Phylogenetic and structural diversity of aromatically dense pili from environmental

metagenomes

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Running Title: Predicting e-pili

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Originality and Significance. Electroactive pili (e-pili) are used by microorganisms to respire

solid metals in their environment through extracellular electron transfer. Thus, e-pili enable

microbes to occupy specific environmental niches. Additionally, the conductive nature of e-pili

underscores their potential for biotechnological applications. Currently the repertoire of known

e-pili is small, and their environmental distribution is largely unknown. Using sequence analysis,

we identified numerous genes encoding putative e-pili from diverse anoxic, metal-rich

ecosystems. Our results expand the diversity of putative e-pili in environments where metal

oxides may be important electron acceptors for microbial respiration.

Summary. Electroactive type IV pili, or e-pili, are used by some microbial species for

extracellular electron transport. Recent studies suggest that e-pili may be more phylogenetically

and structurally diverse than previously assumed. Here, we investigated putative e-pilin genes in

metagenomes from long term enrichments of Lake Matano sediment and diverse ecosystems

including those in which metal reduction is likely important. We found that laboratory

enrichments selected for aromatically dense pilins that were phylogenetically and structurally

different than those in Lake Matano sediments. The putative e-pilins recovered from

environmental metagenomes were diverse in phylogeny and protein length. We found that the

majority of e-pilins in the environment may be "full-length" pilins and could be used by diverse

bacterial taxa. Our results expand upon the structural and phylogenetic diversity of e-pilins.

Introduction

Electroactive bacteria transport electrons through cell membranes into the extracellular environment (Sydow et al., 2014). These organisms play important roles in biogeochemical cycles in soils and sediments, bioremediation of toxic metals, and energy generation in microbial fuel cells (Lovley, 1991; Lovley and Coates, 1997; Logan, 2009; Lovley, 2011). For example, electroactive *Deltaproteobacteria* in the genus *Geobacter* transport electrons through conductive pili, also known as electroactive pili (e-pili), composed of e-pilin structural subunits (Ntarlagiannis et al., 2007). *Geobacter* use e-pili for Fe(III) respiration, direct interspecies electron transfer (DIET), and growth on anodes (Reguera et al., 2005; Reguera et al., 2006; Rotaru et al., 2014).

E-pili are members of the type IV pilin proteins, which exhibit broad distribution among the prokaryotic domains (Giltner et al., 2012). Type IV pili have evolved to perform diverse cellular functions, including twitching motility, attachment, and genetic transformation. Additionally, most bacteria encode pseudopilins proteins which are structurally similar to but phylogenetically distinct from type IV pilins and assemble into type II secretion systems instead of pili (Hobbs and Mattick, 1993; Reguera et al., 2005; Cianciotto, 2009; Ayers et al., 2010). Characterized *Geobacter* e-pilins are truncated versions of canonical type IV pilins.

Aromatic amino acid density seems to be essential for efficient electron transport in e-pili (Vargas et al., 2013). It is thought that the close packing of aromatic residues within the pilus facilitates electron transport (Feliciano et al., 2015). The most conductive e-pilus measured to date is that of *Geobacter metallireducens*, which contains pilins with 15.3% aromatics, 59 aa mature length (after signal peptide sequence removal at the prepilin cleavage site), and no aromatic-free gaps >22 aa. The *G. metallireducens* e-pilus is 5000 times more conductive than

the *Geobacter sulfurreducens* e-pilus*,* which has pilins with 9.8% aromatics, 61 aa mature

length, and no aromatic-free gaps >22 aa (Tan et al., 2017). The *G. sulfurreducens* e-pilus is 100

times more conductive than the *Geobacter uraniireducens* pilus, which is not electroactive, and

contains much longer pilins (193 aa), 9.1% aromatics, and a maximum 53 aa aromatic-free gap

(Tan et al., 2016). Longer, non-electroactive type IV pilins (120-200 aa), such as those from *G.*

uraniireducens and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, are thought to be incapable of electroactivity due to

insufficient aromatic residue packing (Feliciano et al., 2015; Malvankar et al., 2015; Kolappan et

al., 2016).

Recently, the phylogenetic and structural diversity of e-pili has expanded beyond

Geobacter spp. with the discovery of strongly conductive pili made of much longer e-pilins. E-

pilins from *Desulfurivibrio alkaliphilus* (*Firmicutes*) and *Calditerrivibrio nitroreducens*

(*Deferribacteres*) have significantly longer pilins (119 and 182 aa, respectively) than *Geobacter*

e-pilins (Walker et al., 2017). Yet, like *Geobacter* e-pilins, they have high aromaticity (11 and

13%, respectively) and small aromatic-free gaps (22 aa and 27 aa, respectively). Recently, the

flagellum of the archaeon *Methanospirillum hungatei*, comprised of archaellin subunits

containing 11% aromatics and 35 aa maximum aromatic free gaps, was also found to be

conductive (Walker et al., 2019). Non-conductive pili from *Desulfofervidus auxilii*, *Shewanella*

oneidensis, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* have pilins with 5.6-6.8% aromatics, 126-206 aa, and

42-52 aa aromatic-free gaps (Reguera et al., 2005; Liu et al., 2014; Walker et al., 2017).

Therefore, it seems that aromatic density, defined here as percentage of aromatic amino acids

and spacing of aromatic residues in the pilin sequence, is the key factor for identifying putative

e-pilins based on sequence similarity.

Outside of the organisms referenced above, the phylogenetic and structural diversity of e-

pilins are largely unknown. Characterization of phylogenetically diverse e-pili is hindered by the

lack of cultured representatives for the vast majority of microbial diversity (Torsvik et al., 2002).

Recently, pili were discovered in metagenomes of uncultivated bacteria belonging to the

candidate phyla radiation (CPR) from deep subsurface samples (Luef et al., 2015). CPR bacteria

have unusually small genomes and comprise a significant fraction of the bacterial domain

(Brown et al., 2015; Castelle et al., 2018). Many lineages have type IV pilin genes and form pili-

like structures, the function of which remains unknown (Albertsen et al., 2013; Kantor et al.,

2013; Castelle et al., 2017).

In this study, we used sequence information to search for and predict e-pilins based on

aromatic density in metagenomes from anoxic and metal-rich environments. Our results suggest

that organisms from diverse phyla may use e-pili, and longer e-pilins may be more prevalent than

truncated e-pilins in nature. We also found that Fe(III)-reducing sediment enrichments may

select for shorter *Deltaproteobacteria* e-pilins compared to those in native sediment.

Results

Aromatic density distinguishes e-pilins from other type IV pilins. First, we obtained published

sequences for biochemically confirmed e-pilins from seven organisms (**Table S1**; Walker et al.,

2017), predicted e-pilins from ten organisms (**Table S2**; Holmes et al., 2016), and functionally

verified attachment/motility/competence pilins from 36 organisms (26 type IV pilins and 10

pseudopilins; **Table S3**). All biochemically confirmed and predicted e-pilins had >9.8%

aromatics and an aromatic-free gap of ≤35 aa, although most had a gap ≤22 aa. All but two of the

36 pilins implicated in functions other than electroactivity had <9.8% aromatic percentage and

>22-aa aromatic-free gaps. The two aromatically-dense pilins were OxpG, an atypical

pseudopilin involved in metal reduction in *G. sulfurreducens* (Mehta et al., 2006), and PilA from

Dichelobacter nodosus (Han et al., 2007). The low aromatic density of 34/36 of the pilins

implicated in functions other than electroactivity supports the hypothesis that high aromatic

density is indicative of e-pilins. Therefore, we used ≥9.8% aromatics and ≤22-aa aromatic-free

gap as a conservative threshold for predicting putative e-pilins from metagenomes.

Putative e-pilins can be a significant portion of type IV pilins in natural environments and are

longer and more aromatically dense than characterized e-pilins. We used the *G. sulfurreducens*

e-pilin protein sequences to query either metagenomic contigs or metagenome-assembled

genomes (MAGs) from 16 environments chosen based on where we predicted anaerobic

respiration of metals to be an important microbial metabolism **(Table 1)**. Environments included

ferruginous sediments and lake water, lake and river sediments, lake water, deep anoxic

groundwater, temperate forest soils, and crustal aquifer fluids. We then screened the retrieved

amino acid sequences for type IV pilins using Pilfind (Imam et al., 2011).

Our search recovered 2,433 type IV pilins, which were then screened using the aromatic

density threshold established above (≥9.8% aromatic amino acids and ≤22-aa aromatic gaps).

After partial sequences were removed, our search recovered 183 putative e-pilins of varying

length (58-219 aa) and aromatic density (9.8-17.8%). Putative e-pilins comprised up to one-third

of the total type IV pilins recovered from a single environmental metagenome (**Table 1**). Nearly

three-quarters (133/183) of putative e-pilins were >100 aa; only 15% (28/183) were truncated

(<70 aa). Over three-quarters (144/183) had 10-15% aromatics. Eight had ≥15% aromatics.

Twenty-one had 15-21 aa maximum aromatic-free gaps. The most aromatically dense pilin

(17.8% aromatics and a 16 aa gap) based on our predictions belonged to a *Falkowbacteria* (CPR)

MAG from groundwater.

Sediment incubations enrich for different e-pilins than those present in the environment. Next,

we identified putative e-pilin sequences in metagenomes of native ferruginous sediment from

Lake Matano, Indonesia where we expected e-pili due to high abundances of Fe(III), a potential

extracellular electron acceptor. Lake Matano is a permanently stratified tropical lake that hosts

one of the largest ferruginous environments on Earth, which we have previously studied for

Fe(III) reduction and coupled iron-methane cycling (Crowe et al., 2007; Crowe et al., 2011; Bray

et al., 2017). We also compared these to putative e-pilin sequences from year-long laboratory

incubations inoculated with Lake Matano sediment and enriched with iron and manganese oxides

(see **Experimental Procedures**). Putative e-pilins in the native sediment had closest similarity to

Deltaproteobacteria, *Aminicenantes* (OP8), *Planctomycetes*, and *Zixibacteria* (47-86% identity;

Table S4).

After anoxic incubation for over one year in the presence of iron or manganese oxides, 13

putative e-pilin sequences were identified in metagenomes (**Table S5**). Twelve had closest

BLAST hits (61-86% identity) to *Deltaproteobacteria* (including nine to *Geobacteraceae*), and

one to *Actinobacteria* (53% identity). Five truncated (59-72 aa) e-pilins were identified in long-

term enrichments, whereas no e-pilins <98 aa were identified in the native sediment. Although

the range of aromatic densities was similar for putative e-pilins in native and incubated

sediments (10.0-15.3%), aromatically dense pilins comprised a higher fraction of total type IV

pilins in incubations (38-100%) compared to native sediment (8%).

Putative e-pilins are phylogenetically diverse. To determine the phylogenetic diversity of pilins,

we aligned all of the pilin amino acid sequences described above and constructed a maximum

likelihood tree (**Fig. 1**). The phylogeny shows that the majority of recovered environmental

putative e-pilins are distinct from pseudopilins and other type IV pilins. A third of environmental

putative e-pilins, including 79% of truncated e-pilins, clustered with *Deltaproteobacteria*.

Twelve sequences were identified in MAGs of CPR bacteria from deep subsurface samples, and

nine sequences from ferruginous water from Kabuno Bay (Democratic Republic of Congo)

clustered with these CPR pilins. Putative e-pilins were also found in members of the

Flavobacteriaceae, *Dependentiae* (formerly TM6), *Nitrospinae*, *Acidobacteria*, *Elusimicrobia*,

Alteromonas, Ectothiorhodospiraceae, and *Betaproteobacteria* from groundwater MAGs.

Nine out of the ten pseudopilins from publicly available databases, as well as two

putative e-pilins from Kabuno Bay, formed a distinct cluster from other type IV pilins. Most of

the non-electroactive type IV pilins formed a distinct cluster; others were dispersed throughout

the tree. The *G. sulfurreducens* OxpG protein formed a distinct cluster, with eleven putative e-

pilins from anoxic groundwater, and anoxic and/or ferruginous sediment. The two competence

pilins from *Firmicutes* were divergent from most other sequences in the analysis, except for the

Actinobacteria sequence identified in Lake Matano sediment enrichments.

Discussion

Expanding the phylogenetic diversity of e-pili. Our identification of putative e-pilins in many

bacterial taxa outside of *Deltaproteobacteria* suggests that a wide diversity of organisms may

use e-pili for electroactivity. Perhaps the most notable among these are the CPR given that not

much is known about the biogeochemical role of these organisms despite them comprising >15%

of bacterial diversity (Brown et al., 2015; Castelle et al., 2018). While pilin genes have been

identified in CPR genomes (Luef et al., 2015), their function has not been investigated. Although

multiheme cytochromes involved in metal reduction have not been identified in CPR, our result

suggests that some CPR may use pili for electroactivity. Due to their small genome size, many

CPR organisms lack the genes necessary for full respiratory pathways, and images of CPR cells

using pili to attach to other larger cells suggesting that they may be capable of DIET (Luef et al.,

2015).

We identified putative e-pilins in taxa known or predicted to perform metal reduction,

including *Alteromonas, Acidobacteria*, and *Zixibacteria*. Not only do cultured isolates of

Alteromonas reduce Fe(III), but members of this genus can form electroactive biofilms

(Vandecandelaere et al., 2008). The presence of e-pilins is also consistent with the predicted

capability of *Zixibacteria* for Fe(III) reduction (Hernsdorf et al., 2017). We also identified

putative e-pilins in many clades that have not been implicated in metal reduction or extracellular

electron transport including *Planctomycetes*, *Elusimicrobia*, *Nitrospinae*, *Aminicenantes*,

Ectothiorhodospiraceae, *Dependentiae* (formerly TM6), and *Flavobacteriaceae*. Multiheme

cytochromes and MtrH homologs have been identified in *Planctomycetes* and *Elusimicrobia*,

suggesting that the capacity for metal reduction may exist in these taxa (Sharma et al., 2010;

Zhong and Shi, 2018). Detection of putative e-pilins in *Ectothiorhodospiraceae* also makes some

sense given that members of this clade are capable of Fe(II) oxidation (Leguijt et al., 1993;

Hallberg et al., 2011). In addition to putative e-pilins, several environmental sequences clustered

with OxpG from *G. sulfurreducens*, suggesting that some sequences may not be type IV pilins,

but instead atypical pseudopilins in metal-reducing type II secretion systems.

The diversity of pilin structure and characteristics is larger than previously thought. Our results

suggest that truncation may be relatively rare among environmental e-pilins, and primarily

associated with *Deltaproteobacteria*. We found pilins of many different lengths to be

aromatically dense, suggesting that length may not be a determinant for e-pili. Three putative

environmental e-pilins were more aromatically dense than the densest characterized e-pilin from

G. metallireducens (>15.5%). Not only did some pilins have a high percentage of aromatic

residues, they also had aromatic residues that were evenly spaced, leading to small aromatic-free

gaps. Such features could allow these pilins to form remarkably conductive e-pili; however, this

remains to be tested.

Sediment incubations select for aromatically dense pilins from Deltaproteobacteria. Long-term

incubations of ferruginous lake sediments amended with abundant metal oxide as an electron

acceptor enriched for aromatically dense pilin proteins. Nearly all type IV pilins identified from

sediment enrichments were putative e-pilins, whereas a smaller percentage of pilins in the native

sediment were aromatically dense. Pilins identified in native sediments were longer and more

phylogenetically diverse, while laboratory incubations selected for shorter, aromatically dense

pilins belonging primarily to *Deltaproteobacteria*. Proteomics of these enrichments reveal that

some of these pilins are highly expressed (Szeinbaum et al., in prep). Our results suggest that

sediment incubations can be a useful method for studying certain aromatically dense pilins from

the environment. The discrepancy between incubated and native sediment is likely do the

enrichment conditions employed in this study. Different enrichment conditions may allow the

enrichment of different putative e-pilins. However, many environment organisms do not grow

well under any known laboratory conditions (Harwani, 2013; Lok, 2015). Furthermore, e-pilins

in natural environments may be used for functions other than metal reduction, such as DIET or

some other unknown function, and so will not be selected for under metal-reducing enrichments.

Possible functions for aromatically dense pilins besides electroactivity. Out of the 36 non-

electroactive pilin and pseudopilin proteins analyzed, only two pilins were sufficiently

aromatically dense to form e-pili based on the thresholds used in this study. One, the OxpG

pseudopilin from *G. sulfurreducens*, is involved in metal reduction, which may explain its high

aromatic density. In general, pilins dedicated to functions other than extracellular electron

transport have low aromatic density, potentially because high amounts of aromatics could make

proteins more susceptible to oxidative damage (Stadtman and Levine, 2003). Hence, it is

unlikely that pilin proteins would contain a high percentage of evenly spaced aromatic residues if

this configuration did not confer a selective advantage.

While we infer that the aromatically dense pilins in this study form e-pili, we cannot be

certain that they are not being used for some other function. It is unlikely that many of the

sequences could be pseudopilins, given that functionally verified pseudopilin proteins clustered

separately. Other uses for aromatic amino acids include protein stability and DNA binding

(Burley and Petsko, 1985; Baker and Grant, 2007). Aromatic residues may help to hold pilin

structure together under harsh environmental conditions such as high temperature and low pH.

However, competence pilins contained very low aromatic density, suggesting either that

aromatic residues are not the method of DNA binding or that only a few specific residues are

involved, and none of the environments used in this study were particularly extreme.

Conclusions. This study identified putative e-pilins in the environment using aromatic density

and gaps as the predictive tool. The sequences we recovered suggest that e-pilins are both

phylogenetically and structurally diverse. We conclude that e-pili may be composed of pilin

monomers of a variety of lengths and aromatic densities, and that diverse bacteria may use e-pili

for electron transfer or possibly other unknown functions. The lack of putative e-pilins belonging

to Archaea may be due to our use of a bacterial e-pilin as the query sequence for metagenomic e-

pilin identification, as well as our conservative aromatic density cutoff.

While alternate uses for aromatic amino acid residues exist (e.g. protein stability, nucleic

acid binding), these seem unlikely explanations given the environments from which e-pilins were

recovered and the low aromatic density of known competence pilins. Still, without biochemical

verification of conductivity and/or identification of other genes involved in pili biogenesis and

Fe(III)-reduction, we cannot definitively assign function to extracellular electron transport.

Overall, this study suggests that electroactive bacteria may be more phylogenetically diverse and

environmentally distributed than previously thought.

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Experimental Procedures

Sampling and enrichment of Lake Matano Sediment. Two sediment cores were obtained from 590 water depth in Lake Matano, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia in May 2010 (2°28′S, 121°20′E, *in situ* sediment temperature ~27°C) and stored under anoxic conditions. The sediments were mixed with anoxic freshwater media in a 1:5 ratio in an anoxic chamber and dispensed in stoppered serum bottles, as in Bray et al. (2017). Cultures were amended first with goethite and later with ferrihydrite. They were incubated for 490 days at 30°C, with multiple transfers, each time diluting the original sediment with freshwater media. Sediment had been diluted over 1000-fold by the time DNA was extracted for sequencing. Details on metagenomes from 395-day anoxic enrichments of Lake Matano sediment incubated with Mn(III) pyrophosphate are reported in a separate publication (Szeinbaum et al., in prep).

DNA extraction and metagenome sequencing, assembly, binning and annotation. Community DNA from Lake Matano sediment enrichments was extracted from 2□g samples and purified using a PowerSoil Isolation Kit and UltraClean® 15 Purification Kit (formerly MO BIO Laboratories, now Qiagen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) following the manufacturer's protocol. Indexed libraries were created from purified community DNA using the NexteraXT DNA Sample Prep kit (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) following manufacturer instructions. Libraries were pooled and sequenced on two runs of an Illumina MiSeq using a 500 cycle (paired end 250 x 250 bp) kit. Illumina reads were quality trimmed using Trim Galore! (http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim_galore/) with a quality score and minimum length cutoff of Q25 and 100 bp, respectively, and merged with FLASH with the shortest overlap of 25 bp. Barcoded sequences were de-multiplexed, trimmed (length cutoff 100 bp), and filtered to remove low quality reads (average Phred score <25) using Trim Galore!. Forward and reverse reads were assembled using SPAdes (Nurk et al., 2013) with the 'meta' option. The number of contigs, contig length, GC content, N50, and L50 assembly statistics were calculated with metaQUAST (Mikheenko et al., 2015). Raw sequence reads, and all genomic bins were deposited in NCBI under the accession number PRJNA505658.

Pilin identification from microbial metagenomes. Environmental metagenomes and metagenome assembled genomes (MAGs) were downloaded from IMG JGI and NCBI (see **Table 1** for taxon object IDs). For all metagenomes, Prodigal (Hyatt et al., 2010) was used to predict genes from contig files and write them to amino acid fasta files. Amino acid sequences from Mags were downloaded directly from NCBI. Predicted protein files were then used as databases for protein BLAST, using the *G. sulfurreducens* PilA protein as query. Hits with a bit score greater than 55 were pulled from the databases. These recovered sequences were then further verified as type IV pili using Pilfind (http://signalfind.org/pilfind.html), a web tool that identifies type IV pilin signal sequences (Imam et al., 2011). Pilin amino acid sequences were then run through a python script that calculated the mature pilin length, percent aromatic amino acids, and aromatic free gaps (https://github.com/GlassLabGT/Python-scripts). Partial genes were retained if truncated on the N-terminus before the signal peptide and removed if truncated on the C-terminus.

Pilin multiple sequence alignment and phylogenetic analysis. Identified pilin amino acid sequences were aligned using ClustalW and a maximum likelihood tree was constructed using

MEGA. The alignment is provided as Supplemental Material. Duplicate sequences were
removed before tree construction. The evolutionary history was inferred by using the Maximum
Likelihood method based on the JTT matrix-based model (Jones et al., 1992). The tree with the
highest log likelihood is shown. Initial tree(s) for the heuristic search were obtained
automatically by applying Neighbor-Join and BioNJ algorithms to a matrix of pairwise distances
estimated using a JTT model, and then selecting the topology with superior log likelihood value.
The tree is drawn to scale, with branch lengths measured in the number of substitutions per site.
The analysis involved 182 amino acid sequences. All positions with less than 95% site coverage
were eliminated. That is, fewer than 5% alignment gaps, missing data, and ambiguous bases
were allowed at any position. There were 53 positions total in the final dataset. Evolutionary
analyses were conducted in MEGA7 (Kumar et al., 2016). Relative conductivities of
characterized e-pilin genes were calculated using conductance values from Walker et al. (2017)
and Tan et al. (2017).
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Figure 1. Maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree of pilin sequences. Functionally verified
pseudopilins are shown in blue while type IV pilins implicated in functions other than
electroactivity are shown in orange. Characterized e-pilins are shown in green. Putative e-pilins
from Lake Matano sediment enrichments are bolded and underlined. Putative e-pilins from
environmental genomes have symbols beside them denoting the type of environment from which
they were recovered. Aromatic percentage and smallest aromatic free gap are listed beside each
sequence. Red numbers refer to low aromatic density (<9.8% aromatics and >22 aa gap). Green
numbers refer to high aromatic density (≥9.8% aromatics and ≤22 aa gap). Black starred
sequences are <70 aa long. The small radiation tree in the middle highlights the major clusters on
the   larger   tree.

Table 1. Putative e-pilin genes identified from 16 environments analyzed in this study.
Putative e-pilins are defined as containing ≥9.8% aromatics and ≤22 aa aromatic gap. See **Fig. 1** for details about each putative e-pilin.

Environment (Data type)	Sample	IMG ID/ GenBank BioProject	Protein-coding genes	Putative e-pilins / type 4 pilins	Mature length (aa)
Lake Matano, Indonesia (contigs)	Ferruginous sediment (metagenomic contigs)	PRJNA521166	1,157,873	7/93	90-184
Lake Towuti, Indonesia (contigs)		3300010328, 3300010324	10,203,152	16/113	58-131
Kabuno Bay, Lake Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (contigs)	Ferruginous water column	3300014720, 3300013122, 3300013123, 3300013125, 3300013126, 3300013131, 3300013132, 3300013136, 3300013137	24,761,074	88/ 1,118	57-220
Prairie Pothole Lake, North Dakota, USA (contigs)	Sediment	3300027975	1,493,055	8/24	60-119
Lake Baikal, Russia (contigs)		3300025843	1,180,048	4/32	67-174
Broad Kill River, Delaware, USA (contigs)		3300019765	669,074	0/1	N/A
Aspo, Sweden (contigs)	Ground-water	3300014656	3,495,273	7/140	60-185
Crystal Geyser, Utah, USA (MAGs)		PRJNA297582, PRJNA362739	1,537,765	29/413	56-214
Rifle, Colorado, USA (MAGs)		PRJNA273161	633,116	11/389	106-158
Horonobe, Japan (MAGs)		PRJNA321556	557,865	7/37	64-146
Lake Tanganyika, Africa (contigs)	Water column	3300020183, 3300021092	4,124,017	1/13	58
Georgia, USA (contigs)		3300021437	464,898	0/5	129
Indiana, USA (contigs)	Forest Soil	3300024317	530,797	1/12	67
Norway (contigs)		3300028037	161,101	0/0	N/A
Czech Republic (contigs)		3300023019	80,325	0/0	N/A
North Pond, Mid-Atlantic Ridge (contigs)	Crustal aquifer	PRJNA391950	494,807	4/43	131-146
			Total	**183/ 2,433**	**56-220**

343 **Table 2. Putative e-pilin genes identified in long term enrichment of Lake Matano sediment in the presence of metal oxides.**

344 Putative e-pilins are defined as containing ≥9.8% aromatics and no >22-aa aromatic gaps.

Enrichment conditions	GenBank BioSample or BioProject	Protein-coding genes	Putative e-pilins / type IV pilins	Mature length (aa)
490-d Fe/CH$_4$ (311FMe)	SAMN10492640	66,924	2/4	64, 115
490-d Fe/N$_2$ (311FN)	SAMN10411764	268,143	6/16	59, 61, 64, 72, 109, 128
395-d Mn/N$_2$ (s9)	PRJNA489678	7,050	2/2	60, 127
395-d Mn/N$_2$ (s11)	PRJNA489678	45,534	2/3	60, 127
		Total:	**12/25**	**59-128**

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