



Black Yeast Genomes Assembled from Plastic Fabric Metagenomes Reveal an Abundance of Hydrocarbon Degradation Genes

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ABSTRACT We report the assembly and annotation of 10 different black yeast genomes from microbiome metagenomic data derived from biofouled plastic fabrics. The draft genomes are estimated to be 9 to 33.2 Mb, with 357 to 5,108 contigs and G+C contents of 43.9% to 57.4%, and they harbor multiple genes for hydrocarbon adaptation and degradation.

Black yeast is a diverse group of fungi, belonging to the *Chaetothyriomycetidae* and *Dothideomycetidae* subclasses of ascomycetes, with the ability to degrade hydrocarbons and plasticizers (1–3). In this study, the metagenome-assembled genomes (MAGs) of 10 black yeast species were assembled and annotated from a shotgun metagenomic library of microbiomes associated with biofouled plastic fabric materials (4).

As described by Radwan et al., total genomic DNA was extracted from plasticized fabrics exposed to the Panama jungle for 14 months, and the DNA libraries were sequenced using a shotgun metagenomic approach (4). To maximize DNA extraction efficiency, fabrics were cut into 0.5-cm² pieces, and DNA was extracted using the DNeasy UltraClean kit (catalogue number 12224-250; Qiagen) (4). DNA libraries were constructed using the PrepX DNA library kit and the Apollo 324 next-generation sequencing (NGS) automatic library preparation system (WaferGen, Fremont, CA). The TruSeq paired-end DNA libraries were sequenced using an Illumina HiSeq 2000 system, generating 161,537,275,209 bp of raw reads of 100-bp length (4). Trimmomatic v0.36 with the RepBase-20170 library (5) was used for quality control, removing raw reads shorter than 50 bp and those with an average quality score below 15. Multiple bioinformatics programs (6) were used with default parameters except where otherwise noted. After sorting of paired-end reads for compatibility and normalization using BBtools (<https://jgi.doe.gov/data-and-tools/bbtools>), reads were assembled by the MEGAHIT assembler (7) with options of minimum contig length of 200 bp and meta-sensitive. Fasta contigs produced by MEGAHIT with coverage and abundance files for each fabric sample were used by MaxBin v2.7.7 (8) to bin individual genomes with options of minimum contig length of 2000 and depth of 2.

DNA sequences of 10 different black yeast genomes were selected for assembly improvement and sequence gap filling using SSPACE v3.0 (9) and GapFiller v1.10 (10), respectively (Table 1). After masking of the repetitive sequences with RepeatMasker (11), the genes of each genome were predicted by AUGUSTUS v2.5.5 (12) with an option set for *Yarrowia lipolytica*. CEGMA (13) was used to calculate genome completeness, which ranged from 13.64% for *Hortaea werneckii* to 94.00% for *Exophiala oligosperma*. According to the MAG completeness criteria (14), two MAGs were high quality, two were medium quality, and six were low-quality drafts reflecting partial genomes. ABySS v2.0.2 (15) calculated genome sizes ranging from 9 to 33.2 Mb, with L_{50} values of 22 to 1,258 contigs and G+C contents of 43.9% to 57.4% (Table 1). HMMER v3.3 (16) with E values of $1e^{-3}$ was used to search the Pfam database for functional annotation of proteins involved in hydrocarbon degradation (i.e.,

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TABLE 1 Accession numbers, general statistics of black yeast MAGs, and numbers of genes involved in hydrocarbon degradation, polymer hydrolysis, and efflux pumps for each genome^a

Code ^b	Genome	GenBank accession no.	Size (bp)	No. of contigs	L_{50} (contigs)	N_{50} (bp)	G+C content (%)	Completeness (%) ^c	No. of degradation genes	No. of hydrolase genes	No. of MFS ^d	No. of ABC ^e
A04	<i>Exophiala oligosperma</i>	JADCRK0000000000	33,192,209	357	22	451,697	51.6	94.00	137	6	143	85
B02	<i>Rhinoctadiella mackenziei</i>	JADCRN0000000000	26,458,337	925	101	73,418	43.9	93.95	19	0	50	16
B03	<i>Baudoinia panamERICANA</i>	JADCRE0000000000	27,253,305	5,108	1,198	6,330	49.7	68.55	112	4	125	65
B04	<i>Cyphellophora europaea</i>	JADCRG0000000000	18,212,429	4,098	1,132	4,855	54.4	55.65	77	3	216	63
B06	<i>Exophiala</i> sp.	JADCRLO0000000000	20,651,700	4,626	1,258	4,953	45.8	47.58	26	0	47	20
C02	<i>Cyphellophora europaea</i>	JADCRH0000000000	18,567,089	4,594	1,232	4,116	56.9	42.74	74	3	178	31
A11	<i>Baudoinia panamERICANA</i>	JADCRF0000000000	13,998,733	3,358	935	4,505	49.9	39.52	28	3	53	13
F22	<i>Cyphellophora europaea</i>	JADCRIO0000000000	11,716,283	3,003	806	4,045	55.3	24.19	23	3	131	67
B07	<i>Cyphellophora europaea</i>	JADCRJ0000000000	9,001,416	2,896	1,036	3,049	57.4	18.95	80	4	166	14
A17	<i>Hortaea werneckii</i>	JADCRM0000000000	9,816,071	2,164	625	5,040	52.6	13.64	1	0	1	11

^a The Pfam database with E values of $1e^{-3}$ was used for functional annotation. High-quality (A04 and B02), medium-quality (B03 and B04), and low-quality (C02, A11, F22, B06, B07, and A17) draft genomes are shown. The taxonomic identity of each species was determined using Kaiju (19).

^b A04, A11, and A17 were derived from physical biosample A (BioSample accession number [SAMN11611753](#); SRA accession number [SRS7586490](#)), B02, B03, B04, B06, and B07 were derived from physical biosample B (BioSample accession number [SAMN11611857](#); SRA accession number [SRS7586491](#)). C02 was derived from physical biosample C (BioSample accession number [SAMN11611912](#); SRA accession number [SRS7586492](#)). F22 was derived from physical biosample F (BioSample accession number [SAMN11612156](#); SRA accession number [SRS7586495](#)).

^c Genome completeness was estimated with CEGMA software (13).

^d MFS, major facilitator superfamily efflux pumps.

^e ABC, ABC transporters.

cytochrome P450 and aromatic ring-opening dioxygenases), hydrolases (esterases and lipases), and efflux pumps potentially associated with hydrocarbon resistance (Table 1). The number of protein-coding genes identified for each pathway depended on the assembled genome completeness and species. For example, *Exophiala oligosperma*, with a genome completeness of 94.00%, contained the highest number of proteins belonging to different pathways, while *Hortaea werneckii*, with only 13.64% completeness, contained the lowest number of proteins. The results of this study support the ability of black yeasts such as *Exophiala oligosperma* and *Cyphellophora europaea* to degrade hydrocarbons (17, 18) and plasticizers (1, 2).

Data availability. The raw sequence reads and MAGs were deposited in DDBJ/ENA/GenBank under BioProject accession number [PRJNA656291](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/PRJNA656291) with BioSample accession numbers [SAMN15776667](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN15776667) to [SAMN15776676](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN15776676) and SRA accession numbers [SRX9364069](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra/SRX9364069) to [SRX9364074](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra/SRX9364074). Individual accession numbers for MAGs are provided in Table 1. HMMER results can be retrieved from Mendeley Data at <https://data.mendeley.com/datasets/kh6x88k83y/1>.

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