Results from the Sorcerer II Global Ocean Sampling Expedition

Research Article

Environmental Genome Shotgun Sequencing of the Sargasso Sea

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We have applied "whole-genome shotgun sequencing" to microbial populations collected en masse on tangential flow and impact filters from seawater samples collected from the Sargasso Sea near Bermuda. A total of 1.045 billion base pairs of nonredundant sequence was generated, annotated, and analyzed to elucidate the gene content, diversity, and relative abundance of the organisms within these environmental samples. These data are estimated to derive from at least 1800 genomic species based on sequence relatedness, including 148 previously unknown bacterial phylotypes. We have identified over 1.2 million previously unknown genes represented in these samples, including more than 782 new rhodopsin-like photoreceptors. Variation in species present and stoichiometry suggests substantial oceanic microbial diversity.

2 APRIL 2004 VOL 304 SCIENCE www.sciencemag.org

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The Sorcerer II Expedition Global Ocean Sampling Route



www.sorcerer2expedition.org

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Sample Fractionation



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JTC Sequencer Lab

Capacity: 240,000 sequences/day or 80 million lanes/year at 24 runs per day



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Preliminary Analysis: Nova Scotia through Galapagos



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Water Temperature: Nova Scotia through Galapagos Islands



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N S T I T U T E

Clustering of GOS sites: *Reads incorporated into significant scaffolds*



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The Biodiversity of Each New Region is Different



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I N S T I T U T E

Phylogenetic Tree of Halorhodopsin-like Genes in Sargasso Sea



Proteorhodopsin Multiple Alignment





Proteorhodopsins Vary by Region



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GOS protein analysis



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Number of Protein Families on Earth



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