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1

2 **A transcriptional cycle suited to daytime N_2 fixation in the unicellular cyanobacterium**

3 **Candidatus *Atelocyanobacterium thalassa* (UCYN-A)**

4

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16 Running Head: Diel whole genome transcription in UCYN-A

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26

27 ## Abstract

28 The symbiosis between a marine alga and a N_2-fixing cyanobacterium (UCYN-A) is
29 geographically widespread in the oceans and is important in the marine N cycle. UCYN-A is
30 uncultivated, and is an unusual unicellular cyanobacterium because it lacks many metabolic
31 functions, including oxygenic photosynthesis and carbon fixation, which are typical in
32 cyanobacteria. It is now presumed to be an obligate symbiont of haptophytes closely related to
33 *Braarudosphaera bigelowii.* N_2-fixing cyanobacteria use different strategies to avoid inhibition of
34 N_2 fixation by the oxygen evolved in photosynthesis. Most unicellular cyanobacteria temporally
35 separate the two incompatible activities by fixing N_2 only at night, but surprisingly UCYN-A
36 appears to fix N_2 during the day. The goal of this study was to determine how the unicellular
37 UCYN-A coordinates N_2 fixation and general metabolism compared to other marine
38 cyanobacteria. We found that UCYN-A has distinct daily cycles of many genes despite the fact
39 that it lacks two of the three circadian clock genes found in most cyanobacteria. We also found
40 that transcription patterns in UCYN-A are most similar to marine cyanobacteria that are capable
41 of aerobic N_2 fixation in the light such as *Trichodesmium* and heterocyst-forming cyanobacteria,
42 rather than *Crocosphaera* or *Cyanothece* species, which are more closely related to unicellular
43 marine cyanobacteria evolutionarily. Our findings suggest that the symbiotic interaction has
44 resulted in a shift of transcriptional regulation to coordinate UCYN-A metabolism with the
45 phototrophic eukaryotic host, thus allowing efficient coupling of N_2 fixation (by the
46 cyanobacterium) to the energy obtained from photosynthesis (by the eukaryotic unicellular alga)
47 in the light.

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51

52 **Importance**

53 The symbiotic N_2-fixing cyanobacterium UCYN-A and its eukaryotic algal host, which is
54 closely related to *Braarudosphaera bigelowii*, have been shown to be globally distributed and
55 important in open ocean N_2 fixation. These unique cyanobacteria have reduced metabolic
56 capabilities, even lacking genes for oxygenic photosynthesis and carbon fixation. Cyanobacteria
57 generally use energy from photosynthesis for nitrogen fixation, but require mechanisms for
58 avoiding inactivation of the oxygen-sensitive nitrogenase enzyme by ambient oxygen (O_2) or the
59 O_2 evolved through photosynthesis. This study shows that the symbiosis between the N_2-fixing
60 cyanobacterium UCYN-A and its eukaryotic algal host has led to adaptation of its daily gene
61 expression pattern in order to enable daytime aerobic N_2 fixation, which is likely more
62 energetically efficient than fixing N_2 at night, as in other unicellular marine cyanobacteria.
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64 **Introduction**

65 Nitrogen (N_2)-fixing microorganisms (diazotrophs), which reduce atmospheric N_2 to
66 biologically available ammonium, are critical components of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems
67 because they supply fixed inorganic N (1). Cyanobacteria are particularly important in N_2 fixation
68 because they can fuel the energy intensive N_2 reduction reaction using energy supplied by
69 oxygenic photosynthesis. In the oceans, the filamentous, non-heterocyst-forming cyanobacterium
70 *Trichodesmium* and the heterocyst-forming symbiont of diatoms (*Richelia* and related
71 cyanobacteria) were believed to be the major N_2-fixing microorganisms until the discovery of the
72 unicellular cyanobacteria *Crocosphaera*, *Cyanothece* and Candidatus *Atelocyanobacterium*
73 *thalassa* (UCYN-A) in the open ocean. *Crocosphaera* and *Cyanothece* are free-living marine
74 cyanobacteria, but UCYN-A is unusual in that it lacks oxygenic photosynthesis and is a symbiont
75 of a haptophyte alga (related to *Braarudosphaera bigelowii*). The UCYN-A symbiosis is
76 geographically widespread and is important in oceanic N_2 fixation (2-5). The UCYN-A genome
77 has been greatly reduced, with massive metabolic streamlining including the loss of the oxygen-
78 evolving Photosystem II (PSII), the carbon-fixing enzyme RuBisCO, and the entire tricarboxylic
79 acid (TCA) cycle (6). UCYN-A has been shown to supply fixed N to the haptophyte in exchange
80 for fixed carbon (4, 7), but it is not known how these two single-celled organisms coordinate
81 metabolism and cell growth over the daily division cycle.

82 N_2 fixation requires energy and reductant, but the nitrogenase enzyme is inactivated by
83 oxygen (O_2). Cyanobacteria generally have access to sufficient energy from photosynthesis but
84 require mechanisms for avoiding inactivation of nitrogenase and N_2 fixation by ambient oxygen
85 (O_2) or the O_2 evolved through photosynthesis. *Trichodesmium* and heterocystous cyanobacteria
86 such as *Richelia* and *Nostoc* fix N_2 during the day, whereas the free-living unicellular
87 *Crocosphaera* and *Cyanothece* fix N_2 at night. Interestingly, the symbiotic UCYN-A appears to fix

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88 N_2 during the day (8-10), in contrast to most other unicellular marine N_2-fixing cyanobacteria,
89 such as *Crocosphaera* and *Cyanothece*.

90 The processes of N_2-fixation and photosynthesis in cyanobacteria are regulated daily to
91 increase cellular fitness and ecological competitiveness (11-13). Most cyanobacteria have
92 circadian rhythms (11, 14, 15) that are involved in controlling daily cycles of gene transcription
93 and protein synthesis by signal transduction pathways involving the circadian clock *kai* genes.
94 UCYN-A lacks two of the three *kai* genes (*kaiA* and *kaiB*) known in most other cyanobacteria,
95 whereas the non-N_2-fixing cyanobacterium *Prochlorococcus* only lacks *kaiA*. Thus, the daily
96 whole genome expression pattern in UCYN-A is of interest to determine if there are daily patterns
97 as in all other cyanobacteria compared to evolutionarily-related unicellular cyanobacteria.

98 We used a whole genome transcription array that targets two genetically distinct uncultivated
99 sub-lineages of UCYN-A (UCYN-A1 and UCYN-A2), which have similar, but genetically distinct
100 hosts. We compared the UCYN-A whole genome diel transcription patterns to those of
101 *Cyanothece* sp. ATCC 51142 (16) and *Crocosphaera watsonii* WH 8501 (17) (both unicellular
102 night-time N_2-fixers) and of *Trichodesmium erythraeum* IMS101 (a filamentous non-heterocystous
103 day-time N_2-fixer). We also compared expression to whole genome expression of
104 *Prochlorococcus* sp. MED4 (18) (a marine non-N_2-fixer) in order to determine how UCYN-A
105 gene expression compares to general cyanobacterial gene expression in a sympatric open ocean
106 species. We found that many genes in UCYN-A have distinct diel expression patterns and that
107 UCYN-A has unusual gene expression patterns in comparison to unicellular N_2-fixing
108 cyanobacteria that fix N_2 in the dark; however, it shares some general patterns with daytime N_2-
109 fixing cyanobacteria, with heterocysts of heterocyst-forming cyanobacteria and with unicellular
110 non-N_2-fixing cyanobacteria. Results suggest that optimal metabolism for open ocean
111 cyanobacteria is aligned to the light period, and that symbiosis has enabled the unicellular UCYN-
112 A to shift N_2 fixation to the daylight period.

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113 **Results and discussion**

114 **UCYN-A has a daily rhythm of gene transcription**

115 UCYN-A has clear diel patterns of gene transcription, with a large fraction of genes that had
116 periodicity of transcript levels over the dark and light periods (27%).

117 About a third of the UCYN-A genome (31% genes) targeted by the array were transcribed
118 at detectable levels (365 of 1194 total genes in UCYN-A1 and 394 of 1244 total genes in UCYN-
119 A2, respectively) (Table S1). Approximately 85% of these genes have differences in transcript
120 levels between dark and light periods, accounting for 27% of the total genes in each strain (Table
121 S1 and S2). *C. watsonii*, *Cyanothece* sp. and *Trichodesmium* cultures also had a large fraction of
122 genes with changes in the transcript levels between dark and light periods (39% in *C. watsonii*,
123 20% in *Cyanothece* sp. and 34% in *Trichodesmium*) (Tables S1 and S2).

124 The UCYN-A transcription values (log_2-transformed) ranged from 2 to 13.5 with the median
125 of 6.0. In both sub-lineages, genes coding for nitrogenase (*nif*), F_0F_1-ATP synthase (*atpA, atpB*),
126 cytochrome b_6f complex (*petB*, *petC, petF, petL*) and the photosynthetic gene *psaC* were the most
127 highly transcribed in comparison to all detected genes (Table S5). Transcript levels of the same
128 genes were also high for both sub-lineages in metatranscriptomes collected during the TARA
129 expedition in the South Atlantic Ocean (19).

130 The two UCYN-A sub-lineages had similar periodicity of transcript levels to each other,
131 despite divergence in gene sequences at the amino-acid level (average 14% genome-wide), cell
132 morphology (19) and genome size (Figure 1). There were four gene clusters based on the time of
133 day exhibiting the highest relative transcript level (Figure 1). Cluster I had the highest relative
134 transcript level during the day (with a maximum 10 h into the light period) and included genes
135 involved in cell division (e.g. *ftsZ, murG, minE, murB*), DNA replication (e.g. *topA, rpoE,*
136 *DPO3B*), ABC transporters (e.g. *nikA, nikB, pstC, cbiO*), carbohydrate and lipid metabolism (e.g.
137 *pdhA, pgi, fabG, fabH*) and a few photosynthesis genes (*petL, psaD and ccsB*). The transcripts for

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138 the *petL* gene, encoding subunit 6 of the cytochrome b_6f complex and the only nitrogen fixation-
139 related gene in this cluster (*nifK*) had a substantial change at this time (more than 3-fold).
140 The transcript abundance of genes from clusters II and III had similar patterns, with an
141 increase before sunrise and a decrease during the dark period. The highest relative transcript levels
142 for clusters II and III were 4h and 1h after sunrise, respectively, and included genes involved in
143 nitrogen fixation (*nifHDK* operon) that increased 4-fold during the light period. However, these
144 clusters also included genes involved in oxidative phosphorylation (e. g., NADH dehydrogenases
145 subunits and ATP synthase related genes), carbohydrate catabolism such as those involved in
146 glycolysis (e.g. *gap1, fbaA, pgi, eno*), the pentose phosphate pathway (*opcA* and *zwf*) and
147 photosynthesis (e.g. cytochrome b_6f complex subunit genes). In most cyanobacteria, genes
148 encoding proteins involved in carbohydrate catabolism are highly transcribed during the night and
149 are essential for survival under dark conditions.
150 The gene with the most dramatic difference in transcript levels between the light and dark
151 periods encoded the membrane protein COP23 (23 kDa circadian oscillating protein), which had
152 more than a 5-fold change in transcript abundance in both UCYN-A strains (Figure 1). COP23, a
153 protein which may have a critical role in membrane function, has only been detected in nitrogen-
154 fixing cyanobacteria (20).
155 Cluster IV had genes with the highest transcript level during the night and lowest during the
156 day and included genes encoding photosystem I (PSI) subunits, a carbohydrate porin (*oprB*) and
157 also genes encoding ribosomal proteins with 2- and 4-fold changes during the night period. Cluster
158 IV had the lowest number of genes compared with the other clusters. Surprisingly, the PSI genes
159 (*psaA* and *psaB)* were expressed during the night as in many anoxygenic phototrophic bacteria
160 (21), whereas in most oxygenic cyanobacteria (including mats) these genes are expressed during
161 the day (22).

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162 The results show that UCYN-A has a daily rhythm of gene expression with strong
163 periodicities of transcript levels over the diel cycle. Daily patterns of gene transcription in
164 cyanobacteria are typically regulated by a circadian rhythm mediated by *kai* gene products (11).
165 Rhythmic daily transcription patterns are still possible without the full suite of *kai* genes, for
166 example, the marine cyanobacterium *Prochlorococcus* sp. MED4 lacks one of the circadian genes,
167 *kaiA*, yet it maintains strong diel gene transcription patterns (18). However, *Prochlorococcus* sp.
168 PCC 9511 loses the typical periodicities of the circadian clock under continuous light (23). In the
169 case of UCYN-A, it lacks two of the three *kai* genes (24), which is unique among cyanobacteria,
170 and furthermore, the *kaiC* gene was not transcribed at detectable levels. It is unclear what controls
171 the UCYN-A diel gene expression pattern, but it could be that 1) there are unidentified
172 components of a clock and signal transduction pathway, or that 2) the pattern could be driven by
173 the physiological differences between light and dark conditions, which might be primarily driven
174 by energy supplied by the eukaryotic partner. It is possible that the diel transcription patterns in
175 UCYN-A are primarily regulated by the daily host metabolism, which itself is likely to be
176 circadian. However, it is not yet known whether the UCYN-A diel cycle is maintained under
177 constant conditions in UCYN-A, or whether the diel pattern is maintained in the absence of the
178 partner alga.
179

180 **UCYN-A transcription patterns are similar to aerobic marine daytime N_2-fixers and**
181 **non- N_2-fixers**

182 UCYN-A had diel whole genome expression patterns that were different from those of
183 phylogenetically closely related unicellular cyanobacteria (17). Only a few genes (such as those
184 encoding ATP synthase) had the same daily pattern among all cyanobacteria, presumably differing
185 because of physiology (e.g. N_2-fixing or not). The unicellular cyanobacteria *C. watsonii* WH 8501
186 and *Cyanothece* sp. ATCC 51142, which fix N_2 during the night, expressed many genes in an

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187 opposite pattern compared to the day-time N_2-fixing *T. erythraeum* and UCYN-A (Figure 2 and
188 Tables S4 and S5). Interestingly, the diel transcription patterns of N_2 fixation and PSI genes in
189 UCYN-A were opposite to those in *Cyanothece* sp. ATCC 51142 and *C. watsonii* WH 8501 and
190 more similar to those of *T. erythraeum* (Figure 2 and Tables S4 and S5).

191 As observed for the activity of nitrogenase, it has been demonstrated that levels
192 of *nif* transcripts and the biosynthesis of different components of the nitrogenase complex are very
193 sensitive to O_2 (22, 25-27), most likely to avoid energy losses associated with the degradation of
194 this enzyme by O_2. Thus, the different patterns observed in the genes involved in N_2-fixation in the
195 cyanobacteria studied here presumably are due to the different mechanisms used to protect the
196 nitrogenase complex from the O_2 produced by photosynthesis. *T. erythraeum* and UCYN-A had
197 the maximum transcript levels of the nitrogenase and PSI genes just prior to dawn, but maintained
198 high levels of transcripts for both sets of genes during the day. The peak of transcript levels just
199 before dawn is likely due to the advantage of synthesizing nitrogenase in preparation for N_2
200 fixation in the early hours of the day (28).

201 The diel expression patterns of genes that are unrelated to N_2 fixation in the aerobic day-time
202 N_2-fixers (*T. erythraeum* and UCYN-A) were also more similar to those of non-N_2-fixing
203 sympatric cyanobacteria of the genus *Prochlorococcus* and to heterocysts of heterocyst-forming
204 cyanobacteria than to the nighttime N_2-fixing cyanobacteria (*C. watsonii* and *Cyanothece* sp.). The
205 transcript levels of genes encoding ribosomal proteins in both UCYN-A and *T. erythraeum* were
206 higher during the night, probably because the reduced nitrogen required for the synthesis of new
207 proteins was obtained during the day (Figure 2 and Tables S4 and S5). Similar patterns were
208 observed in *Prochlorococcus* with higher transcript levels during the night (Figure 2 and Tables S4
209 and S5) while genes encoding ribosomal proteins in *C. watsonii* WH 8501 and *Cyanothece* sp.
210 ATCC 41142 had maximum transcript levels during the day (Figure 2 and Tables S4 and S5).
211 Intriguingly, these results imply that both UCYN-A and *T. erythraeum* have adopted day-time

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212 gene transcription patterns for the main metabolic pathways minimizing cellular processes in the
213 dark. The night-time patterns of the transcript levels of the ribosomal proteins (genes) would make
214 it possible to have proteins synthesized in order to make the most efficient use of the light period,
215 as in *Prochlorococcus*. Because UCYN-A and *Trichodesmium* are likely to be the two most
216 abundant N_2-fixing cyanobacteria in the open ocean, it appears that direct coupling of N_2 fixation
217 to photosynthesis is important in the oligotrophic environment (as long as low oxygen
218 concentrations are maintained in the cell).

219 Phosphorus is a vital element for cellular energetics and growth and is acquired by oceanic
220 bacterioplankton primarily as phosphate (29-31). The UCYN-A phosphate ABC transporter had
221 the same diel pattern as in *Trichodesmium* for genes involved in DNA replication, with higher
222 transcript levels during the day (Table S5), but maximum transcript abundances during the late
223 afternoon in *Crocosphaera* and *Cyanothece* (17, 32). High levels of phosphate transporters during
224 the day could meet the increased demand for inorganic phosphate (33, 34) during DNA
225 replication, which occurs during the day in UCYN-A and *Trichosdesmium*. Similar patterns were
226 observed in the heterocyst-forming *Richelia* with peak expression of P acquisition genes at
227 approximately 15:00, suggesting the apparent rhythmicity of P acquisition could be a common
228 feature of daytime N_2-fixers (35).

229 The initiation factor of DNA replication, DnaA, is a protein highly conserved in prokaryotes
230 although it is absent in red algae, the cyanobacterial symbiont *Nostoc azollae* (36) and also the
231 spheroid bodies of diatoms (37). The genome of UCYN-A lacks the *dnaA* gene as well. Recent
232 studies suggested that DnaA is not essential for DNA replication and the lack of *dnaA* could
233 suggest a preadaptation of the genome to enable the symbiosis (38). In UCYN-A and *T.*
234 *erythraeum*, genes for DNA replication (*dnaE and* RNaseHI), DNA topoisomerases, DNA gyrases
235 and cell division (*ftsZ*, *mre*, *min*) had maximum transcript levels during the day (i.e., after
236 midday), and minimum levels at night (Figure 3A and Figure S1). In contrast, the nighttime N_2-

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237 fixing *Cyanothece* sp. ATCC 51142 and *C. watsonii* WH 8501 confine cell division to the period
238 of transition from dark to light at sunrise. The temporal delay in cell division in *Cyanothece* and
239 *Crocosphaera* has been suggested to reflect the need to recover energy reserves with light-derived
240 energy after night-time metabolic activity (39). The similarity of the pattern in UCYN-A to
241 *Trichodesmium* is consistent with UCYN-A shifting metabolism to the daytime.

242 Microscopy counts of the *B. bigelowii* -UCYN-A2 symbiosis were performed eight times
243 during two diel cycles in order to observe the timing of cell division (Figures 3B and C and Table
244 S6). In both diel cycles, single host cells with two associated UCYN-A2 cells (or groups of cells),
245 corresponding to approximately 60% of total cell counts, were present at night between 21:00 and
246 03:00. The delay observed between the higher transcription levels after midday and actual cell
247 division at 21:00 may be explained by the need of the cell to coordinate the assembly of the cell
248 division machinery prior to cell division.

249

250 **Unique UCYN-A transcription patterns**

251 Although many gene transcription patterns in UCYN-A are more similar to
252 *Trichodesmium* than to other unicellular N_2-fixing cyanobacteria, some of the patterns were
253 unique to UCYN-A. Such unique gene transcription patterns in the UCYN-A symbiosis may
254 provide clues to possible roles of specific genes involved in adaptation to N_2-fixing symbiosis
255 revealing metabolic interdependence between host and symbiont. In order to compare the
256 transcriptomic patterns of these specific genes with the rest of the N_2-fixers, we performed
257 network analysis of these genes using Pearson correlation. Whereas most of the key genes of
258 the major pathways in UCYN-A had higher transcript levels during the day, the other
259 unicellular N_2-fixing cyanobacteria had maximum transcript levels at night (Figure 4). For
260 example, glycolysis genes in UCYN-A had the highest levels of transcripts at sunrise and
261 midday (maximum light conditions) in contrast to the other cyanobacteria (Figures 4 and 5).

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262 The metabolic pathway that generates reductant for biosynthesis activities (NADPH), the
263 pentose phosphate pathway (PPP), had similar patterns. The allosteric effector *opcA*, which
264 redirects carbon flow to the first enzyme of the PPP (glucose-6-P dehydrogenase (*zwf*)) (18,
265 40), had a different periodic transcript level pattern in UCYN-A (Figures 4 and 6) compared to
266 other cyanobacteria (41, 42).

267 N_2 fixation in UCYN-A depends on the light period for the supply of photosynthate from
268 the host during the day, as well as possibly producing ATP by cyclic photophosphorylation with
269 PSI. Because UCYN-A cannot fix carbon dioxide, it has to obtain reduced carbon compounds
270 in the same way. Based on genome and transcriptomic profiles, we propose a pathway of
271 carbon metabolism for the regeneration of reductant and ATP in UCYN-A, which is needed for
272 N_2 fixation (Figure 7). Carbohydrate porins or ABC transporters could transport the
273 carbohydrates from the host to the cyanobacteria during the day and the carbon compounds
274 metabolized through the oxidative pentose phosphate (OPP) or glycolysis pathways. Pyruvate is
275 required for generation of reductant for nitrogenase and also to generate acetyl-CoA for
276 synthesis of fatty acids.

277 Because UCYN-A lacks photosystem II, which normally supplies electrons to
278 photosystem I by splitting water, UCYN-A needs alternative electron donors if it uses PSI to
279 make the reductant NADPH. The NADH generated by the OPP pathway or by glycolysis could
280 reduce the plastoquinone pool via the NDH-1 complex and transfer electrons to ferredoxin
281 though the PQ pool, cytochrome b_6f plastocyanin and the action of PSI. Ferredoxin could
282 deliver electrons to the ferredoxin:NADPH oxidoreductase (FNR), which might provide
283 reductant and ATP directly to the dinitrogenase reductase. To increase the ATP/e^- ratio,
284 UCYN-A can redirect electrons from PSI to NDH-1 in cyclic phosphorylation. This mechanism
285 to supply nitrogenase with electrons was proposed years ago for heterocysts (43).

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286 Together, the results are consistent with the assumption that UCYN-A uses host-supplied
287 carbohydrates during the day while other unicellular cyanobacteria synthesize their own
288 carbohydrates during the day and use them during the evening or at night. The unique distribution
289 of these metabolic processes suggests that UCYN-A has developed the ability for light-driven,
290 day-time N_2 fixation under oxic conditions as a result of symbiosis.

291 Apart from fixed carbon, several other compounds may be made available to UCYN-A,
292 which may be endosymbiotic, and relies on the host for all of its essential nutrients.
293 Interestingly, UCYN-A has the whole pathway for the synthesis of the cyanobacterial type of
294 vitamin B_{12}, pseudocobalamin, that can be required for the activity of several vital enzymes in
295 central metabolism (44) (Table S8). Transcription of genes involved in B_{12} synthesis were
296 detected in all cyanobacteria, and some of them had diel patterns (Table S2 and S8). It is
297 unknown if UCYN-A has enzymes that require pseudocobalamin or whether it can be used by
298 the host. However, in order for the host to use pseudocobalamin, it would have to be remodeled
299 in order to be accessible to the haptophyte (45). The role of pseudo-B_{12} biosynthesis in UCYN-
300 A is unclear, but the fact that UCYN-A retains this entire pathway, in such a reduced genome,
301 indicates that it is likely to have an important role, perhaps in symbiosis.

302 It is still unclear how N_2 fixation in UCYN-A avoids the oxygen evolved by the
303 photosynthetic host alga. There are only two possible pathways for consuming O_2 in UCYN-A,
304 including aerobic (cytochrome-dependent) respiration and the photocatalyzed reduction of O_2 to
305 H_2O in PSI which occurs in the heterocysts of cyanobacteria like *Nostoc* sp. PCC 7120 (46-48).
306 The latter, called the Mehler reaction, results in the production of the superoxide radical O_2^-,
307 which is subsequently reduced to water (49, 50).

308 In UCYN-A, the cytochrome *c* oxidase *coxA* gene was transcribed during the night (cluster
309 IV) but also rarely during the day, along with a few N_2 fixation genes (cluster I) (Figure 1).
310 Moreover, we also found higher transcript levels during the day for the antioxidant enzyme

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311 superoxide dismutase (*sod1*) and two peroxiredoxins (*prxR*), which have the ability to detoxify
312 peroxide (Figures 1 and 7). Both antioxidants would protect the nitrogenase against the reactive
313 oxygen species produced by UCYN-A or the haptophyte host (Figure 7).

314 It is not currently possible to directly determine the oxygen protection mechanisms in this
315 uncultured microorganism because 1) transcription cannot necessarily be related to function and 2)
316 it is not possible to do physiological experiments with this low-abundance microorganism that has
317 yet to be obtained in an axenic culture. Consequently, the question of protection from O_2 cannot be
318 directly addressed experimentally, but our results suggest that some of the proteins in UCYN-A
319 could help to protect nitrogenase from the O_2 generated by host photosynthesis.

320 Because UCYN-A has genome reduction normally associated with endosymbiosis (e.g. in
321 *Paulinella chromatophora*; (51)), the unique gene transcription patterns of UCYN-A may provide
322 insights into the evolution of endosymbiosis and organellar evolution. Future studies are needed to
323 determine if the rhythm of these patterns is maintained under constant conditions as in a circadian
324 rhythm, whether the host has a circadian rhythm and/or the daily cycle in UCYN-A simply
325 responds to metabolite availability from the host. It will also be interesting to determine how PSI
326 is involved in supporting the energy or reductant requirements of N_2 fixation. Such experiments
327 will have to await the establishment of a pure culture.

328

329 Materials and Methods

330 *Diel sampling of UCYN-A*

331 Surface seawater samples for UCYN-A transcription and catalyzed reported deposition-
332 fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (CARD-FISH) analyses were collected using a bucket from the
333 end of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) Ellen Browning Scripps Memorial Pier in La
334 Jolla, CA, USA. Two replicates were collected from the bucket at each time point within 48 hours
335 between 28th July and 1st August 2014 for transcriptomic analysis and between 3rd - 8th May 2016

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336 for CARD-FISH. A total of 16 samples were collected every 3-6 hours (two replicates taken at
337 each of eight time points): 12:00-L6, 15:00-L9, 21:00-D3, 00:00-D6, 06:00-2D12, 09:00-2L3,
338 15:00-2L9 and 18:00-2L12. L and D stand for light and dark period, respectively, 2L and 2D the
339 second light-dark cycle, and the number the corresponding hours entering light or dark period.

340 For the CARD-FISH assay, from each seawater replicate, 190 mL of seawater was fixed with
341 10 mL 37% formaldehyde (1.87% v/v final concentration) at 4ºC in the dark for 1 hour. After
342 fixation, 100 mL was filtered at a maximum vacuum pressure of 100 mm Hg onto a 0.6 µm pore-
343 size, 25 mm diameter polycarbonate membrane filter (Millipore Isopore™, EMD Millipore,
344 Billerica, MA, USA) with a support filter of 0.8 µm pore-size, 25 mm diameter polycarbonate
345 cellulose acetate membrane filter (Sterlitech Corporation, Kent, WA, USA). The filters were kept
346 at -80ºC until processed.

347 Samples for RNA extraction were collected by filtering a total of 500 mL from each seawater
348 replicate through 0.22 µm pore-size, 47 mm diameter Supor filters (Pall Corporation, Port
349 Washington, NY, USA) using a peristaltic pump. Filters were placed in sterile 2 mL bead-beating
350 tubes with sterile glass beads, flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80ºC until extraction.

351

352 *Double CARD-FISH assay*

353 The double CARD-FISH assay was carried out following the protocol designed by Cabello
354 et al. 2016 and Cornejo-Castillo et al. 2016. All of the probes, competitors and helpers used in this
355 work are compiled in Table S7. More details are described in Supplementary Information.
356 Microscopic evaluation and counting was performed with the Carl Zeiss Axioplan-2 Imaging
357 Fluorescent Microscope (Zeiss, Berlin, Germany) in 3 transects (8.0 x 0.1 mm^2 each) across the
358 filter piece. Cell dimensions were estimated using AxioVision 4.8 and Image J software (52).

359 *Diel sampling of Trichodesmium erythraeum IMS101 cultures*

360 Biological triplicate cultures of *T. erythraeum* were grown in rectangular canted neck

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361 polycarbonate cell culture flasks with a 0.2 μm pore-size vent cap and 225 cm^2 surface area
362 (Corning Inc., Corning, NY, USA). The cultures were maintained at 26ºC on a 12h:12h light:dark
363 cycle at 50 μmol quanta m^{-2} s^{-1} in YBCII media (53) supplemented with 2.8 μmol L^{-1} ferric
364 ammonium citrate. The light was set on at 7:00 and off at 19:00 hours. The cultures were 10-fold
365 diluted from the inoculum and were verified to be axenic by staining with DAPI and visualizing
366 cells under an epifluorescence microscope (Carl Zeiss, Thornwood, NY, USA). Growth and cell
367 density were monitored until the cultures reached exponential phase (~10-14 days after
368 inoculation), during which the cells were harvested for the diel transcription assay. Samples were
369 taken at 3 hours intervals starting at the onset of the light period until the end of the dark period for
370 a total of 24 hours. A total of 27 samples were collected from these nine time points: 7:00-D12,
371 10:00-L3, 13:00-L6, 16:00-L9, 19:00-L12, 22:00-D3, 1:00-D6, 4:00-D9 and 7:00-2D12, where L
372 and D stand for light and dark period, respectively, 2D the second light-dark cycle, and the number
373 the corresponding hours entering light or dark period. At each time point, 200 mL each of
374 triplicate cultures (replicates from different flasks) was filtered onto a 5 μm pore-size, 47 mm
375 diameter polycarbonate membrane filter (Osmonics, Minnetonka, MN, USA). The filters were
376 immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80º C until processing.
377
378 *RNA extraction and processing for hybridization to the microarray*
379 Environmental RNA containing transcripts from UCYN-A cells was extracted using the
380 Ambion RiboPure Bacteria kit (Ambion®, ThermoFisher), with modifications that included
381 mechanical lysis using glass beads (Biospec, Bartlesville, OK). The extracted RNA was treated
382 with Turbo-DNA-free™ DNase Kit (Ambion®, ThermoFisher) to remove genomic DNA.
383 Sufficient environmental RNA was obtained for two replicates at 4 sampling times (L6, L9, D3
384 and 2L12): L6-1, L6-2, L9-1, L9-2, D3-1, D3-2, 2L12-1 and 2L12-2. L and D stand for light and

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385 dark period, respectively, 2L and 2D the second light-dark cycle, and the number the
386 corresponding hours entering light or dark period.

387 Total RNA for *T. erythraeum* was extracted using the Ambion RiboPure Bacteria kit
388 (Ambion®, ThermoFisher), followed by in solution DNase digestion with the RNase-free DNase
389 kit and on-column cleanup with the RNeasy MiniElute kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA, USA).

390 RNA purity, concentration and quality were determined using a NanoDrop 1000 (Thermo
391 Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) and a 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA,
392 USA) using the RNA 6000 Nano kit (Agilent Technologies). Only samples with RNA Integrity
393 Number >7.0 and ratios of A260/A230 and A260/A280 ≥1.8 were processed further.

394 From environmental RNA samples that contained UCYN-A, double-stranded (ds) cDNA
395 was synthesized and amplified following the procedure described in Shilova et al..(54). Briefly,
396 400 ng RNA from each sample was used, and 1 µL of 1:100 dilution (corresponding to 4.7
397 attomoles of ERCC-0016) of the (External RNA Control Consortium, (55)) RNA spike-in mix 1
398 (Ambion®) was added before amplification to monitor the technical performance of the assay (55).

399 Double-stranded cDNA was synthesized and amplified using the TransPlex Whole
400 Transcriptome Amplification kit (WTA-2, Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA) and antibody-
401 inactivated hot-start Taq DNA Polymerase (Sigma-Aldrich). The amplified cDNA was purified
402 with the GenElute PCR cleanup kit (Sigma-Aldrich), and the quality and quantity of ds-cDNA was
403 determined with NanoDrop 1000 and a 2100 Bioanalyzer using the Agilent DNA 7500 kit
404 (Agilent Technologies). Four hundred ng of total RNA yielded on average 12 µg of ds-cDNA. The
405 labeling and hybridization of cDNA samples (1.0 µg of ds-cDNA) to the microarray was done at
406 Roy J. Carver Center for Genomics (CCG) Facility (University of Iowa, Iowa city, Iowa, USA)
407 according to the Agilent Technology for arrays protocol.

408 For *T. erythraeum,* at least 30 µg of unamplified total RNA with a concentration of 1.0 µg
409 μL^{-1} per sample was provided for 27 samples. A control sample was generated by mixing equal

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410 amount of total RNA, based on NanoDrop measured concentration, from each of the 27 samples
411 resulting in 28 samples in total. Reverse transcription of the total RNA, labeling of cDNA, and
412 hybridization to the array were performed at the Roche NimbleGen facility according to the
413 manufacturer's protocol (Roche NimbleGen, Inc., Madison, WI, USA).

414 *Design of the UCYN-A array*

415 The oligonucleotide expression array of UCYN-A was designed using UCYN-A1 and
416 UCYN-A2 genes using eArray web-based tool (Agilent Technology Inc.;
417 https://earray.chem.agilent.com/earray/) similar to the array design described in Shilova et al.(54).
418 The gene sequences were obtained from the National Center of Biotechnology Information (NCBI,
419 http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov). Briefly, six probes of 60 nucleotides (nt) length were designed for
420 each gene, and a total of 6618 probes (1199 genes) and 6862 probes (1246 genes) were designed
421 for UCYN-A1 and UCYN-A2, respectively. These probes were replicated (4 times in the 8x60K
422 array slides and 13 times in the 4x180K array slide) which allowed internal evaluation of signals.
423 The sequences of all oligonucleotide probes were tested *in silico* for possible cross-hybridization
424 as described below. The probe sequences were used as queries in the BLASTN against the
425 available nt databases in June 2014: Marine microbes, Microbial Eukaryote Transcription and
426 Non-redundant Nucleotides in the Community Cyberinfrastructure for Advanced Microbial
427 Ecology Research and Analysis (CAMERA, http://camera.calit2.net/,(56)). Agilent technology
428 allows 5% nt mismatch in the whole probe region, thus sequences with a range of 95–100% nt
429 identity to the target probe are detected. Therefore, all probes with BLASTN hits with ≥95% over
430 100% nt length were deleted. Next, probe sequences that passed the cross-hybridization filter,
431 were clustered using CD-HIT-EST(57, 58) at 95% nt similarity to select unique probes for UCYN-
432 A1 and unique probes for UCYN-A2. Finally, to select probes specific for each strain, the probes
433 with ≥95% nt identity to the genes in the other strain were deleted. However, a few probes that
434 showed cross-hybridization between both strains for highly conserved genes (such as the

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435 nitrogenase gene, *nifH*) were retained. In summary, 6120 probes for 1194 genes of UCYN-A1 and
436 6324 probes for 1244 genes of UCYN-A2 were chosen.

437 In addition, standard control probes as part of the Agilent Technology Array (IS-62976-8-
438 V2_60Kby8_GX_EQC_201000210 with ERCC control probes added) were included randomly to
439 feature locations on the microarray slide. The final design of the microarray was synthesized on
440 two platforms: ca. 62976 experimental and 1319 control probes on the 8x60K array slide and ca.
441 180880 experimental and 4854 control probes on the 4x180K array slide. The probe sequences are
442 available at NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) under accession number GSE100124.

443

444 *Design of the T. erythraeum IMS101 array*

445 A custom oligonucleotide array for *T. erythraeum* was designed using the Roche NimbleGen
446 platform: (NimbleGen design ID: 080610_Trich_erth_UCSC_TS_expr) according to the complete
447 genome assembly of *T. erythraeum* IMS101 (NC_008312). The genome sequence is publically
448 available via gateways including GenBank (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/NC_0083120),
449 IMG
450 (http://img.jgi.doe.gov:80/cgibin/pub/main.cgi?section=TaxonDetail&page=taxonDetail&taxon_oi
451 d=637000329), and UCSC genome browser (http://microbes.ucsc.edu/cgi-
452 bin/hgGateway?db=tricEryt_IMS101). Up to six 60-nt long tiling probes were designed to
453 target each of the 4788 genes in the genome, resulting in a total of 28235 probes. The probes were
454 duplicated on the array to allow internal evaluation of hybridization signals. Moreover, tiling 60 nt
455 oligonucleotide probes were also designed to target the intergenic regions >60 bp in length at a
456 150 bp interval, leading to a total of 11175 probes targeting 3877 intergenic regions (average 2.9
457 probes per intergenic region), however hybridization data for intergenic probes are not presented
458 here. All the probes were rank ordered and selected based on the following criteria: 1) they must
459 have a minimum annealing temperature of 68℃; 2) there is no cross contamination among the

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460 probes for different genes and for different intergenic regions. In addition to the experimental
461 probes, standard control probes were also included on the microarray for quality assessment of the
462 sample preparation, the hybridization process and the intensity measurements. The final
463 microarray slides were printed in 4-plex (4x72K) format with 67645 experimental probe features
464 and 7454 control probe features on one array. The full microarray platform descriptions and data
465 for *T. erythraeum* are available at NCBI GEO under accession number GSE99896. Microarray
466 hybridization signals were quantified using a GenePix 4000B Scanner (Molecular Devices,
467 Sunnyvale, CA, USA) at the Roche NimbleGen facility.
468
469 *Microarray data analysis*
470 All data analyses were performed with R (www. R-project.org) and the Bioconductor
471 Project(59), specifically using the Biobase(60), Linear Models for Microarray LIMMA (61),
472 arrayQualityMetrics(62), affyPLM(63, 64), and genefilter packages.
473 *1) UCYN-A microarray*
474 Transcription values for each gene were obtained using median polish summarization, and
475 values were normalized using quantile normalization (63, 64) (Figure S2). The transcription values
476 for UCYN-A at L6, L9, D3 and 2L12 are the mean transcription of the two replicates (L6-1, L6-2,
477 L9-1, L9-2, D3-1, D3-2, 2L12-1 and 2L12-2). Raw and normalized microarray data for UCYN-A
478 were submitted to NCBI GEO under accession number GSE100124. To determine if transcription
479 of a gene was detected, the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of each chip was calculated as: SNR = (S_i–
480 BG)/BG; where S_i is the hybridization signal for the gene and BG is the chip background signal
481 determined as average of the lowest 5% of all signals. Transcription was considered detected if
482 SNR of a transcript was ≥5 (as in (Shilova et al. 2014) Transcription values were centered and
483 scaled across genes and samples, and a distance matrix was calculated using Pearson's correlation
484 coefficient. The distance matrix was then used in hierarchical clustering by a complete

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485 agglomeration method to identify clusters of genes with similar patterns of transcription during the
486 diel transcription.

487 *2) T. erythraeum microarray*

488 The raw microarray data for *T. erythraeum* were subjected to robust multichip average
489 (RMA) analysis (65) and quantile normalization (63, 64) (Figure 3S). Transcription values for
490 each gene were obtained using median polish summarization (54). Final transcription value for
491 each sample was a mean of up to twelve technical replicates (Blocks 1 and 2 with up to six
492 replicate probes in each block in the *T. erythraeum* microarray design). A gene was selected for
493 further analysis if it had $\log_2$ transcription above 64 in at least 25% of samples and an interquartile
494 range across all samples on the $\log_2$ scale of at least 0.5. This filtering resulted in 4128 genes,
495 which were used in further analysis.

496 *3) Comparison of diel transcription patterns for all cyanobacteria*

497 Transcription data for *Prochlorococcus* sp. MED4, *Cyanothece* sp. ATCC 51142 and
498 *Crocosphaera watsonii* WH 8501 was collected from previous published data (16-18).
499 *Cyanothece* sp. ATCC 51142 and *C. watsonii* WH 8501 microarray data were downloaded
500 from ArrayExpress (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/aerep/) using accession no. E-TABM-386 and E-
501 TABM-737, respectively. The genes with periodic transcriptional patterns for all studied
502 cyanobacteria (*Prochlorococcus* sp. MED4, *Cyanothece* sp. ATCC 51142, *C. watsonii* WH
503 8501, *T. erythraeum* and UCYN-A) were identified using the R package "cycle" based on
504 Fourier analysis, and the genes with FDR<0.25 were selected for further comparison (66)
505 (Table S2). To compare the diel transcription patterns among the cyanobacteria, gene
506 transcription values for each cyanobacterium were selected for over 36 hours. Eight points
507 were selected for UCYN-A (L6, L9, D3, D6, 2D12, 2L3, 2L9, 2L12), 9 points for *T.*
508 *erythraeum* (D12, L3, L6, L9, L12, D3, D6, D9, 2D12), 6 points for *Cyanothece* sp. ATCC
509 51142 (L2, L6, L10, D2, D6, D10), 8 points for *C. watsonii* WH 8501 (D11, L1, L6, L11, D1,

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510 D6, 2D11, 2L1) and 19 points for *Prochlorococcus* sp. MED4 (D12 - 2L12 every 2 hours). L
511 and D stand for light and dark period, respectively, 2L and 2D the second light-dark cycle, and
512 the number the corresponding hours entering light or dark period. Because the studies had a
513 few dissimilar sampling times, the missing values were interpolated using the Stineman
514 algorithm implemented in the *imputeTS* package (67). A network was constructed based on the
515 Pearson correlation and using 'make_network' function in phyloseq (68). The maximum
516 distance between connecting nodes was selected as 0.5 unless otherwise noted in figure
517 legends.
518

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525 (GEO) under accession numbers GSE100124 and GSE99896. The following secure token has
526 been created to allow review of record GSE100124 while it remains in private status:
527 ufchawekhzmlpaj.
528

529 **Author contributions**

530 M.M.M. designed the UCYN-A array, designed and performed the research and analyzed the data.
531 I.N.S. analyzed the *T. erythraeum* array data, aided with the design of the UCYN-A array and
532 comparison of transcription among cyanobacteria. T.S. designed the *T. erythraeum* array and
533 performed the diel sampling of *T. erythraeum* cultures. H.F. aided sampling diel UCYN-A
534 samples and performed the phylogenetic tree. A.M.C carried out and counted the CARD-FISH diel

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535 samples. J.P.Z. conceptualized the study, and M.M.M., I.N.S., T.S., H.F. and J.P.Z. drafted and
536 edited the manuscript and figures. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.
537

538 **Competing financial interests**

539 The authors declare no competing financial interest.

540

541

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742 **Titles and legends to main figures**

743 **Figure 1.** Four different clades based on Pearson correlation of the transcription profile of
744 UCYN-A1 and UCYN-A2 genes over light–dark cycles. The transcription value of each gene at
745 each time point was normalized to the mean at all time points and divided by standard deviation
746 (SD) (*Y* axis, log 2 scale). The *X* axis represents time points where D and L stand for dark and
747 light, respectively, followed by the corresponding hour into the light or dark periods. The second
748 light-dark cycle is shown as 2D followed by the number of the corresponding hours entering light
749 or dark period. The shaded area represents the dark period. In each cluster, most representative
750 genes are listed in the table attached to the plot. UCYN-A1 genes are coded in green and UCYN-
751 A2 genes are coded in orange.

752

753

754 **Figure. 2. A.** Transcriptional network based on Pearson correlation of gene transcription over the
755 diel cycle in all studied cyanobacteria. The genes are connected if correlation coefficient for their
756 transcription patterns is higher than 0.5. The genes shown are diel genes with variable transcription
757 patterns among the studied cyanobacteria. The arrows point to genes for glycolysis, PPP and N_2
758 fixation in the studied diazotrophs. The purple circles demarcate genes for ribosomal proteins
759 included in the analysis. Abbreviations: *Prochlorococcus* sp. MED4 (Pro), *Cyanothece* sp. ATCC
760 51142 (Cya), *C. watsonii* WH 8501 (Cro), *T. erythraeum* (Tricho), Pentose Phosphate Pathway
761 (PPP), Photosystem I (PSI). **B.** Four time course plots are attached for the N_2-fixing cyanobacteria
762 showing the diel transcription patterns of photosystem I, N_2 fixation and genes for ribosomal
763 proteins.

764

765 **Figure 3.** Transcription of genes for replication and cell division in UCYN-A. **Upper Panel: A)**
766 Diel transcription patterns for cell division and replication genes in UCYN-A1 and UCYN-A2
767 over the light-dark cycle. Hierarchical clustering of genes was based on Pearson correlation

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768 between their transcription profiles. The transcription values of genes at each time point were
769 standardized, and the blue-red scale shows how many standard deviations a transcription value
770 was lower or higher, respectively, from the mean transcription values over the diel cycle (Z score).
771 Gene ID and gene product corresponding to each gene for UCYN-A1 and UCYN-A2 are shown.
772 Time is shown on X-axis as light (L) and dark (D), respectively, followed by the corresponding
773 hour after the sunrise and sunset periods started. The second light-dark cycle is shown as 2D
774 followed by the number of the corresponding hours entering light or dark period.
775 **Lower Panel:** Epifluorescence micrographs of dividing UCYN-A2 detected with CARD-FISH
776 (19). **B)** Two big clusters of UCYN-A2 cells and the haptophyte host attached. Left Panel: the
777 nucleus of the host and the UCYN-A2 cells were visualized with-DAPI stain (blue). Right Panel:
778 The UCYN-A2 (red) and its haptophyte host (green). **C)** Two different associations of UCYN-A2
779 with its haptophyte dividing in samples from Scripps Pier.
780
781 **Figure 4.** Network showing the Pearson correlation for gene transcriptions in the unicellular N_2-
782 fixing cyanobacteria *Cyanothece* sp. ATCC 51142 (*Cyanothece*), *C. watsonii* WH 8501
783 (*Crocosphaera*) and UCYN-A. Shown here are key genes in major metabolic pathways with
784 distinct diel transcription patterns. The genes are connected if their correlation coefficient for
785 transcription patterns is higher than 0.2. PPP, pentose phosphate pathway; PSI, photosystem I.
786
787 **Figure 5.** Transcriptional profiles of the genes for glycolysis over light–dark cycles in the
788 cyanobacteria studied here. The transcription value of each gene at each time point was
789 normalized to the mean at all time points and divided by standard deviation (SD) (*Y* axis, log
790 scale). The *X* axis represents time points where D and L stand for dark and light, respectively,
791 followed by the corresponding hour into the light or dark periods. The second light-dark cycle is

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792 shown as 2D followed by the number of the corresponding hours entering light or dark period. The
793 shaded area represents the dark period.
794
795 **Figure 6.** Transcriptional profiles of *opcA* (allosteric effector) and *zwf* (glucose-6-P
796 dehydrogenase) over light–dark cycles in the cyanobacteria studied here. The transcription value
797 of each gene at each time point was normalized to the mean at all time points and divided by
798 standard deviation (SD) (*Y* axis, log scale). The *X* axis represents time points where D and L stand
799 for dark and light, respectively, followed by the corresponding hour into the light or dark periods.
800 The second light-dark cycle is shown as 2D followed by the number of the corresponding hours
801 entering light or dark period. The shaded area represents the dark period.
802
803 **Figure 7.** Schematic model of UCYN-A showing the possible main cellular functions, metabolic
804 pathways and transporters.
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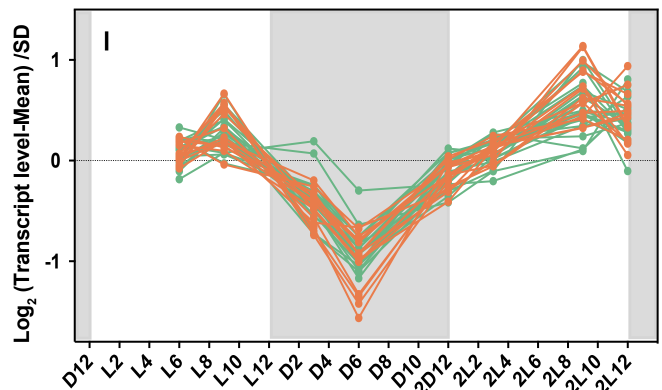
Organism

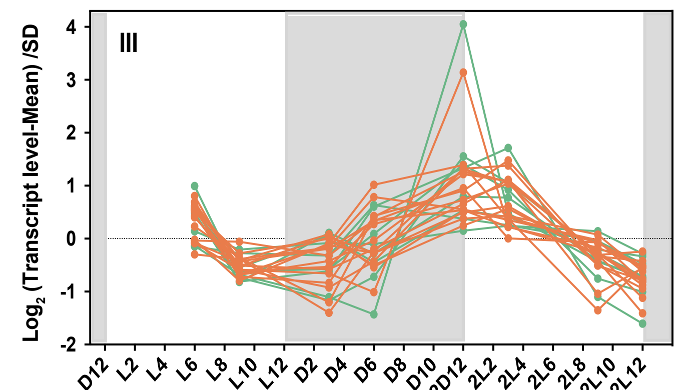
UCYN-A1

UCYN-A2

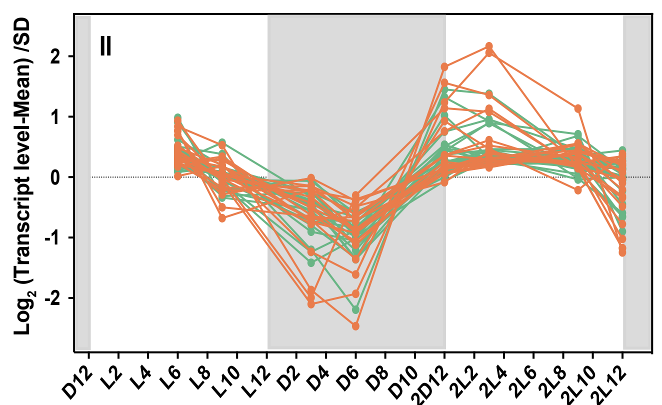
UCYN-A1		UCYN-A2	
fabD	*ftsZ*	-	-
-	*tpi*	*fabH*	-
lpxC	-	*lpxC*	*rpe*
sqd1	*pdha*	-	*pdha*
hypD	-		*thiL*
cbio	*acp*		*acp*
pstA	*glnA*		*glnA*
pstC	*g6pd*	*pstcC*	-
minD	-	-	*accD*
-	*accA*	*minE*	
-	-	*mreC*	*topA*
g6pi	-		*rpoE*
murG	*dpo3*	-	-
murE	-	-	*sufB*
-	*fepB*	*murJ*	-
-	*fepGD*	*murB*	-



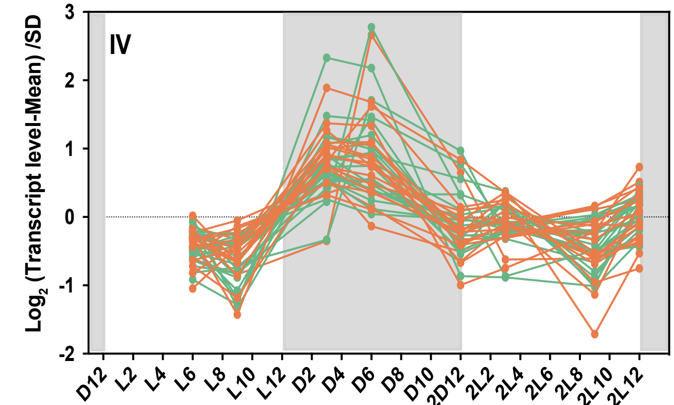
UCYN-A1	UCYN-A2
atpF	*atpF*
atpB	*atpB*
-	*atpA*
pgd	-
rpiA	*pstA*
cop23	*cop23*
iscA	*iscA*
-	*eno*
-	*ndhK*
-	*ndhC*
-	*psaJ*
-	*psaL*
-	*tktA*
-	*pgd*



UCYN-A1		UCYN-A2	
ndhJ	*petC*	*ndhJ*	*petC*
ndhD	*petF*	*ndhD*	*petF*
hupS	*nikB*	-	-
-	*sufB*	*hypE*	-
-	-	*hypD*	*petH*
g3pd	-	-	*lpxA*
-	-	*fba*	*lpxB*
atpA	*fabH*	*atpA*	-
atpI	*fabF*	*atpI*	-
-	*prpS*	*atpF*	-
atpC	*accC*	-	-
psaC	-	*psaC*	*gpi*
minE	*nifU*	-	-
-	*nifH*	*ftsZ*	*nifH*
-	*nifD*	*murD*	*nifD*
prxR	*sod1*	*prxR*	-
petA	-	*petA*	*nifK*



UCYN-A1		UCYN-A2	
psaA	-	*psaA*	*rps13*
psaB	-	-	*rpl13*
oprB	-	*oprB*	*rpl18*
rpl11	-	*rpl11*	*rpl5*
nusG	-	-	*rps9*
secE	-	-	*rpl24*
rps19	-	*rps19*	*rpl2*
rpl22	-	*rpl22*	*rpl3*
rpl16	-	-	*rpl23*
rpl24	-	-	*rpl29*
rps8	-	-	*rpl1*
rpl6	-	-	*guaB*
rpl15	-	*rpl15*	*sqdB*
dnaE	-	-	*acyl*
truA	-	-	*rpoA*
-	-	*coxB*	-



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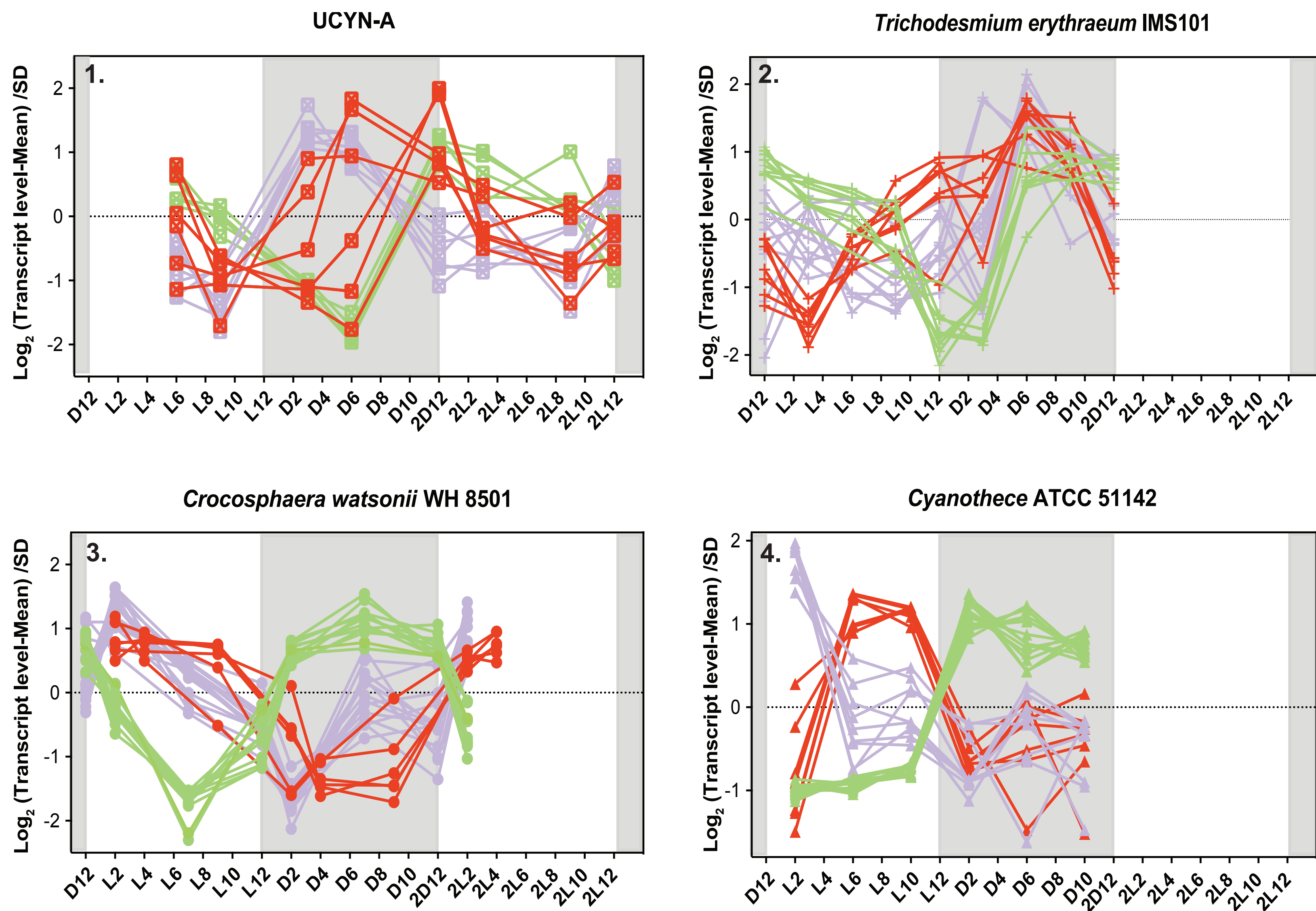

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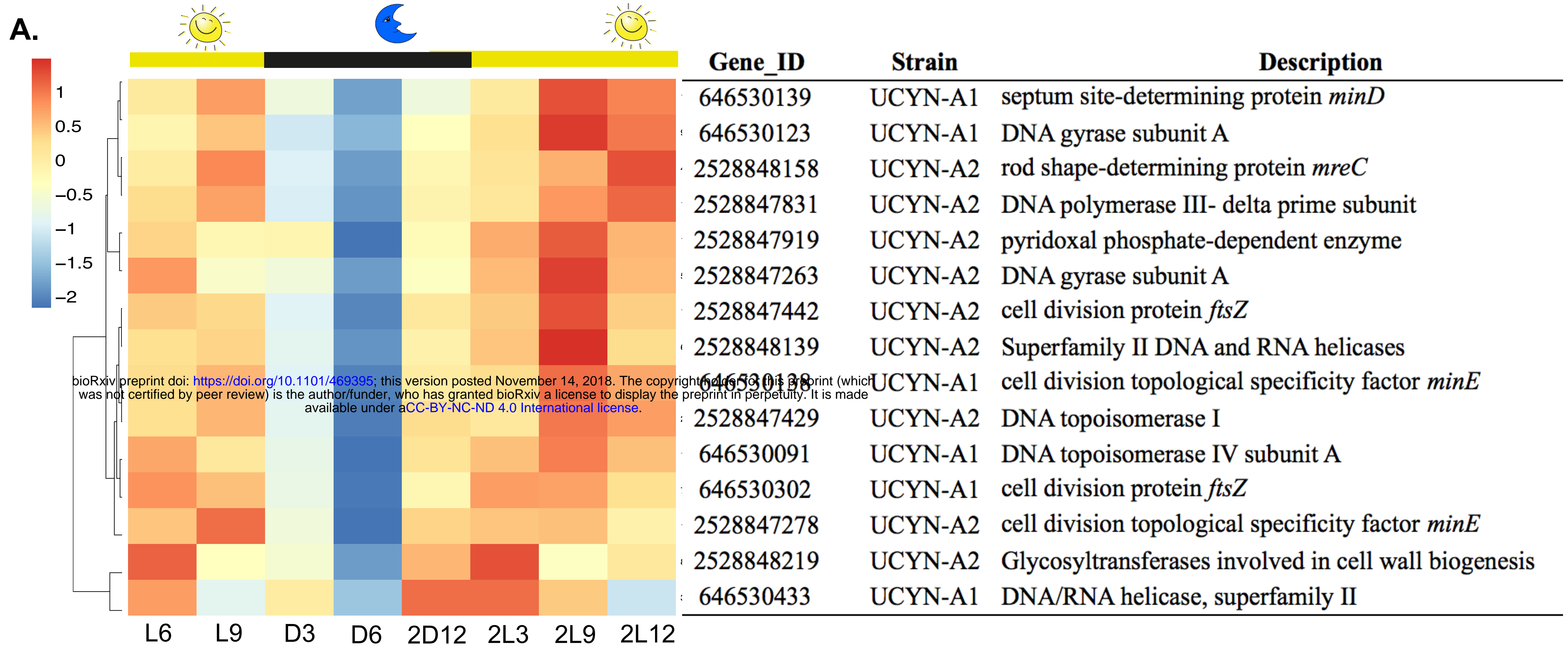
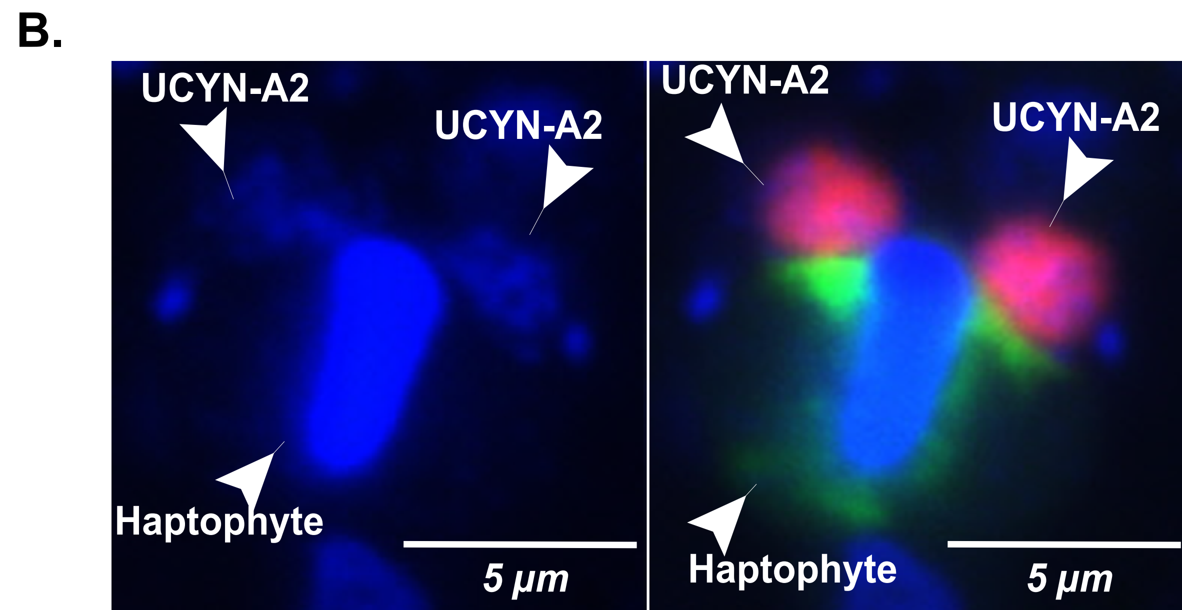
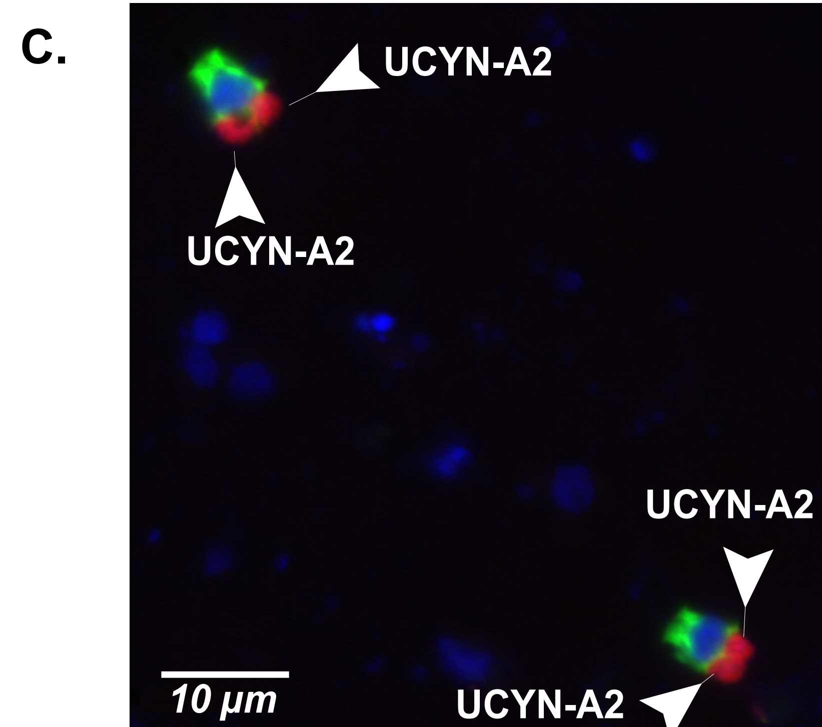
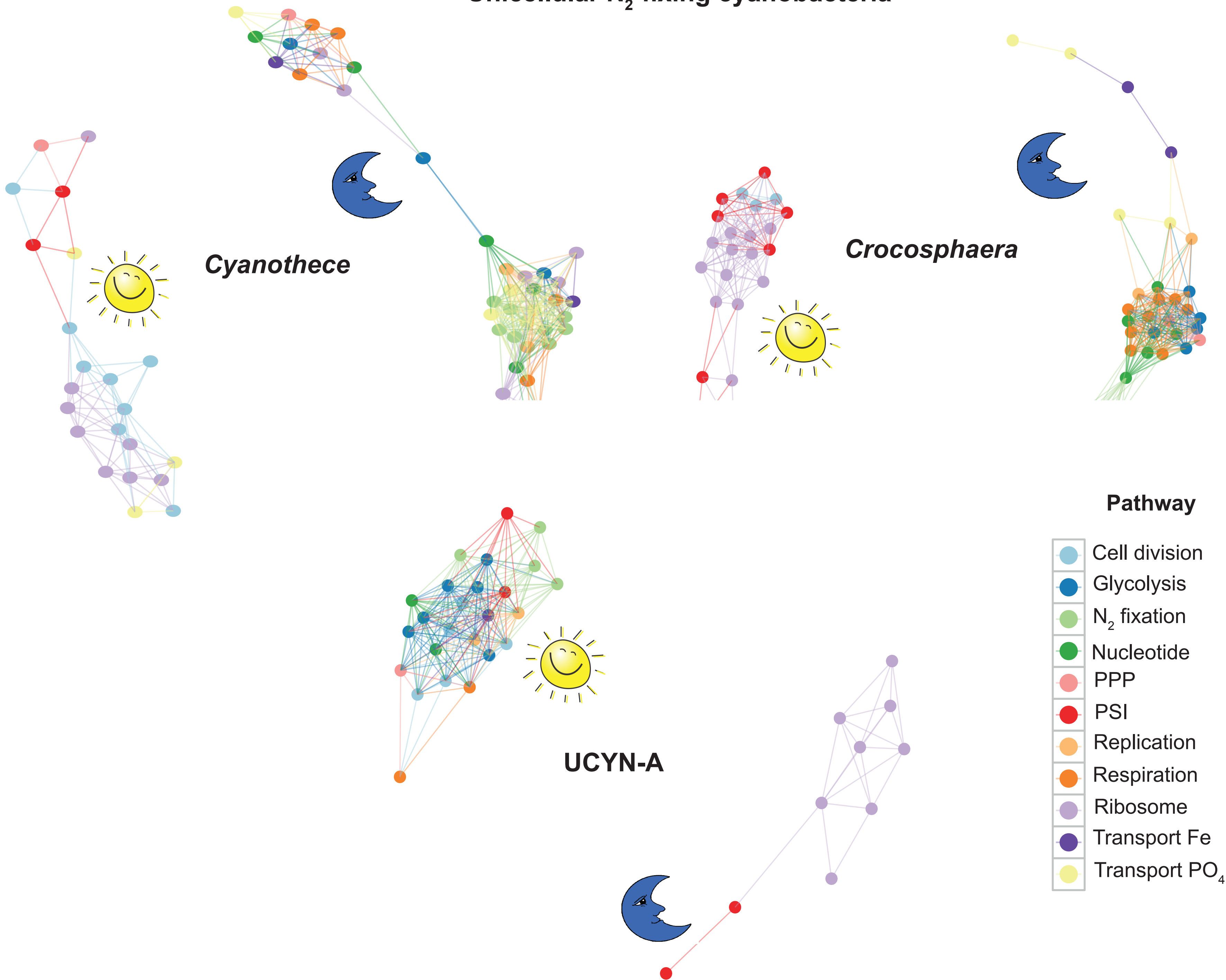


Gene_ID	Strain	Description
646530139	UCYN-A1	septum site-determining protein *minD*
646530123	UCYN-A1	DNA gyrase subunit A
2528848158	UCYN-A2	rod shape-determining protein *mreC*
2528847831	UCYN-A2	DNA polymerase III- delta prime subunit
2528847919	UCYN-A2	pyridoxal phosphate-dependent enzyme
2528847263	UCYN-A2	DNA gyrase subunit A
2528847442	UCYN-A2	cell division protein *ftsZ*
2528848139	UCYN-A2	Superfamily II DNA and RNA helicases
646530138	UCYN-A1	cell division topological specificity factor *minE*
2528847429	UCYN-A2	DNA topoisomerase I
646530091	UCYN-A1	DNA topoisomerase IV subunit A
646530302	UCYN-A1	cell division protein *ftsZ*
2528847278	UCYN-A2	cell division topological specificity factor *minE*
2528848219	UCYN-A2	Glycosyltransferases involved in cell wall biogenesis
646530433	UCYN-A1	DNA/RNA helicase, superfamily II

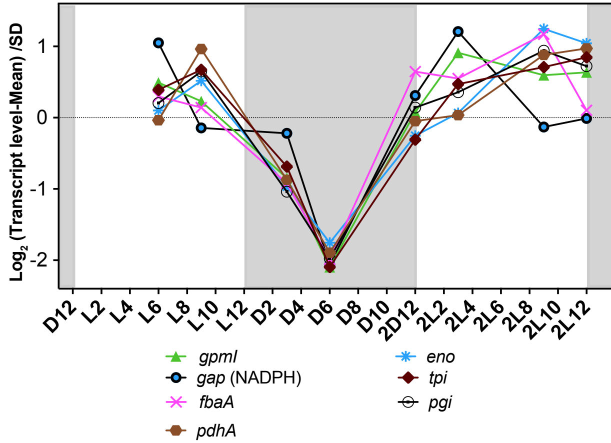


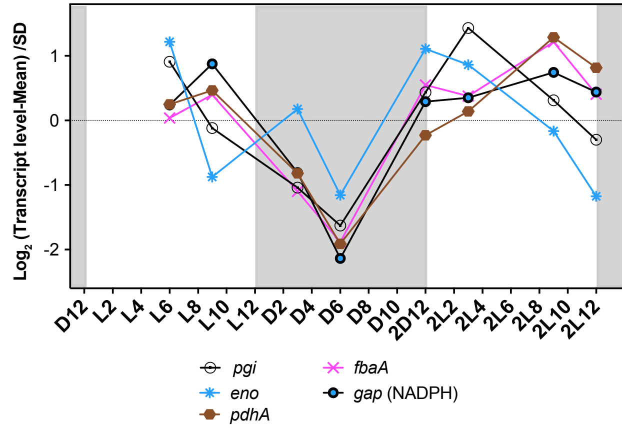


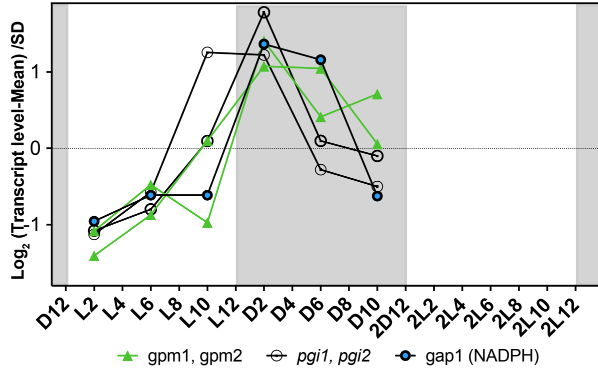
Unicellular N_2-fixing cyanobacteria

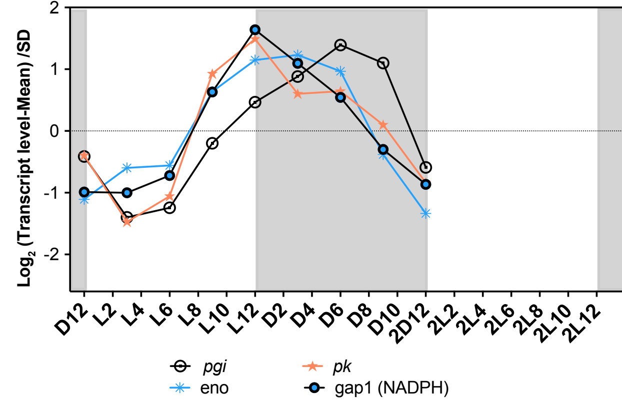


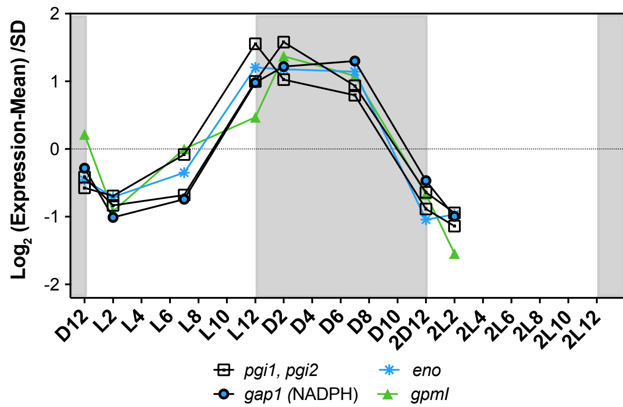
Glycolysis

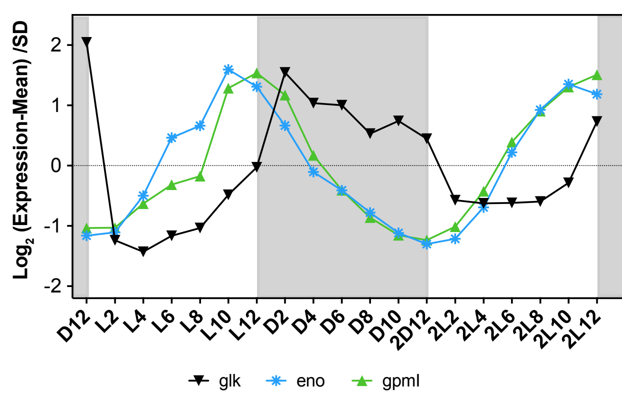




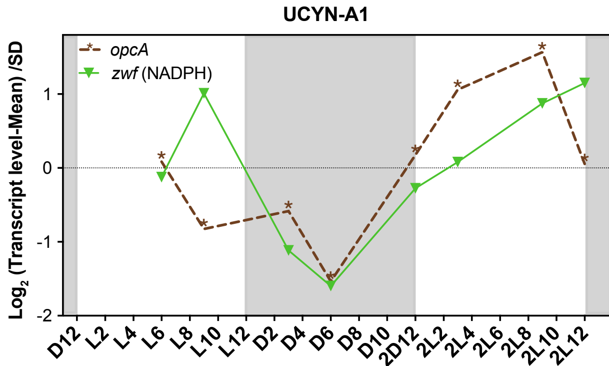


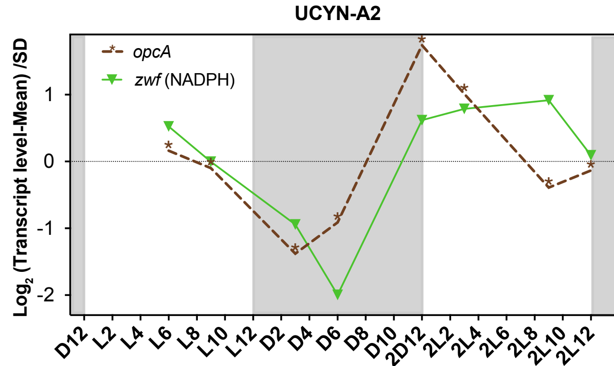


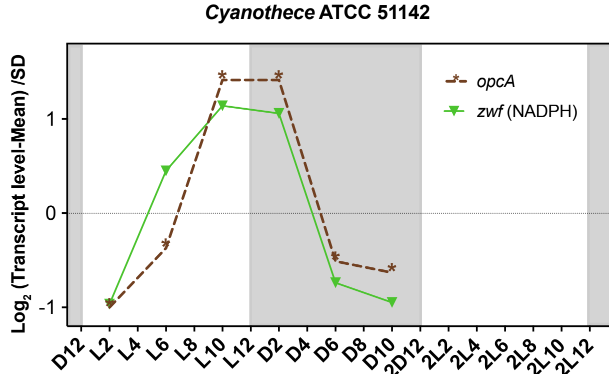


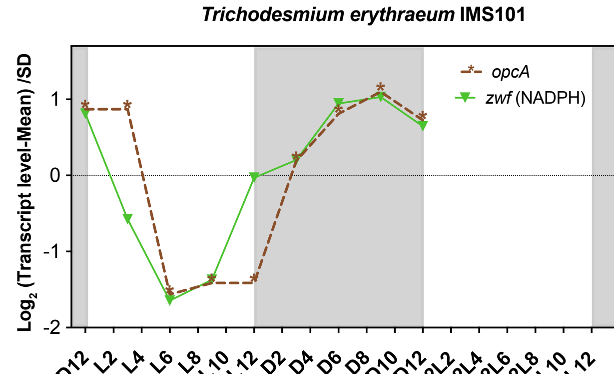


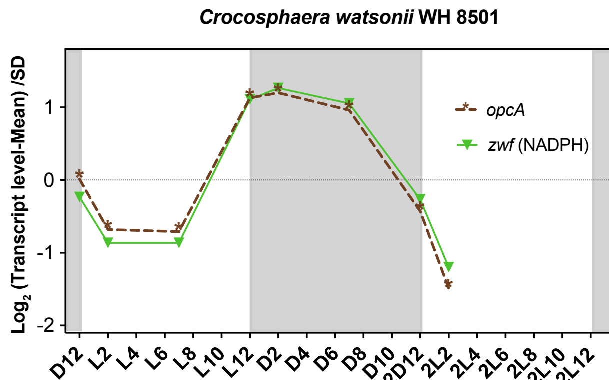
Pentose phosphate

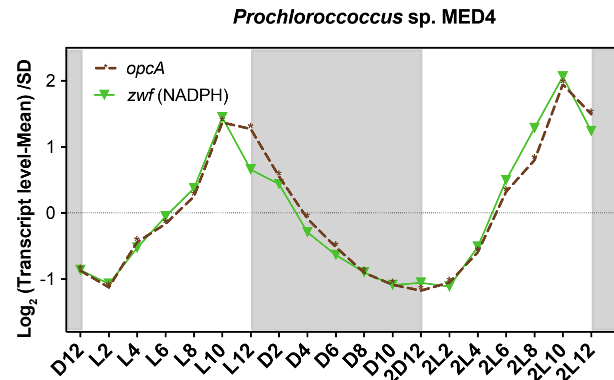












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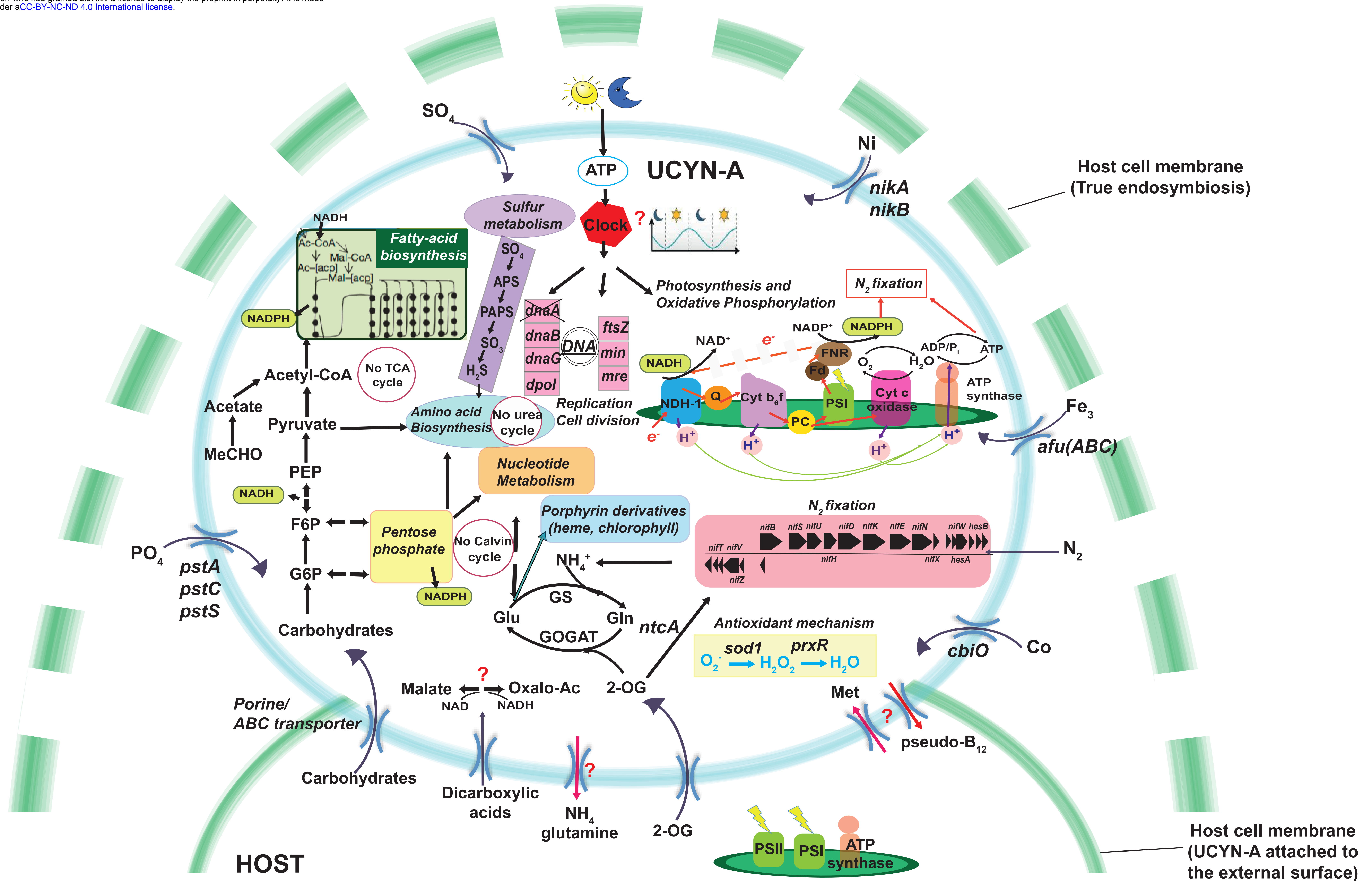

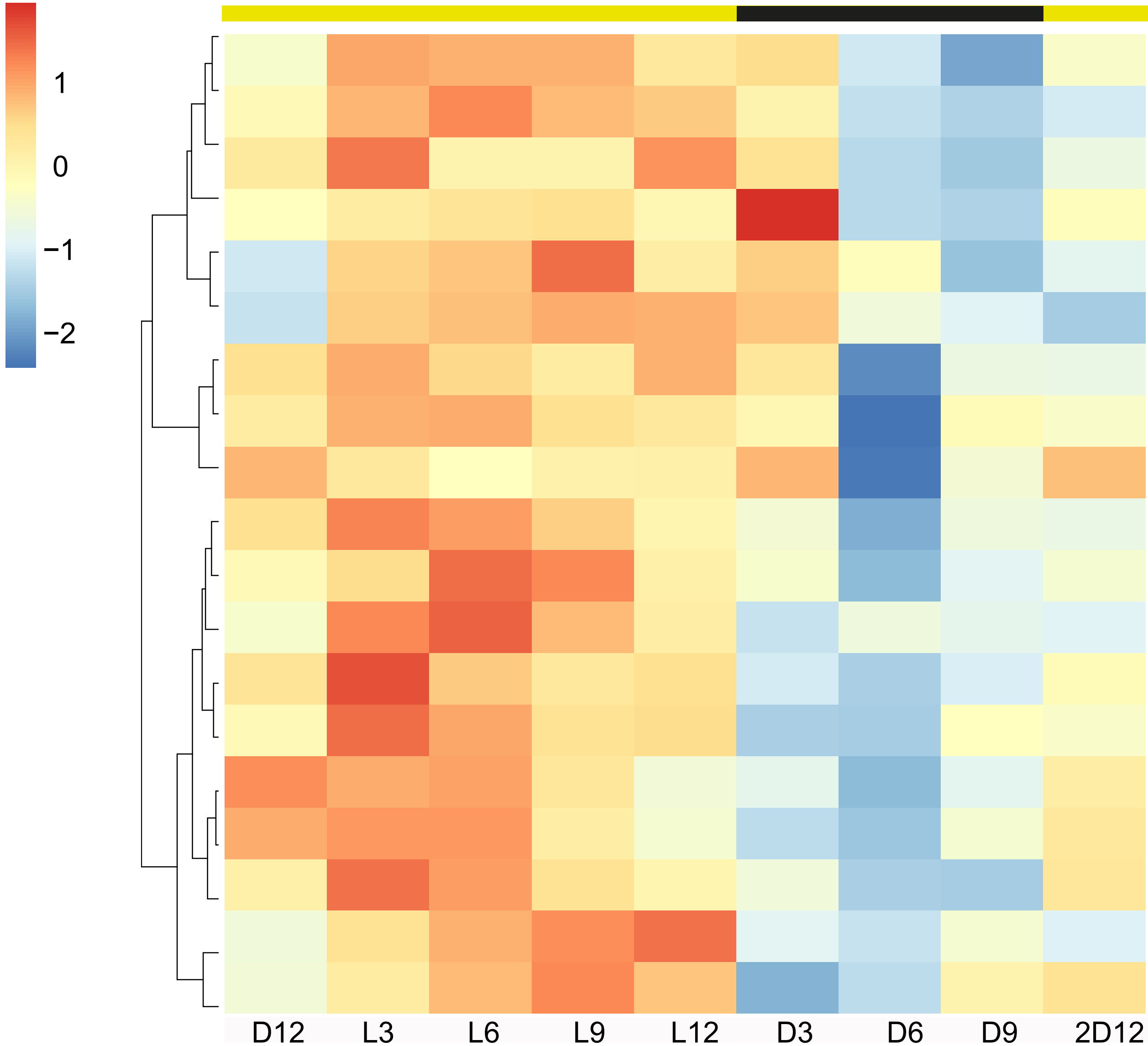

Gene_ID	**Description**	**Pathway**
Tery_3301	MutS2 family protein	Replication and Repair
Tery_2841	glucose inhibited division protein A	Cell Growth and Death
Tery_4190	single-stranded-DNA-specific exonuclease *RecJ*	Replication and Repair
Tery_0168	Holliday junction DNA helicase *RuvA*	Replication and Repair
Tery_3645	DNA mismatch repair protein *MutS*	Replication and Repair
Tery_0165	DNA recombination protein, *RuvA*	Replication and Repair
Tery_4942	cell cycle protein	Cell Growth and Death
Tery_0212	DNA polymerase III, delta subunit	Replication and Repair
Tery_2316	DNA ligase, NAD-dependent	Replication and Repair
Tery_1165	protein of unknown function DUF59	Cell Growth and Death
Tery_0163	maf protein	Cell Growth and Death
Tery_0413	phage SPO1 DNA polymerase-related protein	Replication and Repair
Tery_0001	chromosomal replication initiator protein *DnaA*	Replication and Repair
Tery_4604	DNA repair protein *RecO*	Replication and Repair
Tery_4232	ATP-dependent DNA helicase *PcrA*	Replication and Repair
Tery_0348	transposase, IS605 *OrfB* family	Replication and Repair
Tery_3302	cell cycle protein	Cell Growth and Death
Tery_3384	cell division topological specificity factor *MinE*	Cell Growth and Death
Tery_3269	endonuclease III	Replication and Repair

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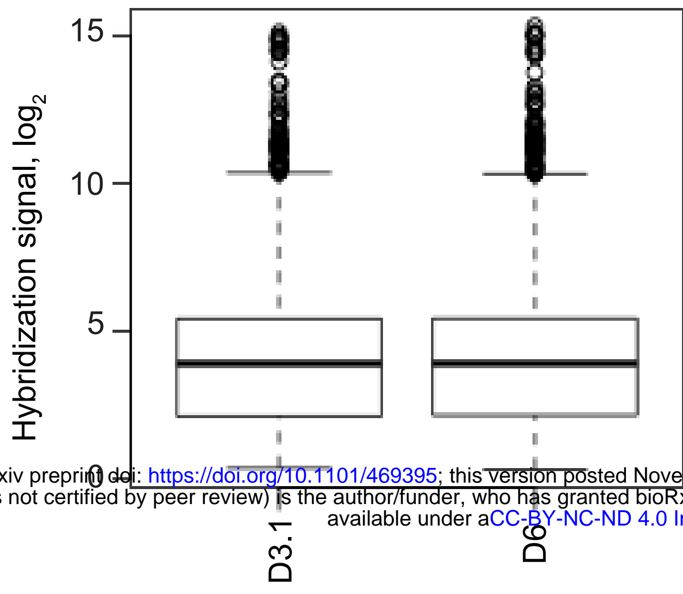
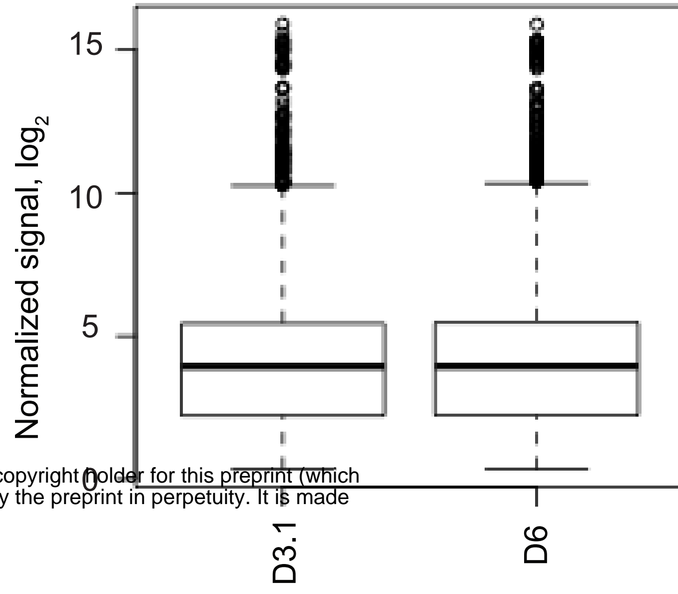
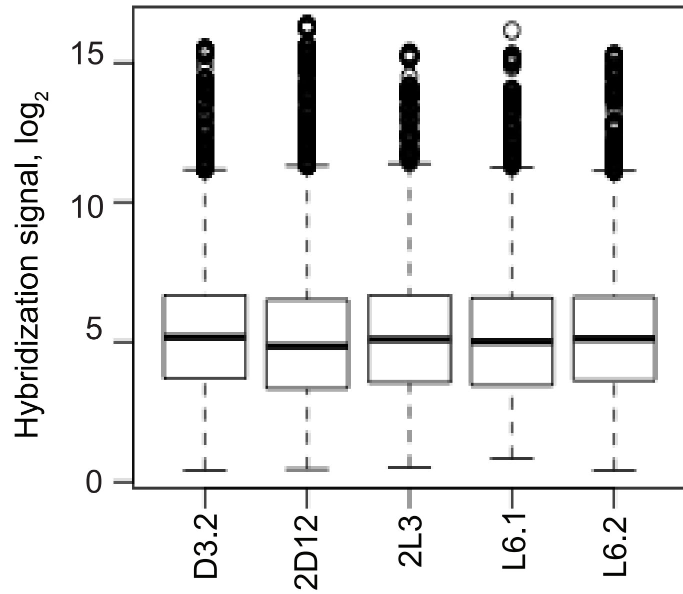
A.



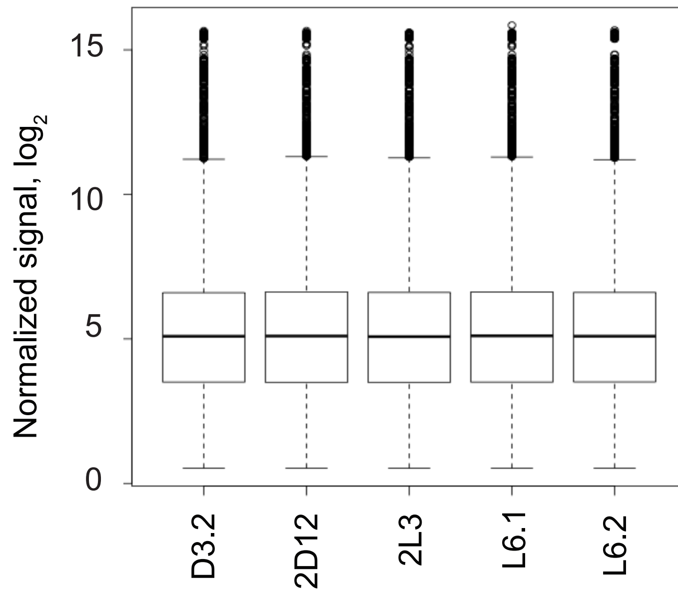
D.



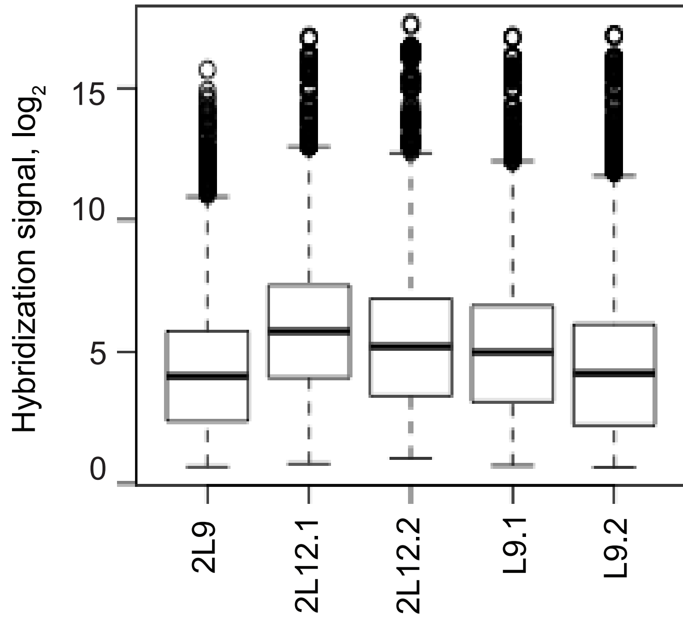
B.



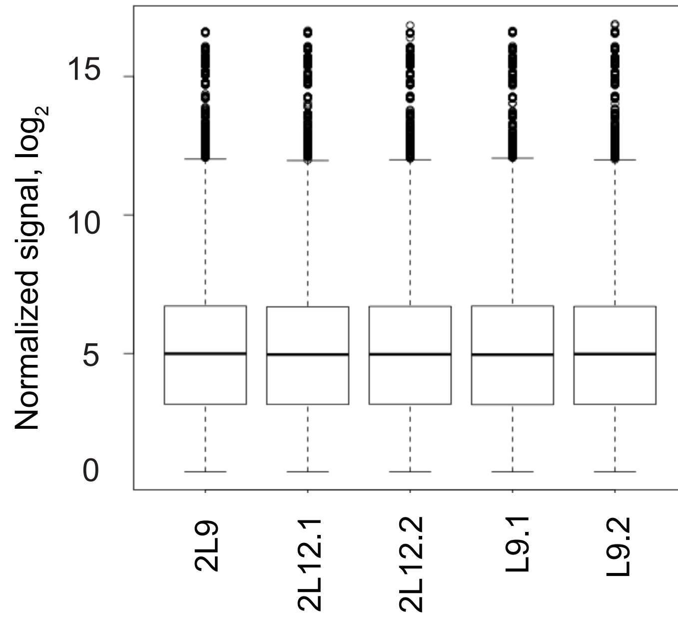
E.



C.



F.



A.

16
14
12
10
8

Intensity, $\log_2$

1 3 5 7 9 12 15 18 21 24 27

Samples

B.

16
14
12
10
8
6

Intensity, $\log_2$

1 3 5 7 9 12 15 18 21 24 27

Samples

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Number of genes	***T. erythraeum* IMS101**	***C. watsonii* WH8501**	***Cyanothece* ATCC 51142**	**UCYN-A**	***Prochlorococcus* MED4**
Targeted on the microarray	4,788	4,407	5,040	1,194	1,698
With detected transcription	4,305	4,140	4,312	365	1.511
Have diel pattern of transcription	1,620	1,708	998	316	1,370
Percent					
With detected transcription	89.9	93.9	85.6	30.6	89.0
Have diel pattern of transcription	33.8	38.8	19.8	26.5	80.7

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	Sampling Time	Host associated with 1 UCYN-A2 cluster (cells ml^{-1})	Host associated with 2 UCYN-A2 clusters (cells ml^{-1})	Host associated with 2 UCYN-A2 clusters (%)
Diel cycle 1	12 pm	36.5	0.0	0.0
	3 pm	38.0	0.0	0.0
	6 pm	9.1	0.0	0.0
	9 pm	12.2	15.2	55.6
	12 am	6.1	9.1	60.0
	3 am	41.0	10.6	20.6
	6 am	7.6	0.0	0.0
	9 am	38.0	0.0	0.0
Diel cycle 2	12 pm	44.1	0.0	0.0
	3 pm	53.2	0.0	0.0
	6 pm	36.5	0.0	0.0
	9 pm	16.7	28.9	63.3
	12 am	34.9	51.7	59.6
	3 am	51.7	4.6	8.1
	6 am	66.8	0.0	0.0
	9 am	27.3	0.0	0.0

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Probe Name	Target	Sequence (5' to 3')	Reference
UPRYM69	Host-A1	CACATAGGAACATCCTCC	Cornejo-Castillo et al.(6)
UPRYM69 competitor	Host-A2 used as Host-A1 competitor	CACATTGGAACATCCTCC	Cornejo-Castillo et al.(6)
UBRADO69	Host-A2	CACATTGGAACATCCTCC	Cornejo-Castillo et al.(6)
UBRADO69 competitor	Host-A1 used as Host-A2 competitor	CACATAGGAACATCCTCC	Cornejo-Castillo et al.(6)
Helper A-PRYM	*Haptophyta*	GAAAGGTGCTGAAGGAGT	Cornejo-Castillo et al.(6)
Helper B-PRYM	*Haptophyta*	AATCCCTAGTCGGCATGG	Cornejo-Castillo et al.(6)
UCYN-A1 732	UCYN-A1	GTTACGGTCCAGTAGCAC	Krupke et al.(5)
UCYN-A1 competitor	UCYN-A2 used as UCYN-A1 competitor	GTTGCGGTCCAGTAGCAC	Cornejo-Castillo et al.(6)
UCYN-A2 732	UCYN-A2	GTTGCGGTCCAGTAGCAC	Cornejo-Castillo et al.(6)
UCYN-A2 competitor	UCYN-A1 used as UCYN-A2 competitor	GTTACGGTCCAGTAGCAC	Krupke et al.(5)
Helper A-732	UCYN-A	GCCTTCGCCACCGATGTTCTT	Krupke et al.(5)
Helper B-732	UCYN-A	AGCTTTCGTCCCTGAGTGTCA	Krupke et al.(5)