

1 **Distinctive Gene and Protein Characteristics of Extremely Piezophilic *Colwellia***

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## 24 **Background**

25 The deep ocean is characterized by low temperatures, high hydrostatic pressures, and low  
26 concentrations of organic matter. While these conditions likely select for distinct genomic  
27 characteristics within prokaryotes, the attributes facilitating adaptation to the deep ocean are  
28 relatively unexplored. In this study, we compared the genomes of seven strains within the genus  
29 *Colwellia*, including some of the most piezophilic microbes known, to identify genomic features  
30 that enable life in the deep sea.

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## 32 **Results**

33 Significant differences were found to exist between piezophilic and non-piezophilic strains of  
34 *Colwellia*. Piezophilic *Colwellia* have a more basic and hydrophobic proteome. The piezophilic  
35 abyssal and hadal isolates have more genes involved in replication/recombination/repair, cell  
36 wall/membrane biogenesis, and cell motility. The characteristics of respiration, pilus generation,  
37 and membrane fluidity adjustment vary between the strains, with operons for a *nuo*  
38 dehydrogenase and a *tad* pilus only present in the piezophiles. In contrast, the piezosensitive  
39 members are unique in having the capacity for dissimilatory nitrite and TMAO reduction. A  
40 number of genes exist only within deep-sea adapted species, such as those encoding d-alanine-d-  
41 alanine ligase for peptidoglycan formation, alanine dehydrogenase for NADH/NAD<sup>+</sup>  
42 homeostasis, and archaeal methyltransferase for tRNA modification. Many of these piezophile-  
43 specific genes are in variable regions of the genome near genomic islands, transposases, and  
44 toxin-antitoxin systems.

45

## 46 **Conclusions**

47 We identified a number of adaptations that may facilitate deep-sea radiation in members of the  
48 genus *Colwellia*, as well as in other piezophilic bacteria. An enrichment in more basic and  
49 hydrophobic amino acids could help piezophiles stabilize and limit water intrusion into proteins  
50 as a result of high pressure. Variations in genes associated with the membrane, including those  
51 involved in unsaturated fatty acid production and respiration, indicate that membrane-based  
52 adaptations are critical for coping with high pressure. The presence of many piezophile-specific  
53 genes near genomic islands highlights that adaptation to the deep ocean may be facilitated by  
54 horizontal gene transfer through transposases or other mobile elements. Some of these genes are  
55 amenable to further study in genetically tractable piezophilic and piezotolerant deep-sea  
56 microorganisms.

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## 70 **Background**

71           The deep biosphere makes up one of the largest biomes on earth. An inherent  
72 environmental parameter present throughout deep-oceanic and subsurface habitats is high  
73 hydrostatic pressure. Elevated hydrostatic pressure influences many aspects of biochemistry and  
74 requires adaptations throughout the cell (e.g. Somero, 1992). One well-studied adaptation is the  
75 incorporation of unsaturated fatty acids into the membrane to combat physical changes such as  
76 decreased fluidity (e.g. DeLong & Yayanos, 1985; DeLong & Yayanos, 1986; Allen *et al.*,  
77 1999). Additional membrane-associated adaptations are linked to porin-mediated nutrient  
78 transport (Bartlett *et al.*, 1989; Bartlett & Chi 1994), respiration (e.g. Yamada *et al.*, 2000; Vezzi  
79 *et al.*, 2005; Xiong *et al.*, 2016), and flagellar function (Eloe *et al.*, 2008). Within the cell  
80 changes in DNA replication, DNA structure, protein synthesis, and compatible solutes are also  
81 important (El-Hajj *et al.*, 2009; Martin *et al.*, 2002; Lauro *et al.*, 2008; Yancey *et al.*, 2014).  
82 Pressure-induced changes in transcription implicate additional functions (e.g. Campanaro *et al.*,  
83 2012; Michoud & Jebbar, 2016). Despite the fact that pressure exerts a profound influence on the  
84 nature of life at depth, it is largely ignored in studies of deep-ocean biomes, and in marked  
85 contrast to microbial adaptation to temperature or salinity, a robust description of biochemical  
86 adaptation to high pressure is lacking.

87           Only a modest number of psychrophilic (cold-loving) and piezophilic (high-pressure  
88 loving) species have been isolated to date, in large part due to the constraints imposed by  
89 culturing under under *in situ*, high hydrostatic pressure conditions. However, metagenomic  
90 sequencing of deep-ocean communities, and additional analyses of individual microbial  
91 genomes, have provided insights. Metagenomic investigations have included locations within the  
92 North Pacific subtropical gyre, the Mediterranean and the Puerto Rico Trench (DeLong *et al.*,

93 2006; Martin-Cuadrado *et al.*, 2007; Konstantinidis *et al.*, 2009; Eloe *et al.*, 2011; Smedile *et al.*,  
94 2013). Genomic studies include those on *Pseudoalteromonas* (Qin *et al.*, 2011), *Alteromonas*  
95 (Ivars-Martinez *et al.*, 2008), *Shewanella* (Wang *et al.*, 2008; Aono *et al.*, 2010), *Photobacterium*  
96 (Campanaro *et al.*, 2005; Vezzi *et al.*, 2005; Lauro *et al.*, 2014), SAR11 (Thrash *et al.*, 2014),  
97 and members of the *Thaumarchaeota* (Luo *et al.*, 2014; Swan *et al.*, 2014). One picture that has  
98 emerged from the examinations at this level is that deep-sea microbes are enriched in mobile  
99 elements, such as phage and transposases (DeLong *et al.*, 2006; Ivars-Martinez *et al.*, 2008; Eloe  
100 *et al.*, 2011; Qin *et al.*, 2011; Lauro *et al.*, 2013; Smedile *et al.*, 2013; Léon-Zayas *et al.*, 2015).  
101 This has been attributed to the relaxation of purifying selection as an adaptive mechanism  
102 (Konstantinidis *et al.*, 2009), either to deep-ocean conditions or to the conditions found on  
103 particles (Ganesh *et al.*, 2014). Additional properties include an enrichment in heavy metal  
104 resistance genes (Ivars-Martinez *et al.*, 2008; Eloe *et al.*, 2011; Qin *et al.*, 2011; Smedile *et al.*,  
105 2013; Fontanez *et al.*, 2015), the ability to use persistent dissolved organic material under  
106 oligotrophic conditions (e.g. Martin-Cuadrado *et al.*, 2007; Ivars-Martinez *et al.*, 2008; Arrieta *et*  
107 *al.*, 2015; Landry *et al.*, 2017), and widespread ability for chemoautotrophy (Swan *et al.*, 2011;  
108 Swan *et al.*, 2014; Dykstra *et al.*, 2016; Mußmann *et al.*, 2017; Pachiadaki *et al.*, 2017). The  
109 small number of genome sequences of experimentally-confirmed deep-ocean piezophiles include  
110 hyperthermophilic archaea (*Pyrococcus* and *Thermoccus*; Vannier *et al.*, 2011; Jun *et al.*, 2015;  
111 Dalmaso *et al.*, 2016), a thermophilic bacterium (*Marinitoga*; Lucas *et al.*, 2012), a mesophilic  
112 bacterium (*Desulfovibrio*; Pradel *et al.*, 2013) and psychrophilic bacteria (*Photobacterium*,  
113 *Psychromonas*, and *Shewanella*; Vezzi *et al.*, 2005; Aono *et al.*, 2010; Lauro *et al.*, 2013a; Lauro  
114 *et al.*, 2013b; Zhang *et al.*, 2019b). The genomic adaptations of these microorganisms to the deep  
115 ocean or high hydrostatic pressure have not been fully explored (e.g. reviewed in Simonato *et al.*,

116 2006; Lauro *et al.*, 2008; Oger & Jebbar, 2010; Peoples & Bartlett, 2017). Thus far the genome  
117 characteristics of only one experimentally-confirmed obligately psychropiezophilic bacterial  
118 species, *Shewanella benthica* (Lauro *et al.*, 2013a; Zhang *et al.*, 2019b), and one species of  
119 obligately thermopiezophilic archaeon, *Pyrococcus yayanosii* (Jun *et al.*, 2011), have been  
120 described.

121 Most known psychropiezophilic strains belong to phylogenetically narrow lineages of  
122 *Gammaproteobacteria*, including members of the *Colwellia*, *Shewanella*, *Moritella*,  
123 *Photobacterium*, and *Psychromonas* (reviewed in Jebbar *et al.*, 2015; Nogi *et al.*, 2017). The  
124 genus *Colwellia* contains some of the most psychrophilic and piezophilic species currently  
125 known. Members of this genus are heterotrophic and facultatively anaerobic (Bowman *et al.*,  
126 2014). This genus has been of recent interest because of its association with the Deepwater  
127 Horizon oil spill, where members of the *Colwellia* became some of the most abundant taxa  
128 present because of their ability to degrade hydrocarbons (Redmond & Valentine, 2012; Mason *et*  
129 *al.*, 2014; Kleindienst *et al.*, 2015). Although *Colwellia* do not appear to be abundant members of  
130 deep-ocean or hadal (typically < 1% ; e.g. Eloë *et al.*, 2011; Tarn *et al.*, 2016; Peoples *et al.*,  
131 2018) communities, they can become dominant members under mesocosm conditions  
132 (Hoffmann *et al.*, 2017; Boeuf *et al.*, 2019; Peoples *et al.*, 2019a). At least four piezophiles have  
133 been successfully isolated and described from this genus. The first known obligate  
134 psychropiezophile, originally designated *Colwellia* sp. MT41, was isolated from the amphipod  
135 *Hirondellea gigas* from the Mariana Trench at a depth of 10,476 m (Yayanos *et al.*, 1981). Strain  
136 MT41 shows optimum growth at 103 MPa and does not grow at a pressure below 35 MPa,  
137 approximately the pressure at average ocean depths (Yayanos *et al.*, 1981; Yayanos, 1986;  
138 DeLong *et al.*, 1997). Recently, *Colwellia marinimaniae* MTCD1, the most piezophilic microbe

139 known to date, was isolated from an amphipod from the Mariana Trench (Kusube *et al.*, 2017).  
140 This strain displays an optimum growth pressure of 120 MPa and a growth range from 80 to 140  
141 MPa, higher than the pressure found at full ocean depth. Based on 16S rRNA gene similarity  
142 both strains MT41 and MTCD1 strains were determined to belong to the species *Colwellia*  
143 *marinimaniae* (Kusube *et al.*, 2017). Other psychropiezophiles within the genus include *C.*  
144 *hadaliensis* (Deming *et al.*, 1988) and *C. piezophila* (Nogi *et al.*, 2004), isolated from the Puerto  
145 Rico and Japan trenches, respectively. While the growth characteristics and fatty acid profiles of  
146 these piezophilic species of *Colwellia* have been reported, other adaptations of these strains for  
147 dealing with high hydrostatic pressure and deep-ocean environmental conditions have not been  
148 investigated in great detail.

149 In this study, we compared the genomes of members of the *Colwellia* to identify  
150 attributes that confer adaptation to the deep ocean. We report the genome sequences of three  
151 obligately piezophilic *Colwellia*; *Colwellia marinimaniae* MT41, *C. marinimaniae* MTCD1, and  
152 a new isolate obtained from sediment in the Tonga Trench, *Colwellia* sp. TT2012. We compared  
153 these genomes, along with the publicly-available genome of *C. piezophila* ATCC BAA-637  
154 (isolated as strain Y223G; Nogi *et al.*, 2004), against three piezosensitive strains of *C.*  
155 *psychrerythraea*. The piezosensitive strains include the most well-studied member of the  
156 *Colwellia*, *C. psychrerythraea* 34H, a psychrophile isolated from Arctic ocean sediments  
157 (Huston *et al.*, 2000) whose adaptations to low temperature have been investigated at multiple  
158 levels (e.g. Marx *et al.*, 2009; Showalter & Deming, 2018), including with genomics (Methé *et*  
159 *al.*, 2005). The two other comparison strains are *C. psychrerythraea* GAB14E and ND2E,  
160 obtained from the Great Australian Bight at a depth of 1472 m and the Mediterranean Sea from  
161 495 m, respectively (Figure 1A; Techtmann *et al.*, 2016). While the *C. psychrerythraea* strains

162 share 99% identical 16S rRNA sequences, they have very divergent average nucleotide identities  
163 (ANI; Techtmann *et al.*, 2016). Because low temperatures and high pressures have similar effects  
164 on biochemical processes, these three microbes were selected as comparison strains because they  
165 all show growth at low temperatures, reducing the impact of temperature as a confounding  
166 factor. Through the comparison of these seven strains depth and pressure-associated shifts were  
167 identified in protein amino acid distributions and isoelectric points, as well as in gene  
168 abundances, including the discovery of piezophile-specific genes.

169

## 170 **Results**

### 171 *General characteristics*

172 We first evaluated the influence of high hydrostatic pressure on the growth of the seven  
173 strains of *Colwellia*. The growth characteristics of *Colwellia marinimaniae* MT41, *C.*  
174 *marinimaniae* MTCD1, and *C. piezophila* have been previously reported, showing growth  
175 optima at 103 MPa (Yayanos, 1986; DeLong *et al.*, 1997), 120 MPa (Kusube *et al.*, 2017), and  
176 60 MPa (Nogi *et al.*, 2004), respectively. *Colwellia* sp. TT2012 is obligately piezophilic,  
177 showing growth at 84 and 96 MPa but not at atmospheric pressure. We report the optimum  
178 growth pressure in this manuscript as 84 MPa because strain TT2012 was not able to be revived  
179 after repeated cryopreservation for growth rate analyses at lower or higher pressures. The three  
180 *C. psychrerythraea* strains displayed different growth patterns from one another, but similarly  
181 showed no growth at a pressure of 40 MPa after 10 days regardless of temperature (4°C or 16°C;  
182 Supplementary Figure 1). Based on these growth characteristics, we classified the microbes as  
183 either piezophilic (*C. marinimaniae* MT41, *C. marinimaniae* MTCD1, *Colwellia* sp. TT2012,



184 and *C. piezophila*) or piezosensitive (*C. psychrerythraea* strains 34H, GAB14E, and ND2E).

185 These terms are used to describe these groupings for the remainder of the manuscript.

186 To identify genomic attributes that facilitate growth at high pressure in the deep sea, we  
187 compared the genomes of the piezophilic and piezosensitive strains (Table 1). We report here for  
188 the first time the genome sequences of *Colwellia marinimaniae* MT41, *C. marinimaniae*  
189 MTCD1, and *Colwellia* sp. TT2012. The remaining genomes are either publicly available (*C.*  
190 *piezophila*, Kyrpides *et al.*, 2014) or have been previously reported (strain 34H, Methé *et al.*,  
191 2005; strains ND2E and GAB14E, Techtmann *et al.*, 2016). The piezophiles are more closely  
192 related to one another than to the piezosensitive strains based on a whole genome marker tree  
193 and average nucleotide identity (Figure 1). This is also true when the strains are compared using  
194 a ribosomal 16S rRNA gene phylogenetic tree (Supplementary Figure 2). *Colwellia marinimaniae*  
195 MT41, *C. marinimaniae* MTCD1, and *Colwellia* sp. TT2012 share approximately 96% 16S  
196 rRNA gene sequence similarity and formed a monophyletic clade with an isolate from the  
197 Kermadec Trench. Despite being isolated 34 years apart, strains MT41 and MTCD1 share  
198 greater than 99% 16S rRNA gene sequence similarity and ANI. In contrast, the ANI of these  
199 strains are only 95% similar to TT2012, indicating that TT2012 represents a distinct species. *C.*  
200 *piezophila* does not appear to belong to this 16S rRNA gene tree piezophile-only monophyletic  
201 clade (Supplementary Figure 2), although this relationship could not be confirmed with a whole  
202 genome marker tree due to a lack of related genomes. Despite showing greater than 98% 16S  
203 rRNA gene sequence similarity, the ANI of *C. psychrerythraea* strains 34H, GAB14E, and  
204 ND2E is less than 90%, indicating that they have highly variable genome sequences.

205

206 *GC content and amino acid features*

207 We first compared general genomic attributes of the piezophilic and piezosensitive  
208 strains, including genome size, GC content, isoelectric point, and amino acid distribution.  
209 Genome sizes ranged between 4.3 and 5.7 Mbp in size (Table 1). The three piezophiles isolated  
210 from the deepest depths (strains MT41, MTCD1, TT2012) have smaller genomes than the  
211 piezosensitive strains (T-test,  $p < .031$ ), but no correlation between genome size and optimum  
212 growth pressure was found when considering *C. piezophila* and other members of the *Colwellia*  
213 (Supplementary Figure 3). Coding density is lower in the piezophilic *Colwellia*. This is true even  
214 when including all sequenced members of the *Colwellia* (T-test,  $p < .01$ ). GC content ranged  
215 between ~ 38 and 39%, with slightly higher GC present in the piezophiles. This is also true when  
216 compared with other *Colwellia* strains with the exception of *C. chukchiensis* (Supplementary  
217 Figure 3; T-test,  $p < .08$ ). However, when examining members of the genera *Colwellia*,  
218 *Psychromonas*, and *Shewanella*, no correlation was apparent between % GC and growth  
219 pressure. No correlation was found between optimum growth pressure and % GC within full  
220 length 16S rRNA genes in the *Colwellia*.

221 Next, we evaluated the isoelectric point distributions of the *Colwellia*. Both piezophilic  
222 and piezosensitive strains show a similar bimodal distribution of protein isoelectric points.  
223 However, the piezophiles have a higher number of basic proteins (Figure 2; T-test,  $p < .01$ ). This  
224 shift is also seen when comparing within a broader number of *Colwellia* (T-test,  $p < .01$ ) with the  
225 exception of *C. chukchiensis* (Supplementary Figure 4). Piezophilic strains within the genera  
226 *Psychromonas* and *Shewanella* also show a higher number of basic proteins compared to their  
227 piezosensitive counterparts (Supplementary Figure 4; T-test, *Psychromonas*,  $p < .03$ ; T-test,  
228 *Shewanella*, clade 3,  $p < .34$ ), with obligate piezophiles such as *Shewanella benthica* KT99,  
229 *Psychromonas* sp. CNPT3, and an uncultured *Psychromonas* single-amplified genome from a

230 hadal amphipod (Leon-Zayas *et al.*, 2015) having dramatically more basic proteins. GC content  
231 or optimum growth temperature does not appear to be responsible for this shift in pI bias, even  
232 when taking into account within-genus phylogenetic clades (Supplementary Figure 4,  
233 Supplementary Figure 5).

234 Comparisons of amino acid abundances within conserved, orthologous proteins showed  
235 that certain amino acids are more abundant in the piezophilic proteins when compared to those in  
236 *C. psychrerythraea* 34H (Figure 2). Amino acids that are specifically enriched in the piezophiles  
237 included tryptophan (W), tyrosine (Y), leucine (L), phenylalanine (F), histidine (H), and  
238 methionine (M). In contrast, amino acids enriched in the piezosensitive strain included glutamic  
239 acid (E), aspartic acid (D), asparagine (N), and serine (S). Specific amino acid asymmetrical  
240 substitutions in which one amino acid consistently replaced another, including substitutions that  
241 were also conserved in comparisons within members of the *Shewanella*, from piezosensitive to  
242 piezophilic amino acid were: glutamic acid → alanine (A), proline (P) → alanine, threonine (T)  
243 → isoleucine (I), valine (V) → isoleucine (I), glutamic acid → lysine (K), asparagine (N) →  
244 lysine, glutamic acid → glutamine (Q; Figure 2). Further asymmetrical substitutions specific to  
245 the genus *Colwellia* include, from non-piezophile to piezophile, aspartic acid → alanine, glycine  
246 (G) → alanine, serine → alanine, asparagine → histidine, valine → leucine, and glutamic acid →  
247 threonine.

248

#### 249 *Gene differences*

250 We compared the predicted gene complements of the piezophilic and piezosensitive  
251 strains. When comparing relative abundances of clusters of orthologous genes (COGs; Figure 3),  
252 piezophilic *Colwellia* have a higher percentage of genes for replication/recombination/repair

253 (Category L), cell wall/membrane biogenesis (Category M), cell motility (Category N),  
254 extracellular structures (Category W), and translation and ribosomal structure (Category J). The  
255 piezosensitive strains have higher percentages of genes for transcription (Category K), secondary  
256 metabolite biosynthesis/transport/metabolism (Category Q), and general function prediction  
257 (Category R). Transposable elements are notably more abundant in the piezophiles, with the  
258 exception of *C. piezophila*, having almost twice as many transposases as their piezosensitive  
259 counterparts (Figure 3). Toxin-antitoxin genes are also enriched in the piezophiles, with  
260 piezophilic strains containing 24-33 toxin-antitoxin genes while the piezosensitive *Colwellia*  
261 have 9-18 copies. We found that strain MT41 and *C. psychrerythraea* 34H have approximately  
262 11 and 9 genomic islands (GIs), respectively, as determined using Island Viewer (Bertelli *et al.*,  
263 2017). We do not report the total number of GIs in the other strains because the fragmentation of  
264 their genomes likely leads to GI misidentification.

265 All of the strains analyzed are heterotrophic. However, potential differences in carbon  
266 metabolism exist (Figure 3). Genes for sarcosine oxidase (*soxBDAG*), which function in the  
267 catabolism of glycine betaine in *Colwellia* (Collins & Deming, 2013), are present in 34H and  
268 ND2E but not in the piezophiles. Transporters and permeases for putrescine are enriched in 34H  
269 and GAB14E, strains where putrescine has been experimentally shown to be used as a sole  
270 carbon source (Techtmann *et al.*, 2016). In contrast, we identified genes involved in chitin  
271 degradation, such as a chitin binding protein and chitinase (family 10 and 18), in the piezophiles  
272 and GAB14E but not in the other piezosensitive strains.

273 Members of the *Colwellia* are facultative anaerobes capable of respiration and  
274 fermentation. While all the *Colwellia* compared here use both the rnf (*rnfABCDGE*) and Na<sup>+</sup>-nqr  
275 (*nqrABCDEF*) respiratory complexes, the NADH dehydrogenase I complex

276 (*nuoABCEFGHIJKLMN*) is only present in the three hadal piezophiles. These genes show  
277 similarity to those in the piezophiles *Shewanella benthica* and *S. violacea* and to metagenomic  
278 sequences from hadal sediments (Peoples, 2018). While all seven strains may have the capacity  
279 for assimilatory nitrite (such as *nirBD*, *nasA*) and nitrate reduction (*napCBADFE*), genes for  
280 dissimilatory nitrite reduction (*nirSCFNTB*) are only present in *C. psychrerythraea* strains 34H  
281 and ND2E. The gene *nirK* is present in *C. piezophila*, although this strain was shown to reduce  
282 nitrate but not nitrite (Nogi *et al.*, 2004). The gene cluster for nitrous oxide reduction,  
283 *nosRZDFYL*, is present in strains 34H, ND2E, and *C. piezophila*. This operon is flanked by  
284 conserved regions found in the other strains, suggesting an insertion or deletion event.  
285 Furthermore, the capacity for trimethylamine-N-oxide reduction using *torSTRECAD* is present in  
286 strains 34H and ND2E but not in any of the piezophiles.

287         The seven strains of *Colwellia* compared are psychrophilic or psychrotolerant and have  
288 adaptations to low temperatures. For example, all contain *pfaABCD* to produce polyunsaturated  
289 fatty acids to counteract decreases in membrane fluidity because of low temperatures. In the case  
290 of the deep-sea *Colwellia* this system will also optimize membrane phospholipid physical state at  
291 high pressure. However, a number of genes involved in membrane adaptation are differentially  
292 present among the two *Colwellia* groups. All piezophilic *Colwellia* have genes encoding delta-9  
293 acyl-phospholipid desaturase, another enzyme promoting unsaturated fatty acid synthesis by  
294 introducing double bonds directly into membrane phospholipid saturated fatty acids. In contrast,  
295 a fatty acid cis/trans isomerase that alters the ratio of cis- and trans- phospholipids by  
296 isomerizing -cis to -trans double bonds, is encoded within all piezosensitive *Colwellia* but is  
297 notably absent in the piezophilic *Colwellia*. Furthermore, the piezophilic strains encode almost  
298 twice as many glycosyltransferases, enzymes involved in extracellular polysaccharide synthesis.

299           Stress-response genes are also differentially present in the genomes.  
300    Deoxyribopyrimidine photolyase (DNA photolyase; *phrB*), which is involved in repairing DNA  
301    damaged by ultraviolet light, is found in strains 34H and ND2E but notably absent in all  
302    piezophilic *Colwellia*. Both piezophilic and piezosensitive strains contain superoxide dismutase  
303    and catalase for responding to oxidative stress. The genes *araC* and *lysR*, whose products control  
304    the expression of a variety of stress response systems, are more abundant in the piezosensitive  
305    *Colwellia*. The piezophilic *Colwellia* are distinct in having multicopper oxidases and copper  
306    chaperones for coping with heavy metal damage and maintaining copper homeostasis.  
307    Phenotypic analysis of the *Colwellia* showed that the piezophiles appear more resistant to copper  
308    exposure compared to their non-piezophilic counterparts (Supplementary Figure 6). Some of the  
309    genes which putatively confer heavy metal resistance are similar to other piezophiles and are  
310    located near genomic islands or other horizontally transferred elements, consistent with the  
311    hypothesis that heavy metal genes can be horizontally transferred (e.g. Orellana & Jerez, 2011;  
312    Navarro *et al.*, 2013; Chen *et al.*, 2017).

313           We identified other unique genes that differ not only between *Colwellia* strains but show  
314    biased distributions towards additional piezophilic microbes and deep-ocean metagenomic  
315    datasets (Table 2; Dombrowski *et al.*, 2018; Hu *et al.* 2018; Tully *et al.*, 2018; Peoples, 2018).  
316    For example, a putative archaeal S-adenosyl-l-methionine (SAM) dependent methyltransferase  
317    (pfam13659) is present in the piezophiles and strain GAB14E. This protein is similar to those  
318    present in bacterial and archaeal piezophiles, including members of the genera *Colwellia*,  
319    *Shewanella*, *Moritella*, *Psychromonas*, *Methanocaldococcus*, *Thermococcus*, and *Pyrococcus*.  
320    The related methyltransferase isolated from *Pyrococcus abyssi* (39% similar to MT41 protein)  
321    functions in tRNA modification (Guelorget *et al.*, 2010). Piezophilic *Colwellia* have two copies

322 of d-alanine-d-alanine ligase (pfam07478), a gene which may be involved in peptidoglycan  
323 synthesis. Unlike the situation in piezophilic *Shewanella* (Zhang *et al.*, 2019b), this gene is not  
324 present near flagellar assembly components. While all strains have operons for a Type II  
325 secretion system and a Type IV pilus, a *tad* pilus involved in adhesion is found only in the  
326 piezophiles and related to that in *Shewanella violacea*. This operon is also found in GAB14E;  
327 however, this strain lacks a number of putative *tadE*-like genes that are present in the piezophile  
328 operons. Two alanine dehydrogenases are also present in the piezophilic strains while only one is  
329 present in the piezosensitive members. The piezophile-specific dehydrogenase (pfam05222) is  
330 thought to catalyze the NAD-dependent reversible amination of pyruvate to alanine. It is similar  
331 to a dehydrogenase present in other piezophilic species, including *Shewanella benthica*,  
332 *Moritella yayanosii*, *Photobacterium profundum* SS9, and binned genomes from a deep subsea  
333 aquifer (Tully *et al.*, 2018) and trench sediments (Peoples, 2018).

334 A number of the genes specific to piezophiles are present near one another, rather than  
335 individually spread throughout the genome (Table 2). Many of these genes are near variable  
336 regions containing genomic islands, phage genes, transposases, and toxin-antitoxin system genes  
337 (Supplementary Figure 7). For example, the d-alanine-d-alanine ligase in strain MT41 is next to  
338 two putative genomic island regions, one of which is different than that present in strain TT2012  
339 (Figure 4). Because genomic islands are identified based on nucleotide bias across the genome  
340 and the *Colwellia* sp. TT2012 genome is fragmented into short contigs, the lack of predicted  
341 genomic islands does not preclude their presence. In the piezophile *Moritella yayanosii* this gene  
342 is near a gene encoding a predicted phage integrase protein, while in *Shewanella benthica* KT99  
343 it is present in a flagellar operon that also contains a transposase embedded within it. Similarly,  
344 the piezophile-specific alanine dehydrogenase is present near a number of phage and

345 toxin/antitoxin genes and downstream from a genomic island. In strain TT2012, this gene is in  
346 the middle of a putative genomic island (Figure 5), while in *Photobacterium profundum* SS9 it is  
347 flanked on one side by a transposase. Some of the genes present in these variable regions, when  
348 not specific to piezophiles, display low similarity to members of the genus *Vibrio*. The similarity  
349 of variable genes within *Colwellia* to species of *Vibrio* has been previously noted (Collins &  
350 Deming, 2013). Horizontal gene transfer has been shown to be important in the evolution of  
351 *Vibrio* species (Faruque & Mekalanos, 2013).

352

### 353 **Discussion**

354 In this study we compared the genomes of members of piezophilic *Colwellia* – including  
355 the most high pressure-adapted species known to date – with their piezosensitive counterparts to  
356 search for features that could confer adaptation to the deep sea. These microbes were isolated  
357 from surface and bathyal waters to abyssal and hadal depths. Both 16S rRNA gene sequence-  
358 based phylogenetic analyses and phylogenomic analyses indicate that the piezophilic *Colwellia*  
359 are closely related. While the piezophiles appear to form a single cluster based on the  
360 phylogenomic tree, in the 16S rRNA gene phylogenetic tree *C. piezophila* appears basal to not  
361 only the piezophiles but also a clade that includes piezosensitive lineages. Therefore, it is  
362 possible that piezophily has evolved multiple times within the *Colwellia*. Further whole genome  
363 sequencing will be needed to determine if all piezophilic *Colwellia* form a single clade  
364 independent from other piezosensitive microbes as has been reported for *Shewanella* (Aono *et*  
365 *al.*, 2010). Piezophilic *Colwellia* have now been isolated from five different trenches, including  
366 the Mariana (strains MT41, MTCD1), Puerto Rico (*C. hadaliensis*), Japan (*C. piezophila*), Tonga  
367 (strain TT2012), and Kermadec (Bartlett laboratory unpublished; Lauro *et al.*, 2007; Peoples *et*



368 *al.*, 2019a). Piezophilic members of the genus *Colwellia* are therefore widespread within deep-  
369 ocean and hadal environments.

370         While the piezophiles have lower coding density than their non-piezophilic counterparts,  
371 no correlation was found between genome size and optimum pressure of growth. This is in  
372 contrast to comparisons between shallow and deep pelagic datasets showing that deeper lineages  
373 appear to have larger genomes (e.g. Konstantinidis *et al.*, 2009; Beszteri *et al.*, 2010; Eloë *et al.*,  
374 2011; Thrash *et al.*, 2014). Instead, the three piezophiles with the deepest collection depths  
375 represented some of the smallest *Colwellia* genomes examined. One possibility is that these  
376 differences reflect different selective pressures operating within seawater, sediments and  
377 amphipods. It is remarkable that strain MT41 and MTCD1, two piezophiles isolated from  
378 amphipod material in the Mariana Trench 34 years apart, share over 99% ANI. Perhaps this  
379 reflects strong selection for a particular *Colwellia* strain within the microbiome of Mariana  
380 Trench *Hirondellea gigas* amphipods, such as that seen within symbionts of deep-sea  
381 anglerfishes (Baker *et al.*, 2019). Their consistent isolation from amphipods (e.g. Yayanos *et al.*,  
382 1981; Kusube *et al.*, 2017) suggests that some members can be associated with hosts, and host-  
383 microbe relationships can lead to genome streamlining and smaller genome sizes (McCutcheon  
384 & Moran, 2012). Nearly all known piezophilic genera have been found in conjunction with hosts  
385 (e.g. Nakayama *et al.*, 2005) and the microbial activity of the gut contents of deep-sea animals  
386 shows high levels of piezophily (Tabor *et al.*, 1982). However, the genus *Colwellia* is not present  
387 in recognizable abundances within hadal amphipod metagenomes (Zhang *et al.*, 2019a), their  
388 high % GC is not indicative of an endosymbiont (McCutcheon & Moran, 2012), and the obligate  
389 piezophile *Colwellia* sp. TT2012 was isolated from sediments rather than amphipods. An  
390 alternative hypothesis is that *Colwellia* may be undergoing genome reduction because of a

391 specialized lifestyle within the deep sea, as hypothesized for some psychrophiles within sea ice  
392 (Feng *et al.*, 2014). Members of this genus may instead be isolated in conjunction with  
393 amphipods because of their ability to degrade nutrient-rich decaying amphipod material, for  
394 example using genes for chitin degradation. *Colwellia* may also be ingested by amphipods as a  
395 byproduct of the feeding of these deep-sea scavenging macrofauna because of the preference of  
396 *Colwellia* for nutrient-rich particulate organic material (Hoffmann *et al.*, 2017; Peoples *et al.*,  
397 2018; Boeuf *et al.*, 2019).

398         The isoelectric point (pI) distribution of proteins within a proteome can correlate with the  
399 ecological niche of an organism (Kiraga *et al.*, 2007). Here we found that piezophilic *Colwellia*  
400 have a more basic proteome than their piezosensitive counterparts. This pattern is conserved in  
401 comparisons between piezophilic and piezosensitive members of the genera *Shewanella* and  
402 *Psychromonas*, indicating it is a property that may be widespread amongst piezophiles within the  
403 *Gammaproteobacteria*. Although intracellular microorganisms also have more basic proteomes  
404 than free-living species (Kiraga *et al.*, 2007), this is associated with an AT base pair enrichment  
405 not present in the piezophilic *Colwellia*. A basic proteome may be the result of the accumulation  
406 of mutations (Kiraga *et al.*, 2007), consistent with the low coding density and high numbers of  
407 transposable elements within the piezophiles. Alternatively it could arise to help with charge  
408 balance within the cytoplasm, analogous to the role of the more acidic proteome of haloarchaea,  
409 which counters the high intracellular potassium ion levels present at high osmotic pressures (Paul  
410 *et al.*, 2008). The intracellular inorganic and organic solute levels within piezophiles are not well  
411 known, but could be important to the maintenance of macromolecule function at high pressure  
412 (Martin *et al.*, 2002; Yancey *et al.*, 2001; Yancey, 2005). Among orthologous proteins  
413 piezophiles are also enriched in hydrophobic residues, including tryptophan, tyrosine, leucine,

414 phenylalanine, histidine, and methionine. This finding has been noted in metagenomes from  
415 4,000 m (Konstantinidis *et al.*, 2009) and may be important in maintaining protein structure  
416 against water penetration at high pressure (Hummer *et al.*, 1998; Somero, 2003). Specific amino  
417 acid substitutions where one amino acid is consistently replaced by another indicate that small  
418 nonpolar compounds (alanine, isoleucine), amine-containing polar compound (glutamine), and a  
419 positively charged basic compound (lysine) are selected for in piezophiles, while negatively  
420 charged acidic compounds (glutamate), polar compounds (threonine, asparagine), and non-polar  
421 compounds (valine, proline) are selected against. Similar shifts were also seen in *Desulfovibrio*  
422 *piezophilus* (Pradel *et al.*, 2013), although different amino acids were preferentially abundant in  
423 piezothermophilic archaea (Di Giulio, 2005).

424 We identified a number of gene abundance characteristics that could confer adaptation to  
425 the deep ocean. Enrichments in COG J (translation), L (replication and repair), M (cell  
426 wall/membrane biogenesis), and N (cell motility) appear enriched in the piezophiles. An  
427 enrichment of category M and L has previously been observed within deep ecotypes of  
428 *Alteromonas* (Ivars-Martinez *et al.*, 2008). The enrichment within the piezophiles of COG M is  
429 in part due to higher abundances of glycosyltransferases, which appear to correlate with depth  
430 within metagenome datasets (DeLong *et al.*, 2006). Glycosyltransferases have been predicted to  
431 contribute to low temperature-adaptation (Méthé *et al.*, 2005) and could be more abundant in the  
432 psychropiezophiles because they are more stenothermic. In contrast, a fatty acid cis/trans  
433 isomerase was present only in the piezosensitive strains. The rapid cis-to-trans isomerization of  
434 unsaturated fatty acids via this isomerase has been observed in *Pseudomonas putida* P8 in  
435 response to changes in temperature and salinity (Loffeld & Keweloh, 1996; Holtwick *et al.*,  
436 1997). Furthermore, the COG category for transcription (K) is significantly enriched in non-

437 piezophiles compared to piezophiles. This is in part due to an enrichment in the transcription  
438 factors *AraC* and *LysR*, which have a wide variety of regulatory functions including carbon  
439 metabolism and stress response (Gallegos *et al.*, 1997; Maddocks & Oyston, 2008). The  
440 enrichment of COG category K in shallow-water organisms has been observed in the surface-  
441 water ecotype of *Alteromonas macleodii* (Ivars-Martinez *et al.*, 2008). These findings could  
442 reflect the adaptation of non-piezophilic shallow-water microbes to a more dynamic  
443 environment, such as rapid salinity or temperature shifts associated with sea-ice or surface  
444 seawater. In contrast, autochthonous, obligate deep-ocean microbes would not be expected to  
445 experience similar rates or magnitudes of these changes.

446         Other specific genes biased towards piezophiles within COG M include delta-9 acyl-  
447 phospholipid desaturase and a CDP-alcohol phosphatidyltransferase. While the desaturase is  
448 upregulated at high pressure in *Photobacterium profundum* SS9 (Campanaro *et al.*, 2005), this  
449 gene is present in other non-piezophilic strains of the *Colwellia* not examined here, indicating it  
450 may not be pressure-specific. An extra copy of d-alanine-d-alanine ligase is present in the  
451 piezophiles and may function in peptidoglycan biosynthesis. While this gene was reported within  
452 a flagellar operon in *Shewanella benthica* (Zhang *et al.*, 2019b), in strain MT41 it is present next  
453 to a putative genomic island (Figure 5). The non-piezophile-specific copy of d-alanine-d-alanine  
454 ligase is upregulated in the proteome of strain 34H after incubation at -1°C (Nunn *et al.*, 2015),  
455 perhaps reflecting a role in low temperature acclimation. Overall, the enrichment in piezophiles  
456 of genes involved in COG category M is consistent with a wealth of experimental evidence  
457 demonstrating that changes in membrane structure are critical for adapting to high hydrostatic  
458 pressure. Unsaturated fatty acids help maintain membrane structure under high pressure (Chi and  
459 Bartlett, 1995; Yano *et al.*, 1998; Allen *et al.*, 1999; Usui *et al.*, 2012; Abe, 2013), with strain

460 MT41 able to produce more than 15% of its total membrane fatty acids as docosahexaenoic acid  
461 (22:6; DeLong & Yayanos, 1986).

462 Another adaptation associated with the membrane involves energetics and respiration.

463 We identified an additional NADH ubiquinone oxidoreductase (*nuo*) gene cluster in a number of  
464 piezophiles. This unique NADH dehydrogenase, which translocates four protons per two  
465 electrons (Pinchuk *et al.*, 2010), may help with energy acquisition under *in situ*, high pressure  
466 conditions. We also identified an alanine dehydrogenase specific to the piezophiles that may  
467 function in the reversible amination of pyruvate to alanine coupled with the oxidation of NADH  
468 to NAD<sup>+</sup>. This may act as an adaptive strategy under inhibited respiratory conditions by  
469 maintaining NADH/NAD<sup>+</sup> homeostasis (Jeong & Oh, 2019), such as during shifts to anoxic  
470 conditions (Hutter & Dick, 1998; Feng *et al.*, 2002) or after exposure to physical stressors  
471 impeding electron flow. Alanine dehydrogenases in *Listeria* are insensitive to inactivation up to  
472 pressures of 550 MPa (Simpson & Gilmour, 1997), transcriptionally upregulated in  
473 *Desulfovibrio piezophilus* at high pressure (Pradel *et al.*, 2013), and abundant in the proteomes of  
474 strain 34H at sub-zero temperatures (Nunn *et al.*, 2015). We speculate that the piezophilic  
475 alanine dehydrogenase functions in NADH/NAD<sup>+</sup> homeostasis under high hydrostatic pressure  
476 conditions. In contrast, we found that TMAO reductase (*torECAD*), which reduces TMAO to  
477 TMA, was not present in any of the piezophilic *Colwellia*. A similar finding has been noted in  
478 genomes of *Psychromonas* from the guts of hadal amphipods, where the lack of TMAO  
479 reductase was attributed to the preferential need for TMAO as a piezolyte in the host amphipod  
480 over its use as an electron acceptor by the microbe (Zhang *et al.*, 2018). An alternative  
481 hypothesis is that TMAO is used by microbial piezophiles as a piezolyte as it is in deep-sea  
482 metazoans (Yancey *et al.*, 2001; Yancey *et al.*, 2014). Finding differences in respiratory

483 capacity within piezophiles is not unexpected. Others have previously noted the influence of  
484 collection depth and pressure on the presence and regulation of respiratory membrane-bound  
485 cytochrome c oxidases and hydrogenases (Yamada *et al.*, 2000; Vezzi *et al.*, 2005; Chikuma *et*  
486 *al.*, 2007; Tamegai *et al.*, 2013; Leon-Zayas *et al.*, 2015; Vannier *et al.*, 2015; Michoud &  
487 Jebbar, 2016; Xiong *et al.*, 2016; Zhang *et al.*, 2018). These changes could stem directly from  
488 pressure influences or from a greater reliance on the colonization of reduced oxygen niches  
489 associated with particles or animals (Boeuf *et al.*, 2019; Peoples *et al.*, 2019a). This latter  
490 possibility could be facilitated by the *tad* pilus present in the piezophilic *Colwellia* (Planet *et al.*,  
491 2003; Tomich *et al.*, 2007; Pu *et al.*, 2018).

492         Horizontal gene transfer (HGT) can provide genetic material that enhances fitness in new  
493 environments. An experimental demonstration of this impact is the introduction of a DNA  
494 photolyase gene, missing in piezophilic *Colwellia* and other deep-sea species (DeLong *et al.*,  
495 2006; Lauro & Bartlett, 2008; Konstantinidis *et al.*, 2009; Peoples *et al.*, 2019b), into the  
496 piezophile *Photobacterium profundum* SS9 to generate a UV resistant phenotype (Lauro *et al.*,  
497 2014). It is striking that many of the *Colwellia* genes most similar to those in other piezophiles  
498 appear in clusters within variable regions that include genomic islands, putative phage genes,  
499 transposases, and toxin-antitoxin systems. Despite their smaller genome sizes, laterally  
500 transferred elements such as transposase and toxin-antitoxin genes are more abundant in the  
501 piezophilic *Colwellia* examined here, consistent with their lower coding densities. Another  
502 notable feature of these variable regions is that they differ even between closely-related strains,  
503 such as between *Colwellia marinimaniae* MT41 and *C. marinimaniae* MTCD1.

504         Mobile genetic elements have been suggested to confer adaptations to extreme conditions  
505 (e.g. Anderson *et al.*, 2011; Pradel *et al.*, 2013; Feng *et al.*, 2014; Lossouarn *et al.*, 2015; Mao &

506 Grogan, 2017), such as in the known piezophile *Photobacterium profundum* SS9 (Campanaro *et*  
507 *al.*, 2005). Deep-sea specific toxin-antitoxin systems have been identified in members of the  
508 *Shewanella* (Zhang *et al.*, 2019b) and have been shown to influence the growth of *Pyrococcus*  
509 *yayanosii* at different pressures (Li *et al.*, 2016; Li *et al.*, 2018). Mobile genetic elements may  
510 provide new metabolisms within strains of *Colwellia psychrerythraea*, including the transfer of  
511 *sox* genes involved in sarcosine metabolism (Collins & Deming, 2013; Techtmann *et al.*, 2016).  
512 Because of the similarity of many genomic island-associated genes in members of the  
513 piezophilic *Colwellia* to those in other gammaproteobacterial piezophiles, we suggest that HGT  
514 is a significant evolutionary process governing high pressure adaptation. Future studies should  
515 evaluate these regions and their associated genes for their importance in piezophily.

516

## 517 **Conclusions**

518 In this study we compared the genomes of piezophilic and piezosensitive *Colwellia* to  
519 identify adaptations to extreme deep ocean conditions. Differences in amino acid composition,  
520 membrane and cell wall structure, respiratory capacity, tRNA modification, and complex organic  
521 carbon utilization appear to be important for life at hadal depths. Many piezophile-enriched  
522 genes are located near areas of genomic variability and could be shared among piezophiles by  
523 horizontal gene transfer. Some of the adaptations identified may not be for high pressure  
524 adaptation per se, but for lifestyles favored in hadal trenches such as affiliation with particulate  
525 organic carbon or animals.

526

## 527 **Materials and Methods**

528

529 *Sample collection and high-pressure cultivation conditions*

530 *Colwellia* sp. TT2012 was isolated from sediments collected via gravity core in the  
531 Tonga Trench (16° 38.505' S, 172° 12.001' W) at a depth of 9161 m on September 2, 2012  
532 aboard the *R/V* Roger Revelle. Sediment from the upper three cm sediment depth horizon was  
533 mixed with filter-sterilized trench seawater and maintained at a pressure of 84 MPa and 4°C. A  
534 subset of this material was inoculated into ZoBell 2216 Marine Medium (BD Difco, Thermo  
535 Fisher, Waltham, MA, USA) under the same pressure and temperature conditions. *Colwellia* sp.  
536 TT2012 was eventually isolated as a pure culture following a number of dilution to extinction  
537 inoculations.

538 The isolation of both strains of *Colwellia marinimaniae* have been previously described.  
539 *Colwellia marinimaniae* MTCD1 was isolated from amphipods at a depth of 10,918 m in the  
540 Challenger Deep (Kusube *et al.*, 2017). *Colwellia marinimaniae* MT41 was also isolated from  
541 amphipods at a depth of 10,476 m (Yayanos *et al.*, 1981). Both strains were maintained in  
542 pressurizable polyethylene transfer pipette bulbs (Samco Scientific, USA) with Zobell 2216  
543 Marine Medium broth at 4°C and high pressure prior to sequencing.

544

545 *Pressure Sensitivity and Heavy Metal Sensitivity Testing*

546 The growth of the strains was evaluated under different pressure and temperature  
547 conditions. Cultures of *Colwellia* strains 34H, GAB14E, and ND2E were incubated in Zobell  
548 2216 marine medium supplemented with 100 mM HEPES and 20 mM glucose at 4°C. Growth  
549 under high hydrostatic pressure was evaluated by incubating cultures at 20 MPa increments  
550 between 0.1-80 MPa at 4°C and 16°C in triplicate. The OD600 was measured every 2.5 days for  
551 ten days. Growth rates of *Colwellia* sp. TT2012 were conducted at 0.1, 84, and 96 MPa at 4°C.



552 Copper sensitivity tests were also performed on the piezophilic (strains MT41, MTCD1, and  
553 TT2012) and non-piezophilic *Colwellia* strains (strains 34H, GAB14E, ND2E). Copper (II)  
554 chloride dihydrate in concentrations ranging from 0 - 1.5 mM in 0.3 mM increments were added  
555 to inoculated 2216 media and the cultures were incubated at 4°C for 1-4 weeks with weekly  
556 inspection.

557

### 558 *Genome sequencing and assembly*

559 Genomic DNA from *C. marinimaniae* MTCD1 was extracted from 100 mL of liquid  
560 culture after 4 weeks of incubation at 110 MPa. DNA was isolated using the Mo-Bio Ultraclean  
561 Microbial DNA Isolation Kit (Mo-Bio, USA). Genomic DNA was obtained from *Colwellia* sp.  
562 TT2012 after growth at 84 MPa and 4°C for 3 weeks. Cells were filtered onto a 0.22 µm  
563 Millipore Sterivex filter cartridge (Fischer Scientific, USA) and first subjected to a lysis buffer  
564 (50mM Tris-HCl at pH 8.3, 40mM EDTA at pH 8.0, 0.75 M sucrose) and R1804M Ready-Lyse  
565 lysozyme solution (Illumina, USA). After 15 minutes of incubation at 37°C, proteinase K and  
566 sodium dodecyl sulfate were added to a final concentration of 0.5mg/ml and 1% respectively.  
567 The mixture was then incubated at 55°C for 25 minutes, followed by 70°C for 5 minutes. The  
568 lysate was treated two times with phenol-chloroform-isoamyl alcohol (24:24:1) and  
569 chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (24:1) and further purified using a Mo-Bio Ultraclean DNA Isolation  
570 Kit spin column. The genomes of *C. marinimaniae* and *Colwellia* sp. TT2012 were sequenced at  
571 the Institute for Genomic Medicine (IGM) at UCSD using the MiSeq sequencing platform  
572 (Illumina, San Diego). The raw forward and reverse reads were merged using FLASH version  
573 1.2.10 (Magoč & Salzberg, 2011) and assembled with SPAdes version 3.1.0 (Bankevich et al.,  
574 2012).

575           The genome of strain MT41 was sequenced to closure by whole random shotgun  
576 sequencing. Briefly, one small insert plasmid library (2–3 kb) and one medium insert plasmid  
577 library (10-15 kb) were constructed by random nebulization and cloning of genomic DNA. The  
578 sequences were assembled using the TIGR Assembler (Sutton *et al.*, 1995). All sequence and  
579 physical gaps were closed by editing the ends of sequence traces, primer walking on plasmid  
580 clones, and combinatorial PCR followed by sequencing of the PCR product.

581

### 582 *Genomic completeness, phylogenetic analysis, and annotation*

583           The genomes were evaluated for their completeness and phylogenetic relationships.  
584 Genome completeness and contamination was estimated using CheckM (Parks *et al.*, 2015). A  
585 whole-genome phylogenetic tree was built using RAxML (Stamatakis *et al.*, 2014) on the  
586 CIPRES science gateway (Miller *et al.*, 2010) using the single-copy marker genes identified  
587 within CheckM. Ribosomal 16S RNA gene trees were also built by aligning sequences using the  
588 SINA Aligner (Pruesse *et al.*, 2012) and built using RAxML All trees were visualized using the  
589 Interactive Tree of Life (Letunic & Bork, 2016). Genomes were annotated using the Integrated  
590 Microbial Genomes pipeline (IMG/ER; Markowitz *et al.*, 2014). Pairwise average nucleotide  
591 identity between the genomes was evaluated within both the IMG interface and with orthoANI  
592 (Lee *et al.*, 2016).

593

### 594 *Comparative genomic analysis*

595           A comparative genomic analysis was performed between the piezophilic and non-  
596 piezophilic strains of *Colwellia* to identify whole-genome changes and specific genes unique to  
597 piezophiles. The isoelectric point (pI) of each predicted proteome was calculated using the

598 compute pI/MW tool in the ExPASy Bioinformatics Resource Portal (Artimo *et al.*, 2012).  
599 Isoelectric point values from ExPASy were rounded to the nearest tenth and the frequency of  
600 each protein pI was plotted in Figure 2a as a percent of the total proteome. Each proteome was  
601 divided into an acidic set of proteins ( $pI < 7$ ;  $N_a$ ) and a basic set ( $pI > 7$ ;  $N_b$ ) and the bias quantified  
602 using the formula  $((N_b - N_a) / (N_b + N_a) \times 100)$ . The pI bias percentage is calculated such that 100%  
603 means the proteins in the entire proteome are basic, -100% means all the proteins are acidic, and  
604 0% means equal percentage of basic and acidic proteins.

605 To identify specific amino acid substitutions that may correlate with piezophily, amino  
606 acid asymmetry was calculated using the procedure and software described in McDonald *et al.*  
607 (McDonald *et al.*, 1999). First, proteins from the genomes were clustered using TribeMCL  
608 (Enright *et al.*, 2002; scripts available at <https://github.com/juanu/MicroCompGenomics>) with a  
609 Blastp cutoff of  $1e-5$  and an inflation value of 1.4. Orthologous single-copy gene clusters present  
610 in both the piezophiles and *Colwellia psychrerythraea* 34H were aligned using MAFFT (Kato  
611 & Toh, 2008) and then processed with the Asymmetry programs AmbiguityRemover (using a  
612 value of 2 for the number of adjacent sites), AsymmetryCounter, and AsymmetryScaler (with  
613 three decimal places and 100 replicates; McDonald *et al.*, 1999). Approximately 346,000 aligned  
614 amino acid sites were examined in each comparison. Comparisons were also performed between  
615 the *Shewanella* strains *S. benthica* KT99, *S. violacea* DSS12, and *S. piezotolerans* WP3 against  
616 the piezosensitive *S. sediminis* EB3.

617 Protein abundances from the genomes were compared to identify attributes preferentially  
618 enriched in either the piezophiles or piezosensitive strains. General COG category distributions  
619 were evaluated using IMG/ER annotations. For the identification of differentially-abundant  
620 specific proteins, protein clusters were generated using the TribeMCL analysis as described

621 above. These identified protein clusters were further screened using blastp (Altschul *et al.*, 1990)  
622 against the nr database for their prevalence in other *Colwellia* genomes, other piezophile  
623 genomes, or other metagenomes. This manual curation allowed for the identification of both  
624 genes differentially abundant within the groups of genomes immediately discussed here but also  
625 allowed for a culled, smaller dataset of genes that may be present in other deep-ocean isolates  
626 and datasets.

627         Certain genomic features within the genomes were also identified. Genomic islands were  
628 identified using IslandViewer (Bertelli *et al.*, 2017). Regions that may represent genomic islands  
629 were also identified using the Mean Shift Genomic Island Predictor (MSGIP; de Brito *et al.*,  
630 2016). As incomplete genomes appeared to give spurious results, the total number of genomic  
631 islands are reported only for the complete genomes of *Colwellia marinimaniae* MT41 and *C.*  
632 *psychrerythraea* 34H. However, genomic islands for some of the partial genomes are shown here  
633 (e.g. Figure 4, Figure 5) only when IslandViewer or MSGIP identified a region as a genomic  
634 island, it was in a similar region as a genomic island found in either of the 34H or MT41  
635 genomes, and it appeared to be a region of variability based on IMG/ER annotations. The  
636 homology of these variable regions was analyzed using blastn and visualized with the R package  
637 genoPlotR (Guy *et al.*, 2010) and Kablammo (Wintersinger *et al.*, 2015). Putative transposases  
638 and toxin/antitoxin genes were identified based on IMG/ER annotations. Putative viral regions of  
639 each genome were also identified based predominantly on IMG/ER annotations with a functional  
640 search using the terms ‘phage’ and ‘virus,’ but also with VirFinder (Ren *et al.*, 2017) and  
641 VirSorter (Roux *et al.*, 2015). Different types of flagella and pili were annotated using  
642 MacSyFinder and TXSScan (Abby *et al.*, 2016; <https://galaxy.pasteur.fr/#forms::txsscan>) with

643 default parameters. Carbohydrate-active enzymes within each genome were identified using  
644 dbCAN (Yin *et al.*, 2012).

645

## 646 **Declarations**

647 *Ethics approval and consent to participate*

648 Not applicable.

649

650 *Consent for publication*

651 Not applicable.

652

653 *Availability of data and material*

654 The genome sequences of strains MT41, MTCD1, and TT2012 have been deposited at  
655 GenBank under the accessions CP013145, GCA\_001432325, and GCA\_001440345,  
656 respectively. The assembled and annotated genomes of strains MT41, MTCD1, and TT2012 can  
657 be located in IMG/JGI under the IMG taxon IDs 2501651205, 2585427605, and 2585428047  
658 respectively.

659

660 *Competing interests*

661 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

662

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670

#### 671 *Authors' contributions*

672 LMP, TSK, JAU, KM, RAC, AAY, BAM performed experimental and bioinformatics  
673 work. LMP, TSK, DHB performed data analysis. LMP, TSK, DHB wrote the manuscript. All  
674 authors read and approved the final manuscript.

675

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1287 Table 1. Genome characteristics of strains of *Colwellia* compared in this study.  
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<u>Strain</u>	<u>Isolation location</u>	<u>Isolation depth</u>	<u>Isolation source</u>	<u>Genome size (Mb)</u>	<u>DNA scaffold count</u>	<u>Completeness</u>	<u>Contamination</u>	<u>GC</u>	<u>Coding region</u>	<u>Predicted genes</u>	<u>Protein coding genes with function prediction</u>
<u>MTCD1</u>	Mariana Trench	10918 m	Amphipod	4.37	184	100%	1.47%	39.34%	83.68%	3895	2826
<u>MT41</u>	Mariana Trench	10476 m	Amphipod	4.34	1	100%	0.73%	39.40%	83.88%	4057	2933
<u>TT2012</u>	Tonga Trench	9161 m	Sediment	4.44	250	99.33%	2.61%	39.55%	83.00%	4071	2897
<u>C. pizocophila</u>	Japan Trench	6278 m	Sediment	5.48	38	100%	1.01%	38.84%	83.65%	4598	3362
<u>GAB14E</u>	Great Australian Bight	1472 m	Water	5.72	77	99.49%	0.68%	37.97%	85.76%	4790	3484
<u>ND2E</u>	Mediterranean Sea	495 m	Water	5.15	57	100%	2.38%	38.08%	85.73%	4479	3379
<u>34H</u>	Arctic Ocean	305 m	Sediment	5.37	1	100%	1.68%	38.01%	85.81%	5066	3233

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1291 Table 2. Genes identified in piezophilic *Colwellia* but not the piezosensitive strains and which  
 1292 show a biased presence within other known piezophilic microbes and deep-ocean datasets.  
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IMG Gene ID MT41	Start MT41 (bp)	End MT41 (bp)	Similar to:
2501712773-2501712774	738561	741622	<i>P. hadalis</i> , <i>S. benthica</i> , <i>S. violacea</i> , <i>M. yayanosii</i> , <i>Moritella</i> sp. PE36, Peoples 2018, Hu et al. 2018, Tully et al. 2018
2501712781	748798	749364	<i>S. benthica</i> , Tully et al. 2018, Dombrowski et al. 2018
2501712785	751307	751420	<i>P. hadalis</i> , Peoples 2018
2501713024-2501713025	1002524	1003568	<i>M. yayanosii</i> , <i>Moritella</i> sp. PE36, Tully et al. 2018, Dombrowski et al. 2018
2501713028-2501713043	1004921	1020893	<i>P. hadalis</i> , <i>S. benthica</i> , <i>S. violacea</i> , <i>M. yayanosii</i> , <i>Moritella</i> sp. PE36, Hu et al. 2018, Tully et al. 2018
2501713628	1635614	1636453	<i>P. hadalis</i> , <i>S. benthica</i> , <i>S. violacea</i> , <i>M. yayanosii</i> , <i>Moritella</i> sp. PE36, piezophilic archaea, Hu et al. 2018, Tully et al. 2018
2501713976	1995082	1995321	<i>S. benthica</i>
2501714033	2052442	2052666	<i>S. benthica</i>
2501714084	2101280	2101915	<i>P. hadalis</i> , <i>S. benthica</i> , <i>S. violacea</i> , <i>M. yayanosii</i> , <i>Moritella</i> sp. PE36, Tully et al. 2018
2501714124-2501714126	2137413	2141565	<i>P. hadalis</i> , <i>S. benthica</i> , <i>M. yayanosii</i> , Tully et al. 2018, Dombrowski et al. 2018
2501714471-2501714485	2514635	2530350	<i>S. benthica</i> , <i>S. violacea</i> , Peoples 2018
2501714619	2663589	2663918	<i>S. benthica</i> , Peoples 2018, Tully et al. 2018
2501714669	2714988	2715770	<i>M. yayanosii</i> , <i>Moritella</i> sp. PE36, SAR324, Peoples 2018, Tully et al. 2018
2501715698	3869630	3871057	<i>Photobacterium profundum</i> SS9, <i>S. benthica</i> , <i>M. yayanosii</i> , <i>Moritella</i> sp. PE36, Peoples 2018, Tully et al. 2018
2501715722	3894109	3895707	<i>P. hadalis</i> , Tully et al. 2018
2501715931-2501715932	4122279	4122819	<i>S. benthica</i> , <i>M. yayanosii</i>
2501716002-2501716003	4182966	4183371	<i>S. benthica</i> , <i>M. yayanosii</i> , Tully et al. 2018

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1326 Figure 1. A; Approximate sample collection locations for the *Colwellia* strains compared in this  
1327 study. B; Whole genome phylogenetic tree and shared average nucleotide identities among the  
1328 seven strains of interest.

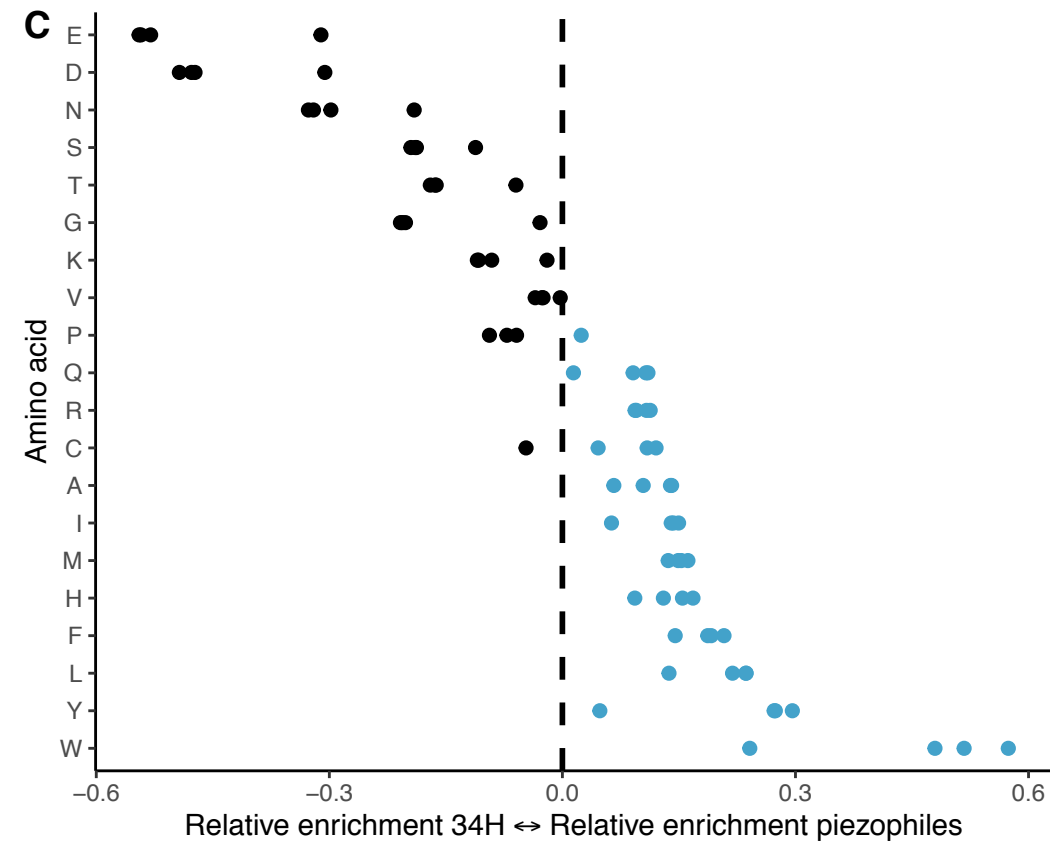
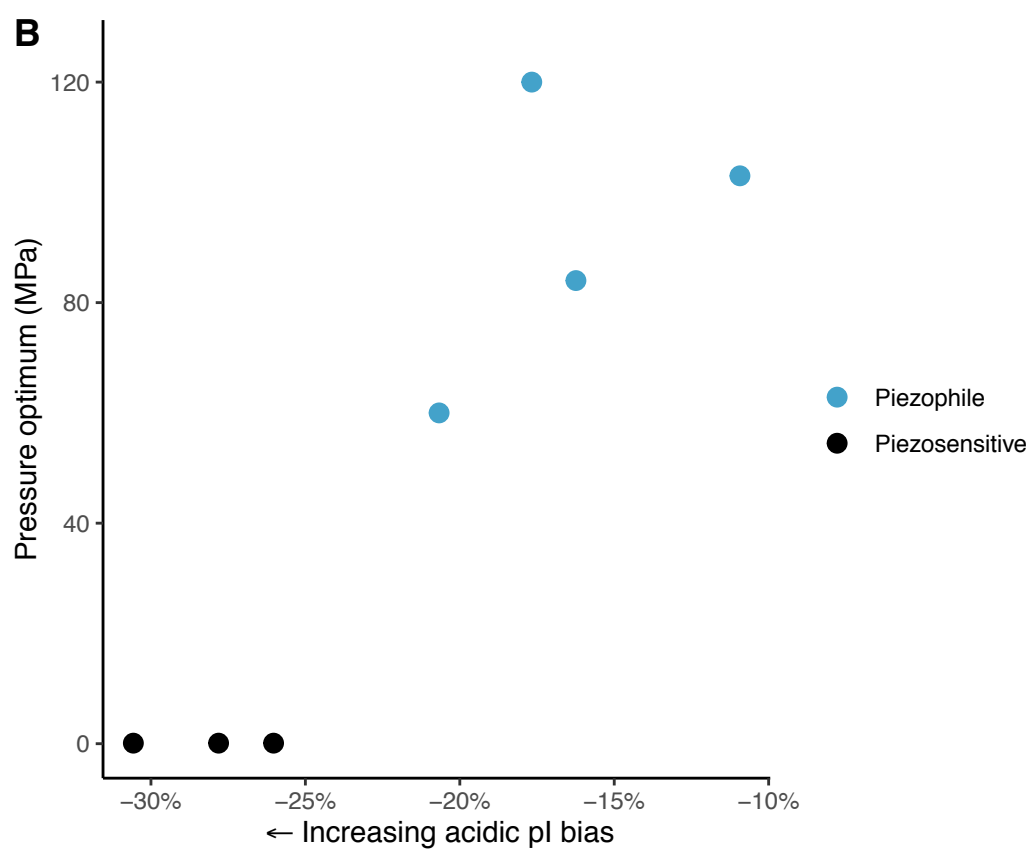
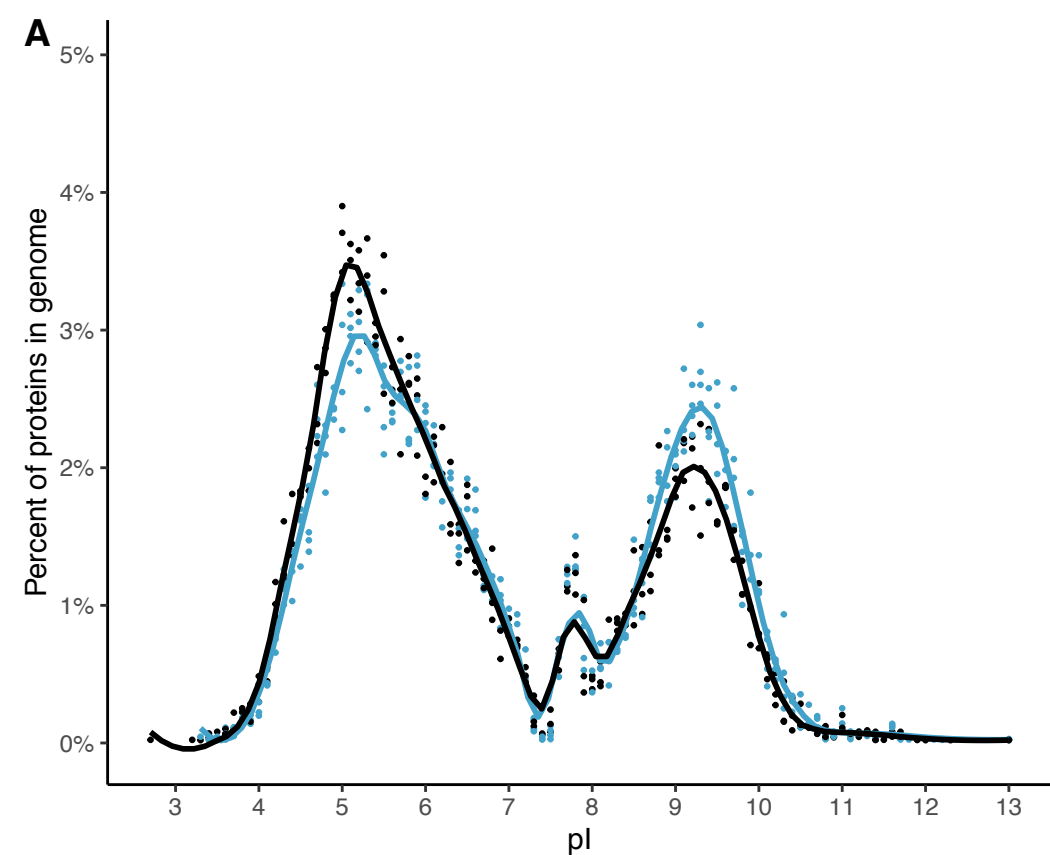
1329  
1330 Figure 2. A; Isoelectric point distribution of proteins within piezophilic (blue points) or  
1331 piezosensitive (black) strains, with an average line of fit within each group. B; Isoelectric point  
1332 protein bias within each strain as a function of their growth pressure. C; Asymmetry index values  
1333 indicating preference of amino acids in the piezophiles or *C. psychrerythraea* 34H within  
1334 orthologous proteins present in all strains. D; Specific amino acid substitutions from *C.*  
1335 *psychrerythraea* 34H to the piezophiles within orthologous proteins. The substitutions shown  
1336 were also identified within comparisons between piezophilic and piezosensitive *Shewanella*.

1337  
1338 Figure 3. A; The percent abundance of proteins within each COG category within piezophilic or  
1339 piezosensitive *Colwellia*. B) Specific genomic attributes that were differentially present in  
1340 piezophilic or piezosensitive strains. Present, grey; absent, white.

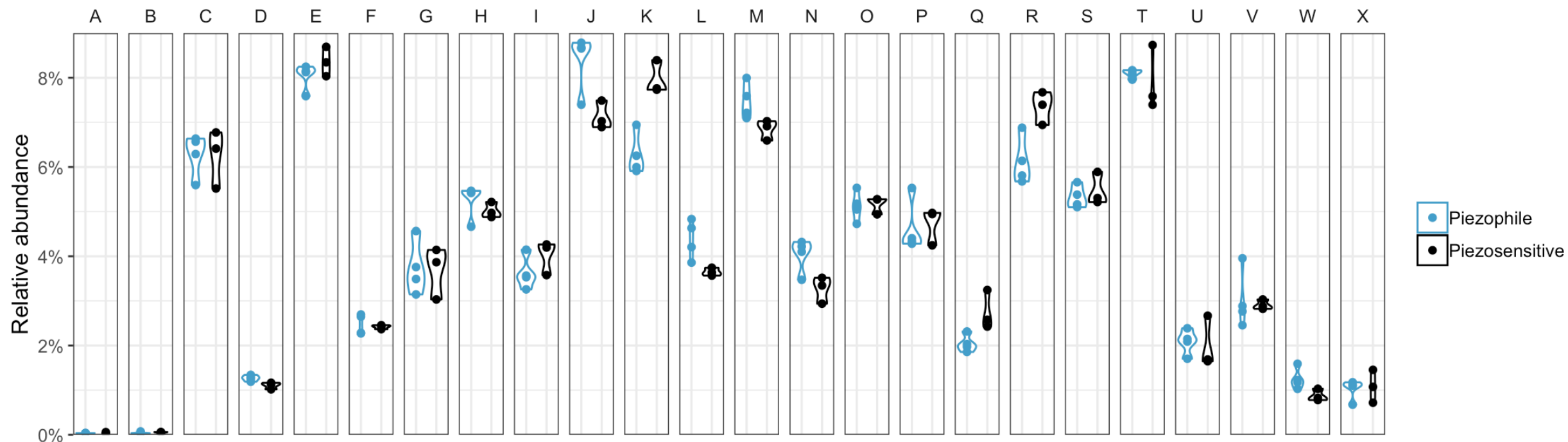
1341  
1342 Figure 4. A; The location of a d-ala d-ala ligase gene in strains MT41 and TT2012, with  
1343 surrounding genes labeled. B; An amino acid tree of the d-ala-d-ala ligase with sequences  
1344 approximately > 50% similar shown.

1345  
1346 Figure 5. A; The location of alanine dehydrogenase genes in strains MT41 and TT2012, with  
1347 surrounding genes labeled. B; An amino acid tree of the alanine dehydrogenase with sequences  
1348 approximately > 50% similar shown.





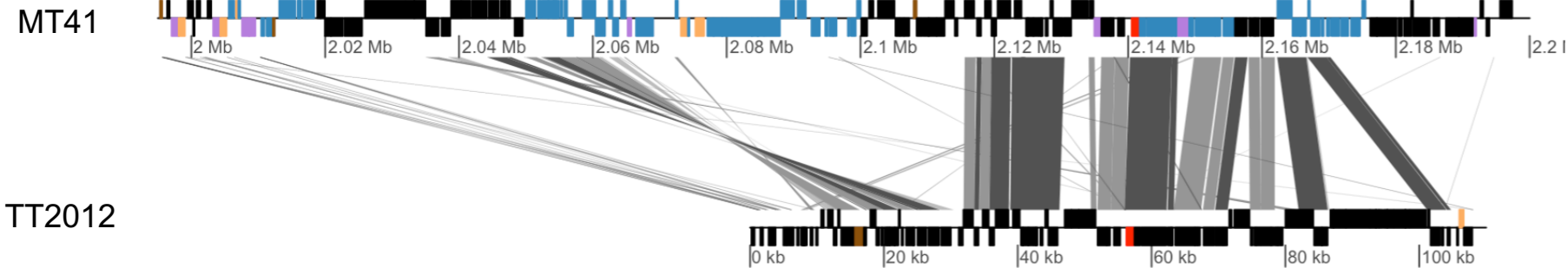
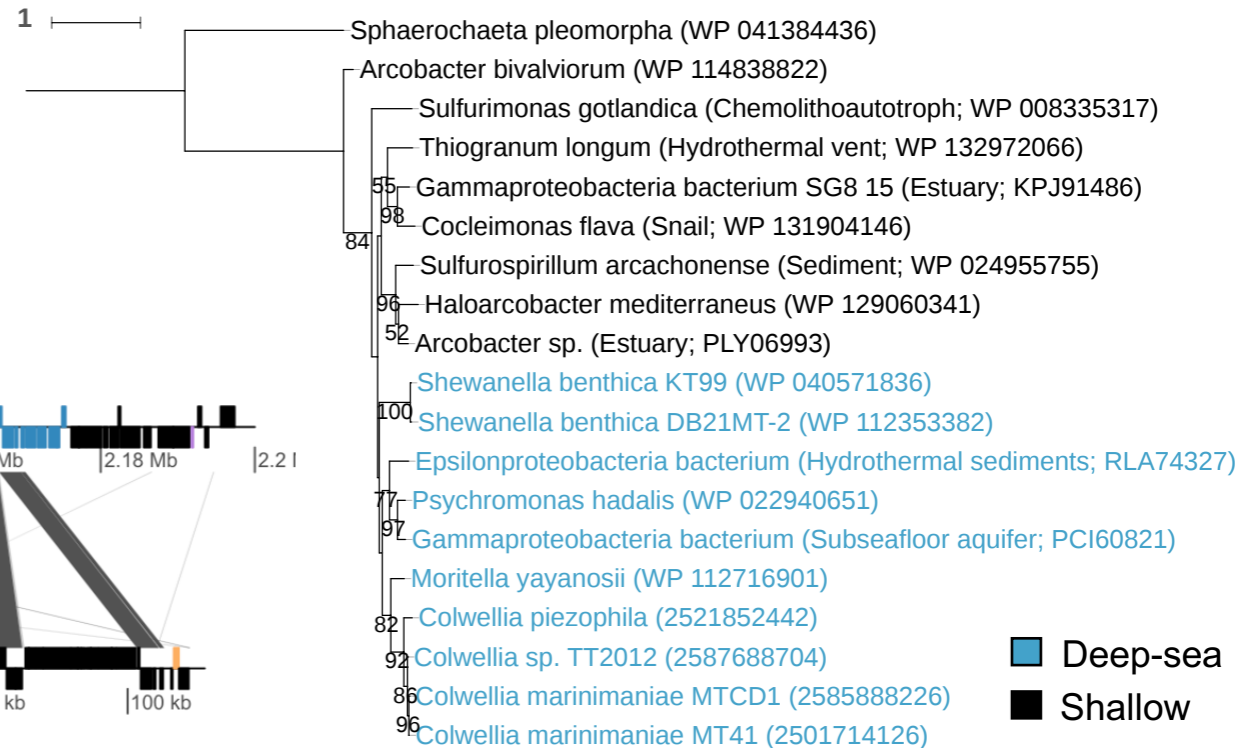


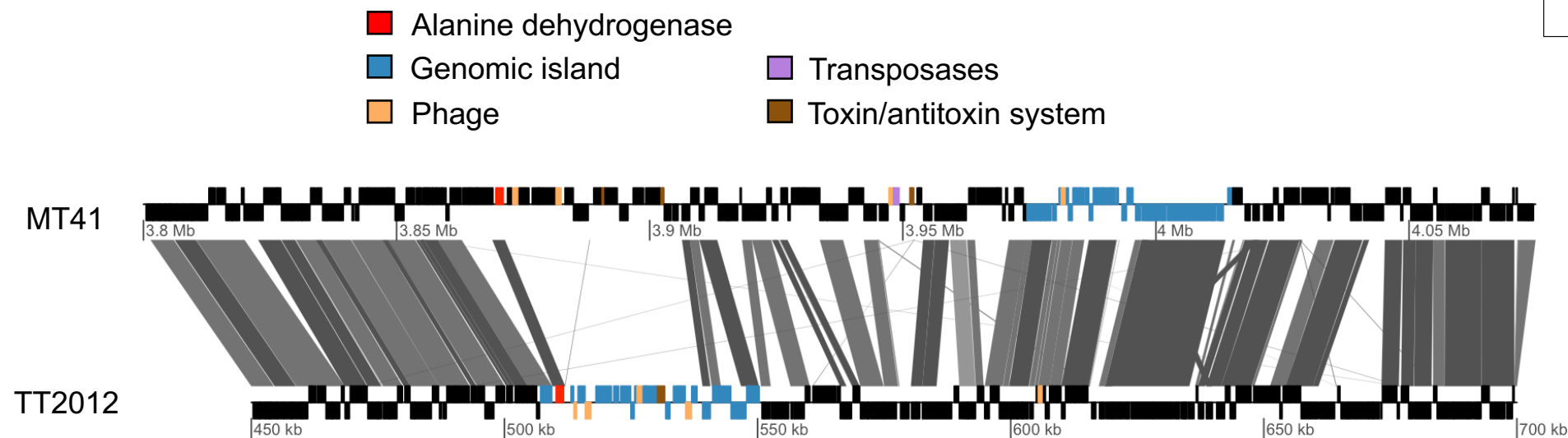
**A****B**

Gene categories for Panel B:

- pfaABCD
- Delta-9-acyl phospholipid desaturase
- Fatty acid cis/trans isomerase
- Glycosyltransferases
- araC, lysP families
- Flagellar operon
- Type II secretion system
- Type IV pilus
- Tad operon
- nqrABCDEF
- nuoABCEFGHIJKLMN
- torCAD
- Alanine dehydrogenase
- Archaeal methyltransferase
- D-alanine-D-alanine ligase
- Chitinase
- Multicopper oxidase
- phrB
- Phage genes
- Toxin/antitoxin genes
- Transposase genes

MT41			24	22							2		2			35	30	66
MTCD1			21	23							2		2			24	33	57
TT2012			24	22							2		2			25	24	61
<i>C. piezophila</i>			16	41							2		2			26	25	12
GAB14E			15	60							1		1			30	18	39
ND2E			12	70							1		1			36	12	21
34H			11	92							1		1			24	9	32

**A****B**

**A****B**