A novel nematode species from the Siberian permafrost shares adaptive mechanisms for cryptobiotic survival with *C. elegans* dauer larva

Anastasia Shatilovich[1#], Vamshidhar R. Gade[2,9#], Martin Pippel[3], Tarja T. Hoffmeyer[4], Alexei V. Tchesunov[5], Lewis Stevens[6], Sylke Winkler[2,7], Graham M. Hughes[8], Sofia Traikov[2], Michael Hiller[3,10], Elizaveta Rivkina[1], Philipp H. Schiffer[4*], Eugene W Myers[3], Teymuras V. Kurzchalia[2*]

1. Institute of Physicochemical and Biological Problems in Soil Science RAS, Pushchino, Russia
2. Max Planck Institute for Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden, Germany
3. Center for Systems Biology, Dresden, Germany
4. Institute for Zoology, University of Cologne
5. Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Faculty of Biology, M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
6. Tree of Life, Wellcome Sanger Institute, Cambridge, UK
7. DRESDEN concept Genome Center, Dresden, Germany
8. School of Biology and Environmental Science, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin, Ireland
9. Institute of Biochemistry, ETH Zürich, 8093 Zürich, Switzerland
10. LOEWE Centre for Translational Biodiversity Genomics, Senckenberg Society for Nature Research & Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

[#] A.S and V.G contributed equally to this work
*To whom correspondence may be addressed
Email: kurzchalia@mpi-cbg.de
p.schiffer@uni-koeln.de

Abstract

Some organisms in nature have developed the ability to enter a state of suspended metabolism called cryptobiosis[1] when environmental conditions are unfavorable. This state-transition requires execution of genetic and biochemical programs[1,2,3] that enables the organism to survive for prolonged periods. Recently, nematode individuals have been reanimated from Siberian permafrost after remaining in cryptobiosis. Preliminary analysis indicates that these nematodes belong to the genera *Panagrolaimus* and *Plectus*[4]. Here, we present precise radiocarbon dating indicating that the *Panagrolaimus* individuals have remained in cryptobiosis since the late Pleistocene (~46,000 years). Phylogenetic inference based on our genome assembly and a detailed morphological analysis demonstrate that they belong to an undescribed species, which we named *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* Comparative genome analysis revealed that the molecular toolkit for cryptobiosis in *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* and in *C. elegans* is partly orthologous. We show that biochemical mechanisms employed by these two species to survive desiccation and freezing under laboratory conditions are similar. Our experimental evidence also reveals that *C. elegans* dauer larvae can remain viable for longer periods in suspended animation than previously reported. Altogether, our findings demonstrate that nematodes evolved mechanisms potentially allowing them to suspend life over geological time scales.

Introduction

Organisms from diverse taxonomic groups can survive extreme environmental conditions, such as the complete absence of water or oxygen, high temperature, freezing, or extreme salinity. The survival strategies of such organisms include a state known as suspended animation or cryptobiosis, in which they reduce metabolism to an undetectable level[6]. Spectacular examples of long-term cryptobiosis include a *Bacillus* spore that was preserved in the abdomen of bees buried in amber for 25 to 40 million years[7], and a 1000 to 1500 years-old *Lotus* seed, found in an ancient lake, that was subsequently able to germinate[8]. Metazoans such as tardigrades, rotifers and nematodes are also known for remaining in cryptobiosis for prolonged periods[9,10]. The longest records of cryptobiosis in nematodes are reported for the Antarctic species *Plectus murrayi*[11] (25.5 years in moss frozen at -20°C), and *Tylenchus polyhypnus*[12] (39 years desiccated in a herbarium specimen).

Intensive research during the last decades has demonstrated that permafrosts (perennially frozen sediments) are unique ecosystems preserving life forms at sub-zero temperatures over thousands of years[13,14,15,16]. Permafrost remains are an exceptional source for discovering a wide variety of unicellular and multicellular living organisms surviving in cryptobiosis for prolonged periods[6,17,18]. We recently reanimated soil nematodes that were preserved in Siberian permafrost for potentially thousands of years, and initial morphological observations provisionally described them as belonging to the genera *Panagrolaimus* and *Plectus*. Previous studies demonstrated several species of *Panagrolaimus* can undergo cryptobiosis in the form of anhydrobiosis (through desiccation) and cryobiosis (through freezing)[19,20,21,22,23]. In various nematodes, entry into anhydrobiosis is often accompanied by a preparatory phase of exposure to mild desiccation, known as preconditioning[21,24]. This induces a specific remodelling of the transcriptome, the proteome, and metabolic pathways that enhances survival ability[2,3,25]. Some panagrolaimids possess adaptive mechanisms for rapid desiccation where most of the cellular water is lost, while others possess freezing tolerance, without loss of water, at sub-zero temperatures by inhibiting the growth and recrystallisation of ice crystals[21].

Here we present a high-quality genome assembly, detailed morphological phylogenetic analysis, and define a novel species, *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* Precise radiocarbon dating indicates that *Panagrolaimus n. sp* remained in cryptobiosis for about 46,000 years, since late Pleistocene. Furthermore, making use of the model organism *C. elegans*, we demonstrate that *C. elegans* dauer larvae and *Panagrolaimus* utilize comparable molecular mechanisms to

97 survive extreme desiccation and freezing, i.e. upregulation of trehalose biosynthesis and
98 gluconeogenesis.
99

Results

Discovery site and radiocarbon dating

Previously, we showed that nematodes from the Siberian permafrost with morphologies
consistent with the genera *Panagrolaimus* and *Plectus* could be reanimated thousands of years
after they had been frozen in the permafrost. Several viable nematode individuals were found
in two out of more than 300 studied samples of permafrost deposits of different ages and
genesis, collected by researchers of the Soil Cryology Lab, Pushchino, Russia, during perennial
paleo-ecological expeditions carried out in the coastal sector of the northeastern Arctic[17]. The
detailed description of the study site (outcrop Duvanny Yar, Kolyma River, Fig.1A), sampling
and revitalizing procedures are provided in Supplementary Information (SI). Like other late
Pleistocene permafrost formations in the northeastern Arctic, Duvanny Yar comprises
permanently frozen ice-rich silt deposits riddled with large polygonal ice wedges and divided
by them into mineral blocks[26,27] (Fig.1B). The sediments include sandy alluvial layers, peat
lenses, buried paleosols and Pleistocene rodent burrows (Fig.1C). The burrow (P-1320), in
which *Panagrolaimus* nematodes were found (Fig.1D), has been taken from the frozen outcrop
wall at a depth of about 40 m below the surface and about 11 m above river water level in
undisturbed and never thawed late Pleistocene permafrost deposits. The fossil burrow left by
arctic gophers of the genus *Citellus* consists of entrance tunnel and a large nesting chamber up
to 25 cm in diameter[26].

The sterility of permafrost sampling and age of cultivated biota were discussed in detail
in several reviews[14,28, 29]. Based on previous reports, the age of the organisms found in a burrow
is equal to the freezing time and corresponds to the age of organic matter conserved in the
syncryogenic sediments. This makes it possible to use radiocarbon dating of organic matter to
establish the age of organisms. We performed Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS)
radiocarbon analysis of plant material obtained from studied borrow P-1320 and determined a
direct ^{14}C age of 44,315±405 BP (Institute of Geography, RAS; sample IGAN$_{AMS}$ 9137).
Calibrated age range is 45,839 – 47,769 cal BP (95.4% probability) (Fig.S1).
127

130 **Like other parthenogenetic *Panagrolaimus* the newly discovered species is triploid**

131 The revived animal was cultivated in the laboratory for over 100 generations and initially

132 described as *Panagrolaimus* aff. d*etritophagus*[4] based on morphology. We conducted a

133 detailed morphological analysis of the revived animal (Fig.2, S2, Table S1; BOX1), which

134 confirmed unambiguously that the animal belongs to the genus of *Panagrolaimus*, in

135 agreement with a previous phylogenetic analysis of the 18S ribosomal RNA sequence[4].

136 However, due to the morphological uniformity of *Panagrolaimus*, unusual even for nematodes,

137 morphology and molecular analysis of a single ribosomal RNA sequence is insufficient to

138 describe a species. We found the species to be parthenogenetic, which further complicates

139 description under most species concept.

140 To obtain comprehensive molecular data for species determination using

141 phylogenomics, we generated a genome assembly. Using PacBio HiFi sequencing, we

142 generated 84X coverage in long reads (average length 14,425 bp). Our analysis of repeat and

143 gene content is described in Supplementary Table 3. K-mer analysis of the reads clearly

144 indicated that this animal has a triploid genome (Fig.3A), like other parthenogenetic

145 *Panagrolaimus* species[30]. Despite the challenges that a triploid genome poses for assembly, we

146 obtained a highly-contiguous contig assembly of the three pseudohaplotypes that comprise

147 about 266 Mb and thus have a similar genome size as other parthenogenetic *Panagrolaimus*

148 species[30]. The contig N50 value of all three pseudohaplotypes is 3.8 Mb. Since the three

149 pseudohaplotypes exhibited a noticeable degree of divergence, we further investigated their

150 relationship by using the apparent homeologs in our gene predictions to align the longest

151 continuous contigs based on micro synteny (Fig. 3B). Links between the contigs clearly show

152 the triploid state of the genome.

153

154

155

156

157

158

159

160

161

162

 BOX 1 Description of *Panagrolaimus n. sp* sp. nov.

Description	Body spindle-shaped and usually almost straight after fixation (Fig.2a, b). Cuticle thin and faintly annulated, 10–11 annules per 10 μm in cervical region, 13–14 in midbody, preanally again 10 annules within 10 μm. Conspicuous convex lateral fields with three incisures 1.5-2 μm wide extended along the body from about ¼–1/3 procorpus length to 2/3 of tail length. In SEM, the lateral field looks as a bolster with a narrow median split. Labial region set off. Mouth opening surrounded with six lips (Fig.2c, d). Anterior sensilla as papillae arranged in two close but separate subsequent circles. Somatic sensilla (i.e., deirids and phasmids) not evident. Buccal cavity cylindro-conoid, and unarmed; its total length 9–13 μm, maximum stoma width 1.7–2.8 μm (Fig.2e). Dorsal stoma wall (dorsal rhabdion) more clearly sclerotized. Anterior part of the buccal cavity comprising cheilostom and gymnostom nearly cylindroids while stegostom conically narrowed and ended with a distinct tight flexion. Pharynx consists of three distinct parts: straight anterior procorpus, narrow medial isthmus and rounded terminal bulb. Procorpus gradually widening to it posterior end, always straight in all specimens, with transversal muscular striation, more prominent in posterior three fourths. Isthmus narrow, cylindroid, bent starkly in nearly all studied specimens. Terminal bulb strongly muscular, with a valvular apparatus at about 40% of the bulb length. Cardia in shape of truncate cone. Intestine (midgut) tissue filled with vacuoles and granules; in the anteriormost region, the granules smaller and look more pallid. Cell borders not visible in the intestine, but internal lumen distinct, sinusoid. No internal content visible in the internal lumen. Ventral excretory-secretory pore and its cuticularized duct situated at the level of anterior part of the bulb. No other details of the excretory-secretory system visible. Vulval lips protruding. Genital branch monodelphic prodelphic and situated dorsally and to the right of the midgut (Fig.2f). Vagina distinctly cuticularized and opens to the elongate uterus. A long oviduct extended anteriad from the anterior uterus; the oviduct folded up and then posteriorward and transforms into an elongate ovary. There are

	one or two ripe eggs in the uterus in most specimens. Tail short conical, with short acute spike-like mucro (Fig.2g).
Etymology	Species name *kolymaensis* (Latin) is derived from the Kolyma River area.
Holotype	Senckenberg Natural History Museum, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (collection number SMF 17067).
Paratypes	Senckenberg Natural History Museum, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (collection numbers SMF 17068, SMF 17069) (eighteen paratypes).
Type locality	Frozen fossil rodent burrow buried in permafrost 45,839 – 47,769 cal BP, 40 meters from the surface, outcrop Duvanny yar, Kolyma River, North-East of Siberia, Russia (68.633410, 159.078800). Frozen material from burrow was collected by Dr.S.Gubin (Soil Cryology Lab, Pushchino, Russia) in august 2002.

Phylogenomics to define *Panagrolaimus n. sp* sp. nov.

To place the species in the genus *Panagrolaimus*, we conducted a broader multi-gene phylogenomic analysis using Maximum likelihood methods. Our analysis of a concatenated, partitioned alignment of 60 genes, and a coalescence-based approach using a broader set of 12,295 gene trees, retrieves the novel species as sister to all other sequenced *Panagrolaimus* species, but as an ingroup to *Propanagrolaimus*[31] (Fig.3C; Fig. S3B-C). Thus, the phylogenetic placement provides strong evidence that this animal belongs to a novel species. Furthermore, there is substantial sequence divergence between this novel species, and *Panagrolaimus* sp. PS1159 and *Panagrolaimus* sp. ES5, estimated to be on average 2.06 and 2.11 amino acid substitutions per site in our concatenated alignment, respectively. The substantial divergence is in line with previous data on ages of *Panagrolaimus* nematodes[30], and more broadly seen in nematodes, which can be hyper-diverse[32,33]. Our data also contradicts the assumption that parthenogenesis is a monophyletic trait[30] in the *Panagrolaimus* genus (Fig.3C). Using the gene-tree reconciliation approach implemented in GRAMPA, we explored whether extra sets of proteins in parthenogenetic species whether a result of auto- or allopolyploidy. The most parsimonious result, with extra proteins being basal to the lineage containing both parthenogenetic and sexual species, suggests an allopolyploid origin for these extra gene copies

(Fig.S6). Based on the Kolyma River location where the animal was unearthed, we propose the

following taxonomic classification and species name:

Phylum Nematoda Potts, 1932

Class Chromadorea Inglis 1983

Suborder Tylenchina Thorne, 1949

Family Panagrolaimidae Thorne, 1937

Panagrolaimus sp. nov.

C. elegans dauer larvae and *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* might utilize similar mechanisms to

enter and remain in cryptobiotic state for prolonged periods of time

In the absence of established genetic methods in *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* we referred to

the model *C. elegans* as a comparator system to gain insights into possible pathways for long

term survival[3,4,24,25]. The high-quality genome of *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* allowed us to compare

its molecular toolkit for cryptobiosis with that of *C. elegans*. We used orthology clustering and

phylogenetics to investigate whether the genome of *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* contains genes

previously implicated in cryptobiosis in the *C. elegans* dauer larva. Our analysis showed that

the like other *Panagrolaimus* species[34,35], *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* genome also encodes orthologs

to a *C. elegans* trehalose phosphate synthase gene (*tps-2*) and to a trehalose phosphatase gene

(*gob-1*) (Fig. 3D, supplementary file Orthology analysis). Furthermore, we found orthologs to

all *C. elegans* enzymes required for polyamine biosynthesis, the TCA cycle, glycolysis,

gluconeogenesis, and glyoxylate shunt (Fig.3D, supplementary file Orthology analysis)

suggesting that *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* might utilize a similar molecular tool kit as *C. elegans* to

facilitate survival of unfavorable conditions. Our earlier findings established that among

several developmental stages of *C. elegans*, only the dauer larva, formed during unfavorable

conditions (such as low nutrients and high population density) and in hypometabolic state could

survive anhydrobiosis and exposure to freezing[4,24]. To survive extreme desiccation, *C. elegans*

dauer larvae (in its hypometabolic state) need to be first preconditioned at high relative

humidity (98% RH) for 4 days[24]. During preconditioning, dauer larvae upregulate trehalose

biosynthesis that ensures their survival to harsh desiccation[24,25]. We tested whether

preconditioning also facilitates survival of *Panagrolaimus n. sp.*. As there is no dauer stage in

Panagrolaimus life cycle we performed our experiments with mixed populations of larval

stages. Although a small proportion of *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* individuals survive harsh

desiccation and freezing without preconditioning (Fig.4A), mixed populations of

Panagrolaimus n. sp. survive significantly (p value< 0.0001) in a higher proportion to harsh

desiccation upon preconditioning (Fig.4A). Similarly, preconditioning and desiccation further

enhanced survival rate of *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* to freezing (-80°C) (Fig.4A). Like *C. elegans*

dauer larva, *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* upregulate trehalose levels up to 20-fold upon

preconditioning (Fig.4B). We previously reported that, to upregulate trehalose levels upon

preconditioning, *C. elegans* dauer larva dissipate their fat reserves (Triacylglycerols) by

activating the glyoxylate shunt and gluconeogenic pathway[25]. Upon preconditioning, we found

that triacylglyceride (TAG) levels are significantly decreased in *Panagrolaimus n. sp.*

(Fig.S5A&B). To further investigate whether the acetyl-CoA derived from degradation of

TAGs culminate in trehalose, we applied the previously developed method of metabolic

labelling with ^{14}C-acetate in combination with 2D-TLC [4,25]. The ^{14}C-acetate metabolized by

the worms is incorporated into TAGs. Upon degradation of TAGs, ^{14}C-acetyl CoA is released

which acts as a precursor for trehalose biosynthesis. As shown in Fig. 4C, preconditioning led

to huge increase of radioactivity in trehalose and to smaller extent in some amino acids

(glycine/serine, phenylalanine; panels c and d). Interestingly, *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* displayed

an additional spot (Fig. 4D, enumerated as 7), that was not found in *C. elegans*. We identified

this spot as trehalose-6-phosphate (Fig.S5C-H), a precursor of trehalose, based on the

fragmentation pattern of the molecule, using mass spectrometry. Thus, to resist harsh

desiccation, like *C. elegans* dauer larvae, *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* might utilize the glyoxylate

shunt and consequently acetate derived from TAGs to synthesize trehalose. Detection of the

immediate precursor (trehalose-6-phosphate) suggests that the flux of metabolites is intense in

Panagrolaimus n. sp. Finally, we investigated whether *C. elegans* dauer larvae can also survive

in prolonged cryptobiotic state. Despite of preconditioning, the survival ability of desiccated

dauer larvae at room temperature declines very rapidly, with most larvae dead after around 10

days (Fig. 4E) (Fig. S4A&B). Direct freezing without any cryoprotectants at -80℃ leads to

almost instant death of the animals. To test whether combining these conditions could extend

the viability of dauer larvae (Fig. S4A&B), we transferred the desiccated larvae to -80℃.

Remarkably, under these conditions, there was no significant decline in viability even after 480

days (Fig. 4E). Moreover, after thawing, the animals resumed reproductive growth and

produced progeny in numbers like those of animals kept under control conditions (Fig. 4F).

Since we did not observe any reduction in the survival at any time points, this suggests that the

combination of anhydrobiosis and freezing can prolong the survival ability of dauer larvae.

Thus, *C. elegans* dauer larvae, when exposed to combination of cryptobiotic states can survive
for extremely long periods of time.

Discussion

Our findings here indicate that some nematodes could survive in suspended animation for
millenia. Along with the adaptive mechanisms of an organism, a naturally preserving
ecosystem would synergistically aid the survival for prolonged periods. The Siberian
permafrost is a unique repository for preserving organisms in sub-zero temperatures for
millions of years. Expeditions in the past decade revived several organisms across various taxa
from the Siberian permafrost[5,36,37,38]. The possibility to exploit permafrost as a source for
reanimating multicellular animals was recognized already in 1936. A viable Cladocera
crustacean *Chydorus sphaericus* preserved in the Transbaikalian permafrost for several
thousand years[39,40] was discovered by P.N. Kapterev, who worked at the scientific station
Skovorodino as a GULAG prisoner. Unfortunately, this extraordinary observation remained
unnoticed for many decades.

The new nematode species from permafrost can now be placed into the genus
Panagrolaimus[41], which contains several described parthenogenetic and gonochoristic
species[30,42]. Many *Panagrolaimus* display adaptation to survival in harsh environments[21] and
the genus includes the Antarctic species *P. davidi*[22]. The genus *Panagrolaimus* is exceptional
in its morphological uniformity even among nematode species that are hard to classify based
on morphology in general. Thus, species designation via microscopic (including SEM) analysis
is unreliable, which is further complicated by the absence of males in parthenogenetic species.
Males have important diagnostic features as spicules and pericloacal papillae, females differ
from one species to another mainly by morphometrics, whereby the interspecies differences
(absolute measures and ratios) may be very fine. Our specimens are close by absolute sizes and
ratios to females of the bisexual species *Panagrolaimus detritophagus*[43]. The only non-
overlapping morphometric character is index "b" (body length: pharynx length): 5.6–6.8 in
Panagrolaimus n. sp. versus 4.4-5.1 in *P. detritophagus*.

Consequently, we turned to phylogenomics methods to place the species on the tree.
This showed that this species is an outgroup to other known *Panagrolaimus* species, raising
the possibility of a second independent evolution of parthenogenesis in the genus, in contrast
to previous findings[42,31,30]. This will need to be confirmed through further sampling and
genome sequencing of *Panagrolaimus* species. We found *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* to be triploid
and thus a hybrid origin is possible, as seen in other parthenogenetic *Pangrolaimus*[30]. The

highly contiguous genome of *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* will allow for analyses of this trait in
comparison to other *Panagrolaimus* species currently being genome sequenced.

Our results provide a deeper insight into the homology of molecular and biochemical
mechanisms between *C. elegans* and *P. kolymaensis*, which are not only taxonomically but
also ecologically distinct. *C. elegans* can mostly be found in rotting fruits and plants in
temperate regions[44,45], while *Panagrolaimus* species are globally distributed and prevalent in
leaf litter and soil[42], including in harsh environments[21]. We show through orthology analysis
that the well-studied molecular pathways used by *C. elegans* larvae to enter the dauer state,
such as insulin[46,47] (DAF-11, DAF-2 & DAF-16), TGF-β[48] (DAF-7), steroid[49] (DAF-9, DAF-
12) are present in the genome of the *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* (Fig.S4C). While further functional
analyses are needed to study molecular pathways in detail, our results hint at convergence or
parallelism in the molecular mechanisms organizing dauer formation and cryptobiosis.

As mentioned earlier preconditioning enhances the survival of *Panagrolaimus n. sp.*
renders them desiccation tolerant. We previously reported that preconditioning elevates
trehalose biosynthesis in *C. elegans* dauer larvae and the elevated trehalose renders desiccation
tolerance by protecting the cellular membranes[24]. It is not surprising that *Panagrolaimus n. sp.*
upregulates trehalose, however the magnitude of trehalose elevation is higher than *C. elegans*
dauer larvae. This indicates that central regulators (DAF-16, DAF-12) of trehalose
upregulation may differentially regulate *tps-2* in *Panagrolaimus n. sp*[50,51,34]. Although
Panagrolaimus n. sp. utilizes the glyoxylate shunt and gluconeogenesis to upregulate trehalose
levels, it is intriguing to observe that they accumulate substantial levels of trehalose-6-
phosphate. Further investigation of this observation using perturbation experiments will
provide insights into molecular mechanisms of metabolic regulation in *Panagrolaimus n. sp.*
upon preconditioning. Our findings for the first time demonstrate that *C. elegans* dauer larvae
possess an inherent ability to survive freezing for prolonged periods if they undergo
anhydrobiosis. It is tempting to speculate that undergoing anhydrobiosis might be a survival
strategy of *C. elegans* to survive the seasonal changes in nature.

In summary our findings indicate that by adapting to survive cryptobiotic state for
short time frames in environments like permafrost, some nematode species gained the potential
for individual worms to remain in the state for geological timeframes. This raises the question
whether there is an upper limit to the length of time an individual can remain in the cryptobiotic
state, potentially only limited by drastic changes to the environment such as strong fluctuations
in ambient temperature, natural radioactivity, or other abiotic factors. These findings have

implications for our understanding of evolutionary processes since generation times could be stretched from days to millennia and long- term survival of individuals of species can lead to the refoundation of otherwise extinct lineages. This is particularly interesting in the case of parthenogenetic species, as the one described here, as each individual can found a new population without the need for mate finding, i.e. evading the cost of sex. Finally, understanding the precise mechanisms of long-term cryptobiosis and cues that lead to successful revivals can inform new methods for long term storage of cells and tissues.

Methods

Materials and *C. elegans* strains

[1-14C] -acetate (sodium salt) was purchased from Hartmann Analytic (Braunschweig, Germany). All other chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Taufkirchen, Germany). The *Caenorhabditis* Genetic Centre (CGC) which is funded by NIH Office of Research Infrastructure Programs (P40 OD010440) provided *daf-2(e1370)* and *E. coli NA22* strains.

Genomic DNA isolation from *Panagrolaimus n. sp* nematodes

Panagrolaimus n. sp. nematodes (isofemale strain Pn2-1) were grown on several plates of NGM agar plated with *E. coli NA22* bacteria at 20°C. Worms were collected from the plates, washed with water at least three to five times by centrifugation at 1000 g to remove any residual bacteria and any debris. The worm pellet was dissolved in 5 volumes of worm lysis buffer (0.1M Tris-HCl pH=8.5, 0.1M NaCl, 50mM EDTA pH=8.0) and distributed in 1.5 ml of microcentrifuge tubes. These tubes are incubated at -80°C for 20 minutes. 100 µl of Proteinase 'K' (20 mg/ml) was added to each tube and they are incubated at 60°C overnight. 625 µl of cold GTC buffer (4M Guanidinium Thiocynate, 25mM Sodium citrate, 0.5% (v\v) N-lauroylsarcosine, 7%(v/v) Beta Mercaptoethanol) was added to the tube, incubated on ice 30 min, and mixed by inverting every 10 min. 1 volume of phenol–chloroform-isoamyl alcohol (pH=8) was added to the lysate and mixed by inverting the tube 10-15 times. Tubes were centrifuged for 5 min at 10,000 g at 4°C to separate the phases. The upper aqueous phase was carefully collected into a fresh tube. One volume of fresh chloroform was added and mixed by inverting the tubes for 10-15 times and centrifuged for 5 min at 10,000 g at 4°C to separate the phases. One volume of cold 5 M NaCl was added, mixed by inverting the tubes and incubated on ice for 15 min. After incubation these tubes were centrifuged for 15 min at 12,000–16,000 g at 4°C. The supernatant containing the nucleic acids were slowly transferred into a fresh tube. One volume of isopropanol was added to the tube, inverted few times, and incubated on ice for 30 minutes. After incubation, the tubes were centrifuged at 3000 g for 30–45 min at 25°C and the supernatant was discarded without disturbing the pellet. The pellet was washed twice with 1 ml of 70% ethanol, tubes were centrifuged at 3000 g for 5 min and supernatant was discarded and incubated at 37°C for 10-15 min to dry the pellet. The pellet was resuspended carefully in TE buffer. The quality of the genomic DNA was analyzed with pulse field gel electrophoresis.

Genome sequencing and assembly

Long insert library has been prepared as recommended by Pacific Biscienes according to theprotocol 'Procedure & Checklist-Preparing gDNA Libraries Using the SMRTbell® Express Template Preparation Kit 2.0'. In summary, RNAse treated HMW gDNA has been sheared to 20 kb fragments on the MegaRuptor^{TM} device (Diagenode) and 10 μg sheared gDNA have been used for library preparation. The PacBio SMRTbell^{TM} library was size selected in two fractions (9-13kb, > 13kb) using the BluePippin^{TM} device with cassette definition of 0.75% DF MarkerS1 3-10 kb Improved Recovery. The second fraction of the size selected library has been loaded with 95 pM on plate on a Sequel SMRT cell (8M). Sequel polymerase 2.0 has been used in combination with the v2 PacBio sequencing primer and the Sequel sequencing kit 2.0EA, runtime was 30 hours. We created PacBio CCS reads from the subreads .bam file using PacBio's ccs command linetool (version4.2.0). We obtained 8.5Gb hiqh quality CCS reads (HiFi reads) with a N50 of 14.4 kb. We ran HiCanu (version 2.2)[39] to create the contig assembly. Blobtools[53] (version 1.1.1) was used to identify and remove bacterial contigs. The final triploid contig assembly consists of 856 contigs has a N50 of 3.82 Mb and a size of 266Mb. The mitochondrial genome was created with the mitoHifi pipeline (version 2, https://github.com/marcelauliano/MitoHiFi) based on the assembled contigs and the closely related reference mitochondrial genome of *Panagrellus redivivus* (strain: PS2298/MT8872, ENAaccession: AP017464). The mitoHifi pipeline identified 49 mitochondrial contigs ranging from 13-32Kb. The final annotated circular mitochondrial genome has a length of 17467 bp. To identify pseudohaplotypes in the the *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* genome assembly, we selected the longest isoform of each predicted protein-coding gene in our assembly and in the *C. elegans* genome (downloaded from WormBase Parasite, release WBPS15) using AGAT (version 0.4.0) and clustered them into orthologous groups (OGs) using OrthoFinder (version 2.5.2). We identified OGs that contained three *Panagrolaimus* sequences (i.e. groups that were present as single-copy in all three pseudohaplotypes) and used these to identify trios of multi-megabase size contigs derived from the three pseudohaplotypes. We visualized synteny between the three pseudohaplotypes using Circos to plot the positions of each homeolog (version 0.69-8).

Genome annotation

We used RepeatModeler 1.0.8 (http://www.repeatmasker.org/) with parameter '-engine ncbi' to create a library of repeat families. This library was used with RepeatMasker 4.0.9 to

soft-mask the *Panagrolaimus* genome. To annotate genes, we cross mapped protein models from an existing *Panagrolaimus* as external evidence in the Augustus based pipeline. We evaluated the completeness of our predictions using BUSCO on the gVolante web interface.

Orthology analysis

We conducted a gene orthology analysis using genomic data from *Panagrolaimus n. sp*, the Plectid nematode species from the permafrost, as well as genomic data from WormBase Parasite (https://parasite.wormbase.org; accessed 17/12/2020): *Caenorhabditis elegans*, *Diploscapter coronatus*, *Diploscapter pachys*, *Halicephalobus mephisto*, *Panagrellus redivivus*, *Panagrolaimus davidi*, *Panagrolaimus* sp. ES5, *Panagrolaimus* sp. PS1159, *Panagrolaimus superbus*, *Plectus sambesii*, and *Propanagrolaimus* sp. JU765. For plectids, genomic resources are scarce. We therefore added transcriptome data of *Plectus murrayi*, *Anaplectus granulosus*, *Neocamacolaimus parasiticus*, and *Stephanolaimus elegans*. The latter three transcriptomes were kindly provided by Dr. Oleksandr Holovachov (Swedish museum of natural history). The *Anaplectus granulosus*, and *Neocamacolaimus parasiticus* transcriptomes have been published [55,56]. All three transcriptomes were assembled de novo with Trinity[57]. The exact procedures are described in the respective publications[55,56] . The *Stephanolaimus elegans* transcriptome was assembled in the same way as described for *Neocamacolaimus parasiticus*. The *Plectus murrayi* transcriptome was built from raw reads deposited at NCBI (https://sra-downloadb.be-md.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sos2/sra-pub-run-13/SRR6827978/SRR6827978.1; accessed 22.12.2020). The transcriptome was assembled using Galaxy Trinity version 2.9.1[58], [57] using all default options and including in silico normalization of reads before assembly. Transdecoder (conda version 5.5.0)[59] was used to translate to amino acid sequence. Identical reads were removed with cd-hit version 4.8.1[60,61], and the Trinity get_longest_isoform_seq_per_trinity_gene.pl command[59] (Trinity conda version 2.8.5) (Anaconda Software Distribution, Conda, Version 4.9.2, Anaconda, Nov. 2020); was used, to remove shorter isoforms. Amino acid translated longest isoforms from genomic data were extracted with AGAT (Dainat, https://www.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3552717) from genome assembly FASTA files and genome annotation GFF3 files, using the agat_convert_sp_gxf2gxf.pl command to convert all GFF3 files to the required GFF3 format, and the agat_sp_keep_longest_isoform.pl as well as the agat_sp_extract_sequences.pl commands to extract amino acid translated FASTA files. The headers and names of all FASTA files were modified to allow for simple species assignment of each sequence in subsequent

analysis. The orthology analysis was conducted with OrthoFinder v. 2.5.1[62,63] using default
settings. For genes of interest, we constructed alignments with MAFFT v. 7.475[64] using the
localpair and maxiterate (1000) functions. We removed spurious sequences and areas that were
not well aligned with Trimal v. 1.4.rev22[65] (procedure stated in supplementary file Orthology
analysis below each phylogeny). We then ran phylogenetic analysis with Iqtree2 v. 2.0.6[66],
with -bb 1000 option, testing the model for each analysis (models eventually used stated in
supplementary file Orthology analysis). We also checked for PFAM domains using
Interproscan v. 5.50-84.0[67]. Part of the analysis was performed on the HPC RRZK CHEOPS
of the Regional Computing Centre (RRZK) of the University of Cologne. The phylogenies
were visualized with Dendroscope 3.7.6[68] and figures were created with Inkscape
(https://inkscape.org).
429

Phylogenomics

Sequences of 18S and 28S genes from 44 taxa across the *Propanagrolaimus*, *Panagrolaimus*,
Panagrellus and *Halicephalobus* genera (all listed in Supplementary information) were aligned
(MAFFT L-INS-I v7.475)[64], concatenated [69]and used to infer a species tree using maximum
likelihood via (IQTREE)[70] and partitioned by best-fit models of sequence evolution for both[71].
Nodal support was determined using 1000 bootstrap pseudoreplicates. A further 60 genes from
101 taxa (all listed in Supplementary information) were used to confirm the taxonomic
position using the supermatrix concatenation methods outlined above. Given the limitations of
differential gene sampling, we expanded our phylogenomic analyses to include a coalescence
approach using 12,295 ML gene trees inferred for orthogroups containing the target animal.
Instances of multiple genes per species per group were treated as paralogs/orthologs and
analysed using ASTRAL-Pro[72]. Given the number of copies of genes per orthogroup, we
explored whether auto or alloploidy was the source of extra genes observed using the gene-tree
reconciliation approach implemented in GRAMPA[75]. All gene trees rooted at the midpoint and
the final ASTRAL-pro species tree were used as inputs, with the most parsimonious result
analyzed further.
446

Desiccation survival assay

448 *C. elegans* dauer larvae desiccation assays were performed as described in[24]. *Panagrolaimus*
449 *n. sp* desiccation assays were performed similarly as described in[24] with mixed population
450 (Mixture of all larval stages and adults) of the nematodes.

Exposure of nematodes to extreme environments

C. elegans dauer larvae or mixed population (Mixture of all larval stages and adults) of *Panagrolaimus n. sp* nematodes were preconditioned and desiccated as described in[24], then transferred to elevated temperature of 34°C, freezing (-80°C) and anoxia. Anoxic environment was generated in a desiccation chamber at 60%RH by flushing the Nitrogen gas into the chamber. The concentration of oxygen inside the chamber was monitored. After each timepoint they were rehydrated with 500 µl of water for 2-3 hours. Rehydrated worms were transferred to NGM agar plates with *E. Coli NA22* as food. Survivors were counted after overnight incubation at 15°C. Each experiment was performed on two different days with at least two technical replicates.

Trehalose quantification from nematode lysates

Trehalose measurements were performed as described in previous reports[25].

Radiolabeling, metabolite extraction and 2D-TLC

The above-mentioned procedures were performed according to previous reports[3,25].

Identification of trehalose-6-phosphate from TLC plates

Normalised aqueous fractions from the non-preconditioned and preconditioned samples were separated by high performance thin layer chromatography (HPTLC), using 1-propanol-methanol-ammonia (32%)-water (28:8:7:7 v/v/v/v) as first, dried for 15 min and 1-butanol-acetone-glacial acetic acid–water (35:35:7:23 v/v/v/v) second dimension respectively. Using the trehalose as a standard on both dimensions of the TLC, the regions of interest were scrapped out from the TLCs. The scraped-out silica was extracted with 10 ml of 50% methanol twice. The fractions were combined, dried under vacuum and dissolved in 100 µl of MS mix solution containing 4:2:1 (Isopropanol:Methanol:Chloroform) with 7.5 mM ammonium formate. Mass spectrometric analysis was performed on a Q Exactive instrument (Thermo Fischer Scientific, Bremen, DE) equipped with a robotic nanoflow ion source TriVersa NanoMate (Advion BioSciences, Ithaca, USA) using nanoelectrospray chips with a diameter of 4.1 µm. The ion source was controlled by the Chipsoft 8.3.1 software (Advion BioSciences). Ionization voltage was + 0.96 kV in negative mode; backpressure was set at 1.25 psi. The temperature of the ion transfer capillary was 200°C; S-lens RF level was set to 50%. FT MS spectra were acquired within the range of m/z 50–750 at the mass resolution of R m/z 200 = 140000; automated gain control (AGC) of 3×10^6 and with the maximal injection time of 3000 ms. FT MS/MS spectra

were acquired within the range of m/z 50–750 at the mass resolution of R m/z 200 = 140000; automated gain control (AGC) of 3×10^4 and with a maximal injection time of 30 s.

Triacylglycerols measurement from *Panagrolaimus n. sp* lysates

Non-preconditioned and preconditioned pellets were lysed in 200 µl of isopropanol with 0.5 mm Zircornium beads twice for 15 min. The lysates were centrifuged at 1300 g for 5 min. The supernatant was carefully collected without any debris, 20 µl of the lysate was used for protein estimation. Normalization was performed according to soluble protein levels, supernatant volumes corresponding to 50-100 µg of proteins were dried in the desiccator. 700 µl of IS ((10:3 (Methyl tert-butyl ether: ethanol)) mix (warmed to room temperature) was added to dried samples and left on the shaker for 1 hour. The samples were centrifuged at 1400 rpm and 4°C. 140 µl of water was added and left on the shaker for 15 min. These samples were centrifuged at 13400 rpm for 15 min. The upper organic fraction was collected and transferred to 1.5 ml glass vial and left for drying in the desiccator. The dried samples were reconstituted in a volume of 300 µl of 4:2:1 (Isopropanol:Methanol:Chloroform). Volume corresponding to 1 µg was used for injection.

LC-MS/MS analysis was performed on a high-performance liquid chromatography system (Agilent 1200 HPLC) coupled to a Xevo G2-S QTof (Waters). The samples were resolved on a reverse phase C18 column (Cortecs C18 2.7um from Waters) with 50:50:0.1:1% (Water:Methanol:Formicacid:1MAmmoniumformate) and 25:85:0.1:1% (Acetonitrile:Isopropanol:Formic acid:1M Ammonium formate) as mobile phase. The following gradient program was used: Eluent B from 0 % to 100 % within 12 min; 100 % from 12 min to 17min; 0 % from 17 min to 25 min. The flow rate was set at 0.3 ml/min. The samples were normalised according to the total protein concentration and the worm numbers. TAG 50:00:00 was used as internal standard. Skylinesoftware (https://skyline.ms/project/home/software/Skyline/begin.view) was used to analyse the raw data. TAGs were extracted from Lipidmaps (https://www.lipidmaps.org/) database.

Author contributions

AS, VG, PS, TK conceived and designed the study. AS, VG, TH, MP, AT, GH, MH, ER, PS and TK contributed to the original draft. AS performed cultivation of nematode, provided samples for scanning electron microscopy and radiocarbon dating. VG performed desiccation survival assays, trehalose measurement, 2D-TLC of metabolites, trehalose-6-phosphate detection, combination of cryptobiosis experiments, genomic DNA isolation from *Panagrolaimus n. sp.*, assembled the data from all the authors, prepared the figures and revised the manuscript. MP performed genome assembly. TH conducted orthology analyses and single gene phylogenies and contributed to figures. AT provided morphological description, light, and scanning electron microscopy. LS analyzed the genome assembly and created figures. GMH performed the phylogenetic, MUL analyses. ST performed triacylglycerols measurements, trehalose-6-phosphate detection with suggestions from Andrej Shevchenko. MH annotated supplementary table 3. PS performed genome annotation and supervised TH and LS. EWM supervised MP and had overall responsibility for sequencing and assembly including funding it.

Acknowledgements

VG is thankful to Andrej Shevchenko, members of Kurzchalia lab for helpful discussions and the core facilities of MPI-CBG for assistance. We are grateful to Dr. S. Gubin for field study and sampling, our colleagues in Soil Cryology Lab, Pushchino and North-East Scientific Station in Chersky, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) for their help and cooperation. The authors thank Long Read Team of the DRESDEN-concept Genome Center, DFG NGS Competence Center, part of the Center for Molecular and Cellular Bioengineering (CMCB), Technische Universität Dresden and MPI-CBG. GMH is funded by a UCD Ad Astra Fellowship. This work was supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (19-29-05003-mk) to AS and ER. VG and TK acknowledge the financial support from the Volkswagen Foundation (Life? research grant 92847). PS and TH are supported by a DFG ENP grant to PS (DFG project 434028868). The authors are thankful to Richard Roy and Jens Bast for critical reading the manuscript. We thank Iain Pattern for suggestions in writing the manuscript. The funders have no role in the design of the study.

578   **Conflict of interest:**

579   The authors declare they have no conflict of interest relating to the content of this article.

References

1. Hibshman, J. D., Clegg, J. S. & Goldstein, B. Mechanisms of Desiccation Tolerance: Themes and Variations in Brine Shrimp, Roundworms, and Tardigrades. *Front. Physiol.* **11**, 592016 (2020).

2. Erkut, C. *et al.* Molecular Strategies of the Caenorhabditis elegans Dauer Larva to Survive Extreme Desiccation. *PLoS ONE* **8**, e82473 (2013).

3. Gade, V. R., Traikov, S., Oertel, J., Fahmy, K. & Kurzchalia, T. V. C. elegans possess a general program to enter cryptobiosis that allows dauer larvae to survive different kinds of abiotic stress. *Sci. Rep.* **10**, 13466 (2020).

4. Shatilovich, A. V. *et al.* Viable Nematodes from Late Pleistocene Permafrost of the Kolyma River Lowland. *Dokl. Biol. Sci.* **480**, 100–102 (2018).

5. Shmakova, L. *et al.* A living bdelloid rotifer from 24,000-year-old Arctic permafrost. *Curr. Biol.* **31**, R712–R713 (2021).

6. Keilin, D. The Leeuwenhoek Lecture - The problem of anabiosis or latent life: history and current concept. *Proc. R. Soc. Lond. Ser. B - Biol. Sci.* **150**, 149–191 (1959).

7. Cano, R. & Borucki, M. Revival and identification of bacterial spores in 25- to 40-million-year-old Dominican amber. *Science* **268**, 1060–1064 (1995).

8. Shen-Miller, J. Sacred lotus, the long-living fruits of China Antique. *Seed Sci. Res.* **12**, 131–143 (2002).

9. Guidetti, R. & Jönsson, K. I. Long-term anhydrobiotic survival in semi-terrestrial micrometazoans. *J. Zool.* **257**, 181–187 (2002).

10. Tsujimoto, M., Imura, S. & Kanda, H. Recovery and reproduction of an Antarctic tardigrade retrieved from a moss sample frozen for over 30 years. *Cryobiology* **72**, 78–81 (2016).

11. Kagoshima, H. *et al.* Multi-decadal survival of an Antarctic nematode, Plectus murrayi, in a -20°C stored moss sample. *CryoLetters* **33**, 280–288 (2012).

12. Steiner, G. & Florence E, A. Resuscitation of the nematode Tylenchus polyhypnus, n. sp., after almost 39 years' dormancy. *J. Wash. Acad. Sci.* **36**, 97–99.

13. Gilichinsky, D. A. *et al.* Microbial Populations in Antarctic Permafrost: Biodiversity, State, Age, and Implication for Astrobiology. *Astrobiology* **7**, 275–311 (2007).

14. Rivkina, E. *et al.* Earth's perennially frozen environments as a model of cryogenic planet ecosystems. *Permafr. Periglac. Process.* **29**, 246–256 (2018).

15. Sipes, K. *et al.* Eight Metagenome-Assembled Genomes Provide Evidence for Microbial
Adaptation in 20,000- to 1,000,000-Year-Old Siberian Permafrost. *Appl. Environ.*
Microbiol. **87**, (2021).

16. Liang, R. *et al.* Genomic reconstruction of fossil and living microorganisms in ancient
Siberian permafrost. *Microbiome* **9**, 110 (2021).

17. Gilichinsky, D. A. & Rivkina, E. M. Permafrost Microbiology. 7 (2011).

18. Yashina, S. *et al.* Regeneration of whole fertile plants from 30,000-y-old fruit tissue buried
in Siberian permafrost. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **109**, 4008–4013 (2012).

19. Adhikari, B. N., Wall, D. H. & Adams, B. J. Desiccation survival in an Antarctic nematode:
molecular analysis using expressed sequenced tags. *BMC Genomics* **10**, 69 (2009).

20. Tyson, T. *et al.* A molecular analysis of desiccation tolerance mechanisms in the
anhydrobiotic nematode Panagrolaimus superbus using expressed sequenced tags. *BMC*
Res. Notes **5**, 68 (2012).

21. McGill, L. M. *et al.* Anhydrobiosis and Freezing-Tolerance: Adaptations That Facilitate the
Establishment of Panagrolaimus Nematodes in Polar Habitats. *PLOS ONE* **10**, e0116084
(2015).

22. Thorne, M. A. S., Kagoshima, H., Clark, M. S., Marshall, C. J. & Wharton, D. A. Molecular
Analysis of the Cold Tolerant Antarctic Nematode, Panagrolaimus davidi. *PLoS ONE* **9**,
e104526 (2014).

23. Sandhove, J., Spann, N. & Ristau, K. The Anhydrobiotic Potential of the Terrestrial
Nematodes *Plectus parietinus* and *Plectus velox*: Anhydrobiosis OF *Plectus parietinus* and
P. velox. *J. Exp. Zool. Part Ecol. Genet. Physiol.* **325**, 434–440 (2016).

24. Erkut, C. *et al.* Trehalose Renders the Dauer Larva of Caenorhabditis elegans Resistant to
Extreme Desiccation. *Curr. Biol.* **21**, 1331–1336 (2011).

25. Erkut, C., Gade, V. R., Laxman, S. & Kurzchalia, T. V. The glyoxylate shunt is essential
for desiccation tolerance in C. elegans and budding yeast. *elife* **5**, (2016).

26. Zanina, O. G., Gubin, S. V., Kuzmina, S. A., Maximovich, S. V. & Lopatina, D. A. Late-
Pleistocene (MIS 3-2) palaeoenvironments as recorded by sediments, palaeosols, and
ground-squirrel nests at Duvanny Yar, Kolyma lowland, northeast Siberia. *Quat. Sci. Rev.*
30, 2107–2123 (2011).

27. Murton, J. B. *et al.* Palaeoenvironmental Interpretation of Yedoma Silt (Ice Complex)
Deposition as Cold-Climate Loess, Duvanny Yar, Northeast Siberia: Palaeoenvironmental

Interpretation of Yedoma Silt, Duvanny Yar. *Permafr. Periglac. Process.* **26**, 208–288
(2015).

28.Abramov, A., Vishnivetskaya, T. & Rivkina, E. Are permafrost microorganisms as old as
permafrost? *FEMS Microbiol. Ecol.* **97**, fiaa260 (2021).

29.Gilichinsky, D. A., Wagener, S. & Vishnevetskaya, T. A. Permafrost microbiology.
Permafr. Periglac. Process. **6**, 281–291 (1995).

30.Schiffer, P. H. *et al.* Signatures of the Evolution of Parthenogenesis and Cryptobiosis in the
Genomes of Panagrolaimid Nematodes. *iScience* **21**, 587–602 (2019).

31.Schiffer, P. H. *et al.* Developmental variations among Panagrolaimid nematodes indicate
developmental system drift within a small taxonomic unit. *Dev. Genes Evol.* **224**, 183–188
(2014).

32.Dey, A., Chan, C. K. W., Thomas, C. G. & Cutter, A. D. Molecular hyperdiversity defines
populations of the nematode Caenorhabditis brenneri. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **110**, 11056–
11060 (2013).

33.Cutter, A. D. Divergence Times in Caenorhabditis and Drosophila Inferred from Direct
Estimates of the Neutral Mutation Rate. *Mol. Biol. Evol.* **25**, 778–786 (2008).

34.Seybold, A. C., Wharton, D. A., Thorne, M. A. S. & Marshall, C. J. Investigating trehalose
synthesis genes after cold acclimation in the Antarctic nematode *Panagrolaimus* sp. DAW1.
Biol. Open bio.023341 (2017) doi:10.1242/bio.023341.

35.Evangelista, C. C. S. *et al.* Multiple genes contribute to anhydrobiosis (tolerance to extreme
desiccation) in the nematode Panagrolaimus superbus. *Genet. Mol. Biol.* **40**, 790–802
(2017).

36.Malavin, S., Shmakova, L., Claverie, J.-M. & Rivkina, E. Frozen Zoo: a collection of
permafrost samples containing viable protists and their viruses. *Biodivers. Data J.* **8**, e51586
(2020).

37.Krivushin, K. *et al.* Two Metagenomes from Late Pleistocene Northeast Siberian
Permafrost. *Genome Announc.* **3**, e01380-14 (2015).

38.Zhou, J. *et al.* Phylogenetic diversity of a bacterial community determined from Siberian
tundra soil DNA. *Microbiology* **143**, 3913–3919 (1997).

39.Kapterev, P. Anabiosis in the conditions of permanent congelation. *Izv Akad Nauk SSSR Ser*
Biol **6**, 1073–1088 (1936).

40.Kapterev, P. New data on revitalization of organisms from perpetually frozen grounds. *CR*
Acad Sci URSS **20**, 315–317 (1938).

41. Andrássy, I. *Klasse Nematoda*. (Gustav Fischer Verlag, 1984).

42. Lewis, S. C. *et al.* Molecular evolution in Panagrolaimus nematodes: origins of

parthenogenesis, hermaphroditism and the Antarctic species P. davidi. *BMC Evol. Biol.* **9**,

15 (2009).

43. Andrássy, I. *Free-living Nematodes of Hungary*. (Hungarian Natural History Museum,

2005).

44. Schulenburg, H. & Félix, M.-A. The Natural Biotic Environment of *Caenorhabditis*

elegans. *Genetics* **206**, 55–86 (2017).

45. Frézal, L. & Félix, M.-A. C. elegans outside the Petri dish. *eLife* **4**, e05849 (2015).

46. Gems, D. *et al.* Two pleiotropic classes of daf-2 mutation affect larval arrest, adult behavior,

reproduction, and longevity in Caenorhabditis elegans. *Genetics* **150**, 129–155 (1998).

47. Vowels, J. J. & Thomas, J. H. Multiple chemosensory defects in daf-11 and daf-21 mutants

of Caenorhabditis elegans. *Genetics* **138**, 303–316 (1994).

48. Ren Peifeng *et al.* Control of C. elegans Larval Development by Neuronal Expression of a

TGF-β Homolog. *Science* **274**, 1389–1391 (1996).

49. Gerisch, B., Weitzel, C., Kober-Eisermann, C., Rottiers, V. & Antebi, A. A Hormonal

Signaling Pathway Influencing C. elegans Metabolism, Reproductive Development, and

Life Span. *Dev. Cell* **1**, 841–851 (2001).

50. Penkov, S. *et al.* Integration of carbohydrate metabolism and redox state controls dauer

larva formation in Caenorhabditis elegans. *Nat. Commun.* **6**, 8060 (2015).

51. Penkov, S. *et al.* A metabolic switch regulates the transition between growth and diapause

in C. elegans. *BMC Biol.* **18**, 31 (2020).

52. Nurk, S. *et al.* HiCanu: accurate assembly of segmental duplications, satellites, and allelic

variants from high-fidelity long reads. *Genome Res.* **30**, 1291–1305 (2020).

53. Laetsch, D. R. & Blaxter, M. L. BlobTools: Interrogation of genome assemblies.

F1000Research **6**, 1287 (2017).

54. Brůna, T., Hoff, K. J., Lomsadze, A., Stanke, M. & Borodovsky, M. BRAKER2: automatic

eukaryotic genome annotation with GeneMark-EP+ and AUGUSTUS supported by a

protein database. *NAR Genomics Bioinforma.* **3**, lqaa108 (2021).

55. Smythe, A. B., Holovachov, O. & Kocot, K. M. Improved phylogenomic sampling of free-

living nematodes enhances resolution of higher-level nematode phylogeny. *BMC Evol. Biol.*

19, 121 (2019).

56. Ahmed, M., Adedidran, F. & Holovachov, O. A draft transcriptome of a parasite

Neocamacolaimus parasiticus (Camacolaimidae, Plectida). *J. Nematol.* **53**, 1–4 (2021).

57. Grabherr, M. G. *et al.* Full-length transcriptome assembly from RNA-Seq data without a

reference genome. *Nat. Biotechnol.* **29**, 644–652 (2011).

58. Goecks, J., Nekrutenko, A., Taylor, J. & Galaxy Team, T. Galaxy: a comprehensive

approach for supporting accessible, reproducible, and transparent computational research in

the life sciences. *Genome Biol.* **11**, R86 (2010).

59. Haas, B. J. *et al.* De novo transcript sequence reconstruction from RNA-seq using the

Trinity platform for reference generation and analysis. *Nat. Protoc.* **8**, 1494–1512 (2013).

60. Li, W. & Godzik, A. Cd-hit: a fast program for clustering and comparing large sets of

protein or nucleotide sequences. *Bioinformatics* **22**, 1658–1659 (2006).

61. Fu, L., Niu, B., Zhu, Z., Wu, S. & Li, W. CD-HIT: accelerated for clustering the next-

generation sequencing data. *Bioinformatics* **28**, 3150–3152 (2012).

62. Emms, D. M. & Kelly, S. OrthoFinder: solving fundamental biases in whole genome

comparisons dramatically improves orthogroup inference accuracy. *Genome Biol.* **16**, 157

(2015).

63. Emms, D. M. & Kelly, S. OrthoFinder: phylogenetic orthology inference for comparative

genomics. *Genome Biol.* **20**, 238 (2019).

64. Katoh, K. & Standley, D. M. MAFFT Multiple Sequence Alignment Software Version 7:

Improvements in Performance and Usability. *Mol. Biol. Evol.* **30**, 772–780 (2013).

65. Capella-Gutierrez, S., Silla-Martinez, J. M. & Gabaldon, T. trimAl: a tool for automated

alignment trimming in large-scale phylogenetic analyses. *Bioinformatics* **25**, 1972–1973

(2009).

66. Minh, B. Q. *et al.* IQ-TREE 2: New Models and Efficient Methods for Phylogenetic

Inference in the Genomic Era. *Mol. Biol. Evol.* **37**, 1530–1534 (2020).

67. Jones, P. *et al.* InterProScan 5: genome-scale protein function classification. *Bioinformatics*

30, 1236–1240 (2014).

68. Huson, D. H. & Scornavacca, C. Dendroscope 3: An Interactive Tool for Rooted

Phylogenetic Trees and Networks. *Syst. Biol.* **61**, 1061–1067 (2012).

69. Kück, P. & Meusemann, K. FASconCAT: Convenient handling of data matrices. *Mol.*

Phylogenet. Evol. **56**, 1115–1118 (2010).

70. Nguyen, L.-T., Schmidt, H. A., von Haeseler, A. & Minh, B. Q. IQ-TREE: A Fast and
Effective Stochastic Algorithm for Estimating Maximum-Likelihood Phylogenies. *Mol.*
Biol. Evol. **32**, 268–274 (2015).

71. Kalyaanamoorthy, S., Minh, B. Q., Wong, T. K. F., von Haeseler, A. & Jermiin, L. S.
ModelFinder: fast model selection for accurate phylogenetic estimates. *Nat. Methods* **14**,
587–589 (2017).

72. Zhang, C., Scornavacca, C., Molloy, E. K. & Mirarab, S. ASTRAL-Pro: Quartet-Based
Species-Tree Inference despite Paralogy. *Mol. Biol. Evol.* **37**, 3292–3307 (2020).

73. Ranallo-Benavidez, T. R., Jaron, K. S. & Schatz, M. C. GenomeScope 2.0 and Smudgeplot
for reference-free profiling of polyploid genomes. *Nat. Commun.* **11**, 1432 (2020).

74. Kokot, M., Długosz, M. & Deorowicz, S. KMC 3: counting and manipulating k-mer
statistics. *Bioinformatics* **33**, 2759–2761 (2017).

75. Thomas, GWC., Ather, H. S., Hahn, W. Matthew. Gene-Tree Reconciliation with MUL-
Trees to Resolve Polyploidy Events. Systematic Biology 66, 1007-1018 (2017).

  Figure legends

Figure 1. Study site.

a) location of the Duvanny Yar outcrope on the Kolyma River, northeastern Siberia, Russia. b)

view of the upper part of outcrop composed of ice wedges and permafrost silty deposits. c)

lithostratigraphic scheme of deposits, showing location of studied rodent borrow (red circle).

d) fossil rodent burrow with herbaceous litter and seeds buried in permafrost deposits; m a.r.l.

= meters above river level.

Figure 2. General morphology of *Panagrolaimus n. sp*., female.

Scanning electron pictures (a, c), light microscopy photographs (e, f) and graphic presentations

(b, d, g) of holotype: a, b) entire body, c, d) anterior ends, e) anterior body, f) perivulvar body

region, g) tail. Abbreviations: l.f. – lateral field, ov – ovary, pro – procorpus of the pharynx,

t.b. – terminal bulb of the pharynx, u – uterus with eggs, v – vulva, v.p. – ventral pore. Scale

bars: a, d, e, f, g – 20 μm, b – 100 μm, c – 2 μm.

Figure 3. Genome assembly and phylogenomics reveals that the newly discovered *Panagrolaimus n. sp* species is triploid.

a) Kmer spectra of the *Panagrolaimus n. sp* PacBio HiFi data. Kmers of length 19 were counted using Jellyfish. b) Circos plot showing the triploid structure of the *Panagrolaimus n. sp* genome. Lines represent the position of 6,715 homeologs in eight contigs that comprise 39.9 Mb (15%) of the assembly. Homeologs were identified by clustering protein-coding genes into orthogroups using OrthoFinder and selecting groups containing three sequences. Contig IDs and scale is shown. c) Inferred species tree for all taxa. The maximum likelihood tree inferred using a concatenated supermatrix (18S and 28S genes) with bootstrap support values is displayed. All genera are represented as monophyletic clades. *Panagrolaimus n. sp* is highlighted in red and basal to all other *Panagrolaimus* taxa. Internal nodes, where all subsequent branches represent identical sequences, are displayed with a black star. d) *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* possesses *C. elegans* gene orthologs to enzymes required for TCA cycle, glyoxylate shunt, glycolysis, gluconeogenesis, trehalose synthesis, and polyamine synthesis. Black filled circles: Ortholog presence suggested by orthogroup clustering, phylogenetic analysis, and domain architecture. White filled circles: No ortholog found via current analysis. Coloured filled circles: Presence of *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* gene(s), related to several *C. elegans* genes (all genes of same colour) that are all co-orthologous to that gene (those genes). Label: *C. elegans* enzyme names and orthogroup that contains that gene according to our orthogroup clustering.

Figure 4. *C. elegans* **dauer larvae and** *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* **might utilize similar mechanisms to survive cryptobiosis.**

a) Survival rate of *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* nematodes to desiccation and freezing (-80°C). Error bars indicate standard error of mean of two independent experiments with two technical replicates performed on two different days. Statistical comparison was performed using unpaired t test with Welch correction. n.s. $p > 0.05$, ****$p < 0.0001$. For desiccation (non-preconditioned) $n = 289$, freezing (non-preconditioned) $n = 675$, desiccation (preconditioned at 98%RH) $n = 953$ and freezing (preconditioned at 98%RH) $n = 1295$. b) *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* nematodes and *daf-2(e1370)* dauer larvae upregulate trehalose levels upon preconditioning at 98%RH. Error bars indicate standard error of mean of two independent experiments with three replicates performed on two different days. Statistical comparison was performed using two-way ANOVA with Holm-Sidak's multiple comparison test, ****$p < 0.0001$. c-d) 2D-thin layer chromatography of ^{14}C-acetate labelled metabolites from *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* that were non-preconditioned and preconditioned at 98%RH. Enumerated spots indicate trehalose (1), glucose (2), glutamate (3), glutamine (4), serine/glycine (5) and phenylalanine (6). Representative images from at least two independent experiments performed on two different days. e) Desiccated *daf-2 (e1370)* dauer larvae survive to freezing (-80°C) for an extremely long period. Error bars indicate standard error of mean of two independent experiments with two technical replicates performed on two different days. f) Brood size of desiccated dauer larvae exposed to freezing remain like that non- desiccated dauer larvae. Average brood size is the mean of seven dauer larvae per each condition. Statistical comparison was performed by using non-parametric Kolmogorov-smirnov test n.s $p>0.05$.

Figure S1. Calibration of a radiocarbon (^{14}C) date.

Radiocarbon date (44,315±405 BP) and calibrated age (45,839 -- 47,769 cal BP) of plant

material collected from buried borrow P-1320. Radiocarbon ages were converted to calendar

age equivalents with the OxCal V.4.4 program using the IntCal20 calibration curve. Pink-

shaded area — radiocarbon date with standard deviation; grey-shaded area — radiocarbon date

projection on the calibration curve with 95.4% probability.

981 **Figure S2. Morphology of *Panagrolaimus n. sp* sp. n., female.**

982 Graphic presentations of holotype (a,b) and SEM pictures (c-i): a) anterior body, b) female

983 reproductive branch, c–e) anterior end of three different female specimens, f) anterior part of the

984 lateral ridge, g) vulva, h) ventral excretory/secretory pore, i) posterior body with anus and

985 lateral ridge. Scale bars: a,b - 50 μm, c,i - 3 μm, d - 2 μm, e –1 μm, f,h - 5 μm, g - 10 μm, .

1000

1001

1002

1003

1004

1005

1006

1007

1008

1009

1010

1011

1012

Figure S3. Phylogenies inferred for genes sets using both concatenation and coalescence

approaches.

a) The ploidy level was analysed with *Smudgeplot* v0.2.1[73]. KMC version 3.1.0[74] was used

to count the 21-mers in the PacBio CCS reads. Then we ran *smudgeplot.py* to determine the

lower and upper coverage cut-offs. These were determined to be 14 and 380. 21-mers with a

coverage between 14 and 380 were filtered with kmc_tools. Then, we computed the k-mer

pairs from the filtered 21-mers by running *smudgeplot.py hetkmers*. Finally, the produced a

smudgeplot shows an estimated ploidy of 3. b) Species tree inferred for 12,295 gene trees using

coalescence approach. The species tree implemented using the coalescence approach with

orthogroup gene tree is displayed. Novel species in this study are displayed in red. All nodes

have a posterior probability of 1. c) Species tree inferred for 102 taxa. The maximum likelihood

tree inferred using a concatenated supermatrix of 60 genes is displayed. Bootstrap values are

only displayed for nodes with less than 100% support. The platyhelminth *Macrostum lignano*

serves as an outgroup for rooting. The ancestral *Panagrolaimus*, sister to all others within the

Panagrolaimus genus, is highlighted in red.

1028

1029

1030

1031

1032

1033

1034

1035

1036

1037

1038

1039

1040

1041

1042

1043

1044

Figure S4. Combination of cryptobiotic states enhances survival of *C. elegans* dauer larvae.

a) Desiccated dauer larvae manifest enhanced survival rate to heat stress (34°C). Error bars indicate standard deviation of two independent experiments with two technical replicates. b) Desiccated dauer larvae display enhances survival rate to anoxia. Error bars indicate standard deviation of two independent experiments with two technical replicates. Statistical comparison was performed by paired two tailed t-test. *$p < 0.05$. c) *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* possesses gene orthologs to most genes implicated in dauer formation and metabolism in *C. elegans*. Black filled circles: Ortholog presence suggested by orthogroup clustering, phylogenetic analysis, and domain architecture. White filled circles: No ortholog found via current analysis (in all cases these *C. elegans* genes did not cluster with any *Panagrolaimus* genes in the orthogroup clustering). Label: *C. elegans* enzyme names and orthogroup that contains that gene according to our orthogroup clustering.

Figure S5. *Panagrolaimus n. sp.* **reduces triacylglycerols (TAGs) levels and accumulates trehalose-6-phosphate upon preconditioning at 98%RH.**

a) 1D-Thin layer chromatography of acetate labelled organic fractions of non-preconditioned (1) and preconditioned (2) *P. kolymaensis*. b) Mass spectrometric quantification of TAG levels of non-preconditioned (1) and preconditioned (2) *P. kolymaensis*. Error bars indicate standard deviation of two biological replicates with two technical replicates. Statistical analysis was performed using unpaired t-test with Welch correction **$p < 0.001$. c-d) non-preconditioned and preconditioned mass spectrum of an empty region, e-f) spot 1 (trehalose), g-h) spot 7 (trehalose-6-phosphate) scraped out and extracted from the 2D-TLC.

1112   **Figure S6. Exploring a possible allopolyploid origin for extra proteins.**

1113   Gene-tree reconciliation was used to determine whether extra sets of proteins across

1114   orthogroups originate through auto- or allopolyploidy. Different copies of proteins (designated

1115   by '+' and '*') suggest an allopolyploid origin. Parthenogenetic species are highlighted in bold.

Figure 1
Shatilovich *et al*

Figure 3
Shatilovich *et al*

Figure S1
Shatilovich *et al*

Figure S6
Shatilovich *et al*