  for few bins and a reduction in the contamination by removal of duplicate or miss-assigned single copy gene encoding contigs. SSU based refinement had no major impact on the MAGs in the study. The bins were then sorted into high quality, medium quality, draft and/or low quality genomes. Out of >900 bins, 309 bins that were falling up to the draft genome category were checked for taxonomic classification using the GTDB-tk v0.3.3 classifier<sup>19</sup>. However, for final submission as suggested by NCBI team, few of the NCBI taxonomic synonyms from GTDB-tk classification were considered. The strain names in the nomenclature were assigned as "sample number of the mapped reads – pooled assembly against which the reads were mapped followed by the number of bin from the mapped sample", as an example for the strain CS3-K071, CS3 indicates Gulf of Khambhat/Cambay Sample 3 which was mapped against the pooled assembly of Kutch samples and 071 is the bin number from the total bins generated from this mapping. The bins were also submitted to RAST v2.0 for annotation and the number of Protein Encoding Genes (PEGs) for each MAG were inferred from the same for preliminary functional assessment prior to NCBI submission<sup>20</sup>.

**SNP estimation of the MAGs.** SNPs were called for each MAG (n = 275, bins generated from all nine samples as a pool were omitted from SNP analysis) (Supplementary Table 1a and b) to assess their genetic diversity as described earlier<sup>21</sup>. For the same, a database of MAGs from each of the nine samples was computed using Bowtie2 v.2.3.4.1<sup>22</sup> for aligning the respective metagenomic reads. The SNP/Kbps were compared with the quality, sample site and N50 and of the MAGs. All the plots were computed using GraphPad Prism v8.4.1 for Windows<sup>23</sup>.

**Phylogenomic tree construction.** The archaeal and bacterial trees were inferred using the insert genome set into species tree app in the Kbase<sup>24</sup>. The annotated bins from NCBI were uploaded as GenBank file and a genome set was prepared using the app Batch Create Genome Set v1.2.0 along with one genome from the database (as default parameter was to take minimum one reference genome). The tree was computed by the alignment of a pre-decided subset of COG (Clusters of Orthologous Groups) domains using FastTree v. 2.1.10<sup>25</sup>, by maximum likelihood phylogeny. The tree was further annotated by iTOL v5.0<sup>26</sup>. The reference genome was hidden during visualization, keeping only the MAGs under the study.

#### **Data Records**

The raw metagenomics reads and their corresponding pooled assemblies are available from EBI and NCBI<sup>27,28</sup>, respectively as detailed in Table 1. The sample-wise metagenome assemblies and pooled assemblies (GOC-A and GOK) are available under the Bioproject Id as mentioned in Table 1<sup>29,30</sup>. The 309 assembled genome sequences and their functional annotations are available from NCBI database<sup>31,32</sup> via biosample and genome accession numbers as detailed in Online-only Tables 1 and 2. The tree files corresponding to the figures and with reference genomes can be accessed throughfigshare<sup>33</sup>.

#### **Technical Validation**

The quality of MAGs was assessed using CheckM to validate the completeness and contamination of the bins. The genomes were also manually assessed at each point for similar bins by considering the parameters like GC, genome statistics and the number of genes.

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### **Author contributions**

N.M.N.: planned the study, extracted DNA, assembled the metagenomes, binned and refined genomes, submitted all sequences to databases, and wrote the manuscript. K.J.D.: prepared table and annotated the genomes. P.V.: helped in writing the manuscript and genome quality assessment. M.S.M.: helped in submission of all sequences to databases. P.S.: helped in SNP density computation for all the bins. C.M.: planned the study, organized the sampling, collected the samples, extracted DNA, assembled the metagenomes, binned and refined the genomes, made figures, and wrote the manuscript.

#### **Competing interests**

The authors declare no competing interests.

#### **Additional information**

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