Science Advances

Supplementary Materials for

Nitrogen fixation in the widely distributed marine γ-proteobacterial diazotroph *Candidatus* Thalassolituus haligoni

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Other Supplementary Material for this manuscript includes the following:

Data S1 to S7

Supplementary Text

Supplemental text S1: Culture Experiments under Prolonged Nitrate Concentrations and Various Carbon Sources

Various carbon substrates were tested to determine the isolate's maximum biomass and growth rate, in order to obtain sufficient material for biomolecular research and NFR measurements. The carbon substrates tested comprised of (i) a mixed carbon cocktail (MCC), (ii) individual components of the MCC, (iii) Succinate (Sigma Aldrich), (iv) Na-Pyruvate (Sigma Aldrich), and (v) L-malic acid (Sigma Aldrich). The MCC standing stock was made in a final volume of 200 mL consisting of 1 M D-Glucose (Sigma Aldrich), 1 M Na-Acetate (Sigma Aldrich), 1 M Lactate (Sigma Aldrich), and 1 M Fumarate (Sigma Aldrich). 20 mL of the MCC standing stock was then diluted into a final 1L volume of MilliQ water to create the working solution. Separate working stocks of Succinate, Na-Pyruvate, and L-Malic acid were prepared individually as 1 M solutions in a final volume of 50 mL of MilliQ. The carbon substrates were added to cultures for final concentrations of either 6.4-, or 64-mM carbon.

Cultures were prepared in 50 mL non-vented culture flasks containing artificial seawater (ASW) supplemented with modified f/2 media (6:1, N:P), resulting in a final NO₃⁻ concentration of 200 μ M. Oxygen levels were measured within the cultures using a colorimetric resazurin dye (1:1000 final dilution), indicating oxygen concentrations as blue (fully oxic), pink (suboxic), or clear (anoxic). Cultures were prepared in biological triplicates each with respective blanks for every carbon source. Each condition was inoculated with 800 cells/ μ L. Cultures were maintained at 15°C under 12-hour light/dark cycles. Over 6 days, samples were collected twice daily for nutrient and cell biomass analysis. Cell density was measured on an Accuri C6 flow cytometer (BD) using a final dilution of 1:1000 SYBR Green II (Invitrogen). Nutrients were collected and stored at -20°C for later analysis on the Skalar Sann⁺⁺ nutrient analyzer. Statistical analysis included a one-way ANOVA and Tukey post-hoc test ($\alpha = 0.05$) for growth rates and biomass.

Supplemental text S2: Preliminary N-free Culturing of Cand. T. haligoni

100 µL of an initial parental culture grown in ASW N-free f/2 media supplemented with 64 mM carbon of a mixed carbon cocktail (MCC) was transferred in a T-streak fashion onto a 1.2% ASW N-free f/2 agar plate + 64 mM MCC. The plate was incubated for 14 days at 15 °C on a 12-hour light/dark cycle. Once visible growth of individual colonies were observed, a single colony was selected and transferred into 50 mL of liquid culture. The liquid culture consisted of N-free f/2 ASW, supplemented with 64 mM MCC, 50 µL resazurin dye (1:1000 final dilution) and kept at 7 °C undisturbed for three weeks. After three weeks, growth within the culture was comparable to that of fixed N cultures (×10¹⁰ cells/ L). Nutrients were taken at $T_{initial}$ and T_{final} and stored at -80 °C for later analysis; where T_{initial} was prior to adding the colony and T_{final} was at the time of harvest. To ensure the culture was not contaminated, 1 mL of culture was subject to the same DNA extraction protocol mentioned throughout this study and sent for 16S rRNA sequencing. Sequences were then blasted against the 16S rRNA sequence of Cand. T. haligoni with 100% identity. The remaining culture was aliquoted as follows: 1:1 glycerol stock and stored at -80 °C, 10 mL filtered onto a 0.2 µm pre-combusted glass-fibre filter for POC/PN analysis, 10 mL centrifuged down for biomolecular analysis and stored at -80 °C and the remaining used as inoculant for new cultures. The biomolecular sample was later extracted and digested for discovery proteomics using methods supplied throughout this study.

Supplemental text S3: Ecotype Detection of Cand. T. haligoni

Ecotype detection was carried out using samples where *nifH* amplicon yielded more than 2 reads to reduce the risk of false positive due to amplification and sequencing errors. *NifH* ASVs were aligned using MUSCLE (codon) in MEGAX and exported. Using a minimum-spanning network, PopART was then used for haplotype mapping (*123, 146*). Epsilon values were set to zero to ensure

the high stringency of the model. The Tajima's D statistic and nucleotide diversity (pi) were run to determine for any selective pressures (positive, negative or neutral); where a D statistic less than zero suggests a recent selective sweep, and a nucleotide (pi) diversity value is a measure of the difference in genetic variation. These tests were further confirmed through MEGA-X, testing for selective pressures ds/dn. Visualisation of synonymous to non-synonymous mutations was analysed in MEGA-X, and plotted in R using *ggplot2 (98, 147)*.

Supplemental text S4: Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry Protein Extraction and Digestion

Proteins were extracted according to (130) apart from flash freezing of samples. Extract concentrations were measured using the Micro BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo-Scientific) on the SYNERGY H1 microplate reader (BioTek). Once concentrations were determined, protein extracts were then frozen at -80 °C. Protein samples were thawed and aliquoted to give 50 ug of protein for each digestion. Samples were first reduced in 5 mM Dithiothreitol (DTT) [500 mM DTT in 50 mM Ammonium Bicarbonate] and incubated for 1 hour at 37 °C at 350 rpm. Samples were then cooled and alkylated in 15 mM Iodoacetamide (IAM) [500 mM IAM in 50 mM Ammonium Bicarbonate] for 30 minutes in the dark. Another 5 mM DTT was added to samples and vortexed at room temperature, after which, 2.5 µL of 12% Phosphoric acid was added. S-trap buffer [80% aqueous methanol in 100 mM TEAB, pH 7.1] was then added to samples in a ratio of 1:7 (200 µL buffer: 20-30 µL sample). TEAB was acidified using 85% Phosphoric acid. Samples were then loaded onto S-Traps (Protifi) in 600 µL increments and washed 10 x with 600 µL S-trap buffer and 1 final rinse with 80% methanol. Columns were then moved to a clean tube and 125 µL of digestion buffer [50 mM TEAB with 1:25 wt:wt trypsin] and centrifuged at 2000 g for 1 minute with the eluent reapplied for proper saturation of the filter. Samples were then incubated for 16 hours at 37°C. Samples were then re-dissolved in 1% formic acid, 3% acetonitrile for a final concentration of 0.5 ug/ul. Peptide concentrations were then measured using the Micro BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Scientific) and measured on the SYNERGY H1 microplate reader (BioTek). Peptide extracts were then desalted using 50 mg HyperSep C18 SPE Cartridges (Thermo Scientific).

Supplemental text S5: Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry Sample de-salting

Peptide extracts were then desalted using 50 mg HyperSep C18 SPE Cartridges (Thermo Scientific). Cartridges were primed with 0.5 mL of methanol then 0.5 mL of 50% acetonitrile followed by equilibration with 1 mL 0.1% TFA. Samples were diluted with 0.1% TFA to a volume of ~0.2 mL and loaded onto cartridges by positive pressure from a syringe and flow through loaded a second time. Using a vacuum manifold, the cartridges were washed 3 times with 1 mL of 0.1% TFA. Peptides were eluted with 2 x 0.2 mL 50% acetonitrile, 0.1% FA, then 0.1 mL 70% acetonitrile, 0.1% FA with positive pressure from a syringe. The eluent was then brought to dryness in a speed vac as described above.



Fig. S1. Sample collection site and Campus Buoy location within the Bedford Basin, Halifax, NS, Canada of *Candidatus* **Thalassolituus haligoni.** Freshwater flow from the Sackville river is shown in green, and coastal water inflow shown in blue. Total depth of the sampling point within the basin is 70 m depth, and the surface waters from 0 - 30 m depth.



Fig. S2.

Additional observed growth characteristics of *Cand.* T. haligoni. A) Sorted cell colonies from enrichment treatment of positive *nifH* PCR identification. Cell number 40 is *Cand.* T. haligoni isolate and indicated by a white arrow. B) Self-aggregation of isolate in stationary phase. Cultures grown under suboxic N-limited conditions with a mixed carbon cocktail. C) Biofilm like substance secreted from *Cand.* T. haligoni under deplete NO_3^- conditions detected using TEM. Imagine obtained at ×10⁵ magnification.





Fig. S3.

Growth of *Cand.* **T. haligoni amended with diverse carbon compounds**. Growth rate (day ⁻¹) and biomass (cell L⁻¹) of isolate grown with nitrate (220 μ M) and a range of carbon compounds, including a mixed carbon cocktail (MCC). All carbon compounds were supplied to triplicate culture replicates. One-way ANOVA was conducted on cell biomass and growth rate independently with Tukey post hoc analysis (letters). Carbon compounds that share the same letter indicate non-significant relationship.



Fig. S4.

Percent of the detected proteome dedicated to specific functions in *Cand.* T. haligoni under changing NO_3^- conditions. Mass fractions calculated according to (132). Numbers in brackets indicate the number of peptides associated with each function. Nitrogen metabolism category includes cyanate hydrolysis, arginine biosynthesis, and folate biosynthesis. DIN uptake includes

Urea uptake, and nitrate uptake.



Fig. S5.

nifH copies per litre of seawater section plots and RDA analysis of *Cand.* T. haligoni. A) Section plots of *Cand.* T. haligoni *nifH* qPCR copies along transects from Northern Atlantic and Canadian Arctic expeditions. Note that scales for qPCR copy numbers are not identical. The lower map displays cruise transects viewed in upper section plots. B) RDA analysis of *Cand.* T. haligoni *nifH* qPCR results and environmental data with results coloured by temperature (left) and nitrate concentrations (right). Data for qPCR and nutrients are provided within Data S3.



Fig. S6.

Putative ecotype detection of *Cand.* **Thalassolituus haligoni**. **A)** *nifH* minimum spanning network of ASVs with 98% identity to isolate's *nifH* ASV signature. Analysis limited to ASVs with >2 reads. Hash lines indicate the number of nucleotide differences between the ASV and *Cand.* T. haligoni. Minimum spanning network and statistics calculated in POPART (*145, 147*). **B)** Cumulative amino acid differences for synonymous (SYN) or non-synonymous (NS) changes between the *nifH* of *Cand.* T. haligoni and closely related ASVs in panel A. Circle sizes indicate the number of ASVs with a mutation at a given amino acid position (either synonymous or non-synonymous).



Fig. S7.

Seasonal patterns for *Cand. T. haligoni* within the coastal NWA. Water samples are from the Bedford Basin time series for the years 2015 –2019. A) *Cand.* T. haligoni *nifH* gene copies per litre for 1, 5, 10, and 60 m depths. B) Coordinated weekly dissolved inorganic Nitrogen (DIN), temperature, and chlorophyll *a* concentrations. White and grey highlighting shows yearly intervals. *NifH* copies per litre for 2018 and 2019 are from size fractionated data that were summed together.



Fig. S8.

Size fraction association ratio (%) of *Cand.* T. haligoni from Bedford Basin, Halifax (NS). Data are from 2018 and 2019 at depths 1, 5, 10, and 60 m. Ratio percent calculated by taking the copies L^{-1} of small size fraction and dividing by the sum of copies L^{-1} for both size fractions. Large size fraction = 0.2 - 3 µm; small size fraction = 0.2 µm. Line represents the sum of both size fraction abundances.



Fig. S9.

Size fraction association ratio (%) of *Cand.* T. haligoni with corresponding *nifH* copies L⁻¹ from GEOTRACES Arctic cruise at indicated stations and depth. Ratio percent calculated by taking the copies L⁻¹ of small size fraction and dividing by the sum of copies L⁻¹ for both size fractions. Line represents the sum of the abundance in both fractions. Latitude and Longitude of each station are as follows (*116*): BB1(66.8555, -59.0573), BB2 (72.7511, -67.0000), BB3 (71.4109, -68.5960), C1 (74.5213, -80.5740), C2 (74.3143, -80.4973), C4 (74.1223, -91.5109), C5 (74.5388, -90.8024), C6 (74.7596, -97.4522), C7 (73.6729), K1 (56.175, -53.542) and LS2 (60.441, -56.535).



Fig. S10.

Growth rates (day⁻¹) of *Cand.* T. haligoni under various temperatures (°C). The grey line indicates the linear line of best fit with 95% confidence interval. Inset plot corresponds to the growth curves for selected temperatures. Cultures were grown using 6.4 mM C of L-malic acid with 220 μ M NO₃⁻ conditions.

		HN			LN		F	IN	N	IN
Description	10	11	12	25	26	27	28	30	31	33
Hemerythrin	n/d	0.38	0.31	0.30	0.51	2.30	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d
Hemerythrin-like protein PA1673	n/d	n/d	-0.63	1.02	0.16	1.27	0.71	0.21	0.27	0.22
Hemerythrin-like protein PA1673	-0.55	-1.27	-0.73	-0.03	0.47	2.17	-0.67	-0.50	0.95	0.14
Hemerythrin-like protein PA1673	-0.63	0.18	0.30	-1.33	2.06	-1.45	0.01	0.06	0.56	0.25
Hemoglobin-like protein HbO	1.36	-0.61	-1.04	0.69	0.79	1.62	-0.80	-0.68	-0.65	-0.67
Cytochrome b	-0.90	-0.46	0.44	-1.20	-0.56	-1.07	1.67	0.65	0.13	1.29
Cytochrome b	n/d	-0.06	-0.05	-0.87	-0.84	-1.09	0.87	1.11	1.51	0.69
Alginate biosynthesis protein AlgZ/FimS	n/d	-0.43	-0.73	-0.45	-0.74	-0.69	-0.19	0.92	1.67	1.58



Fig. S11.

Heatmap of row z-scores of hypothesized O₂ protection mechanisms used in N₂ fixation for *Cand.* T. haligoni. Data was collected in biological replicates (indicated by numbers below treatment) across various NO₃⁻ treatments: High (HN), Low (LN), Re-addition of NO₃⁻ (NN) and 12 hours after re-addition (MN). NO₃⁻ concentrations and days data was collected include: HN = 100 μ M (day 2), LN = 2 μ M (Day 8), NN = 100 μ M (Day 9) and MN = 50 μ M (Day 9.5). Samples where protein was not detected are indicated by n/d.



Fig. S12.

Percent of the detected proteome dedicated to specific functions in *Cand.* T. haligoni under high nitrate (HN) and N-free (N2) growth conditions. Mass fractions calculated according to (132). Numbers in brackets indicate the number of peptides associated with each function. Nitrogen metabolism category includes cyanate hydrolysis, arginine biosynthesis, and folate biosynthesis. DIN uptake includes Urea uptake, and nitrate uptake. The HN condition is one of the replicates from the HN condition shown in fig S4 and fig 4. The N₂ growth condition proteomics data is from a single culture and is preliminary data. Refer to supplemental text S2 on further details of the N₂ culture.

Table S1.

Genomic features of *Cand.* **T. haligoni.** Genomic features of interest annotated from the RAST server (*143*).

Genome features	features
Genome size	4.37 Mbp
%GC content	53.4
Number of contigs	1
Number of subsystems	462
Number of CDS	4019
Number of RNA genes	61
	#CDS
Cell wall and capsule	132
Capsular and extracellular polysaccharides	44
Cell wall and capsule – no subcategory	55
Gram-negative cell wall components	32
Gram positive cell wall components	1
Motility and chemotaxis	108
Motility and chemotaxis – no subcategory	30
Flagellar motility in Prokaryota	78
Fatty acide linide and learnanoide	171
Phospholipids	27
Triacylglycerols	4
Fatty acids	74
Polyhydroxybutyrate metabolism	33
Isoprenoids	33
Nitrogen metabolism	69
Cvanate hydrolysis	3
Nitrogen fixation	26
Nitrosative stress	2
Nitrate and Nitrite reduction	14
Ammonia assimilation	24
Metabolism of Aromatic compounds	127
Salicylate ester degradation	5
Phenol hydroxylase	12
Quinate degradation	1
Biphenyl degradation	16
Benzoate degradation	11
p-hydroxybenzoate degradation	1
Catechol branch of beta-ketoadipate pathway	3
A-bydroxyphopylacetic acid catabolic pathway	10
A-hydroxyphenylacetic actic catabolic pathway	10
Central meta-cleavage pathway	25
Aromatic Amin catabolism	9
Gentisate degradation	10
Carbohydrates	216
Central carbohydrate metabolism	106
Di- and oligosaccharides	9
One-carbon metabolism	9
Organic acids	12
Butanol Biosynthesis	18
Acetolacetate Synthase	3
Lactate fermentation	7
CO fixation	30
Glycerol and Glycerol-3-nhosnbate untake and utilization	1
Carbon storage regulator	, 1
VCO266- no subcategory	1
Polysaccharides	7
Monosaccharides	5
Oxygen metabolism	154
Oxidative stress	53
Dioxygenases	15
Fermentation	58
Anaerobic respiratory reductases	28
Total Genes	4019

Table S2

ANI genome comparison to *Cand.* T. haligoni (GC content= 51.8%; isolate genome size = 4.2 Mbp). Cut off reliability for genus classification for ANI values was set to be >75%, and species classification cut off of >95%, otherwise amino-acid identity (AAI) was used (*33, 34*).

Organism	ANI value (%)	GC content (%)	Total length (Mbp)
HBD gamma 11	74.31	51.96	3.61
HBD gamma 8	74.40	53.08	4.16
HBD gamma 4	73.57	54.97	3.51
HBD gamma 1	71.46	52.43	4.46
HBD gamma 9	71.65	52.51	4.29
HBD gamma 6	71.61	53.20	4.20
Thalassolituus HI10	70.66	48.56	5.67
Thalassolituus oliveorans	71.22	46.63	3.92
Parathalassolituus penaei gen.nov	74.70	55.43	4.44
Arc-Gamma-03 MAG	99.00	53.90	4.28

Table S3.

AAI genome comparison matrix of *Thalassolituus* sp., γ -HBD's, *P. penaei* and *Cand.* T. haligoni. Cut off acceptable AAI values for genus and species classification was set to >60% and >90% (33, 34).

Genomes							
Γ	<i>Cand.</i> T. haligoni	Arc- Gamma-03	P. penaei	HBD Gamma 08	HBD Gamma 11	HBD Gamma 04	T. oleivorans
<i>Cand</i> . T. haligoni	100	99	69	67	67	61	61
Arc- Gamma-03	99	100	69	67	67	61	62
P. penaei	69	69	100	65	65	60	61
HBD Gamma 08	67	67	65	100	80	60	61
HBD Gamma 11	67	67	65	80	100	60	61
HBD Gamma 04	61	61	60	60	60	100	65
T. oleivorans	64	63	62	61	62	65	100

Table S4.

Nitrogen fixation measurements from the GEOVIDE Cruise 2014. Rate measurements and dominant *nifH* contributors obtained from Fonseca-Batista et al. (65). NFR measurements and dominant contributor to *nifH* can be found in the supplemental material, figs 5 and 6 of Fonseca-Batista et al. (65) while *Cand*. T. haligoni *nifH* copies L⁻¹ were used from this study at the sample site location NFR measurements were obtained from. Note "n/a" refers to depths where *nifH* sequencing was

not conducted.

Station number	depth (m)	Lat (deg N)	Lon (deg E)	NFR (nmol N L-1 day-1)	<i>Cand</i> . T. haligoni <i>nifH</i> copies L-1	Dominant contributor to <i>nifH</i> (<i>nifH</i> sequencing)
	6	40.3	-10	4.8	1.25E+05	n/a
1	11	40.3	-10	7.1	2.05E+04	n/a
I	25	40.3	-10	2.5	1.02E+04	n/a
	34	40.3	-10	1.2	2.83E+03	n/a
2	11	40.3	-9.5	4.7	2.50E+03	n/a
	31	40.3	-9.5	2.8	4.50E+03	n/a
13	30	41.4	-13.9	1	3.92E+03	Verrucomicrobia and <i>Cand</i> . T. haligoni
	75	41.4	-13.9	3.9	4.11E+03	n/a
	18	46.5	-19.7	<dl< td=""><td>3.04E+02</td><td>Verrucomicrobia</td></dl<>	3.04E+02	Verrucomicrobia
21	25	46.5	-19.7	4.9	3.46E+02	n/a
	60	46.5	-19.7	2	5.04E+04	Gamma-proteobacteria (<i>Cand</i> . T. haligoni)

Nutrient added (final concentration)					
	NH4NO3 (2 μM) ¹	NaH2PO4 (400 nM)	FeCl ₃ (4 nM)	D-Glucose (2 µM)	Thiosulfate (1 mM)
Control	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	+	+	-	-
2.	-	+	+	+	-
3.	-	+	+	+	+
4.	-	-	-	-	+
5.	+	+	+	-	-

Table S5.Enrichment treatments for diazotrophic isolation (91).

1) Final concentration in sample

Table S6.

Delmont et al. (21) MAG assigned names versus names assigned in this study. Names in this study are based on the proposed name in the supplemental material of (21).

Delmont et al. (21)	This study.
TARA_PSE-93-MAG_00027	HBD Gamma 06
TARA_PON_MAG_00023	HBD Gamma 09
TARA_PON_109_MAG_00015	HBD Gamma 04
TARA_PSE_93_MAG_00053	HBD Gamma 11
TARA_PSW_86_MAG_00031	HBD Gamma 08
TARA_IOS_50_MAG_00116	HBD Gamma 15
TARA_PSE_93_MAG_00042	HBD Gamma 07
TARA_AOS_82_MAG_0008	HBD Gamma 02
TARA_PON_109_MAG_00047	HBD Gamma 05
TARA_PON_109_MAG_00010	HBD Gamma 03
TARA_PSE_93_MAG_00126	HBD Gamma 13
TARA_AON_82_00085	HBD Gamma 12
TARA_AON_82_MAG_00185	HBD Gamma 14
TARA_AON_82_MAG_00052	HBD Gamma 10
TARA_ION_MAG_00014	HBD Gamma 01

Data S1. (separate file)

Data S1 Pangenome comparison of *Cand.* **T. haligoni to** γ**-HBDs: A)** RAST genome comparison of Arc-Gamma-03 to *Cand.* T. haligoni, **B)** core gene clusters of all compared MAGS, **C)** shared core genes between *Cand.* T. haligoni (Iso) and Arc-Gamma-03 (Arc), **D)** gene clusters only in *Cand.* T. haligoni. Note that Isolate refers to *Cand.* T. haligoni.

Data S2. (separate file)

Data S2 Proteomics data for *Cand.* **T. haligoni under prolonged nitrate conditions: A)** Recovery of total identified proteins in all samples, **B)** List of proteins detected (D) and not detected (ND) in *Cand.* T. haligoni proteome, **C)** Mass fraction categories, **D)** Relative protein abundance values and raw abundance data, **E)** Individual protein statistics from Fig 4A.

Data S3. (separate file)

Data S3 *NifH* **quantitative PCR (qPCR) data and assay LOQ of** *Cand.* **T. haligoni: A)** *nifH* qPCR(copies L⁻¹) of *Cand.* **T.** haligoni with Temperature, Depth, Salinity, Oxygen, Chlorophyll *a*, and Nitrate from each cruise. **B)** RDA mutations and significance from fig S3B, **C)** qPCR efficiencies calculated using LinReg, **D)** qPCR limit of quantification (LOQ).

Data S4. (separate file)

Data S4 Preliminary proteomic data of *Cand.* T. haligoni under N_2 conditions: *Cand.* T. haligoni N_2 preliminary culture data proteome. Data shows detected (D) and not detected (ND) proteins of a N-free culture (N_2) and high nitrate condition (HN; previously shown in Data S2) and protein relative abundance. HN samples were run as a control and for sample comparison with the N_2 condition.

Data S5. (separate file)

Data S5 Literature SRA references with metadata and *nifH* relative abundances of *Cand*. T. haligoni.

Data S6. (separate file) Data S6 Media compounds and concentrations used to make modified ASW f/2 (6:1 N:P).

Data S7. (separate file)

Data S7 Nitrogen fixation rate measurement limit of quantification and detection calculations (129).

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