Changes in functional composition and gene expression in eukaryotic plankton at the Atlantic-Arctic Polar front

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Abstract

Planktonic communities are shaped by ocean currents and participate in multiple global biogeochemical cycles. Unraveling how the functions of communities respond to strong environmental gradients will improve our understanding of the interactions between climate change and marine ecosystems. Here, we investigate changes in functions and gene expression of eukaryotic plankton transiting between the North Atlantic Ocean (NAO) in winter and the Arctic Ocean (AO) in spring/summer using metatranscriptomes and metagenomes from *Tara* Oceans. In Arctic communities, functions involved in maintaining the protein pool and translation machinery appear to be more active. Four major phylogenetically distant algal groups are abundant in both basins and show similar strategies at transcriptional level, including increased expression of some functions related to cold acclimation. These results shade lights on gene expression strategies shared by cosmopolitan phototrophs of widely separated lineages.

Introduction

Planktonic microorganisms thrive in all oceans of the Earth under diverse conditions ranging from highly oligotrophic, warm saline tropical gyres to highly seasonal, low-salinity and cold polar waters. They are key players in many biogeochemical processes such as primary production via photosynthesis (*1*), carbon export to the deep ocean (*2–4*) and essentially sustain the entire

oceanic trophic system (*5*). Many studies based either on satellite (*6, 7*) or genomic data (*4, 8, 9*) revealed a mainly latitudinal and temperature driven biogeographical partitioning of the oceans. While some species have strictly defined environmental niches (*4, 10*), some display cosmopolitan biogeographies, such as *Bathycoccus prasinos* which is present in both polar and temperate oceans (*11*) or *Pelagomonas calceolata* that is cosmopolitan in all except polar oceans (*12*).

Understanding how microorganisms acclimate and adapt (or not) to highly differentiated environments as they are passively transported by currents to new physico-chemical conditions is a critical question in the context of climate change. As an example, the transition between the North Atlantic and Arctic waters is made through the North Atlantic Current (NAC) that is the most important boundary current on Earth, with more than 40 Sv (40 million m^3/s) flow rate of water in the south and 20 Sv as it crosses the more eastward Mid-Atlantic Ridge (*13*). Major inflows of the Arctic Ocean, mainly a landlocked sea, are therefore the warm and saline Atlantic Waters (AW) that enter via the Barents Sea Opening and eastern Fram Strait. The warming of AW, the arctic sea-ice loss (*14, 15*), along with the shoaling of the intermediate-depth Atlantic Water layer and the increased winter ventilation in the eastern Eurasian Basin of the Arctic are making it structurally similar to the Western Eurasian Basin (*16, 17*). This suite of processes has been called "atlantification" of the Eurasian Basin and it is bringing the Arctic into a new climate state, characterized by a much greater role of Atlantic inflows (*18*). Documented range expansions attributed to warming include new appearances of temperate dinoflagellates and coccolithophores in high-latitude subpolar regions (*18, 19*), while other planktonic taxa are predicted to extend their ranges poleward under future climate conditions (*20, 21*).

This context raises the question of physiological acclimation to this new environment of incoming species and consequences on this ecosystem. While the physiological response of plankton to various environmental changes has been relatively well explored *in vitro* (*10, 22, 23*), studies are only just beginning to explore key metabolisms to explore photosynthesis, nitrogen metabolism (*24*), nutrient limitation (*25*) as well as community-level responses to iron availability (*26*) using *in situ* omics data. Genomic adaptation and acclimation to cold environments has also been investigated in the diatom *Fragilariopsis cylindrus* whose genome is notably enriched in metal-binding proteins, as well as ice-binding proteins and other stress related proteins associated with photosynthesis (*27*). In this diatom, many genes were also found to have bi-allelic differential expression in the Southern Ocean (*27*).

As the Arctic warms, atlantification might turn the Arctic into a CO_2 source instead of a sink, which would have major consequences on the global carbon budget (*28, 29*). For example in some

autotrophic plankton, when temperatures increase, the metabolism switches to heterotrophy and

its rate increases (*30*) in agreement with the metabolic theory of ecology (MTE) (*31*). In the context

of the atlantification, it appears critical to explore functional characterization of North Atlantic

plankton communities entering the Arctic Ocean and to compare the functioning of both basins.

Here we study metagenomic and metatranscriptomic data from eukaryotic plankton communities

to characterize their differences in composition and function along their transport through the

North Atlantic and into the Arctic Ocean basin. Significant changes in gene expression levels of

certain functions, consistent across various lineages, emerge in light of the strong environmental

clines along this route.

Results

Oceanographic context of the NAO/AO transition

The *Tara* schooner sampled the North Atlantic Ocean between January and March 2012 and the

Arctic Ocean between May and September 2013 (*Tara* Oceans sampling sites 143 to 196). While

the sampling route did not sample both basins the same year, there is a continuum in the seasons

sampled. Both basins have a relatively high seasonality, yet recent studies (*4, 8, 9*) suggest that

relatively stable plankton biogeographies exist at the global scale, which is confirmed here (see

below). In terms of connectivity, values of minimum transport time by currents (Tmin) computed

from previous studies (*8, 9*) between each proximal station (defined by this minimum transport

time) confirm that the flow of currents is directed from the Atlantic into the Arctic (Figure 1). To

enter the Arctic Ocean the boat first followed the western route via the Greenland Sea south of

the Fram strait (*Tara* Oceans stations 158 to 163, Tmin=3.2 months). The boat then left the main

current and bifurcated to the Barents Sea route (*Tara* Oceans stations 163 to 168, Tmin=7.5

months, stations 158 to 168 orange dashed arrow, Tmin=6.1 months). From station_168 onward,

the boat sampled different Arctic regions under the influence of Atlantic inflows with the exceptions

of stations 191 to 196 which are impacted by Pacific inflows (Figure 1a and Supplementary Figure

1b). The polar front is identified by a steep temperature gradient located at the time of sampling

(June 2013) between station 158 and 163 (orange arrow Figure 1b). We further discuss

environmental differences between the two oceanic basins and in light of current connectivity in

Supplementary Discussion 1. Considering this strong environmental change along the NAC we

first studied the genomic differentiation of the eukaryote communities of the two basins.

Genomic biogeography of the NAO/AO transition

We updated a collection of ~158 million eukaryotic unigenes (longest assembled gene

sequences) constructed from metatranscriptomic data (*32*) that included the *Tara* Oceans Polar

Circle stations. For this study, we selected 69.2 million unigenes from the 0.8-2000 µm size

fraction that is enriched in unicellular eukaryotes and small zooplankton. To explore
biogeographical structure, we studied changes in plankton community composition by estimating
2 types of β diversity (βD) among stations in metagenomes and metatranscriptomes (see
Methods, equations 4 and 5). These β diversity estimates were highly correlated (see Methods).
A strong differentiation was found between the Arctic and the Atlantic although each basin
appears to be relatively heterogeneous (Figure 2a). In the Arctic, this heterogeneity doesn't
correspond to the different oceanographic regions (33). We also note that, despite being
influenced by Pacific waters (34) stations 193 to 196 do not cluster together (Figure 2a). From the
β-diversity matrix clustering (Figure 2a), we classify stations 143-155 as NAO and 158-196 as
AO. We can then define and analyze unigenes that are either specific to a single basin (NAO or
AO) or common to both basins (Methods). The taxonomic composition of these specific and
common unigenes, according to their relative abundances (Methods) is presented (Figure 2c and
2d) and discussed in the Supplementary Discussion 2 (Figure 2 and Supplementary Figure 5). In
total, 10% (n=6.9 million) of expressed unigenes were common to both basins, whereas 55%
(n=38.2 million) are unique to the North Atlantic and 35% (n=24.1 million) are unique to the Arctic.
The relative abundances of common unigenes reveal a clear transition between the two basins
corresponding to the polar front (Figure 2d). Stations 155, 158 (NAO side of the front) and 163
(AO side of the front) are found enriched with common unigenes (51.2% of the read abundance
on average and 42.3 % of the unigenes in number, Figure 2d, Supplementary Figures 3-4). In the
Arctic, the common unigenes represent a larger proportion of both reads and number of unigenes
(Figure 2d and Supplementary Fig 3-4). This higher relative proportion of genes found only in the
Atlantic compared to the Arctic is likely due to a selective environmental bottleneck at the polar
front and lower species diversity in the Arctic (Supplementary Figure 4). Overall, these results
confirm the mixing of different communities from different water masses, as is well known in
oceanic fronts (35, 36). They also illustrate the existence of a cline of genomic composition of
communities at the polar front. This implies the existence of species that successfully cross the
environmental front (studied below).

Linking genomic biogeography with physical connectivity

To assess the role of ocean circulation on this biogeography, we then compared the minimum
transport times (Tmin) separating sample sites with the corresponding β-diversity estimates
(Figure 2b, Supplementary Figure 1a). In contrast to the results of Richter et al. (8), a maximum
correlation is found between 4 and 8 years of transport time instead of 1.5 years. These are typical
times that separate Atlantic and Arctic stations (light blue dots Figure 2b). The strong correlation
with beta diversity indicates that the influence of currents on community composition previously

identified in the North Atlantic (8) extends far north beyond the Arctic Circle. However, this

maximum correlation is probably also due to the strong differentiation of the Atlantic and polar

communities.

We also found that the calculated environmental distance (ED) between sampling sites shows

the same maximum correlation of around 4-8 years with transport time (Supplementary

Discussion 1 and Supplementary Figure 1c) but also with β-diversity (βD) (Supplementary Figure

2b-c). These data indicate that β-diversity and currents are most strongly correlated (maximum

correlation at 0.75 vs. 0.67 for Tmin vs. ED and 0.5 for ED vs. βD), in contrast to Richter et al. (8)

in which environmental distance is better correlated with β-diversity. These results highlight the

strong and not readily decomposable interactions between the physicochemical environment,

currents, and planktonic communities that characterize the seascape (37).

Functional divergences between the eukaryotic communities of NAO and AO

The major differences in the composition of the Atlantic and polar eukaryotic communities suggest

that they function differently. To investigate this question we used Gene Ontology (GO) functional

annotations of unigenes. Our unigene set contains 4,695 different Gene Ontology (GO) terms

(35). Statistical analysis reveals that 66 terms are significantly more abundant at the community

level in the Arctic and 11 in the Atlantic (examples in Figure 3 and comprehensive list in

Supplementary Table 1, t-test, Hommel correction $p < 0.05$). Out of these 66 GO terms in Arctic

communities, 20 are related to RNA processing and 11 are related to RNA methylation (6 to tRNA

methylation) (Figure 3a, Supplementary Table 1). RNA methylation has been reported to be

important in cold stressed plants (36). As an example among these 11 GO terms, 'tRNA (adenine-

N1-)-methyltransferase activity' is known to be important for tRNA stability (37) and has also been

reported to be involved in mRNA methylation and transcriptome protection in granules that are

formed within the cytoplasm of stressed cells (38). Finally, 'tRNA methylation' is also well

documented as being important in translational fidelity (39). In particular, stressful conditions have

been reported to change the balance between free tRNA and aa-tRNA (40) which is critical for the

accuracy of protein synthesis (41).

Many other significantly more abundant GO terms in the Arctic are related to regulation and

downstream processes of gene expression, such as regulation of gene expression ('snoRNA

binding' (Figure 3b), 'ncRNA processing', 'mitochondrial RNA metabolic process') and ribosome

biogenesis ('ribosome biogenesis' (Figure 3c), 'preribosome, small subunit precursor', and

'ribonucleoprotein complex biogenesis'). ncRNA, snoRNA (a type of ncRNA) and mitochondrial

RNA metabolism are known to play important roles in regulation of gene expression (42, 43).

snoRNAs are involved in chemical modification of RNAs, including by methylation, while ncRNA
(small RNAs) have been shown to play a critical role in cold acclimation in *Arabidopsis* (*44*).
Ribosomes are known to be cold and heat shock sensors (*45*) and their dynamics and stability
are altered in cold conditions (*46*). Functions associated with protein post-translational
modifications were also found to be significantly more abundant in the Arctic ('protein peptidyl-
prolyl isomerization', 'peptidyl-proline modification', 'serine-type exopeptidase activity' and
'serine-type carboxypeptidase activity' (Figure 3d), 'intracellular protein transmembrane
transport').

Taken together, these abundant Arctic functions raise the hypothesis that an important set of
reversible epigenetic processes at the transcriptional and translational level (RNAs), as well as
other post translational modifications are more active in the Arctic. At the community level, these
gene expression regulatory processes appear to be important to thrive in the Arctic during spring
and summer. In the Arctic, we find other abundant functions that are known to be important in
cold environments, such as maintenance of chromosome integrity as well as many functions
related to lipid catabolism (Figure 3e), membrane fluidity, and organization of organelle
membranes (Supplementary Discussion 3). In addition to these more abundant functions, our
results suggest a more rapid protein turnover in spring/summer Arctic plankton communities
(Supplementary Discussion 3).

While the functions we describe appear as being significantly more abundant in the Arctic when
we conduct the analysis at the community scale (all taxa together), this was not the case at the
individual taxon level (with the exception of some of the differentially more abundant taxa in the
Arctic) (Supplementary Figure 6). Furthermore, taxa contribute very unevenly to the abundance
of these functions (Figure 3). For example, the Ciliophora appear to be important contributors to
'lipid catabolic processes' (Figure 3) whereas the Dinophyceae are important contributors of the
GO term 'RNA methylation'. These differences are probably due to differences in the gene
repertoire of the different taxa. This community effect could be due to higher statistical power
when all taxa are grouped together. In any case, it may correspond to a similar transcriptional
response that occurs in many groups and becomes significant at the community level and to
expression regulation.

We then examined expression changes at a community level, which would be expected to be
shared by many taxa. In this case, a higher ratio of metatranscriptomic to metagenomic
abundance should be observed in the Arctic. We found most of these functions more expressed
at the community level, however this signal seems to come mainly from a few dominant groups
(Mamiellales, Dinophyceae, Haptophyta, Opisthokonta and unclassified Eukaryotes)

(Supplementary Fig. 6). On the other hand we note the absence of Bacillariophyta (diatoms) in these groups. These functions, which are particularly important in the Arctic environment, are overexpressed in a large number of taxa that therefore likely share the same strategy. In addition, many of the associated GO terms are functionally consistent with each other (see Methods, Supplementary Figures 6 and 7). Without excluding a seasonality effect and despite some variations within the Arctic (Figure 3 d,b,e,f for instance), these functions appear more abundant over the whole spatio-temporal sampling of the Arctic basin (from May to September, see distribution plots of Figure 3).

Given the spatiotemporal continuity of the sampled sites, our results therefore indicate that we can detect real functional differences between eukaryotic communities before and after the polar front. We also detected 11 more abundant GO terms in Arctic metagenomes that would reflect an enrichment of these functions in the genetic repertoire of Arctic species. Eight of these are also functions related to gene expression (Supplementary Table 1). Only two are related to lipid metabolism ("Sphingolipid metabolic process" and "Ceramide metabolic process") and are part of the set of more abundant functions in the Arctic metatranscriptomes.

To complete the GO term analysis, we used the ALDEx2 package (*47, 48*) to compare PFAM abundances between the AO and NAO (Supplementary Discussion 4 and 5). Interestingly, almost all PFAMs associated with cold stress and cold acclimation were more abundant (but not necessarily more highly expressed) in the Arctic (Supplementary Fig. 8 and Supplementary Discussion 4).

Conversely, we also searched for GO terms that were more abundant in the Atlantic. Considering all taxa, 11 GO terms were significantly more abundant in the metatranscriptomes and 85 in the metagenomes (3 in common with all 11) (Supplementary Table 1 for the exhaustive list, Supplementary Discussion 5, Supplementary Fig. 16). Overall, there relate to functions in central carbon metabolism and lipid biosynthesis (contrasting with lipid catabolism in the Arctic). We also found specific functions of photosynthesis (cyclic electron transfer chain and light harvesting system) that contrast with the more abundant central functions of photosynthesis (PFAMs) in the Arctic (Supplementary Discussion 5).

As discussed above, AO and NAO are strongly connected, and our data indeed confirm the presence of many cosmopolitan taxa. The functional differences that emerged in our metatranscriptomic data may correspond in these species to altered gene expression of some key functions.

Transcriptional changes in major eukaryotic plankton groups in the NAO/AO transition

We then investigated gene expression changes in plankton groups that were found in abundance
in both basins. We hypothesize that in these groups the expression of certain genes may be
modified along the environmental gradient around the polar front. We specifically searched for
gene abundance patterns significantly correlated with different environmental parameters and
analyzed their functional and taxonomic annotation. We selected a set of ~485,000 unigenes that
were present in both metatranscriptomes and metagenomes from at least 5 stations covering both
basins. We determined an expression value for each unigene at each station from a
transformation of the metatranscriptomic abundance values and normalization by metagenomics
(see Methods and Supplementary Figs. 8-9 for reasoning).

We found ~88,500 instances of significant correlations, positive or negative, between gene
expression profiles and physical parameters (temperature, sunlight duration (SSD), and salinity).
These physical environmental parameters were highly correlated with each other, however
temperature is the parameter significantly correlated with the largest number of gene expression
profiles (Supplementary Figure 10, ~19,500 negative and ~12,700 positive, FDR=0.05,
Supplementary Figures 11-12). Among the unigenes negatively correlated with temperature, we
found a particularly large number annotated as Mamiellales, diatoms and Pelagophyceae (Figure
4a, Supplementary Figure 13). Therefore, we further analyzed the taxonomic and functional
distribution of these unigenes correlated negatively or positively with temperature by a clustering
and dimension reduction approach. For all algal taxa tested (Bacillariophyta, Mamiellales,
Phaeocystales and Pelagophyceae), all genes whose expression level was negatively correlated
with temperature overlapped strongly (Figure 4b) and clustered together (Figure 4c), apart from
copepods. These results suggest that the temperature cline encountered by plankton in this ocean
system leads to a transcriptomic response of a core set of functions in a similar way in eukaryotic
micro- and picophytoplankton, independently of their phylogeny. Nevertheless, beyond this set of
core functions, other functions appeared to follow the same response only in certain lineages
(Figure 4b). These were numerous for the Mamiellales, Bacillariophyta and Pelagophyceae, but
few in the Phaeocystales. We note that Mamiellales and diatoms have the most similar repertoire
of cold-responsive genes, in agreement with the functional convergence between these groups
recently proposed (*49*).

To better characterize this transcriptional response, we analyzed whether enrichments could be
detected in certain functions. To do so, we applied a rationale of metagenomic co-variation of
metatranscriptomic data to reconstitute *in silico* more or less partial gene repertoires of a species
according to a procedure we had already used (Methods). We thus obtained a new set of 1,000
Metagenomic-based transcriptomes, or MGTs. Of these, six algal MGTs (probably corresponding

to 5 species) with a sufficient number of unigenes significantly negatively correlated with
temperature contained a significant number of enriched functions (see Methods). Two of these
MGTs are annotated as *Bathycoccus* (Mamilellales), one as *Micromonas* (Mamiellales), one as
Phaeocystis, one as *Aureococcus* (Pelagophyceae), and one as *Minutocellus* (a pennate diatom).
In these MGTs, we found enriched functions known to be directly related to cold acclimation, light
or osmotic stress, as well as a large number of functions related to the regulation of gene
expression (Figure 5). In addition, the enriched functions contain processes related to energy
consumption, DNA division/replication, motility, nucleotide biosynthesis, protein folding and DNA
repair (Figure 5). We discuss these functions in more detail in Supplementary Discussion 6.
Overall, our results suggest that some eukaryotic lineages of unicellular planktonic algae have
common mechanisms of transcriptional changes when moving from the Atlantic to the Arctic basin
during the seasons we studied. However, lineage-specific properties emerge, particularly with
respect to cold and stress response functions that are more diverse. In addition, regulation and
other processes related to gene expression, from signal transduction to post-translational
modification, are found to be highly active at the community and species levels, highlighting their
likely critical roles in the AO and NAO/AO transition.

Discussion

Using meta-omic approaches, we have characterized a differentiation of eukaryotic plankton into
two types of communities that occurs during its transport by currents from the North Atlantic in
winter to the Arctic Ocean in spring and summer. These comparisons show that the two
communities are functionally and compositionally divergent but share certain lineages that persist
despite the strong environmental front they encounter. We compared the rates of change in
community composition with that of gene expression in polar and non-polar samples as was done
on the prokaryotic component of the same plankton samples (*24*). Similar to what has been
reported for prokaryotes (*24*), we observe a very clear modification around 15°C with a greater
contribution of community turnover in polar samples compared to temperate samples
(Supplementary Fig. 19). However, community turnover is still significantly lower than gene
expression changes, unlike in prokaryotes (*24*). This could suggest that gene expression changes
are higher in eukaryotes, but this may be a consequence of the large proportion of non-coding
regions in some eukaryotic genomes resulting in less sampling of eukaryotic communities at the
genomic than transcriptomic level (many zeros). In our analysis, the functional divergences are
explained both by changes in gene abundance, and thus taxa, but also by the level of gene
expression. The functions that differentiate the two types of communities are related to gene
expression (from signal transduction to post-translational modification), lipid metabolism

(catabolism and membrane organization), protein trafficking, and telomere maintenance. Life in the polar environment appears to require tight regulation of post-transcriptional mechanisms, including RNA methylation, which is essential for RNA stability (*37, 50*) and protein translation fidelity (*40, 41, 44*). For those species that successfully cross the polar front, which we refer to as persistent species, the genes for which transcriptional changes are observed carry functions also related to gene expression (from signal transduction to post-translational modification) as well as cold/stress responses, energy consumption processes, protein folding/ubiquitination, cell division/DNA replication, nucleotide biosynthesis, and DNA repair. To explain gene expression variations, we tested an important set of environmental parameters including physical factors and nutrient concentrations. However, nutrient concentration values tested were not sufficiently homogeneous and representative. Among the remaining physical factors we tested (temperature, day length and salinity), temperature was the most important factor in explaining variations in gene expression.

A similar transcriptional response is described across the major algal lineages; Mamiellales, Bacillariophyta, Dinophyceae and Phaeocystales all show a transcriptional response to cold that is similar among them but clearly different from that of copepods. This algal transcriptional response is characterized by an increase in all of these groups in the expression of certain functions and by an increase in the expression of other functions only in specific groups. Functions known to be directly related to cold stress acclimation in many land plants are enriched in these data. This suggests that these cold acclimation mechanisms are shared across photosynthetic lineages. It is difficult at this stage to infer the nature of the evolutionary events from which these properties are derived and which are now shared by phylogenetically distant lineages. It is likely to be a combination of convergence and ancient adaptations.

Overall our study suggests that a strong transcriptional response involving key universal and life-necessary but also more specific functions such as stress and cold responsive genes is critical for plankton to enter and keep on living in the Arctic environment (in spring and summer here). Importantly the temperature gradient we investigate is concentrated in the few stations of the transition and no more than two years of transport time (Figure 1a) showing that persisting plankton have the time to respond. Indeed acclimation responses are believed to be quite fast, in order of days to week (*27, 51*). While the transcriptional response we report seem critical to adapt it might not be sufficient to explain the survival of persisting algae. Indeed organisms might also need to adapt by directly changing the sequence of their proteins as recently suggested in *Bathycoccus* (*11*) and in the SAR supergroup (*52*) or by mechanisms such as allele specific expression recently reported in the copepod *Oithona similis* (*53*) and in the diatom *Fragilariopsis*

cylindrus (*27*). Therefore, the signal we observe is probably due to a mix of acclimation and adaptation responses that we can't disentangle here. Critically, adaptation might require more time (*54*) than acclimation although adaptation can occur relatively fast in large populations (*55, 56*). Investigating both transcriptional and sequence changes at a broader scale and for more organisms seem now critical to better understand how plankton can thrive in so many climates, what differentiate specialists from more ubiquitous species, changes from one to another (*55*) and their response to a changing climate as well as consequences on ecosystems (*28*). Particularly, in the context of atlantification it might be critical to assess which species have the potential to adapt and acclimate to the new environment that is being formed. The strong connectivity allowed by the Gulf Stream followed by the North Atlantic Current (*13*) is believed to play a critical role in these processes (*18*) in the context of global warming (*57, 58*). Nevertheless, this circulation might collapse with global warming (*58–60*).

Materials and Methods

Marine Atlas of *Tara* Oceans Unigenes (MATOU-v1.2)

We updated the original version of the Marine Atlas of *Tara* Oceans Unigenes (*32*) by including samples encompassing the Arctic seas. This extension includes a total of 581 samples (+140) from 6 different size fractions divided between 0.8 and 2000 µm. In total all samples are collected at 88 locations across the oceans (previously 68) at three depths (Surface (SRF), Deep Chlorophyll Maximum (DCM) and Mesopelagic zones (MES)). We followed the same methodology as previously described for the sequencing, assembly, mapping, taxonomic and functional annotation of the updated atlas (*32*). The new catalog totals ~158.5 million unigenes increasing by ~41.7 million unigenes the previous version (+35.7%).

Metagenomics-based Transcriptomes (MGT-v1.2)

We generated an updated version of the Metagenomics-based Transcriptomes (MGTs) that cluster unigenes based on their relative abundance covariations across *Tara* Oceans samples into relevant transcriptomic and more or less taxonomically coherent units. As for the MATOU-v1.2 catalog, *Tara* Oceans Polar Circle samples were added to rebuild the collection from scratch. Clustering and taxonomic assignment of MGTs were computed using the same methodology as Vorobev et al. (*61*). Briefly, the metagenomic RPKM-based (reads per kilo base per million of mapped reads) abundance matrix of sufficiently occurring unigenes was submitted to the canopy clustering algorithm described in Nielsen et al. (*62*) . This is a density based clustering that does not take into account the sequence composition, as opposed to most binning tools. We used a

372 max Pearson's correlation difference of 0.1 to define clusters and then clusters were merged if
373 canopy centroids' distances were smaller than 0.05 (250k iterations, default parameters). This
374 updated version extends the collection to a total of 1000 MGTs counting at least 1000 unigenes
375 each (previously 924 MGT with min. 500 unigenes, +8.2%) encompassing 9,547,691 unigenes
376 (previously 6,946,068 +37.5%).

Environmental parameters and distance

We use a set of 11 environmental parameters from three different sources (*In situ*, World Ocean
Atlas 2018, PISCES-v2 model and the U.S. Naval Observatory), all believed to be relevant
ecologically. We use three *physical* variables: Temperature and Salinity (*in situ Tara*
measurements (*63*)) and Sea Sunshine Duration (SSD, Calculated from Astronomical
Applications of the U.S. Naval Observatory). Two macronutrients are from *in situ Tara* Oceans
measurements: dissolved Silica (SiO_2), and phosphate (PO_4^{3-}) (*64*). Nitrate (NO_3^-) is extracted from
the World Ocean Atlas 2018 (*65*). From these we derive N* and Si* calculated as follows:

$$N^* = [NO_3^-] - 16 * [PO_4^{3-}] \quad (1)$$

$$Si^* = [SiO_2] - [NO_3^-] \quad (2)$$

N* reflect the excess of Nitrate compared to phosphate and inversely the excess of phosphate
(expressed in the order or magnitudes of nitrate concentration according to a constant ratio of
1/16 (*66–68*)). This metric was shown to be importantly correlated with the habitat of diazotrophic
organisms (*68*). The second Si* was shown to reflect competition between diatoms and other
organisms. We use one micronutrient (Iron) simulated from the PISCES-v2 model (*69, 70*). Finally
two seasonality indexes (temperature and nitrate) are calculated from the World Ocean Atlas
2018, reflecting seasonal maximal seasonal fluctuation over the years at the sampling locations:

$$SI(X(x,y)) = \frac{\max_t(X(x,y,t)) - \min_t(X(x,y,t))}{\max_S(\max_t(X(x,y,t)) - \min_t(X(x,y,t)))} \quad (3)$$

395 X is either the nitrate concentration or the temperature. The indices t and S respectively refer to
396 time (months here) and spatial (*Tara* samples here) coordinates. All variables are extracted at the
397 month and sampling location of the *Tara* stations considered here.

398 An environmental distance is calculated as the Euclidean distance (*71*) of standardized
399 parameters (z-values (*72*)):

$$ED(i,j,P) = \sqrt{\sum_{p \in P} (x_{ip} - x_{jp})^2}$$

401 $ED(i, j, P)$ is the environmental distance between station i and j for a set of parameters P (here
402 we used the whole set).

Calculating -omic community dissimilarity

Following Richter et al. (*8*), metagenomic and metatranscriptomic community distance between
pairs of samples was estimated using shotgun metagenomes and metatranscriptomes for size
fraction 0.8-2000 µm. We used an improved -omic comparison method (SimkaMin (*73*)) that
computes standard ecological distances by replacing species counts by counts of DNA sequence
k-mers (segments of length k). SimkaMin is less computationally intensive than the previous
Simka thanks to an efficient data subsampling scheme used to estimate Bray-Curtis and Jaccard
dissimilarities (*73*). $\beta\ diversity$ for -omic reads is defined with the following equation within Simka:

411
$$\beta\ diversity = \frac{b+c}{2a+b+c} \qquad (4)$$

412 Where a is the number of distinct k-mers shared between two samples, and b and c are the
413 number of distinct k-mers specific to each sample. We represented the distance between each
414 pair of samples on a heatmap using the heatmap.2 function of the R-package gplots_2.17.0 (*74*).
415 We also calculate β-diversity between station i and j based on MATOU-v2 unigenes abundances
416 as follow:

417
$$\beta\ diversity_{ij} = \frac{\sum_k \left| RA_k^i - RA_k^j \right|}{\sum_k \left| RA_k^i + RA_k^j \right|} \qquad (5)$$

418 Where RA_k^i is the relative abundance of unigenes k in station i. We find high correlation between
419 unigenes based distance and simkaMin based distance (r^2=0.96 for metatranscriptomes-based
420 distances) as well as between metatranscriptomes and metagenomes distances (r^2=0.99 and
421 0.97 respectively for simkaMin and unigenes Bray-Curtis).

Taxonomic description of the metatranscriptomes and metagenomes

Each sample of our dataset was described taxonomically by taxonomical annotation of unigenes.
We harmonized unigene taxonomic annotation by selecting a set of ecologically relevant and
sufficiently abundant groups: Hexanauplia, Bacillariophyta, Pelagophyceae, Crysophyceae,
Coccosphaerales, Phaeocystales, Ciliophora, Tunicata, Mamiellales, Dinophyceae, Bacteria,
Streptophyta, Cnidaria, Rhizaria, Insecta, Cryptophyta, Euglenozoa, Amoebozoa, Craniata,
Fungi, Viruses, Archaea, Eukaryota (unclassified), root, and respectively other Haptophyta,
Opisthokonta, Stramenopiles, Alveolata and Viridiplantae. Each unigene was then assigned a
geographical annotation: either unique to the Atlantic basin, unique to the Arctic basin, or shared
between the two (when a unigene was found in at least one station of the two basins). To find
taxonomical groups/clades that were significantly relatively more abundant in one of the two

basins, we applied a Wilcoxon test on the mean of the logarithm of the relative abundance of each

taxon across the station of the two basins and applied a Hommel correction (*75*) on the p-values

for multiple hypothesis correction testing. Note that for this analysis we used the logarithms of

abundances and not the centered log ratio (used for the unigene expression analysis; see below)

as the former might bias some abundances as it is centered on zero in the case of skewed

distributions (which is the case here).

439 Functional characterization: comparing the Arctic and Atlantic basin

For each unigene of the MATOU-v1.2 catalog we converted the PFAM (*76*) (protein family domain

annotation) to the Gene Ontology annotation (*35, 77*). We used the full GO dataset including the

three main categories of the catalog: molecular function, cellular component and biological

processes. Unigenes can have several PFAMs or PFAMs can map on several GOs. To take this

into account we duplicated the functional annotation and therefore each unigene is assigned to

each level of its Gene Ontology hierarchy and can have several annotations. For each GO term

found across our dataset (a total of 4,695 terms from a total of 44,000 in the database), we defined

its relative abundance within each sample of our data by summing the relative abundance of all

the unigenes annotated as such. We applied a Student test (*78*) on the means of the logarithms

of the relative abundances of each GO term between the two basin means, applied Hommel

multiple comparison (*75*) correction, and found significantly relatively more abundant functions (p-

val<0.05 after correction). Here we used only the logarithm of the relative abundance and not the

centered-log-ratio as the multiplicity and unevenness of levels in the GO hierarchy did not allow

us to define an average logarithm consistent across the hierarchy.

We also used ALDEx2 R package (*47, 48*) to compute significantly more abundant PFAMs

between North Atlantic and Arctic metagenomes. ALDEx2 uses standard Bayesian techniques

(*79*) to infer the posterior distribution of $[p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_i, \ldots, p_n]$ as the product of the multinomial

likelihood (where pi i the proportions of gene i (here we use PFAMs) in a sample) with a

$Dirichlet(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \ldots)$ prior. ALDEx2 then uses the full Dirichlet posterior probabilities distribution to

draw multiple estimates (Monte-Carlo realizations) of each p_i such that

$[p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_i, \ldots, p_n] \sim Dirichlet([n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_i, \ldots, n_n] + \frac{1}{2})$. Drawing p_i from the full posterior allows

accounting for the large variance and extreme non-normality of the marginal distributions of p_i

when the associated n_i are small. p_i are then transformed using the centered-log-ratio (see next

paragraph for this transformation). ALDEx2 therefore models the abundance of each gene

(PFAMs for us) as a random-effect ANOVA model accounting for the fact that within-condition

abundance/expression is a non-negligible random variable:

$$q_{ijk} = \mu_{ij} + \nu_{ijk} + \tau_{ijk} + \varepsilon_{ijk} \qquad (6)$$

Where q_{ijk} is the adjusted log-abundance/expression, μ_{ij} is the expected expression of gene i within each condition j, ν_{ijk} is the sample specific expression change for replicate k, τ_{ijk} is the sampling variation from inferring abundance from read counts and ε_{ijk} the remaining nonspecific error, independent and identically distributed within k. To find significantly more abundant PFAMs, ALDEx2 then performs a Welch t-test on each q_{ijk} estimates (drawn from the Monte Carlo realization) and corrected for multiple comparison by the Benjamini-Hochberg method (*80*)(*80*)7, we plotted the median of the following metrics to visualize between condition differences as well as within condition variability:

1. The absolute fold difference between-conditions

$$\Delta_A(i, j, j') = W(i, j) - W(i', j') \qquad (7)$$

Where $W(i, j) = \sum_{k=1}^{n} q_{ijk}$ is the within condition mixture. Index i indicates the PFAMs index, index j indicates the condition index (Atlantic or Arctic) and finally k indexes the replicate of a given condition.

2. The between sample, within condition difference

$$\Delta_W(i, j) = \max_{k!=k'}|q_{ijk} - q_{ijk'}| \qquad (8)$$

Unigene expression analysis and response to environmental parameters

We defined expression of each of unigene as the difference between the centered-log-ratio of the relative abundance of the unigene from metatranscriptomic reads and the centered-log-ratio of its relative abundance from metagenomic reads:

$$E = clr(MetaT) - clr(MetaG) \qquad (9)$$

The clr was used as it was shown to be stable to subsampling of the dataset (*81*). It is defined as follows:

$$q_i = \log(p_i) - \frac{1}{m}\sum_{k=1}^{m} \log(p_k) \qquad (10)$$

Where p_i is the relative abundance of unigene i and we have $\sum_{k=1}^{m} q_k = 0$. Only unigenes which were found in at least five stations and present in both basins (at least one expression value available in the two basins) were considered, totaling ~485,000 unigenes. This considerably decreased the number of unigenes on which we could do the analysis but we believe this is the most robust way to analyze unigene expression within metaomic samples by taking into account both the metatranscriptomic and metagenomic abundances and having sufficient statistical power (at least 5 stations). To validate this approach, we computed for each unigene the Erb rho

correlation coefficient (*82*) between $clr(MetaT)$ and $(MetaG)$. Importantly, they correlated well

with each other although more or less strongly depending on the taxa, justifying the validity of this

approach (Supplementary Fig. 8-9).

For each unigene expression profile we computed two Pearson correlation coefficients with each

environmental parameter: one correlating the 'real' data and one correlating 'randomized' data

with the given environmental parameter. The distribution of the values of the second test was

used as a null model. To find unigenes whose expression was significantly correlated to a

variable, we compared the distribution of correlation between 'real' data and 'shuffled' data. We

set a false discovery rate (FDR (*83, 84*)) of 0.05, *i.e.,* a unigene was considered significantly

differently expressed if its correlation was superior to the maximum correlation of the first 2.5%

(at each tail of the distribution) of the ordered correlations of the 'randomized' dataset. Then, to

have a more stringent view of the functional landscape of significantly correlated or significantly

differentially expressed (basin comparison), we performed an enrichment statistical test

(hypergeometric test (*85*), Hochberg correction, p-value=0.05). For this test, we used only the

deepest GO annotation of each unigene found within significantly correlated unigenes in

comparison to the functional GO annotations of all the unigenes from the given taxonomical group

or MGT. All these steps were performed for each taxonomical group and for the set of MGTs.

Functional clustering of the GO catalog using the Levenshtein distance

Extensive efforts have been made to cluster the Gene Ontology catalog using multiple Semantic

similarity Measures Approaches (*86–88*). We propose here a classification based on Levenshtein

distance (*89*). To do so, each GO term found within our dataset (4695 GOs) was represented by

a huge integer describing its position and ontology in the hierarchy of the Gene Ontology atlas.

Let *go* be the GO with the following hierarchy annotation:

GO:000XXX;GO00XXXX;GO0000XX;…;GO000XX (in the order of the hierarchy) the descriptive

number of the GO will be 000XXX00XXXX0000XXX…000XX. Then we computed the Levenshtein

distance between two GOs *go1* and *go2* as follows:

523
$$lev(go1, go2) = \begin{cases} |go1| & if\ |go1| = 0 \\ |go2| & if\ |go2| = 0 \\ lev\big(tail(go1, go2)\big) & if\ go1[0] = go2[0] \\ 1 + min \begin{cases} lev\big(tail(go1), go2\big) \\ lev\big(go1, tail(go2)\big) \quad otherwise \\ lev\big(tail(go1), tail(go2)\big) \end{cases} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

We then used UPGMA (*90*)hierarchical clustering to cluster the distance matrix using correlation

as distance. To optimize the hierarchical clustering, we found a seed that minimized the Silhouette

criteria for the set of clusters retrieved. After clustering, groups were defined as the largest clusters

with the bootstrap probability superior to 0.95. Clustering with only 1 bootstrap generally performs

better than doing 1,000 bootstraps to maximize the Silhouette criteria. After finding the optimal

seed (the one with the highest Silhouette), we added a cleaning step of the clusters by allocating

wrongly clustered GOs (negative silhouette) to clusters containing unique GOs. This second step

decreases slightly the average silhouette coefficient although it also decreases the number of

misclassified GOs (relatively to the Levenshtein distance). Therefore we privileged accuracy over

average efficiency of the clustering.

Community composition and expression based distances

We used estimated centered log ratios from the ALDEx2 package (*47, 48*) based on the PFAM

abundances to compute pairwise community composition distances and expression distances

between each pair of stations. Expression is defined as the difference between centered log ratios

of metatranscriptomic abundances and metagenomic abundances (Equation 9). Then the

distance between each pair of station is defined as the euclidean distance over all PFAMs :

540
$$D_{ij} = \sqrt{\sum_{PFAMs} (x_i^{PF} - x_j^{PF})^2}$$

Where x_i^{PF} is either the abundance (centered log ratio) or the expression value of PFAM PF in

station i. Following Salazar et al. (*24*), we then computed, for temperature bins each containing

5 stations, the median ratio between abundance based distances and expression based distances

of all pairwise distances from stations found in each bin. A Wilcoxon test and holm correction for

multiple comparison (p<0.05) to test whether this ratio is significantly different than 1 is then

applied for each bin.

Author Contributions

P.F., O.J., M.G. and D.I. conceived the study. P.F. computed the results, compiled, and analyzed

the data. P.F. wrote the initial draft of the paper. C.D.S. and E.P.: MATOU and unigene computing.

J.M.A.: Bioinformatics Control Quality of Sequencing. E.P.: MGT computing. L.C. and A.R.

helped with preliminary analysis and data compilation. E.V.: SimkaMin computing. P.F., O.J., D.I.,

M.G., E.P., L.K.B., C.B. and L.C. discussed the results and wrote the paper.

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893   circulation/arctic-ocean-circulation/.

Figure 1 | Lagrangian connectivity of the North Atlantic Ocean and Arctic Ocean in the *Tara* Oceans and *Tara* Oceans Polar Circle expeditions and polar front at the time of sampling. (**a**) *Tara* Oceans and *Tara* Oceans Polar Circle stations considered in this study and shortest Lagrangian path (minimum travel time Tmin) between stations (starting at Station_143). (**b**) Mean Sea Surface Temperature in June 2013 around the time of sampling of stations 155 to 168 (between May and July). The orange arrow indicates approximately the polar front between Stations 158 and 163 where a steep temperature gradient was observed (black lines). Main inflow and outflow currents are represented, respectively, by red arrows (warm Atlantic inflows) and blue arrows (cold Arctic outflows). They are adapted from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution website (*91*). The orange arrow indicates the polar front.

Figure 2 | Metatranscriptomic and taxonomical composition connectivity with respect to ocean currents of surface ocean plankton (size fraction 0.8-2000 μm). (**a**) Matrix of metatranscriptomic pairwise β diversity estimates based on unigene relative abundances (Bray-Curtis dissimilarity index) clustered using the UPGMA (*90*) algorithm. (**b**) Metatranscriptomic β diversity as a function of Lagrangian connectivity between pairs of *Tara* Oceans and *Tara* Oceans Polar Circle stations (minimum transport time) and cumulative Spearman correlation coefficient between the two metrics (blue line). Orange, dark blue and green points respectively indicate Atlantic, Arctic and Atlantic-Arctic pairs of stations. (**c**) Left: global metatranscriptomic taxonomical composition based on unigene relative abundances of major plankton taxa (taxonomic level can

918   vary) in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. Right: Zoom on the 16 least abundant taxa (other).

919   (**d**) Decomposition between basin-specific unigenes and shared unigenes between the two basins

920   (classified based on presence or absence of expression). A clear transition enriched in shared

921   genes appears in Stations 153, 158 and 163.

Figure 3 | Examples of Gene Ontology (GO) terms that are more abundant in Arctic metatranscriptomes. Each panel (**a-f**) represents (left) the sum of the metatranscriptomic relative abundances of unigenes associated with the abovementioned GO terms across considered taxa and (right) the distribution of this relative abundance in the Atlantic (dark blue) versus Arctic basin (purple). Each of these GO terms is significantly more abundant in the Arctic basin.

Figure 4 | Functional response to temperature at the unigene expression level for different taxa at the NAO/AO transition. (**a**) Taxonomic decomposition of unigenes significantly correlated with temperature, either negatively (left bar) or positively (right bar). (**b**) Heatmap of the number of unigenes and associated GO terms that correlate with temperature across main taxa. Each column represents the number of unigenes associated to a GO term (in line) for a given taxa and a correlation sign (blue: negative, red: positive). Columns are clustered based on Bray-Curtis dissimilarity index. (**c**) Bray-Curtis-based Principal Coordinate Analysis (PCoA) of the (**b**) panel. Noticeably the decrease in the functional response of the different phytoplankton groups

to temperature is similar while Hexanauplia (copepods) have a different functional landscape of

response to temperature changes.

Figure 5 | Expression profiles and Gene Ontology annotation of enriched unigenes
negatively correlated with temperature for three algal Metagenomics-based
Transcriptomes. Expression profiles (left) of unigenes whose Gene Ontology terms (right) are
enriched within unigenes significantly negatively correlated to temperature are displayed for two
algal taxa from three Metagenomics-based Transcriptomes (MGTs): (**a**) *Bathycoccus* (MGT 79
and 439) (**b**) a pennate diatom (MGT 195, annotated as a Cymatosiraceae). For this MGT
unigenes, unassigned functions (unknown) are enriched; however they are too numerous to be
represented here.

Supplement of

Changes in functional composition and gene expression in eukaryotic plankton at the Atlantic-Arctic Polar front

Frémont et al.

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Supplementary Discussion 1 | Environmental differences between the North Atlantic Ocean (NAO) and the Arctic Ocean (AO) and link with current connectivity.

Using *in situ* environmental parameters from the *Tara* schooner, the North Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic Ocean are clearly distinguishable (Supplementary Figure 1a). The North Atlantic is warmer, saltier and has a stronger temperature seasonal variability while the Arctic Ocean is richer in nutrients, has longer daylight duration (in the considered seasons) and a higher nutrient seasonality (Supplementary Figure 1a). Stations 191 and 193 in the Arctic appear as outliers. These stations are more coastal and we note that stations 191 to 196 are influenced by Pacific waters (*1*). Correlating environmental distance and minimum travel time between stations, a maximum of correlation is found between 4 and 8 years of transport (Supplementary Figure 1b) and although the transition seem continuous environmentally (blue points to red points), high variability is also found within Arctic samples (green points and high values red points).

Supplementary Discussion 2 | Difference in taxonomic composition of the NAO/AO metatranscriptomes and metagenomes

We explore the differences in taxonomic composition of North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans metatranscriptomes and metagenomes. Composition of the metatranscriptomes (Figure 2 b-d) differs significantly from the metagenomes composition (Supplementary Figure 3-4). Strikingly, while Dinophyceae is the 1st most abundant taxa (after unknowns) in the metatranscriptomes, it represents a much lesser fraction of the metagenomes (10th most abundant taxa, 6th in terms of number of unigenes). In the metatranscriptomes, Ciliophora and Other Stramenopiles are significantly more relatively abundant in the Arctic than in the Atlantic while Pelagophyceae, Rhizaria, Amoebozoa, Other Alveolata, Archaea and Coccosphaerales are significantly more abundant in the Atlantic (Wilcoxon test, Hommel correction $p<0.05$, Supplementary Figure 5). In metagenomes, Ciliophora is significantly relatively more abundant in the Arctic while Pelagophyceae, Amoebozoa and 'other' are significantly relatively more abundant in the Atlantic (Wilcoxon test, Hommel correction $p<0.05$, Supplementary Figure 5). Importantly, a large part of metagenomes unigenes are not necessarily expressed in the metatranscriptomes representing a continuously decreasing part from western to eastern parts (from ~30% of the relative abundance in station 144 to ~10% in station 155) of the North Atlantic and then diminishing in the Arctic (Supplementary Figure 4). This might reflect the presence of dead cells in the Atlantic winter or at least less active cells. Indeed this North Atlantic temperate transect was sampled from January to March so one might expect an increasing activity of phytoplankton population as the spring bloom is approaching.

Supplementary Discussion 3 | Other functions more abundant in the Arctic metatranscriptomes.

Other functions more abundant in the Arctic metatranscriptomes are directly linked to lipid metabolism ('lipid catabolic process' (Figure 3e), 'fatty-acyl-CoA binding'), to organization of organelles membranes ('intrinsic component of organelle membrane' and 'integral component of organelle membrane') and membrane fluidity ('Ceramide metabolic process' and 'Sphingolipid metabolic process', also more abundant in metagenomes). The important abundance of functions linked to lipid catabolic process most likely reflect the need for membrane remodeling and free fatty acid removal in cold environments (*2*, *3*). Some enzymes involved in lipid catabolism have been reported to be involved in freezing tolerance in *A.thaliana* (*4*, *5*) and in response to cold (*6*) and N stress in algae (*3*). The regulation of membrane fluidity is directly linked to cold environment acclimation as for example shown in the chloroplasts of the green algae *Nannochloropsis* (*7*) and *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* (*8*) and more generally in all plants especially with an important role of sphingolipids (*9*) and particularly ceramides (*10*). We also find functions linked to protein trafficking such as 'protein transmembrane transport' and 'mitochondrial inner membrane presequence translocase complex' more abundant in the Arctic. In contrast, functions linked to protein retention in their cellular compartments like 'maintenance of location', 'maintenance of protein localization in organelle' and 'protein retention in ER lumen' are found more abundant in North Atlantic metagenomes suggesting a less rapid turnover of proteins in winter Atlantic waters (Supplementary Table 1, Supplementary Discussion 2). Finally, functions linked to telomere maintenance such as 'telomere maintenance' and 'telomeric DNA binding' are also found more abundant in the Arctic metatranscriptomes which might reflect the need to maintain the integrity of chromosomes in extreme environments (*11*, *12*).

Supplementary Discussion 4 | PFAMs more abundant in the Arctic Ocean in link with cold stress acclimation

We investigate the different functioning of the spring/summer Arctic Ocean and the winter Atlantic Ocean by analyzing the differential abundances of a set of 22 PFAMs reported to be important in cold/hot stress response. We use the ALDEx2 R package (*13*) to characterize more abundant and overexpressed PFAMs between the two basins. The relevance of each PFAM to cold/hot stress acclimation is summarized in Supplementary Table 2. First, we visualize the inter-basin dispersion in function of the intra-basin dispersion of metagenomic and metatranscriptomic abundances and expression values fitted by the ALDEx2 package (Supplementary Figure 8). On a total of 11950 PFAMs, we find 1214 (respectively 758) and 4461 (respectively 3657) PFAMs significantly more abundant (Benjamini-Hochberg corrected Welch test, p<0.05) respectively in

the North Atlantic and the Arctic Ocean metagenomes (respectively metatranscriptomes). Most more abundant PFAMs in the North Atlantic have a high maximum within basin dispersion while PFAMs more abundant in the Arctic have lower maximum within basin dispersion. This observation might reflect the higher variability of the Arctic basin (Figure 2 and Supplementary Figure 3). Zooming on specific taxa (Supplementary Figure 8), we often find a bimodal pattern of within condition dispersion both in more abundant PFAMs in the Atlantic and Arctic. We formulate three hypotheses to explain these patterns. First, some specific lineages/species whose genomes are enriched in some functions probably differentiate the two basins. Second, some specific lineages enriched in specific functions might be sampled only in few stations (*e.g.* Diatoms which are particularly abundant in few arctic stations). Third, some functions might be highly overexpressed. On the other hand, expression dispersion is comparatively lower compared to abundances (Supplementary Figure 8) and only a few PFAMs are found to be highly overexpressed. We find relatively a lot of PFAMs highly overexpressed especially in the Arctic mainly in Dinoflagellates (Supplementary Figure 8f) suggesting an important role of expression regulation in these organisms. These results needs however to be taken with caution as here we normalize the metatranscriptomic abundances by metagenomic abundances that are not necessarily from the same unigenes between metagenomes and metatranscriptomes especially in Dinoflagellates (high genomic complexity of this group).

Regarding cold acclimation functions, we find that nearly all of them are significantly more abundant in the Arctic Ocean in both metagenomes and metatranscriptomes but not overexpressed (Supplementary Figure 9a). Strikingly this signal is the strongest when considering the overall abundance of these PFAMs (*i.e.* within the whole community) while specific taxons display various patterns (Supplementary Figure 9a-g). Particularly, these PFAMs tend to be more abundant in Mamiellales, Bacillariophyta, Pelagophyceae, Dinophyceae and Unknown while not necessarily in Phaeocystales and Ciliophora (which are more abundant in the Arctic). Noticeably, some of these PFAMs are overexpressed in Dinophyceae (Supplementary Figure 9f). Among the PFAMs we consider, the ice binding domain (PF11999) is largely the most excessively more abundant PFAM both at the community level and for specific taxons ($\sim 2^{15}$ higher abundance in the Arctic) while other PFAMs are more abundant at a lesser extent ($\sim 2^{3\ \text{to}\ 5}$ higher abundance in the Arctic) (Supplementary Figure 9). Overall, these results might reflect the different strategies of the different plankton organisms to adapt and acclimate to an extreme environment such as the Arctic Ocean.

Supplementary Discussion 5 | Functions more abundant in Atlantic metagenomes and metatranscriptomes

We find 85 and 11 more abundant Gene Ontology (GO) terms (3 of which are common) respectively in Atlantic metagenomes and metatranscriptomes in comparison to the Arctic in size fraction 0.8-2000 µm (Supplementary Figure 10 and exhaustive lists in Supplementary Table 1). The first functions that jump to the eye when looking at more abundant functions in Atlantic metagenomes are central carbon metabolism functions. Indeed a few enzymes and reactions from the glycolysis are found more abundant in the Atlantic such as: "glycerol-3-phosphate (G3P) dehydrogenase [NAD+] activity" and "phosphoglycerate kinase activity". In addition "pentose-phosphate shunt, non-oxidative branch" (Supplementary Figure 10b) which is an alternative to glycolysis is also a more abundant GO terms in Atlantic metagenomes. The pentose phosphate shunt oxidative branch is known to reduce oxidative stress and support lipobiogenesis (*14*) while the non-oxidative branch ends to the beginning and middle of the glycolysis (generating a G3P and a fructose 6 phosphate molecule) and generates 5-carbon sugars used for the synthesis of nucleotides, nucleic acids and amino acids (*15*, *16*). The term "Fatty acid biosynthetic process" and other functions linked to fatty acid biosynthesis like "acetyl-CoA carboxylase complex" (which is biotin dependent for which 2 GO terms are found more abundant) are also found more abundant in Atlantic metagenomes although these terms are dominated by bacterial genes (Supplementary Figure 16c). Overall, the high abundance of central carbon metabolism function in the Atlantic might reflect the overall prevalence of heterotrophy in this ocean as expected (*17*) especially as it was mostly sampled in winter. In addition, "nitrogenous compound fermentation" (Supplementary Figure 16d) is also found more abundant in the Atlantic. Interestingly, their abundance is dominated by bacteria followed by unclassified eukaryotes (Supplementary Figure 10d) which might reflect the presence of unknown eukaryotes capable of fermentation. The high abundance of these terms as well as "anaerobic amino acid catabolic process" might reflect a higher abundance of organisms capable of living in anaerobic condition in the Atlantic (Figure 1b). Although Tara samples are from the surface, the presence of such organisms might be due to the winter sampling and might come from the deep mixing of oceanic waters in winter. More intriguingly, five GO terms linked to photosynthesis are found to be more abundant in Atlantic metagenomes and three of which are also more abundant in the metatranscriptomes: "photosynthetic electron transport chain", "photosynthetic electron transport in photosystem II", "electron transporter, transferring electrons within the cyclic electron transport pathway of photosynthesis activity" (Supplementary Figure 10e), "photosynthesis light reaction" and "light-harvesting complex" (the two latter more abundant only in metagenomes). The high abundance of these functions in the Atlantic in winter is interesting as it suggests that algae are adapting to low light levels and saving energy. Indeed, the high abundance of photoreceptors (light reaction)

suggests the need to harvest light in a more efficient way. Second the cyclic electron transport path of photosynthesis is known to be used to balance the energy (*18*) and protect photosystems from photoinhibition (*19*). The cyclic electron flow (CEF) is also known to be involved in various acclimation responses in plants (*20*). We verify that these functions correspond to only a few PFAMs that are mostly more abundant (or not) in the Atlantic metagenomes and metatranscriptomes using ALDEx2 package (*13*, *21*) (Supplementary Figure 18): PF00124 (Photosynthetic reaction centre Photo_RC), PF00421 (PSII, photosystem II), PF00556 (Light Harvesting Complex LHC), PF03967 (Photosynthetic reaction centre, H-chain N-terminal region PRCH), and PF11623 (NADH dehydrogenase subunit S NdhS). In fact most other PFAMs associated to photosynthesis appear overall more abundant in Arctic metagenomes which is expected although it depends on taxons (Supplementary Figure 18).

Among other functions that we find more abundant in Atlantic metagenomes or metatranscriptomes, we can cite functions linked to mobility of genomic elements such as "transposase activity" and "transposition, DNA-mediated" (more abundant in metatranscriptomes, dominated by unknown followed by bacteria) or bacteria specific functions (Supplementary Table 1).

Supplementary Discussion 6 | Details of enriched function in persisting species.

In MGT 79 (Bathycoccus, Figure 5a) a unigene involved in thiamine (Vitamin B1) diphosphate biosynthetic process is negatively correlated to temperature, known to be important in early stage response to cold and osmotic stress in *Arabidopsis* (*22*) and in the poplar (*23*). In MGT 195, a pennate diatom (Figure 5b), the expression profiles of a gene involved in tocopherol cyclase activity (also in MGT 42 Aureococcus, Supplementary Figure 16b) and one in allantoin catabolic process are significantly negatively correlated to temperature. Tocopherol cyclase activity is known to be important in cold (*24*) but also salt (*25*) and high light acclimation (*26*) in plants. Allantoin on the other hand is a metabolic intermediate of purine catabolism that often accumulates in stressed plants (*27*) and was reported to enhance cold stress tolerance in rice grains (*28*). In MGT 4 (Supplementary Figure 16c), superoxide dismutase (SOD) (also in MGT 439, Figure 5a), heat shock protein binding and glutamyl-tRNA reductase activity are reported to be enriched GO terms in negatively correlated unigenes. SOD is known to increase stress tolerance in potato through mitochondrial activity (*29*) but also in wheat (*30*) and barley (*31*). Some heat shock proteins are known to respond to cold stress in *Synechococcus* (*32*), some plants (*33*) but also fishes (*34*). Finally, Glutamyl-tRNA reductase, the key enzyme for 5-aminolevulinic acid (ALA) synthesis, has been shown to be highly expressed in cold stress response and to remain at relatively high levels after acclimation although it varies across plants (*35*). In MGT 439 (Figure

5a), trehalose biosynthetic process is also an enriched GO term in negatively correlated unigenes linked to cold acclimation (*36*). Finally, phospholipase A2 known to have a role in cold acclimation in wheat (*37*) is found to be enriched in MGT 76 (Supplementary Figure 16a). Zooming out at the higher taxonomy levels from Figure 2, other or same functions associated to cold stress are also found enriched such as tocopherol cyclase activity (Pelagophyceae) (*24–26*), polyketide metabolic process (Dinophyceae) (*38, 39*) or pantothenate biosynthesis (Pelagophyceae) (*40*) (Supplementary Figure 17). Overall, we find a wide variety of functions whose expressions are negatively correlated to temperature and known to be important in cold acclimation both in terrestrial plants and aquatic organisms highlighting the quasi universality and diversity of these functions for cold acclimation in the *Plantae* kingdom.

In addition to these functions directly linked to cold acclimation, many enriched functions are linked to gene expression processes and regulation, energy consumption and mitochondria related processes, division/DNA replication, motility, nucleotide biosynthesis, protein folding and DNA repair (Figure 5). In particular, GO terms linked to the triggering and control of gene expression such as 'transcription factor TFIIA complex' (MGT 79), 'transcription by RNA polyremase II' (MGT 76), 'transcription corepressor activity' (MGT 76) but also to post transcriptional modification and protein biosynthesis such as 'histone acetyltransferase' (MGT 79 and 76), 'translation initiation factor activity' (MGT 4), 'poly(A)+ mRNA export from nucleus' (MGT 195), 'cellular amino acid biosynthetic process' (MGT 4), are found to be enriched. This suggests that the entrance in the Arctic Ocean triggers a tightly genetically controlled transcriptional burst that allows the persistence of some organisms (mainly algae here) to the new physico-chemical conditions they encounter. Indeed, enriched functions include all levels of genetic expression control and processes including signal transduction (phosphorylation, GTPase, phosphatidylinositol phosphorylation…), transcription regulation, RNAs/ribosomes management, amino-acid biosynthesis and post-translation modifications (Figure 5, Supplementary Figure 16-17).

Overall many functions linked to energy and respiratory processes are found enriched in the 6 MGTs such as 'respiratory electron transport chain complex' and 'proton transporting ATP synthase activity, rotational mechanism'. This effect might be due to an increase in metabolic activities due to the spring and summer season (*2*). These seasons are known to lead to loss of synchrony of cell division of microalgae (*41, 42*) in agreement with enriched functions in link with cell division and DNA replication.

Critically, many enriched GO terms are associated to DNA replication and consequently cell division such as 'regulation of DNA replication' (MGT 79 and Phaeocystales) and 'DNA replication

initiation' (MGT 76 and Mamiellales) or Ndc80 complex (Bacillariophyta). This might reflect the diminution in synchrony of cell division in link with the circadian clock (*41*, *42*) as days are getting longer as cells enter the Arctic. In addition, it might show the capacity of persisting organism to keep on dividing as they enter in the polar waters.

Supplementary Figure 1 | Environmental differentiation of the NAO and AO basins in link with their Lagrangian connectivity by currents. (**a**) Principal Component Analysis (PCA) of the environmental parameters characterizing the stations. (**b**) Lagrangian minimum travel time connectivity matrix. The upper matrix represents the minimum travel time by currents from row stations to column stations and vice versa. (**c**) Environmental distance in function of Lagrangian minimum travel time (Tmin) and cumulative Spearman correlation (brown line).

Supplementary Figure 2 | Taxonomic composition of surface ocean plankton metagenomes of size fraction 0.8-2000 μm. (**a**) Left: global metagenomic taxonomic composition based on expressed unigenes relative abundances of major plankton taxons (taxonomic level can vary) in the North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean. Right: Zoom on the 16 least abundant taxons (other). (**b**) Decomposition between basins specific unigenes and shared unigenes between the two basins (classified based on presence or absence of expression). A clear transition enriched in shared genes appears in station 153, 158 and 163.

Supplementary Figure 3 | Taxonomic composition in unigenes of surface ocean plankton metatranscriptomes and metagenomes of size fraction 0.8-2000 μm. (**a,d**) Metatranscriptomic/metagenomic taxonomic composition in number of unigenes of North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean sampling stations. (**b, e**) Metatranscriptomic/metagenomic taxonomic

composition in relative number of unigenes of North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean sampling stations. (**c, f**) Decomposition of metatranscriptomes/metagenomes in relative number of unigenes between basins specific unigenes and shared unigenes between the two basins (classified based on presence or absence of expression).

Supplementary Figure 4 | Metatranscriptomic β diversity in link with the Lagrangian and environmental connectivity of the NAO and AO basins. (**a**) Metatranscriptomic β diversity (SimkaMin (*43*)) in function of Lagrangian connectivity between pairs of Tara station (minimum transport time) and cumulative spearman correlation coefficient between the two metrics (blue line). Metatranscriptomic β diversity based on (**b**) SimkaMin (*43*) and (**c**) unigenes metatranscriptomic abundance-based Bray-Curtis (*44*) in function of Lagrangian connectivity between pairs of Tara station and cumulative spearman correlation coefficient between the environmental distance (points color) and β diversity (blue line).

Supplementary Figure 5 | Median log$_e$-fold change between Arctic Ocean and North Atlantic Ocean metatranscriptomes and metagenomes relative abundances of main plankton groups. The heatmap represents for each taxon the difference between their median logarithms of relative abundance between both basins (Arctic-Atlantic). Significantly more abundant taxons (Wilcoxon test, Hommel correction p<0.05) either in metatranscriptomes (top row) or metagenomes (bottom row) are indicated with a red star. Here we use the logarithms of abundances and not the centered log ratio as the former might bias some abundance values as it is centered on zero in the case of skewed distributions (which is the case here).

Supplementary Figure 6 | Median log_e-fold change in metatranscriptomic and metagenomic relative abundances between Arctic Ocean and North Atlantic Ocean of significantly more abundant Gene Ontology (GO) terms in Arctic metatranscriptomes for all taxa and individual taxa and their ratios. (**a,b**) The heatmaps represent for all taxons (left columns of **a-c**) and each taxon in decreasing order of abundance (other columns) the difference between the median logarithms of relative abundance between both basins (Arctic-Atlantic) for Gene Ontology terms significantly more abundant in the Arctic metatranscriptomes. This ratio is plotted either for metatranscriptomes (**a**) or metagenomes (**b**). Significantly more abundant GO terms (Wilcoxon test, Hommel correction $p<0.05$) are indicated with a black star. GO terms (rows) are colored and ordered according to the GO cluster they belong to, reflecting close functional annotation (see Supplementary Figure 7). The first 6 GO terms (6 first rows) don't belong to any cluster. (**c**) Log_e ratio of metatranscriptomes (**a**) and metagenomes (**b**) relative abundance ratio matrices and (**d**) hierarchical clustering of this matrix.

Levenshtein distance

0   6.34

Supplementary Figure 7 | Clustering of the Gene Ontology (GO) terms based on the Levenshtein distance. Each GO term present in our unigene database was included in the clustering. The hierarchy of each GO term is converted in a string and pairwise Levenshtein distance(*45*) are computed. The resulting matrix is clustered using UPGMA(*46*) clustering (*Methods*). GO terms (lines and columns) are colored according to the cluster they belong to.

Suplementary Fig. 8 | Differential metagenomic, metatranscriptomic abundances and

expression of PFAM domains between the North Atlantic basin and Arctic basin considering all taxons and specific taxons. We use the ALDEx2 package (*13, 21*) to compute differentially abundant functions (PFAMs) in either metagenomes (left columns), metatranscriptomes (middle column) and expression (metatranscriptomic abundance normalized by metagenomic abundance, right column) between the North Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic Ocean. For each PFAM the total. For each panel, the median $\log_2$ difference between basins (equation 7) is plotted in function of the median $\log_2$ dispersion (for each PFAM) (equation 8) and significantly more abundant PFAMs are colored (bottom part of the plot in the Arctic and top part of the plot in the Atlantic). The dotted lines indicate the limits at which inter-basin dispersion is superior to the intra-basin dispersion.

Supplementary Figure 9 | Differential abundance in metatranscriptomes and metagenomes and differential expression of PFAMs associated to temperature response. Right column: Median log2-fold change between Atlantic and Arctic metagenomes, metatranscriptomes

(equation 6) and expression (metatranscriptomes normalized by metagenomes) of PFAMs associated to temperature response based on estimated centered log ratios from ALDEx2 package for all taxons, Mamiellales, Phaeocystales, Pelagophyceae, Bacillariophyta, Dinophyceae, Ciliophora and Unknown. Significant differences are highlighted by stars. Left column: Median log2-fold change of the number of unigenes between Atlantic and Arctic metagenomes and metatranscriptomes for aforementioned taxa.

Supplementary Figure 10 | Examples of Gene Ontology (GO) terms more abundant in the Arctic metagenomes. Each panel (**a-f**) represents (left) the sum of the metagenomic relative abundance of unigenes associated to the abovementioned GO term across considered taxons and (right) the distribution of this relative abundance in the Atlantic (dark blue) versus Arctic basin (purple). Each of these GO terms is significantly more abundant in the Arctic basin.

Supplementary Figure 11 | Distribution of Erb rho(*47*)**correlation index between centered log ratios of randomized or real metatranscriptomic and metagenomic relative abundance of unigenes present in at least 5 stations.** The correlation index distribution is represented for all taxons (**a**) and individual taxon (**b-g**). In blue, randomized data correlation distribution is presented and in other colors is the real data distribution. Importantly, metatranscriptomic and

metagenomic centered log ratios (clr) are relatively well correlated although more or less strongly depending on the taxon. These good correlations justify the use of the metagenomic clr to normalize the metatranscriptomic clr to define unigene expression (Figure 4, 5, Supplementary Figure 12-13-14).

Supplementary Figure 12 | Distribution of Erb rho (*47*) **correlation index between centered log ratios of randomized or real metatranscriptomic and metagenomic relative abundance of unigenes present in at least 5 stations of 6 algal Metagenomics-based Transcriptomes (MGTs).** The correlation index distribution is plotted for 6 MGTs (**a-f**). In blue, randomized data correlation distribution is presented and in other colors is the real data distribution. Importantly, metatranscriptomic and metagenomic centered log ratios (clr) are relatively well correlated although more or less strongly depending on the taxon. These good correlations justify the use of the metagenomic clr to normalize the metatranscriptomic clr to define unigene expression (Figure 4, 5, Supplementary Figure 12-13-14).

Supplementary Figure 13 | Taxonomic decomposition of unigenes significantly correlated with physical environmental parameters, either negatively or positively. (**a**) Taxonomic and (**b**) Metagenomics-based Transcriptomes (MGTs) annotation of unigenes. Temperature is the parameter for which the highest number of unigenes expression profile is correlated to temperature. Salinity (Sal) and day length (SSD) are highly correlated to temperature so we only analyze unigenes functions which are correlated to temperature (Figure 4-5).

Supplementary Figure 14 | Distribution of Pearson correlation coefficient between temperature and randomized or real expression values of unigenes present in at least 5 stations. The Pearson correlation distribution is represented for all taxons (**a**) and individual taxon (**b-g**). In blue, randomized data correlation distribution is presented and in other colors is the real data distribution. The expression value of a unigene in a given station is calculated as the

difference between the centered log ratios of its metatranscriptomic relative abundance and metagenomic abundance. For some taxon correlation distribution are clearly distinguishable from the randomized data distribution indicating a clear response to temperature. It is particularly the case for Mamiellales, Pelagophyceae and Bacillariophyta that display skewed distribution enriched in unigenes whose expression profile is negatively correlated with temperature.

Supplementary Figure 15 | Distribution of Pearson correlation coefficient between temperature and randomized or real expression values of unigenes present in at least 5 stations for 6 algal Metagenomics-based Transcriptomes. The Pearson correlation distribution is represented for 6 algal MGTs (**a-d**). In blue, randomized data correlation distribution is presented and in other colors is the real data distribution. The expression value of a unigene in a given station is calculated as the difference between the centered log ratios of its metatranscriptomic relative abundance and metagenomic abundance. For some MGT correlation distribution are clearly distinguishable from the randomized data distribution indicating a clear response to temperature. It is particularly the case for MGT 76, MGT 195, MGT 42 and MGT 439 that display skewed distribution enriched in unigenes whose expression profile is negatively correlated with temperature.

Supplementary Figure 16 | Expression profiles and Gene Ontology annotation of enriched unigenes negatively correlated with temperature for three algal Metagenomics-based Transcriptomes. Expression profiles of unigenes whose Gene Ontology terms (right) are enriched within unigenes significantly negatively correlated to temperature are displayed for three algal taxa from three Metagenomics-based Transcriptomes (MGTs): (**a**) Micromonas (MGT 76) (**b**) Phaeocystales (MGT 4). For MGT 4, unigenes associated to the 'ribosome' GO term were also enriched but removed as they were too numerous (24). (**c**) Pelagophyceae (MGT 42). Note that stations are ordered according to the temperature gradient.

Supplementary Figure 17 | Expression profiles and Gene Ontology annotation of enriched unigenes negatively correlated with temperature for six algal taxa. Expression profiles of unigenes whose Gene Ontology terms (right) are enriched within unigenes significantly negatively correlated to temperature are displayed for six algal taxa: (**a**) Mamiellales (unigenes associated to the 'nucleus' GO term were also enriched but removed as they were too numerous (27) as well as the unknown), (**b**) Phaeocystales (unigenes associated to the 'ribosome' GO term were also enriched but removed as they were too numerous (40)) (**c**) Pelagophyceae (**d**) Bacillariophyta (**e**) Dinophyceae and (**f**) Ciliophora. Note that stations are ordered according to the temperature gradient.

Supplementary Figure 18 | Differential abundance in metatranscriptomes and

metagenomes and differential expression of PFAMs associated to photosynthesis across all and different taxons using ALDEx2 package (*13, 21*). Right column: Median log2-fold change between Atlantic and Arctic metagenomes, metatranscriptomes (equation 6) and expression (metatranscriptomes normalized by metagenomes) of PFAMs associated to photosynthesis based on estimated centered log ratios from ALDEx2 package for all taxons, Mamiellales, Phaeocystales, Pelagophyceae, Bacillariophyta, Dinophyceae, Ciliophora and Unknown. Significant differences are highlighted by stars. Left column: Median log2-fold change of the number of unigenes between Atlantic and Arctic metagenomes and metatranscriptomes for aforementioned taxa.

Supplementary Figure 19 | Relative contribution of changes in community composition and gene expression changes to changes in metatranscriptomic composition along the temperature gradient of the NAO-AO transition. The median ratio between an abundance-based distance and an expression based distance (see Methods) is plotted for temperature bins each containing 5 stations. A Wilcoxon test and holm correction (p<0.05) is performed for each bin to test whether the median ratio is significantly different than 1.

Location	Significantly more abundant functions	
	Metagenomes	**Metatranscriptomes**
Arctic	"cellulose binding" "sphingolipid metabolic process" "tetraacyldisaccharide 4'-kinase activity" "ceramide metabolic process" "polynucleotide dephosphorylation" "polynucleotide 5' dephosphorylation" "Mon1-Ccz1 complex" "polynucleotide phosphatase activity" "polynucleotide 5'-phosphatase activity" "transcription, RNA-templated" "RNA-directed 5'-3' RNA polymerase activity"	"hydrolase activity, acting on acid carbon-carbon bonds" "cis-trans isomerase activity" "ribonucleoprotein complex biogenesis" "pseudouridine synthase activity" "hydrolase activity, acting on acid carbon-carbon bonds, in ketonic substances" "preribosome, small subunit precursor" "ribosome biogenesis" "anatomical structure homeostasis" "fumarylacetoacetase activity" "snoRNA binding" "telomere organization" "ribonuclease H2 complex" "lipid catabolic process" "telomeric DNA binding" "S-adenosylmethionine-dependent methyltransferase activity" "intrinsic component of organelle membrane" "microtubule anchoring" "methyltransferase complex" "macromolecule methylation" "integral component of organelle membrane" "vacuole" "sphingolipid metabolic process" "urea metabolic process" "microbody" "tRNA methyltransferase complex" "peroxisome" "tRNA (m1A) methyltransferase complex" "protein transmembrane transport" "chromosome, telomeric region" "ceramide metabolic process" "vacuolar part" "nucleic acid phosphodiester bond hydrolysis" "mitochondrial RNA metabolic process" "peptidyl-amino acid modification" "RNA processing" "RNA modification" "rRNA metabolic process" "peptidyl-proline modification" "protein peptidyl-prolyl isomerization" "pseudouridine synthesis" "ncRNA processing" "serine-type exopeptidase activity" "nuclease activity" "nucleolus"

		"vacuolar membrane" "urea catabolic process" "RNA methylation" "serine-type carboxypeptidase activity" "endonuclease activity" "tRNA processing" "intracellular protein transmembrane transport" "peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase activity" "tRNA modification" "tRNA dihydrouridine synthesis" "rRNA processing" "telomere maintenance" "nuclear chromosome, telomeric region" "vacuolar proton-transporting V-type ATPase complex" "RNA methyltransferase activity" "tRNA methylation" "mitochondrial inner membrane presequence translocase complex" "transcription by RNA polymerase I" "tRNA dihydrouridine synthase activity" "tRNA methyltransferase activity" "tRNA (adenine) methyltransferase activity" "tRNA (adenine-N1-)-methyltransferase activity"
Atlantic	"glycosaminoglycan binding" "transferase activity, transferring aldehyde or ketonic groups" "ligase activity, forming carbon-carbon bonds" "argininosuccinate synthase activity" "hydroxymethylbilane synthase activity" "1-deoxy-D-xylulose-5-phosphate synthase activity" "CoA carboxylase activity" "phosphotransferase activity, carboxyl group as acceptor" "maintenance of location" "acetyl-CoA carboxylase activity" "chorismate synthase activity" "fatty acid synthase activity" "ribose-5-phosphate isomerase activity" "mannosamine metabolic process" "cellulase activity" "ER retention sequence binding" "N-acylglucosamine-6-phosphate 2-epimerase activity" "uridylyltransferase activity" "3-oxoacyl-[acyl-carrier-protein] synthase activity" "sulfate adenylyltransferase activity" "N-acetylmannosamine metabolic process" "photosynthesis, light reaction" "light-harvesting complex" "cytokinetic process" "regulation of cytoskeleton organization"	"transposition" "transposase activity" "chlorophyll binding" "photosynthetic electron transport chain" "ion channel complex" "photosynthetic electron transport in photosystem II" "electron transporter, transferring electrons within the cyclic electron transport pathway of photosynthesis activity" "protein splicing" "transposition, DNA-mediated" "single strand break repair" "deoxyribonucleotide catabolic process"

	"sulfate adenylyltransferase (ATP) activity"	
	"fermentation"	
	"DNA helicase complex"	
	"glycopeptide alpha-N-acetylgalactosaminidase activity"	
	"maintenance of protein location"	
	"maintenance of location in cell"	
	"oxidoreductase activity, acting on CH or CH2 groups, with an iron-sulfur protein as acceptor"	
	"oxidoreductase activity, acting on diphenols and related substances as donors, with copper protein as acceptor"	
	"regulation of microtubule-based movement"	
	"regulation of cilium movement"	
	"glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase [NAD+] activity"	
	"methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (NAD(P)H) activity"	
	"regulation of Toll signaling pathway"	
	"plastoquinol--plastocyanin reductase activity"	
	"5-methyltetrahydrofolate-dependent methyltransferase activity"	
	"4-hydroxy-3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl diphosphate synthase activity"	
	"terpenoid metabolic process"	
	"acetyl-CoA carboxylase complex"	
	"photosynthetic electron transport chain"	
	"nitrogenous compound fermentation"	
	"alditol phosphate metabolic process"	
	"glycerol-3-phosphate metabolic process"	
	"glutamyl-tRNA reductase activity"	
	"peptidoglycan turnover"	
	"photosynthetic electron transport in photosystem II"	
	"proteasome accessory complex"	
	"chorismate metabolic process"	
	"electron transporter, transferring electrons within the cyclic electron transport pathway of photosynthesis activity"	
	"cell septum assembly"	
	"phosphoglycerate kinase activity"	
	"fatty acid metabolic process"	
	"isoprenoid biosynthetic process"	
	"maintenance of protein location in cell"	
	"phycobilisome"	
	"terpenoid biosynthetic process"	
	"glycerol-3-phosphate catabolic process"	
	"maintenance of protein localization in organelle"	
	"methionine metabolic process"	
	"dipeptidyl-peptidase activity"	
	"maintenance of protein localization in endoplasmic reticulum"	
	"L-lysine metabolic process"	

	"protein polyubiquitination"	
	"protein retention in ER lumen"	
	"biotin transport"	
	"exonuclease activity, active with either ribo- or deoxyribonucleic acids and producing 5'-phosphomonoesters"	
	"fatty acid biosynthetic process"	
	"aspartate family amino acid catabolic process"	
	"exodeoxyribonuclease activity"	
	"monocarboxylic acid transmembrane transporter activity"	
	"lysine catabolic process"	
	"anaerobic amino acid catabolic process"	
	"exodeoxyribonuclease activity, producing 5'-phosphomonoesters"	
	"chlorophyll biosynthetic process"	
	"methionine biosynthetic process"	
	"L-lysine catabolic process"	
	"pentose-phosphate shunt, non-oxidative branch"	
	"queuosine salvage"	
	"methionine synthase activity"	
	"L-lysine catabolic process to acetate"	
	"biotin transmembrane transporter activity"	

Supplementary Table 1 | List of more abundant GO terms in both North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean metagenomes and metatranscriptomes

PFAM	Molecular function and structure	Relevance to cold/hot stress acclimation	References
PF14169: Cold−inducible protein YdjO	Molecular: Unknown Structure (example of YdjO) *(48)*: 	Strongly cold-shock-induced in a transcriptome analysis of *B. subtilis*	*(49)*
PF05562: WCOR413	Molecular: putative transport of substances or ions, mediation of protein/protein interaction Structure: Highly hydrophobic protein with six transmembrane regions	A low-temperature-regulated protein from wheat resembling (25% to 56% identity) a stress-responsive gene from the resurrection plant Xerophyta viscosa Baker (XVSAP1). Hypothesis: *"It is possible that XVSAP1 may be involved in the transport of substances or ions across the plasma membrane as a region stretching from amino-terminal glycine residue of a growing polypeptide. Proteins so modified have diverse functions and the myristate appears to be critical for mediating protein/ protein and/or protein/membrane interactions"(50)*	*(50, 51)*
PF00313: CSD	Molecular: Part of this domain is highly similar to the RNP-1 RNA-binding motif*(52)*. Structure: Protein domain of about 70 amino acids which has been found in prokaryotic and eukaryotic DNA−binding proteins*(53, 54)*.	*"may have a function in activating transcription or unwinding or masking RNA molecules."(54)*	*(52−54)*
PF02649: GCHY−1	Molecular: tetrahydrofolate biosynthesis. type I GTP cyclohydrolase Structure: highly conserved glutamate residue at position 216 in folE2: likely to be the substrate ligand. The metal ligand is likely to be the cysteine at position 147. Zn^{2+} dependent*(55)*.	Cold-upregulated in a thermophilic alga: *"Glycine decarboxylase, which feeds methylene-tetrahydrofolate into the folate cycle was 1.7-fold upregulated at 28°C. In contrast, transcript frequency for formate-tetrahydrofolate ligase, which would drain the folate cycle, was reduced to 0.3-fold at 28°C"(56)* *"Both in vitro and in vivo experiments indicate that OtNOS, unlike mammalian NOS, efficiently uses tetrahydrofolate as a cofactor in Arabidopsis plants. The modulation of NO production to alleviate abiotic stress disturbances in higher plants highlights the potential of genetic manipulation to influence NO metabolism as a tool to improve plant fitness under adverse growth conditions."(57)*	*(55−57)*
PF14249: Tocopherol_cycl	Molecular:tocopherol cyclase activity. Secondary metabolism Structure: 3 β-feuillet and 1 α-helix, strong confidence except the tip of the β and α*(48)* (N and C-terminal domains)	Abstract: *"As expected, the synthesis of tocopherols (vitamin E) from 2,3-dimethyl-5-phytyl-1,4-benzoquinol by the recombinant protein demonstrated that the EgSXD1 gene product is a TC. Northern hybridizations with RNA isolated from cell suspension cultures clearly showed a fast EgSXD1 downregulation by cold."(24)*	*(24)*
PF01964: Thiamine biosynthesis	Molecular: Thiamine biosynthesis, *"Escherichia coli K-12 synthesizes thiamine pyrophosphate (vitamin B1)*	*"The expression of Arabidopsis genes involved in the thiamine diphosphate biosynthesis pathway, including that of THI1, THIC, TH1 and TPK, was analyzed for 48 h in seedlings*	*(22, 58)*

	de novo. Two precursors [4-methyl-5-(beta-hydroxyethyl)thiazole monophosphate and 4-amino-5-hydroxymethyl-2-methylpyrimidine pyrophosphate] are coupled to form thiamine monophosphate, which is then phosphorylated to make thiamine pyrophosphate."(22) Structure: A β-feuillet surrounded by α-helixes and α-β-α on the side (C-terminal)(58)	*subjected to NaCl or sorbitol treatment. These genes were found to be predominantly up-regulated in the early phase (2-6 h) of the stress response."*(22)	
PF02358: Trehalose_PPase	Molecular: Trehalose phosphatase Structure (example of Trehalose phosphatase)(48):	Abstract: *"A mutant Escherichia coli strain unable to produce trehalose died much faster than the wild type at 4°C. Transformation of the mutant with the otsA/otsB genes, responsible for trehalose synthesis, restored trehalose content and cell viability at 4°C. After temperature downshift from 37°C to 16°C ("cold shock"), trehalose levels in wild-type cells increased up to 8-fold."*(59)	(59)
PF01979: Amidohydro_1	Molecular: Allantoinase, Catalyzes the conversion of allantoin (5-ureidohydantoin) to allantoic acid by hydrolytic cleavage of the five-member hydantoin ring(60). Structure (example of allantoinase)(48):	*"Allantoin is a metabolic intermediate of purine catabolism that often accumulates in stressed plants(27)."*	(27, 60, 61)
PF10551: MULE	Molecular: Mutator-like element (MULE) transposases. Zn dependent(62) Structure: This domain was identified by Babu and colleagues(62). *"Typical structural features of MULEs include long TIRs (>100 bp) and 8–10 bp flanking TSDs(63)"*	NONE (control)	(62, 63)

PF01119: DNA_mis_repair	Function : DNA repair(*64*). Structure: "*This family represents the C-terminal domain of the mutL/hexB/PMS1 family. This domain has a ribosomal S5 domain 2-like fold.*"(*64*)	Title: DNA Damage Inducible Protein 1 is Involved in Cold Adaption of Harvested Cucumber Fruit(*65*)	(*64, 65*)
PF00626: Gelsolin	Function : Gelsolin is a cytoplasmic, calcium-regulated, actin-modulating protein that binds to the barbed ends of actin filaments, preventing monomer exchange (end-blocking or capping). It can promote nucleation (the assembly of monomers into filaments), as well as sever existing filaments(*66*). Structure (example of Gelsolin)(*48*) : uncertain 	"*Cold-acclimation had a negligible effect on steady state protein expression in the heart, with just 7 differentially abundant (DA) proteins (0.5% of the quantified cardiac proteome). Furthermore, only gelsolin isoform X1 (log2FC = -0.289) was not influenced by a confounding effect of available development stage*"	(*66*)
PF00241: Cofilin_ADF	Function: "*They bind both actin-monomers and filaments and promote rapid filament turnover in cells by depolymerising/fragmenting actin filaments. ADF/cofilins bind ADP-actin with higher affinity than ATP-actin and inhibit the spontaneous nucleotide exchange on actin monomers*"(*67*) Structure: "*In molecular biology, ADF-H domain (actin-depolymerising factor homology domain) is an approximately 150 amino acid motif that is present in three phylogenetically distinct classes of eukaryotic actin-binding proteins*(*68*)."	"*Based on the above information and on the identification of a wheat cold-regulated ADF homolog, we designed the present experiments to determine the function and regulation of TaADF.*"(*69*)	(*67–69*)
PF02209: VHP	Molecular: Bundles, nucleates, caps, and severs actin in a Ca2+-dependent	"*Compared with Table I, only eight spots, which represents seven proteins (38.9%) including a villin (Os03g24220), an actin 3 (Os03g61970), an actin 7 (Os05g01600), an aminotransferase (Os08g41990), an ATP-dependent Clp protease (Os04g32560),*	(*70–72*)

	manner*(70)*. Structure: Villin headpiece domain. *"The core of the GH domain consists of a five-stranded b-sheet sandwiched between one long and one short helix"(71)*	*a putative subtilisin (Os02g53860), and a sucrose synthase (Os03g28330), showed similar up- or down-regulated patterns."(72)*	
PF03259: Robl_LC7	Molecular: associated to flagellar outer arm of dynein. Structure: See Koonin et al.*(73)*	This family includes proteins that may modulate specific dynein functions but it may also play a structural or regulatory role. Dynein were shown to be regulated in cold conditions and act as a *"thermally tunable motor"(74)*	*(73, 74)*
PF00249: Myb_DNA−binding	Molecular: Myb-like DNA-binding domain (transcription factor) Structure*(48)*: 	Putative role in oxidative stress response in *Arabisdopsis Thaliana*: regulation of ROS in a circadian manner (probable regulation by CCA1)*(75)*	*(75)*
PF11999: Ice_binding	Molecular: Ice binding, antifreeze glycoproteins, they bind to crystals of ice Structure (example of Ice binding protein 1)*(48)*: 	*"Sub-zero temperatures put plants at risk of damage associated with the formation of ice crystals in the apoplast. Some freeze-tolerant plants mitigate this risk by expressing ice-binding proteins (IBPs), that adsorb to ice crystals and modify their growth."(76)*	*(48, 76)*
PF03104: DNA_pol_B_exo1	Molecular: 3' to 5' exonuclease activity Structure: ribonuclease H type fold	*"Previous studies [15] showed changes in RNase activity in wheat leaves and roots following exposure to low temperatures (2 8C) for long periods (60 days)."(77)*	*(77)*
PF01346: FKBP_N	Molecular: peptidyl-prolyl isomerase (foldase/chaperone), post translation modification Structure*(78)*: Domain amino terminal to FKBP-type	Some peptidyl prolyl isomerase have been shown to be important in protein folding under cold stress condition by increasing the rate of cis-trans isomerization*(79)*	*(78, 79)*
PF05035: DGOK	Molecular: 2-dehydro-3-deoxygalactonokinase activity Structure (example of	NONE (control)	*(48)*

	deoxygalactonokinase)*(48)*:		
PF05351: GMP_PDE_delta	Molecular: *"PDE delta subunit is thought to be a specific soluble transport factor for certain prenylated proteins and Arl2-GTP a regulator of PDE-mediated transport."(80)* Structure (exemple of GMP_PDE_delta containing protein) *(48)*:	*"The enzyme is stable only under specific conditions, and the activation property of the enzyme is lost relatively easy. Irreversible modifications occur at temperatures below 0° and above 30°C, and at pH below 6.0. Several other conditions such as high ion concentrations, temperatures just above 0°C and pH above 8.0 lead to reversibel modifications of enzyme activity."(81)*	*(80, 81)*
PF01180: DHO_dh	Molecular: cytosolic dihydroorotate dehydrogenase Structure (example of dihydroorotate dehydrogenase) *(48)*:	*"In the present paper, we identified and cloned OsDHODH1 encoding a putative cytosolic dihydroorotate dehydrogenase (DHODH) in rice. Expression analysis indicated that OsDHODH1 is upregulated by salt, drought and exogenous abscisic acid (ABA), but not by cold"(82)* *"Even though there is no data on the effect of temperature on DhoDH, we can expect that its thermal sensitivity will affect more mitochondrial functions than only the reduction of the Q pool."(83)*	*(82, 83)*
PF05971: Methyltransf_10	Molecular: RNA methyltransferase Structure (example of Methyltransferase)*(48)*:	RNA methylation is known to be important in stress response especially cold acclimation (stability of RNA)*(84)*	*(84, 85)*

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Supplementary table 2 | Summary table of function and structure of a set of PFAMs known to be involved in cold/hot stress acclimation.

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