# A chronology of multicellularity evolution in cyanobacteria 

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#### Abstract

The transition from unicellular to multicellular organisms is one of the most significant events in the history of life. Here we examine the evolution of the most ancient multicellular transition known today, that of cyanobacteria. Using a phylogenomics approach we reconstruct the order of emergence of phenotypic traits. Our results show that the prime driver of multicellularity in cyanobacteria was the expansion in metabolic capacity offered by nitrogen fixation, which was accompanied by the emergence of the filamentous morphology and a reproductive life cycle. Multicellularity provided the capacity for division of labor to counter the incompatibility between photosynthesis and nitrogen fixation. Nascent multicellularity enabled the diversification of lifestyle and the progression into higher complexity in the form of differentiated cells and patterned multicellularity.


Main Text: Multicellularity is considered a characteristic trait of eukaryotes, but has evolved independently several times in diverse prokaryote taxa, including actinobacteria, myxobacteria, and cyanobacteria (1). Bacterial multicellularity ranges from transient associations, such as colonies, biofilms and cellular aggregations, to permanent multicellular forms (2). Instances of multicellular bacterial species present the major traits of eukaryotic multicellularity, including cell-to-cell adhesion, peri- or cytoplasmic continuity, intercellular communication, patterning, programmed cell death (PCD), and division of labor (3). Aggregative forms of multicellularity are common among bacterial species, for example, those that form a biofilm under specific external conditions (4). Bacillus subtilis, for instance, forms biofilms upon nutrient deprivation in which cells differentiate into motile, matrix producing, or spore cells depending on the environmental cues (3). Notably, cell differentiation in aggregates is adaptive at the level of the individual cell as it directly confers a fitness benefit to that particular cell. In contrast, under true division of labor, cells are interdependent upon each other and specialize in performing complementary tasks. These tasks (e.g., somatic functions or PCD) are not regarded beneficial on the level of the individual cell, but are considered advantageous for the colony; thus, they are emergent properties on a higher level of organization (5).

True division of labor in bacteria is best described in actinobacteria and cyanobacteria (5). In cyanobacteria, the most complex of the filamentous species can differentiate up to five different cell types: vegetative (photosynthetic) cells, akinetes (spore-like cells), hormogonia (reproductive, motile filaments), necridia (dead cells resulting from PCD for hormogonia release), and heterocysts ( 3,6 ). Heterocysts differentiate under nitrogen deprivation and are specialized in nitrogen $\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)$ fixation by the enzyme nitrogenase (7). As this enzyme is sensitive to oxygen $\left(\mathrm{O}_{2}\right)$, these cells are characterized by the absence of photosynthesis and by a thick cell wall, which maintains an anaerobic environment. Heterocysts and vegetative cells in the filament are metabolically interdependent with the heterocysts providing combined
nitrogen to the other cells within the filament and receiving fixed carbon compounds in return. Heterocysts cannot reproduce hence they represent a prime example for emergent traits on the level of a multicellular organism. As cyanobacteria possess the hallmark traits reminiscent of complex eukaryotic multicellularity, except for tissues and organs, the order of trait emergences is essential for understanding the origin of higher-level complexity in organismal evolution.

Previous studies of trait precedence relied on a single fully resolved species tree (8). The conclusions would ultimately depend on the quality of the hypothesized species tree. For example, in Fig. 1 we present the phylogenetic network derived from the common single copy genes in our sample. Clearly, no single species tree based on that data can be correct in all its topological details, and the conclusions derived from any single species tree are frequently different from those derived from individual gene trees (9). Furthermore, superposition of traits on the network (colors in Fig. 1) shows that any inference of trait precedence will critically depend on the topological resolution of highly uncertain parts of the species network.

An alternative to the species tree approach would be to consider individual gene trees and the information they contain about the last common ancestor (LCA) of traits and their precedence. Such an approach avoids the commitment to a single species tree topology, while at the same time provides statistical power thanks to inference drawn from large samples rather than a sample of one tree. Even higher power can be achieved by breaking down the full order of trait emergence into a series of pairwise polarizations since, for a specific pair of traits, the resolution of precedence depends only on the precedence of the LCAs of the two traits. This polarization is independent of large parts of the full branch topology of the trees, rendering the inference immune to high amounts of phylogenetic noise.


Fig. 1. Species tree uncertainty and presence of traits for (A) FILAMENTOUS and (B) N FIXATION. Species tree reconstruction for 199 cyanobacteria genomes, based on 17 common single-copy genes. The phylogenetic network summarizes 100 bootstrap replicates of maximum likelihood inference from 3744 alignment columns.

To reconstruct the order of trait emergence in the evolution of cyanobacterial multicellularity, we evaluated 25 phenotypic traits variably present in 199 cyanobacterial species using a genomic sample of gene trees for 1671 protein coding gene families (tables S 1 - S2). We employed a phylogenomic inference procedure that does not rely on a particular species tree, but extracts the total evidence from gene trees to determine pairwise trait precedence (hereby termed trait-pair polarity; see comprehensive description in supplementary methods and fig. S1). The reconstructed trait-pairs polarity matrix (Fig. 2a) shows the best-supported emergence order among all trait pairs, as determined from Wilcoxon tests with four possible polarities: trait A originates before trait B ; B originates
before A; A and B emerge simultaneously (i.e., their LCAs coincide); and A and B originate in independent lineages.


Fig. 2. Trait precedence in the evolution of cyanobacteria. (A) Trait-pairs polarity matrix. (B) Trait emergence order network. Cells in the matrix are shaded according to the polarity of the row and column traits, and the FDR-corrected significance of the Wilcoxon tests (for trait presence/absence states and test results see tables S2 and S3). In this dataset there are no cycles of conflicting ordering among the 300 inferred pairwise polarities. Thus, the traits form a partial order that is used to determine the trait order in the matrix $(\mathbf{A})$ and is visualized as a feed-forward network (B). Shades of green mark the four phases of trait emergence. Traits that can be regarded as multicellularity markers in cyanobacteria are labeled in red.

Table 1. Resolution of on-going debates regarding trait precedence in cyanobacterial evolution. P-values are for FDR adjusted Wilcoxon tests (see methods). A naïve voting scheme restricted to common single copy gene trees, as well as a species tree derived from their concatenation, yield the same conclusions (table S3).

| Debate and resolution |
| :---: |
| Unicellular - Filamentous |
| Trait-pair polarity tests show that the cyanobacterial ancestor was UNICELLULAR and that the FILAMENTOUS morphology arose later ( p -value $2.3 \times 10^{-110}$ ). |
| Planktonic - Benthic |
| Our results show that the cyanobacteria ancestor traits include PLANKTONIC MOTILITY and FREE LIVING (all p-values $<8.2 \times 10^{-33}$, table S3). |
| $\mathbf{N}_{2}$ fixation - No $\mathbf{N}_{2}$ fixation |
| Trait-pair polarity tests show that N FIXATION is a derived trait and that the ancestor of cyanobacteria was lacking the ability to fix $\mathrm{N}_{2}\left(\mathrm{p}\right.$-value $\left.2.6 \times 10^{-125}\right)$. |

## Description of debate

Whereas early work(28) suggested that both morphologies had multiple origins, a subsequent analysis found the ancestor to be unicellular and the filamentous morphology to arise in independent lineages of the cyanobacterial tree(29). Another view is that the filamentous morphology evolved early during cyanobacterial evolution and was subsequently lost and regained several times(30).
Whether the cyanobacteria ancestor was planktonic is a matter of debate and opposing views on the topic have been published $(8,29)$.

## Freshwater - Marine

Our results show that there is no evidence for either MARINE or FRESHWATER environments as ancestral or derived habitat (simultaneous polarity, p-value $5.4 \times 10^{-148}$ ).

## Akinetes - Heterocysts

Our results show that AKINETES and HETEROCYSTS emerged simultaneously ( p -value $1.8 \times 10^{-124}$ ).

Whereas some studies claimed the last cyanobacterial common ancestor to fix $\mathrm{N}_{2}(31)$, there are others that concluded that it could not fix $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ and that cyanobacteria must have acquired this trait several times independently(29).

Some studies suggest that early cyanobacteria lived in freshwater and subsequently diverged into marine environments( $8,25,29$ ), whereas others provide evidence in support of a marine origin(32).

The cyanobacteria ancestor most likely inhabited an aquatic environment and colonized both environments early.

There is a common agreement that these cell types appeared late in cyanobacterial evolution(31), but there is a controversy about whether they shared a common ancestor and appeared simultaneously(33) or successively(31).

Several of the pairwise tests are instrumental in resolving outstanding debates about trait precedence in cyanobacterial evolution (Table 1). Furthermore, the 300 pairwise polarities form a partial order, which can be divided into four temporal phases: (phase i) the
cyanobacteria ancestor (traits 1-7); (phase ii) the transition to multicellular individuality (traits 8-16); (phase iii) the expansion of niche occupation and species interactions (traits 17-20); and (phase iv) the evolution of higher complexity (traits 21-25).

Considering the set of traits in its entirety, the polarity matrix leads to the following scenario for the evolution of multicellularity in cyanobacteria (Fig. 2b). The prime driver of multicellularity in cyanobacteria was the expansion in metabolic capacity offered by N FIXATION (phase ii). This emergence was accompanied by two other cardinal innovations: the emergence of the FILAMENTOUS morphology and the emergence of HORMOGONIA, and thus a reproductive life cycle. Together, these traits form the essential elements of true multicellularity. Secondary traits that played a role in stabilizing the nascent multicellular organism emerged in close succession, and include gas VESICLES, SHEATH, and mUCILAGE. There followed a cascade of niche expansions and species interactions, and the culmination of complex multicellularity in the form of differentiated cells and patterned multicellularity.

To elaborate on the scenario for cyanobacteria multicellularity evolution, $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ fixation the reduction of molecular dinitrogen $\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)$ to ammonium $\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)$ - is catalyzed by the enzyme nitrogenase. Whereas present day cyanobacteria, other microorganisms, and most plants are able to take up nitrogen in various combined forms, such as nitrate, ammonium, organic nitrogen, or urea, these combined forms of nitrogen are scarce in most environments (e.g., open oceans or terrestrial habitats (10)). Combined nitrogen, which is critical for the biosynthesis of amino and nucleic acids, was likely a limiting resource in the early Earth environment (11). Hence, the capability of N FIXATION was key for cyanobacterial radiation into new habitats and subsequent diversification (phases ii and iii).

The realization of the full metabolic potential of $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ fixation, however, faced the challenge of the incompatibility of nitrogenase with intracellular oxygen (12). When the cyanobacterial ancestor first acquired the capacity of $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ fixation, it must have imposed a
strong selection pressure on the individual cells. The trade-off between photosynthesis and nitrogen fixation led to the evolution of multiple solutions, which are still present in today's cyanobacteria: the circadian rhythm of $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ fixation in unicellular cyanobacteria (13) and the differentiation of the highly specialized heterocyst (14).

Theory predicts that within a population of genetically identical unicellular nitrogen fixing cyanobacteria, cell differentiation and phenotypic heterogeneity would have been adaptive if this increased the fitness of the organisms in groups (15). In the case of unicellular cyanobacteria this means that cells evolved adhesion and exchanged fixed nitrogen and carbon products within early cell groups such as filaments. Indeed, our results indicate that the filamentous morphology emerged simultaneously with N FIXATION (phase ii). Notably, while the species tree shows N FIXATION and FILAMENTOUS to be derived characters, it concludes that the LCA of filamentous forms preceded the LCA of n FIXAtIon. Indeed, it is questionable whether a single species tree can capture these deep phylogenetic relations, as demonstrated in Fig. 1. In contrast, even a naïve voting scheme restricted to common single copy genes is in agreement with our statistical conclusion (table S3).

In filamentous cyanobacteria, where dividing cells remain linked in a chain, surfaceassociated growth, SHEATH, and MUCILAGE lead to a localization of cells in close spatial proximity, facilitating metabolite exchange between the individual cells. When compared to the more transient associations in spatially structured communities, such as in extracellular polymeric substance (EPS) imbedded biofilms, the development of filaments opens possibilities for a more direct exchange of molecules with high specificity. Metabolic exchange could have evolved as described for the evolution of metabolic cross-feeding (10), as the exchange of carbon and nitrogen against other products is generally common in photosynthetic or nitrogen-fixing organisms (17).

The trait HORMOGONIA is inferred to occur simultaneously with the appearance of the FILAMENTOUS morphology. Its co-occurrence with other traits, such as NOT FREE-LIVING BENTHIC/SESSILE, EPILITHIC/ ENDOLYTHIC, SHEATH, and MUCILAGE underline the transition from a planktonic to a benthic lifestyle (phase ii). The differentiation of hormogonia can be induced by environmental stimuli, such as nitrogen deprivation (18). After breaking off from the mother filament at the necridia, HORMOGONIA disperse via gliding motility or float thanks to GAS VESICLES, ensuring the reproduction of benthic species (19). The differentiation into HORMOGONIA is reversible - they change back to the sessile lifestyle, where they grow into a new vegetative filament (18). Here we observe the emergence of a life cycle with two-phases, an important event for the transition to multicellularity (20).

Traits that are indicative of higher complexity emerged late in the evolution of cyanobacteria (i.e., phase iv) and conclude the polarity matrix. We observe the occurrence of AKINETES and the irreversibly differentiated HETEROCYSTS. HETEROCYSTS represent not only a morphological adaptation to the obstacle of $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ fixation under oxic conditions but also an elaborate and highly specialized communication and metabolite exchange system. In Anabaena sp., for example, where several hundred cells communicate within a filament, a regular heterocyst formation pattern along the filament must be achieved to guarantee that every cell is adequately supplied with fixed nitrogen compounds (6). For this, the inhibitory signaling peptide PatS needs to be distributed along the filament with heterocyst formation occurring only in cells with low PatS concentration (21). Whether the exchange of metabolites and regulators happens via the continuous periplasm (22) or through septal junctions (23) is still not fully resolved.

Another central innovation that occurs in this phase of the polarity matrix is the ability to FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES. This trait co-occurred with the ability to produce BAEOCYTES, differentiated cells, which are the reproductive stages in the order Pleurocapsales (24).

Notably, baeocyte-forming cyanobacteria, that have been traditionally grouped together with unicellular cyanobacteria (19), appear to immediately predate the evolution of akinetes and heterocysts and thus emerge much later than filamentous forms. The ability to fission in multiple planes is known to underlie the true-branching morphology, where cells in a filament divide in more than one plane, and which is the last trait to emerge in our analysis. Members of the Haphalosiphon/Stigonematales clade having true-branching and multiseriate filament morphology are considered as the latest evolutionary innovations (19) and this is further observed in cyanobacterial phylogenies (25).

Common features of evolutionary transitions in individuality comprise cooperation between the lower level units (1) and the division of labor (26). The latter might be of particular advantage, and serve as the driver of the transition to multicellularity when there is a strong trade-off between processes that cannot be performed in a single cell at one time (15, 26). Our current findings support this theory and point to nitrogen fixation, and its incompatibility with photosynthesis, as the trigger for the evolution of multicellularity in cyanobacteria. One open question concerns how the underlying genetics of novel traits, such as the division of labor, arise within a newly emerging multicellular individual. In the case of cyanobacteria multicellularity, as also suggested for animal multicellularity (27), we propose that no new genes were required and that higher complexity was achieved by regulatory changes in gene expression patterns. Basic communication and metabolite exchange was preexisting as single-celled bacteria frequently engage in cell-cell communication and crossfeeding of metabolites via the external environment (16). Division of labor between photosynthesis and nitrogen fixation was likely first established by the regulatory mechanism of temporal switching. Once simple forms of division of labor and metabolic exchange existed, the transition into spatial separation in differentiated cells could have evolved mainly by regulatory modifications.

Differentiated cells are one of the hallmarks of complex multicellularity. It is therefore significant that we observe six distinct cell types in cyanobacteria: photosynthetic, hormogonia, necridia, akinetes, baeocytes, and heterocysts. Such a plurality indicates that the underlying regulatory mechanisms are well developed and that their plasticity and adaptability are a matter of course. It is also significant that three of the differentiated cell types, hormogonia, akinetes, and baeocytes, offer novel reproductive potential and the establishment of a multicellular life cycle. Moreover, signs of a nascent developmental plan can be observed in both the distribution of heterocysts along filaments and in the patterning of true branching cyanobacteria. These elements have no fitness value for the individual cell, but are selectable adaptations on the higher level, the filament. The chronology of the evolution of multicellularity in cyanobacteria shows that, once established, multicellular individuality opens new vistas of opportunities.

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## Materials and Methods

## Data

The data underlying this study consists of the genomic sequences and phenotypic traits of 199 cyanobacterial species. These were selected from the available genomes so that the number of represented taxa will be as large as possible and genus-level redundancy will be reduced (table S2 for the complete list of species).

## Phenotypic traits

Phenotypic traits were chosen for their potential relevance to the evolution of multicellularity in cyanobacteria, such as environmental factors that might facilitate multicellularity and markers that are indicative for the transition to multicellularity (table S1). Information on presence and absence of traits was obtained from the published literature and from the Pasteur Culture Collection of cyanobacteria, extending the work by Uyeda et al ( 8 ), and coded as binary trait states. Traits included morphology, nitrogen fixation, freshwater, marine, baeocytes, hormogonia, thermophilic, akinetes, heterocysts, true branching, epi/ endolithic, epiphytic, periphytic, mats, free-living, habitat, sheath, mucilage, gas vesicles, motility, and fission in multiple planes (table S2).

## Protein families and gene trees

The cyanobacteria protein families were constructed from completely sequenced genomes available in RefSeq database (34) (ver. May 2016). For the construction of protein families, at the first stage, all protein sequences annotated in the genomes were blasted all-against-all using stand-alone BLAST (35) ver. 2.2.26. Protein sequence pairs that were found as reciprocal best BLAST hits (rBBHs) (30) with a threshold of E-value $\leq 1 \times 10^{-5}$ were further compared by global alignment using needle (37). Sequence pairs having $\geq 30 \%$ identical amino acids were clustered into protein families using the Markov clustering algorithm (MCL) (38) ver. 12-135 with the default parameters. By requiring a gene to be present in the genomes of the SynProCya clade and in at least one other major cyanobacterial clade, we identified 1671 gene families that are present on both sides of the cyanobacterial root, i.e., ancient proteins families. Protein sequences of these families were aligned using MAFFT version 7.027 b employing the L-INS-i strategy (39). Maximum likelihood trees were reconstructed with PhyML version 20120412 (40) with parameters -b -4 -v e -m LG -c 4 -s SPR.

## Trait ordering

We consider four possible polarizations of a pair of traits $\boldsymbol{A}$ and $\boldsymbol{B}: \boldsymbol{A}$ originates before $\boldsymbol{B}$; $\boldsymbol{B}$ originates before $\boldsymbol{A} ; \boldsymbol{A}$ and $\boldsymbol{B}$ emerge simultaneously; and $\boldsymbol{A}$ and $\boldsymbol{B}$ are not nested but originate in independent lineages. We infer the pairwise emergence order of the traits by collecting evidence from a set of phylogenetic trees of independent protein families, and conducting a formal statistical test for the best-supported polarization. Finally, the set of all pairwise polarities is used to derive the order of emergence of all traits (fig. S1).


Fig. S1.
Phylogenomic reconstruction of trait emergence chronology. Stages in the procedure are depicted clockwise from top-left. A genome-wide sample of single-copy protein coding genes provides measures of ancestor-descendant relations (Ancestor Deviation, AD) (32). The AD support is then coupled to traits presence-absence patterns for each gene tree. Considering a specific pair of traits, their emergence polarity is deduced from formal statistical tests that contrast alternative hypothesized ancestor-descendant relations, utilizing paired information from all gene trees. All pairwise comparisons of traits are then combined into an overall traitpairs polarity matrix, and if partial ordering of the traits (i.e., no polarity cycles) is possible, a feed-forward network can be inferred by topological sorting.

## Polarization evidence from a single phylogenetic tree

Given an unrooted phylogenetic tree, we first consider all possible rooted versions of the tree. In an $n$-OTU (Operative Taxonomic Unit) unrooted tree, the root can be placed on any of the $2 n-3$ branches of the tree. For each of the $2 n-3$ rooted trees, we label the OTUs by the presence of the two traits $\boldsymbol{A}$ and $\boldsymbol{B}$, and infer the most parsimonious Last Common Ancestor
(LCA) of each trait, assuming a single trait origin and possible trait losses. We then record the polarity induced by the putative root position according to whether the LCAs of $\boldsymbol{A}$ and $\boldsymbol{B}$ coincide, are descended one from the other, or are located on independent lineages.

Next we conduct a MAD analysis (32), yielding an Ancestor Deviation (AD) statistic for every branch of the tree. The AD measure quantifies the amount of lineage rate heterogeneity that is induced by postulating a branch as harboring the root of the tree. We have previously shown that the AD measure provides robust evidence for the inference of the root of the tree. In the current study we do not infer a single root, but use the AD measure to assess the relative strength of alternative rootings of the same tree.

Thus, for each possible root position we obtain a polarity state for $\boldsymbol{A}$ and $\boldsymbol{B}$ and a corresponding AD value. For each of the four polarities, we take the minimal AD value as the tree support of that polarity. Note that for certain trees and trait pairs, some polarities may not occur. We differentiate between two such possibilities. First, a certain tree is Uninformative regarding a specific trait-pair polarity if the species composition of the tree renders the observation of the polarity impossible in any possible topology. For example, the polarity ' $\boldsymbol{A}$ precedes $\boldsymbol{B}^{\prime}$ is impossible to observe in trees where the $\boldsymbol{A}$ OTUs are a subset of the $\boldsymbol{B}$ OTUs, regardless of the specific topology or root position. In contrast, a certain polarity may be unobserved in any of the rootings of a specific unrooted tree, while still being a possible observation for a different tree topology. An example of such Informative absent-observation is when $\boldsymbol{A}$ and $\boldsymbol{B}$ label disjoint sets of OTUs yet the 'Not nested' polarity is not observed in the actual tree topology. In the latter case, the absence of an observation is evidence against that specific polarity, and the polarity is assigned the maximal observed AD as its score. When the tree is uninformative regarding a polarity, on the other hand, it is assigned a 'missing' value, and is excluded from subsequent analyses.

## Statistical inference of pairwise polarity

Repeating the preceding procedure for trees derived from all different single-copy proteins families yields a phylogenomic sample of four variables - the AD scores of each of the four polarities for the pair of traits. The four distributions are paired, as each tree brings in a 4-tuple of values, and a significant difference in support values can be tested using the nonparametric Wilcoxon signed-rank test (41). In all, we conduct twelve one-sided tests of contrasting polarities, while employing an FDR (42) correction for multiple comparisons. A trait-pair is considered polarized if there exists one polarity where all three tests against the other polarities recover significantly lower AD values at the $1 \%$ FDR level. In exceptional
situations we again encounter polarity contrasts that cannot be tested. For some polarity contrasts the sample size may not meet our threshold (10 paired observations), and the test is conservatively considered valid but not significant with a p-value of 1.0. A second exception occurs when one trait $(\boldsymbol{A})$ is present only in a strict subset of the species that possess the other trait ( $\boldsymbol{B}$ ). In this case it is impossible to observe the polarities 'not nested' and 'A precedes $\boldsymbol{B}^{\prime}$ in any tree, and we restrict the testing to the single contrast ' $\boldsymbol{B}$ precedes $\boldsymbol{A}$ ' versus

## 'Simultaneous'.

The pairwise polarity inference is applied to each pair of traits and summarized in a traitpair polarity matrix. We again apply the FDR correction, this time over all trait-pairs and polarity contrasts. In the present study, with 25 traits, we apply FDR over 3,480 tests. To derive an ordering of the traits, we apply 'Topological sort' (43) to the significant polarities of type 'A precedes $\boldsymbol{B}^{\prime}$ ', or vice versa. In the present study the significant polarities form a partial order, i.e., there are no self-contradicting precedence cycles, and the topological sorting order is used to order the polarities matrix and to reduce it to a feed-forward network (Fig. 2).

## Comparison to traditional approaches

We compare our analysis to the traditional type of analysis that considers a single species tree derived from single-copy genes present in all studied taxa. In our dataset there are 17 common single-copy genes with a total alignment length of 3744 columns. We reconstructed a species tree using iqtree version 1.5 .5 (44) with the '-sp -mset LG' model selection options and a bootstrap analysis with 100 replicates. The trait polarities derived from the species tree, as well as a simple voting scheme of the 17 common genes are reported in table S 3 . We visualized the uncertainties in the species tree by a super-network of the 100 bootstrap replicates using splitstree4 (45) (Fig. 1 and its annotation in fig. S2).


Fig. S2.
Genome identifiers for the phylogenomic network of Fig. 1.

Table S1.
Description of cyanobacterial cell types, morphological and physiological traits, their habitat and life style.

## Cell types

| Vegetative cells | Photosynthetic cells. <br> Motile reproductive cells that result from repeated rounds of fission <br> without intermittent growth phases. They break of the mother filament, <br> ensuring the reproduction and dispersal of benthic species. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Necridia* | Dead cells resulting from PCD for hormogonia release. |
| HETEROCYSTS* | Thick-walled cells that are specialized in fixing N $_{2}$. |
| AKINETES* | Thick-walled, spore-like cells that provide reproduction, dormancy, and <br> resilience. <br> Reproductive cells that result from repeated rounds of fission without <br> intermittent growth phases. |
| BAEOCYTES* |  |

## Morphological and physiological traits

Unicellular Single-celled morphology. After cell division cells separate.
Filamentous* Multi-celled morphology. Cells remain attached after cell division.
Nitrogen fixation Fixation of $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ into ammonium.
Sheath Part of the cell envelope, located outside the cell wall.
Mucilage Part of the envelope, located outside the cell wall, comprised of EPS, without a defined structure.
Gas Vesicles* Intracellular gas-filled chambers for regulating buoyancy in the water column.
Motility Movement across surfaces or through a liquid medium.
Fission in multiple Cell division in two or three perpendicular planes.
Planes
True branching* Fission in multiple planes leads to branches that remain attached to the main filament.

## Habitat and life style

Freshwater Aquatic environments with salinity between 0-0.5ppt.
Marine
Aquatic environments with salinity between $30-50 \mathrm{ppt}$.
ThERMOPHILIC Optimal growth temperature above $45^{\circ}$.
Planktonic Organism that lives in the plankton (not attached).
Sessile/ Benthic
Attachment to a substrate.
MATS Growth inside thick, laminated, microbial structures.
Free-Living
Not Free-Living
Epilithic/
Endolithic
Epiphytic Growth on plants.
Periphytic Attachment to underwater substrates.

* Multicellularity markers: traits that are adaptations on the level of the filament.

Small caps indicate the traits that have been used in the analysis.

## Table S2. Phenotypic traits in cyanobacteria.

Presence absence matrix of 25 traits in 199 species. See table S1 for trait definition. Numbered uppercase trait-state names are as reported in Fig. 2. 'Phase' corresponds to green shades and 'Group adaptation' to red labels in Fig. 2.



|  | Phase during cyanobacterial evolution Group adaptation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Assemby accession | Species |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| GCA_000155635.1 | Cyanobium sp. PCC 7001 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000300115.1 | Tolypothrix sp. PCC 7601 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| GCA_000317635.1 | Halothece sp. PCC 7418 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000973065.1 | Arthrospira sp. PCC 8005 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000316665.1 | Rivularia sp. PCC 7116 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| GCA_000297435.1 | Microcystis sp. T1-4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000211815.1 | Moorea producens 3L | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000317145.1 | Chamaesiphon minutus PCC 6605 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000317675.1 | Cyanobacterium aponinum PCC 10605 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000317475.1 | Oscillatoria nigro-viridis PCC 7112 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000473895.1 | Rubidibacter lacunae KORDI 51-2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000332155.1 | Kamptonema formosum PCC 6407 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000314005.1 | Spirulina subsalsa PCC 9445 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000464765.1 | Planktothrix prolifica NIVA-CYA 406 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000478195.2 | Lyngbya aestuarii BL J | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000505665.1 | Thermosynechococcus sp. NK55a | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000582685.1 | Scytonema hofmanni UTEX 2349 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| GCA_000464745.1 | Planktothrix mougeotii NIVA-CYA 405 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000484535.1 | Gloeobacter kilaueensis JS1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000521175.1 | Aphanizomenon flos-aquae NIES-81 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| GCA_000180455.1 | Oscillatoria sp. PCC 6506 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000756305.1 | Myxosarcina sp. GI1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000760695.2 | Tolypothrix bouteillei VB521301 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| GCA_000775285.1 | Neosynechococcus sphagnicola sy1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000817735.1 | Scytonema millei VB511283 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| GCA_000817745.1 | Aphanocapsa montana BDHKU210001 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000817785.1 | Hassallia byssoidea VB512170 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| GCA_000817775.1 | Lyngbya confervoides BDU141951 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000828075.1 | Tolypothrix campylonemoides VB511288 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| GCA_000828085.1 | Scytonema tolypothrichoides VB-61278 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| GCA_000934435.1 | Mastigocladus laminosus UU774 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| GCA_000952155.1 | Aliterella atlantica CENA595 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000972705.2 | Limnoraphis robusta CS-951 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |




|  | Phase during cyanobacterial evolution Group adaptation |  |  |  |  |  | U 2 0 1 2 2 1 0 0 $i$ |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { エ } \\ & \stackrel{1}{\leftrightarrows} \\ & \stackrel{1}{\leftrightarrows} \\ & \underset{\sim}{7} \\ & \text { ii } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Assemby accession | Species |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| GCA_000231365.2 | Fischerella sp. JSC-11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| GCA_000169335.1 | Cyanothece sp. CCY0110 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000147335.1 | Cyanothece sp. PCC 7822 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000316115.1 | Leptolyngbya sp. PCC 7375 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_001050835.1 | Crocosphaera watsonii WH 0005 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000312205.1 | Microcystis aeruginosa PCC 7941 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000015645.1 | Prochlorococcus marinus str. AS9601 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000015665.1 | Prochlorococcus marinus str. MIT 9515 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000312225.1 | Microcystis aeruginosa PCC 9807 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000063505.1 | Synechococcus sp. WH 7803 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_001485215.1 | Leptolyngbya sp. NIES-2104 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000024045.1 | Cyanothece sp. PCC 8802 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000231425.3 | Cyanothece sp. ATCC 51472 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000063525.1 | Synechococcus sp. RCC307 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000312245.1 | Microcystis aeruginosa PCC 9808 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000015965.1 | Prochlorococcus marinus str. MIT 9301 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000018065.1 | Prochlorococcus marinus str. MIT 9215 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000312265.1 | Microcystis aeruginosa PCC 9809 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000515235.1 | Synechococcus sp. CC9616 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000153045.1 | Synechococcus sp. WH 5701 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000312285.1 | Microcystis aeruginosa PCC 9701 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000018585.1 | Prochlorococcus marinus str. MIT 9211 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000312725.1 | Microcystis aeruginosa PCC 9806 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000153065.1 | Synechococcus sp. RS9917 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000153285.1 | Synechococcus sp. WH 7805 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000015685.1 | Prochlorococcus marinus str. NATL1A | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000153825.1 | Synechococcus sp. RS9916 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000155595.1 | Synechococcus sp. PCC 7335 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000158595.1 | Prochlorococcus marinus str. MIT 9202 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000179235.1 | Synechococcus sp. CB0101 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000179255.1 | Synechococcus sp. CB0205 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000195975.1 | Synechococcus sp. WH 8102 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCA_000316685.1 | Synechococcus sp. PCC 6312 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |


|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Assemby accession | Species |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| GCA_000332275.1 | Synechococcus sp. PCC 7336 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 |
| GCA_000012625.1 | Synechococcus sp. CC9605 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 |
| GCA_000161795.2 | Synechococcus sp. WH 8109 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 0 |
| GCA_000015705.1 | Prochlorococcus marinus str. MIT 9303 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 0 |
| GCA_000153805.1 | Synechococcus sp. BL107 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 0 |
| GCA_000230675.2 | Synechococcus sp. WH 8016 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 |

Table S3. Trait-pair polarity tests
Wilcoxon signed-rank tests $p$-values and number of trees are for the least significant test for the inferred polarity. False discovery rate (FDR) are pvalues adjusted over 3480 tests ( 300 pairs with 12 or 2 tests each, see Methods). Statistics that refer to Table 1 are marked according to the Methods). Statistics that refer
order of debates in the table.

Species tree inferred from 17 common single-copy genes, is and the naive voting of the corresponding gene trees.

## highlighting:

species tree

False

| Trait A | Trait B | Table 1 debate | Trait pair polarity | False discovery rate | Wilcoxon $p$-value | Number of tests | Number of trees | Polarity in species tree | A preceds B | Simultaneous | B preceds A | Not nested |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 02 MARINE | (4) | Simultaneous | 5.4E-148 | 8.3E-149 | 12 | 1463 | Simultaneous | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 03 NO N FIXATION |  | Simultaneous | $4.4 \mathrm{E}-155$ | 3.1E-156 | 12 | 1425 | Simultaneous | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 04 UNICELLULAR |  | Simultaneous | 2.6E-156 | 1.7E-157 | 12 | 1456 | Simultaneous | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 05 FREE-LIVING |  | Simultaneous | 5.6E-125 | 2.3E-125 | 12 | 1459 | Simultaneous | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 06 PLANKTONIC |  | Simultaneous | 8.4E-123 | 3.6E-123 | 12 | 1467 | Simultaneous | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 07 MOTILITY |  | Simultaneous | $9.0 \mathrm{E}-68$ | 6.0E-68 | 12 | 1344 | Simultaneous | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC |  | A preceds B | 4.7E-84 | 3.0E-84 | 12 | 1314 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 09 NOT FREE-LIVING |  | A preceds B | 2.5E-88 | $1.5 \mathrm{E}-88$ | 12 | 1329 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC |  | A preceds B | 1.9E-92 | 1.2E-92 | 12 | 1317 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 11 SHEATH |  | A preceds B | 4.2E-115 | 2.0E-115 | 12 | 1271 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 12 FILAMENTOUS |  | A preceds B | 4.3E-65 | 2.9E-65 | 12 | 1353 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 13 N FIXATION |  | A preceds B | $1.1 \mathrm{E}-78$ | 7.1E-79 | 12 | 1370 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 14 HORMOGONIA |  | A preceds B | 1.0E-100 | 6.0E-101 | 12 | 1337 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | A preceds B | 1.4E-120 | 6.3E-121 | 12 | 1233 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 16 MUCILAGE |  | A preceds B | 5.3E-104 | 2.9E-104 | 12 | 1309 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS |  | A preceds B | 2.3E-139 | 5.8E-140 | 12 | 1080 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | 1.2E-135 | 3.3E-136 | 2 | 1046 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 5.0E-134 | 1.6E-134 | 12 | 1216 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 5.9E-147 | 9.6E-148 | 12 | 1067 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 6.4E-153 | 6.4E-154 | 12 | 936 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 2.2E-154 | 1.6E-155 | 12 | 1165 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 1.4E-156 | 8.2E-158 | 12 | 1116 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 2.1E-153 | 1.9E-154 | 12 | 1156 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 01 FRESHWATER | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 1.0E-136 | 2.8E-137 | 12 | 827 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 03 NO N FIXATION |  | Simultaneous | 1.0E-180 | 6.7E-183 | 12 | 1427 | Simultaneous | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 04 UNICELLULAR |  | Simultaneous | $4.8 \mathrm{E}-177$ | 4.8E-179 | 12 | 1408 | Simultaneous | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 05 FREE-LIVING |  | Simultaneous | 3.0E-134 | 9.3E-135 | 12 | 1417 | Simultaneous | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 06 PLANKTONIC |  | Simultaneous | $4.5 \mathrm{E}-142$ | 9.8E-143 | 12 | 1424 | Simultaneous | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 07 MOTILITY |  | Simultaneous | $9.8 \mathrm{E}-66$ | 6.6E-66 | 12 | 1327 | Simultaneous | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC |  | A preceds B | 5.7E-105 | 3.1E-105 | 12 | 1306 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 09 NOT FREE-LIVING |  | A preceds B | 2.9E-90 | $1.8 \mathrm{E}-90$ | 12 | 1333 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC |  | A preceds B | 4.2E-93 | 2.5E-93 | 12 | 1320 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 11 SHEATH |  | A preceds B | 3.2E-122 | 1.4E-122 | 12 | 1272 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 12 FILAMENTOUS |  | A preceds B | 4.4E-83 | 2.8E-83 | 12 | 1361 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 13 N FIXATION |  | A preceds B | 5.3E-100 | 3.1E-100 | 12 | 1359 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 14 HORMOGONIA |  | A preceds B | 4.7E-113 | 2.4E-113 | 12 | 1325 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | A preceds B | 7.6E-138 | 2.0E-138 | 12 | 1213 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 16 MUCILAGE |  | A preceds B | 7.0E-117 | 3.2E-117 | 12 | 1293 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS |  | A preceds B | 1.3E-137 | 3.5E-138 | 12 | 1079 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | 1.9E-140 | 4.3E-141 | 12 | 1033 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 1.3E-142 | 2.7E-143 | 12 | 1200 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 6.7E-148 | 1.1E-148 | 12 | 1069 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 5.1E-151 | 5.9E-152 | 12 | 967 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 6.7E-157 | 3.8E-158 | 12 | 1142 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 3.6E-160 | 1.4E-161 | 12 | 1084 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 MARINE | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 4.1E-160 | $1.8 \mathrm{E}-161$ | 12 | 1127 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |


| Trait A | Trait B | Table 1 debate | Trait pair polarity | False discovery rate | Wilcoxon Number $p$-value of tests |  | Number of trees | Polarity in species tree | Polarity in 17 common single-copy gene trees |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | A preceds B |  | Simultaneous | B preceds A | Not nested |
| 02 MARINE | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 3.3E-151 | 3.7E-152 | 12 |  | 923 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 04 UNICELLULAR |  | Simultaneous | 1.2E-182 | 4.1E-185 | 12 | 1237 | Simultaneous | 0 | 17 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 05 FREE-LIVING |  | Simultaneous | 1.2E-134 | 3.7E-135 | 12 | 1462 | Simultaneous | 1 | 16 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 06 PLANKTONIC |  | Simultaneous | 3.3E-140 | 7.7E-141 | 12 | 1473 | Simultaneous | 1 | 16 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 07 MOTILITY |  | Simultaneous | $1.6 \mathrm{E}-51$ | 1.1E-51 | 12 | 1342 | Simultaneous | 1 | 16 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC |  | A preceds B | $4.9 \mathrm{E}-115$ | 2.3E-115 | 12 | 1329 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 09 NOT FREE-LIVING |  | A preceds B | 1.1E-103 | 6.0E-104 | 12 | 1357 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC |  | A preceds B | 7.1E-104 | 4.0E-104 | 12 | 1345 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 11 SHEATH |  | A preceds B | 4.6E-135 | 1.3E-135 | 12 | 1285 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 12 FILAMENTOUS |  | A preceds B | 2.2E-104 | 1.2E-104 | 12 | 1389 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 13 N FIXATION | (3) | A preceds B | 2.6E-125 | 1.1E-125 | 12 | 1383 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 14 HORMOGONIA |  | A preceds B | 1.3E-132 | 4.4E-133 | 12 | 1347 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | A preceds B | 1.2E-144 | 2.3E-145 | 12 | 1235 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 16 MUCILAGE |  | A preceds B | 8.8E-127 | 3.4E-127 | 12 | 1323 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS |  | A preceds B | 3.6E-142 | 7.7E-143 | 12 | 1082 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | 5.7E-143 | 1.2E-143 | 12 | 1044 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 1.6E-150 | 2.0E-151 | 12 | 1219 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 7.8E-153 | 8.1E-154 | 12 | 1070 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 1.6E-153 | 1.3E-154 | 12 | 968 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 5.0E-165 | 8.3E-167 | 12 | 1163 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 6.7E-164 | 1.8E-165 | 12 | 1104 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 1.4E-164 | 3.2E-166 | 12 | 1149 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 |  |
| 03 NO N FIXATION | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 6.1E-153 | 5.9E-154 | 12 | 933 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 05 FREE-LIVING |  | Simultaneous | 6.4E-135 | $1.9 \mathrm{E}-135$ | 12 | 1462 | Simultaneous | 1 | 16 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 06 PLANKTONIC |  | Simultaneous | 7.6E-138 | $1.9 \mathrm{E}-138$ | 12 | 1476 | Simultaneous | 1 | 16 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 07 MOTILITY |  | Simultaneous | $1.2 \mathrm{E}-47$ | 8.9E-48 | 12 | 1340 | Simultaneous | 1 | 16 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC |  | A preceds B | $1.6 \mathrm{E}-114$ | 7.6E-115 | 12 | 1325 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 09 NOT FREE-LIVING |  | A preceds B | $1.8 \mathrm{E}-108$ | 9.5E-109 | 12 | 1353 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC |  | A preceds B | 1.9E-109 | 1.0E-109 | 12 | 1342 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 11 SHEATH |  | A preceds B | 2.2E-135 | 6.3E-136 | 12 | 1287 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 12 FILAMENTOUS | (1) | A preceds B | $2.3 \mathrm{E}-110$ | 1.2E-110 | 12 | 1390 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 13 N FIXATION |  | A preceds B | 2.3E-115 | 1.1E-115 | 12 | 1396 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 14 HORMOGONIA |  | A preceds B | 6.9E-136 | 1.9E-136 | 12 | 1347 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | A preceds B | 6.5E-147 | 1.1E-147 | 12 | 1234 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 16 MUCILAGE |  | A preceds B | 8.7E-126 | 3.5E-126 | 12 | 1329 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS |  | A preceds B | 1.6E-143 | 3.3E-144 | 12 | 1083 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | $1.6 \mathrm{E}-143$ | 3.2E-144 | 12 | 1046 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 6.9E-151 | 8.3E-152 | 12 | 1215 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 1.8E-153 | 1.5E-154 | 12 | 1070 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 7.8E-153 | 8.0E-154 | 2 | 968 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 2.3E-156 | $1.4 \mathrm{E}-157$ | 12 | 959 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 7.6E-165 | 1.5E-166 | 12 | 1105 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 5.0E-165 | 8.3E-167 | 12 | 1151 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 |  |
| 04 UNICELLULAR | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 5.2E-153 | 4.9E-154 | 12 | 933 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 06 PLANKTONIC |  | Simultaneous | 8.5E-152 | 9.4E-153 | 12 | 940 | Simultaneous | 0 | 17 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 07 MOTILITY | (2) | Simultaneous | 5.1E-70 | 3.4E-70 | 12 | 1306 | Simultaneous | 0 | 17 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | (2) | A preceds B | 2.3E-116 | 1.1E-116 | 12 | 1272 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | (2) | A preceds B | $4.6 \mathrm{E}-114$ | 2.3E-114 | 12 | 1298 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | (2) | A preceds B | 4.5E-114 | 2.2E-114 | 12 | 1290 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 11 SHEATH |  | A preceds B | 1.8E-133 | 5.8E-134 | 12 | 1245 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 12 FILAMENTOUS |  | A preceds B | 2.2E-103 | 1.3E-103 | 12 | 1327 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 13 N FIXATION |  | A preceds B | 5.9E-115 | 2.8E-115 | 12 | 1332 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |


| Trait A | Trait B | Table 1 debate | Trait pair polarity | False discovery rate | Wilcoxon Number $p$-value of tests |  | Number of trees | Polarity in species tree | Polarity in 17 common single-copy gene trees |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | A preceds B |  | Simultaneous | B preceds A | Not nested |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 14 HORMOGONIA |  | A preceds B | 3.2E-134 | 9.9E-135 | 12 |  | 1291 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | A preceds B | 1.7E-129 | 6.0E-130 | 12 | 1209 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 16 MUCILAGE |  | A preceds B | 1.9E-119 | 8.5E-120 | 12 | 1283 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS | (2) | A preceds B | 1.2E-137 | 3.2E-138 | 12 | 1065 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | $5.1 \mathrm{E}-137$ | 1.4E-137 | 12 | 1036 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 19 EPIPHYTIC | (2) | A preceds B | 6.6E-145 | 1.2E-145 | 12 | 1183 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 20 PERIPHYTIC | (2) | A preceds B | 1.2E-149 | 1.7E-150 | 12 | 1055 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 1.3E-153 | 9.9E-155 | 12 | 962 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 4.8E-159 | 2.2E-160 | 12 | 1149 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 4.1E-157 | 2.2E-158 | 12 | 1089 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 2.2E-157 | 1.1E-158 | 12 | 1123 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 05 FREE-LIVING | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 2.1E-146 | 3.7E-147 | 12 | 928 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 07 MOTILITY |  | Simultaneous | 3.2E-69 | 2.1E-69 | 12 | 1316 | Simultaneous | 0 | 17 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | (2) | A preceds B | 1.1E-115 | 5.2E-116 | 12 | 1285 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | (2) | A preceds B | 5.4E-113 | 2.8E-113 | 12 | 1312 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | (2) | A preceds B | 4.1E-116 | 1.9E-116 | 12 | 1301 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 11 SHEATH |  | A preceds B | $6.3 \mathrm{E}-131$ | 2.2E-131 | 12 | 1254 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 12 FILAMENTOUS |  | A preceds B | 8.0E-100 | 4.8E-100 | 12 | 1344 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 13 N FIXATION |  | A preceds B | 1.2E-115 | 5.4E-116 | 12 | 1350 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 14 HORMOGONIA |  | A preceds B | $3.5 \mathrm{E}-131$ | 1.2E-131 | 12 | 1307 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | A preceds B | 8.5E-134 | 2.7E-134 | 12 | 1215 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 16 MUCILAGE |  | A preceds B | 5.1E-121 | 2.2E-121 | 12 | 1293 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS | (2) | A preceds B | 8.3E-140 | 2.0E-140 | 12 | 1072 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | 5.6E-140 | 1.3E-140 | 12 | 1035 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 19 EPIPHYTIC | (2) | A preceds B | $8.4 \mathrm{E}-146$ | 1.5E-146 | 12 | 1196 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 20 PERIPHYTIC | (2) | A preceds B | $2.4 \mathrm{E}-148$ | 3.6E-149 | 12 | 1061 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 2.1E-153 | 1.8E-154 | 12 | 964 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 8.7E-162 | 2.6E-163 | 12 | 1150 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 3.6E-160 | 1.3E-161 | 12 | 1092 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 1.9E-160 | 6.5E-162 | 12 | 1127 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 06 PLANKTONIC | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 1.8E-145 | 3.2E-146 | 12 | 928 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | (2) | A preceds B | $1.9 \mathrm{E}-48$ | 1.3E-48 | 12 | 1202 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | (2) | A preceds B | 8.2E-33 | 6.1E-33 | 12 | 1178 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | (2) | A preceds B | 2.3E-33 | 1.7E-33 | 12 | 1201 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 11 SHEATH |  | A preceds B | $1.3 \mathrm{E}-50$ | 9.6E-51 | 12 | 1205 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 12 FILAMENTOUS |  | A preceds B | 7.1E-43 | 5.2E-43 | 12 | 1148 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 13 N FIXATION |  | A preceds B | 5.2E-47 | 3.8E-47 | 12 | 1226 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 14 HORMOGONIA |  | A preceds B | 6.5E-52 | 4.6E-52 | 12 | 1212 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | A preceds B | 2.7E-76 | 1.8E-76 | 12 | 1179 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 16 MUCILAGE |  | A preceds B | 4.4E-69 | 2.9E-69 | 12 | 1202 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS | (2) | A preceds B | $2.0 \mathrm{E}-105$ | 1.1E-105 | 12 | 1064 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | 1.6E-127 | 6.1E-128 | 12 | 1032 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 19 EPIPHYTIC | (2) | A preceds B | 1.1E-78 | 7.2E-79 | 12 | 1163 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 20 PERIPHYTIC | (2) | A preceds B | $9.2 \mathrm{E}-115$ | 4.4E-115 | 12 | 1060 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 1.1E-141 | 2.5E-142 | 12 | 961 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 1.8E-132 | 6.1E-133 | 12 | 1110 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 4.8E-143 | 9.8E-144 | 12 | 1078 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 1.3E-134 | 3.8E-135 | 12 | 1104 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 07 MOTILITY | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 5.7E-152 | 6.1E-153 | 12 | 929 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 09 NOT FREE-LIVING |  | Simultaneous | $1.3 \mathrm{E}-60$ | $8.9 \mathrm{E}-61$ | 12 | 1180 | Simultaneous | 0 | 11 | 6 |  |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC |  | Simultaneous | 2.6E-56 | $1.8 \mathrm{E}-56$ | 12 | 1182 | Simultaneous | 0 | 11 | 6 |  |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 11 SHEATH |  | Simultaneous | $1.4 \mathrm{E}-113$ | 7.2E-114 | 12 | 1203 | Simultaneous | 0 | 15 | 2 |  |


| Trait A | Trait B | Table 1 debate | Trait pair polarity | False discovery rate | Wilcoxon $p$-value | Number of tests | Number of trees | Polarity in species tree |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | A preceds B | Simultaneous | B preceds A | Not nested |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 12 FILAMENTOUS |  | Simultaneous | $6.4 \mathrm{E}-14$ | 5.2E-14 | 12 | 1279 | B preceds A | 6 | 6 | 5 | 0 |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 13 N FIXATION |  | Simultaneous | 1.7E-27 | $1.3 \mathrm{E}-27$ | 12 | 1228 | Simultaneous | 4 | 8 | 5 | 0 |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 14 HORMOGONIA |  | Simultaneous | $3.8 \mathrm{E}-11$ | 3.2E-11 | 12 | 1190 | Simultaneous | 6 | 7 | 4 | 0 |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | A preceds B | 0.0011 | 0.0010 | 12 | 1168 | B preceds A | 8 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 16 MUCILAGE |  | Simultaneous | 3.0E-27 | 2.3E-27 | 12 | 1218 | A preceds B | 3 | 11 | 3 | 0 |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS |  | A preceds B | 0.0152 | 0.0137 | 12 | 1056 | A preceds B | 8 | 3 | 6 | 0 |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | 5.2E-07 | 4.5E-07 | 12 | 1027 | A preceds B | 8 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | Simultaneous | 0.0496 | 0.0454 | 12 | 1148 | Simultaneous | 5 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 2.2E-07 | 1.9E-07 | 12 | 1065 | Simultaneous | 7 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 2.8E-114 | 1.3E-114 | 12 | 963 | A preceds B | 12 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 2.3E-88 | 1.4E-88 | 12 | 1119 | A preceds B | 11 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 6.9E-132 | 2.3E-132 | 12 | 1081 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 1.1E-113 | 5.3E-114 | 12 | 1112 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 08 EPILITHIC OR ENDOLITHIC | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 4.7E-150 | 6.1E-151 | 12 | 934 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC |  | Simultaneous | 5.5E-149 | 8.0E-150 | 12 | 1074 | Simultaneous | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 11 SHEATH |  | Simultaneous | 5.4E-52 | 3.8E-52 | 12 | 1180 | Simultaneous | 5 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 12 FILAMENTOUS |  | Simultaneous | $1.0 \mathrm{E}-21$ | 8.0E-22 | 12 | 1214 | B preceds A | 7 | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 13 N FIXATION |  | Simultaneous | 3.1E-06 | 2.8E-06 | 12 | 1279 | Simultaneous | 6 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 14 HORMOGONIA |  | Simultaneous | 0.0205 | 0.0187 | 12 | 1250 | Simultaneous | 10 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | A preceds B | 8.3E-08 | $7.0 \mathrm{E}-08$ | 12 | 1186 | B preceds A | 9 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 16 MUCILAGE |  | Simultaneous | 8.3E-11 | $6.9 \mathrm{E}-11$ | 12 | 1221 | A preceds B | 9 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS |  | Simultaneous | 0.0450 | 0.0410 | 2 | 1066 | A preceds B | 10 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | 4.1E-10 | $3.4 \mathrm{E}-10$ | 12 | 1033 | A preceds B | 10 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 0.0327 | 0.0297 | 2 | 1163 | Simultaneous | 10 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 4.4E-24 | 3.4E-24 | 2 | 1068 | Simultaneous | 11 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | $5.4 \mathrm{E}-127$ | 2.0E-127 | 12 | 963 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 3.7E-101 | 2.1E-101 | 12 | 1124 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 5.6E-141 | 1.3E-141 | 12 | 1090 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 3.6E-132 | 1.2E-132 | 12 | 1123 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 09 NOT FREE-LIVING | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 4.7E-150 | 5.9E-151 | 12 | 935 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 11 SHEATH |  | Simultaneous | 4.1E-46 | 2.9E-46 | 12 | 1178 | Simultaneous | 5 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 12 FILAMENTOUS |  | Simultaneous | 3.0E-17 | $2.4 \mathrm{E}-17$ | 12 | 1291 | B preceds A | 7 | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 13 N FIXATION |  | Simultaneous | 9.5E-07 | 8.2E-07 | 12 | 1269 | Simultaneous | 6 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 14 HORMOGONIA |  | Simultaneous | 0.1352 | 0.1258 | 12 | 1234 | Simultaneous | 10 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | A preceds B | 0.0001 | 0.0001 | 12 | 1183 | B preceds A | 9 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 16 MUCILAGE |  | Simultaneous | 3.5E-15 | $2.9 \mathrm{E}-15$ | 12 | 1212 | A preceds B | 9 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS |  | Simultaneous | 0.0111 | 0.0100 | 12 | 1064 | A preceds B | 10 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | $3.4 \mathrm{E}-08$ | $2.9 \mathrm{E}-08$ | 12 | 1031 | A preceds B | 10 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 0.0801 | 0.0743 | 12 | 1163 | Simultaneous | 10 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 9.0E-23 | 7.1E-23 | 12 | 1068 | Simultaneous | 11 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 8.7E-125 | 3.6E-125 | 12 | 961 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 2.1E-91 | 1.3E-91 | 12 | 1119 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 2.1E-138 | 5.2E-139 | 12 | 1089 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 1.9E-131 | 6.8E-132 | 12 | 1124 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 SESSILE/BENTHIC | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 6.8E-150 | 9.1E-151 | 12 | 934 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 SHEATH | 12 FILAMENTOUS |  | Simultaneous | 0.1894 | 0.1786 | 12 | 1255 | B preceds A | 6 | 7 | 4 | 0 |
| 11 SHEATH | 13 N FIXATION |  | Simultaneous | 1.2E-20 | $9.9 \mathrm{E}-21$ | 12 | 1229 | Simultaneous | 5 | 8 | 4 | 0 |
| 11 SHEATH | 14 HORMOGONIA |  | Simultaneous | 8.8E-08 | 7.5E-08 | 12 | 1173 | Simultaneous | 7 | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| 11 SHEATH | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | A preceds B | 0.0716 | 0.0661 | 12 | 1152 | B preceds A | 8 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| 11 SHEATH | 16 MUCILAGE |  | Simultaneous | $1.9 \mathrm{E}-40$ | 1.4E-40 | 12 | 1167 | A preceds B | 5 | 9 | 3 | 0 |
| 11 SHEATH | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS |  | Simultaneous | 0.3923 | 0.3793 | 12 | 1052 | A preceds B | 8 | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| 11 SHEATH | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | 1.5E-05 | 1.3E-05 | 12 | 1014 | A preceds B | 8 | 5 | 4 |  |


| Trait A | Trait B | Table 1 debate | Trait pair polarity | False discovery rate | Wilcoxon p-value | Number of tests | Number of trees | Polarity in species tree |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | A preceds B | Simultaneous | B preceds A | Not nested |
| 11 SHEATH | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | Simultaneous | 0.1849 | 0.1738 | 12 | 1136 | Simultaneous | 7 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| 11 SHEATH | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 3.2E-07 | 2.7E-07 | 12 | 1062 | Simultaneous | 8 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 SHEATH | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 7.5E-114 | 3.8E-114 | 12 | 963 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 SHEATH | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 1.1E-77 | 7.1E-78 | 12 | 1102 | A preceds B | 12 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 SHEATH | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 1.1E-139 | 2.7E-140 | 12 | 1062 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 SHEATH | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 8.2E-134 | 2.6E-134 | 12 | 1102 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 SHEATH | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 3.6E-148 | 5.5E-149 | 12 | 923 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 FILAMENTOUS | 13 N FIXATION |  | Simultaneous | 1.6E-34 | 1.2E-34 | 12 | 1270 | A preceds B | 5 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| 12 FILAMENTOUS | 14 HORMOGONIA |  | Simultaneous | 1.6E-15 | $1.3 \mathrm{E}-15$ | 2 | 1219 | A preceds B | 7 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 FILAMENTOUS | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | Simultaneous | $2.4 \mathrm{E}-27$ | $1.8 \mathrm{E}-27$ | 12 | 1199 | Simultaneous | 3 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 FILAMENTOUS | 16 MUCILAGE |  | A preceds B | 1.7E-08 | $1.4 \mathrm{E}-08$ | 12 | 1270 | A preceds B | 8 | 3 | 6 | 0 |
| 12 FILAMENTOUS | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS |  | A preceds B | 2.3E-22 | $1.8 \mathrm{E}-22$ | 12 | 1070 | A preceds B | 9 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| 12 FILAMENTOUS | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | $2.9 \mathrm{E}-24$ | 2.3E-24 | 12 | 962 | A preceds B | 9 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| 12 FILAMENTOUS | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | $1.8 \mathrm{E}-05$ | $1.6 \mathrm{E}-05$ | 12 | 1212 | A preceds B | 8 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| 12 FILAMENTOUS | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 2.1E-26 | 1.6E-26 | 12 | 1068 | A preceds B | 9 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 FILAMENTOUS | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 4.2E-134 | 1.3E-134 | 12 | 960 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 FILAMENTOUS | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 4.2E-119 | 1.9E-119 | 12 | 1137 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 12 FILAMENTOUS | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 3.3E-127 | 1.3E-127 | 2 | 1097 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 FILAMENTOUS | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 2.2E-114 | 1.1E-114 | 2 | 1128 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 FILAMENTOUS | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 1.5E-149 | 2.1E-150 | 2 | 932 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 N FIXATION | 14 HORMOGONIA |  | Simultaneous | 7.8E-29 | $5.9 \mathrm{E}-29$ | 12 | 1286 | Simultaneous | 5 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 N FIXATION | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | Simultaneous | $9.4 \mathrm{E}-17$ | 7.6E-17 | 12 | 1198 | B preceds A | 5 | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| 13 N FIXATION | 16 MUCILAGE |  | Simultaneous | 1.0E-06 | 8.8E-07 | 12 | 1282 | A preceds B | 7 | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| 13 N FIXATION | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS |  | A preceds B | 0.0176 | 0.0159 | 12 | 1072 | A preceds B | 8 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| 13 N FIXATION | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | 0.0457 | 0.0417 | 12 | 1036 | A preceds B | 8 | 3 | 6 | 0 |
| 13 N FIXATION | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 0.3609 | 0.3465 | 12 | 1208 | Simultaneous | 7 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| 13 N FIXATION | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 3.1E-06 | 2.7E-06 | 12 | 1069 | Simultaneous | 7 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 N FIXATION | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 7.7E-105 | 4.3E-105 | 12 | 964 | A preceds B | 12 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 N FIXATION | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 1.3E-85 | 7.8E-86 | 12 | 1144 | A preceds B | 12 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| 13 N FIXATION | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 7.7E-126 | 3.0E-126 | 12 | 1097 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 N FIXATION | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 2.0E-113 | 1.0E-113 | 2 | 1123 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 N FIXATION | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 1.3E-148 | 1.8E-149 | 2 | 931 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 HORMOGONIA | 15 GAS VESICLES |  | Undefined | 0.1931 | 0.1828 | 12 | 1137 | B preceds A | 3 | 7 | 7 | 0 |
| 14 HORMOGONIA | 16 MUCILAGE |  | Simultaneous | 0.1988 | 0.1889 | 12 | 1238 | A preceds B | 5 | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| 14 HORMOGONIA | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS |  | Simultaneous | 0.0004 | 0.0003 | 12 | 1009 | A preceds B | 4 | 9 | 4 | 0 |
| 14 HORMOGONIA | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | 0.3711 | 0.3575 | 12 | 978 | A preceds B | 7 | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| 14 HORMOGONIA | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | Simultaneous | $1.5 \mathrm{E}-60$ | $1.1 \mathrm{E}-60$ | 12 | 1190 | Simultaneous | 2 | 13 | 2 | 0 |
| 14 HORMOGONIA | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | Simultaneous | 4.6E-12 | 3.8E-12 | 12 | 1068 | Simultaneous | 5 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 HORMOGONIA | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 2.5E-111 | 1.3E-111 | 12 | 958 | A preceds B | 12 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 HORMOGONIA | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 8.8E-89 | 5.4E-89 | 12 | 1126 | A preceds B | 12 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| 14 HORMOGONIA | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 3.7E-126 | 1.5E-126 | 12 | 1085 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 HORMOGONIA | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 9.3E-113 | 4.8E-113 | 12 | 1114 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 HORMOGONIA | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 2.1E-136 | 5.8E-137 | 12 | 825 | A preceds B | 16 |  | 0 | 0 |
| 15 GAS VESICLES | 16 MUCILAGE |  | A preceds B | 0.1579 | 0.1474 | 12 | 1135 | A preceds B | 5 | 5 | 7 | 0 |
| 15 GAS VESICLES | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS |  | A preceds B | 3.6E-07 | 3.1E-07 | 12 | 1045 | A preceds B | 7 | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| 15 GAS VESICLES | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | 1.2E-07 | 1.0E-07 | 12 | 1008 | A preceds B | 7 | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| 15 GAS VESICLES | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | $1.5 \mathrm{E}-10$ | $1.3 \mathrm{E}-10$ | 12 | 1133 | A preceds B | 6 | 8 | 3 | 0 |
| 15 GAS VESICLES | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 2.9E-23 | 2.2E-23 | 12 | 1037 | A preceds B | 7 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 GAS VESICLES | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 8.6E-124 | 3.6E-124 | 12 | 938 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 GAS VESICLES | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 9.1E-71 | 5.9E-71 | 12 | 1086 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 GAS VESICLES | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 1.3E-128 | 4.9E-129 | 12 | 1044 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 GAS VESICLES | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | $7.9 \mathrm{E}-125$ | 3.2E-125 | 12 | 1067 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 |  |


| Trait A | Trait B | Table 1 debate | Trait pair polarity | False discovery rate | Wilcoxon Number $p$-value of tests |  | Number of trees | Polarity in species tree | Polarity in 17 common single-copy gene trees |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | A preceds B |  | Simultaneous | B preceds A | Not nested |
| 15 GAS VESICLES | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 4.2E-145 | 7.7E-146 | 12 |  | 922 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 MUCILAGE | 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS |  | Simultaneous | 4.3E-12 | 3.6E-12 | 12 | 1061 | B preceds A | 6 | 7 | 4 | 0 |
| 16 MUCILAGE | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | A preceds B | 0.2340 | 0.2231 | 12 | 1023 | B preceds A | 9 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| 16 MUCILAGE | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 0.1673 | 0.1568 | 12 | 1167 | B preceds A | 5 | 9 | 3 | 0 |
| 16 MUCILAGE | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 4.7E-30 | 3.6E-30 | 12 | 1060 | B preceds A | 9 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| 16 MUCILAGE | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 1.1E-103 | 6.4E-104 | 12 | 960 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 MUCILAGE | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 3.6E-53 | 2.5E-53 | 12 | 1131 | A preceds B | 12 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 MUCILAGE | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 4.6E-136 | 1.3E-136 | 12 | 1076 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 MUCILAGE | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 8.7E-127 | 3.3E-127 | 12 | 1115 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 MUCILAGE | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 1.5E-149 | 2.1E-150 | 12 | 932 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS | 18 THERMOPHILIC |  | Simultaneous | 6.0E-18 | 4.8E-18 | 12 | 968 | Simultaneous | 5 | 8 | 4 | 0 |
| 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | Simultaneous | 0.3463 | 0.3313 | 12 | 1011 | B preceds A | 5 | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | $1.2 \mathrm{E}-24$ | 9.1E-25 | 12 | 993 | B preceds A | 7 | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 1.5E-106 | 8.2E-107 | 12 | 916 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 1.3E-82 | 8.2E-83 | 12 | 1010 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | $6.4 \mathrm{E}-135$ | 1.9E-135 | 12 | 976 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 7.0E-129 | 2.5E-129 | 12 | 994 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 IN MICROBIAL MATS | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 1.7E-143 | 3.4E-144 | 12 | 898 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 THERMOPHILIC | 19 EPIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | 0.0684 | 0.0629 | 12 | 1009 | B preceds A | 6 | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| 18 THERMOPHILIC | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | A preceds B | $1.2 \mathrm{E}-12$ | $9.7 \mathrm{E}-13$ | 12 | 969 | B preceds A | 7 | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| 18 THERMOPHILIC | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | 2.1E-77 | 1.3E-77 | 12 | 899 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 THERMOPHILIC | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 2.4E-56 | 1.7E-56 | 12 | 978 | A preceds B | 13 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 18 THERMOPHILIC | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 6.9E-123 | 2.9E-123 | 12 | 938 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 THERMOPHILIC | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 1.3E-113 | 6.5E-114 | 12 | 946 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 THERMOPHILIC | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 1.9E-131 | 6.8E-132 | 12 | 896 | A preceds B | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 EPIPHYTIC | 20 PERIPHYTIC |  | Simultaneous | 4.2E-38 | $3.1 \mathrm{E}-38$ | 12 | 1051 | Simultaneous | 6 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 EPIPHYTIC | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | $1.1 \mathrm{E}-98$ | 6.5E-99 | 12 | 953 | A preceds B | 13 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 EPIPHYTIC | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 4.0E-64 | 2.7E-64 | 12 | 1088 | A preceds B | 12 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 EPIPHYTIC | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 4.9E-128 | 1.8E-128 | 12 | 1047 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 EPIPHYTIC | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | $2.2 \mathrm{E}-118$ | 9.7E-119 | 12 | 1063 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 EPIPHYTIC | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 9.6E-147 | 1.6E-147 | 12 | 928 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 PERIPHYTIC | 21 BAEOCYTES |  | A preceds B | $1.0 \mathrm{E}-65$ | 7.0E-66 | 12 | 934 | A preceds B | 11 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 PERIPHYTIC | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | A preceds B | 8.1E-42 | 5.9E-42 | 12 | 1016 | A preceds B | 11 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| 20 PERIPHYTIC | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 1.1E-131 | $3.8 \mathrm{E}-132$ | 12 | 970 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 PERIPHYTIC | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | $7.6 \mathrm{E}-127$ | 2.9E-127 | 12 | 984 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 PERIPHYTIC | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 1.2E-144 | 2.2E-145 | 12 | 899 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 BAEOCYTES | 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES |  | Simultaneous | 3.7E-32 | 2.7E-32 | 12 | 941 | Simultaneous | 0 | 16 | 1 | 0 |
| 21 BAEOCYTES | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | 5.1E-111 | 2.7E-111 | 12 | 899 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 BAEOCYTES | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | 9.9E-101 | 5.7E-101 | 12 | 913 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 BAEOCYTES | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | $4.8 \mathrm{E}-130$ | 1.7E-130 | 12 | 847 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES | 23 AKINETES |  | A preceds B | $3.5 \mathrm{E}-112$ | 1.8E-112 | 12 | 1017 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES | 24 HETEROCYSTS |  | A preceds B | $3.6 \mathrm{E}-107$ | 2.0E-107 | 12 | 1038 | A preceds B | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 FISSION IN MULTIPLE PLANES | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 7.5E-140 | 1.8E-140 | 12 | 921 | A preceds B | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 AKINETES | 24 HETEROCYSTS | (5) | Simultaneous | 1.8E-124 | 7.6E-125 | 12 | 1036 | Simultaneous | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 AKINETES | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 3.1E-98 | $1.8 \mathrm{E}-98$ | 12 | 925 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 HETEROCYSTS | 25 TRUE BRANCHING |  | A preceds B | 4.4E-114 | 2.2E-114 | 2 | 929 | A preceds B | 14 | 3 | 0 | $0$ |

