



Genomes of Diverse Isolates of *Prochlorococcus* High-Light-Adapted Clade II in the Western Pacific Ocean

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INTRODUCTION

Members of the cyanobacterium genus *Prochlorococcus* are the most abundant photosynthetic organisms in global oceans (Chisholm et al., 1992; Partensky et al., 1999), and contributes ~10% of ocean primary productivity (Flombaum et al., 2013). *Prochlorococcus* clades (ecotypes) are generally divided into viz. high-light-adapted (HL) clades and low-light-adapted clades based on the physiological characteristics, ecological distribution, and phylogeny (Moore and Chisholm, 1999; Rocap et al., 2002; Johnson et al., 2006). With diversified ecotypes, *Prochlorococcus* maintains a high genomic diversity, and has evolved continuously during the process of adapting to the marine environment (Biller et al., 2015). At least Fifty-two genomes of the *Prochlorococcus* genus were published (Biller et al., 2014; Yan et al., 2018a,b; Becker et al., 2019).

To date the *Prochlorococcus* HL clade II (HLII) is regarded as the dominant ecotype in global oceans and accounts for more than 90% of all *Prochlorococcus* in the upper layer of tropical waters (Johnson et al., 2006), exhibiting a fairly large repertoire of genomic and functional diversity (Partensky and Garczarek, 2010; Kashtan et al., 2014; Biller et al., 2015). HLII has gained significant research interests due to its streamlined genome, making it a model to study genome reduction (Kettler et al., 2007; Partensky and Garczarek, 2010; Biller et al., 2015). The western Pacific Ocean, having both a local and global climate impact (McPhaden et al., 2006), is well-known for low nutrient levels, low primary production, and strong light radiation (Schneider and Zhu, 1998). In addition, as part of the warmest ocean waters, the western Pacific Ocean represents an ideal site to study the effect of rising temperatures on the marine ecosystem (Rowe et al., 2012). However, only five *Prochlorococcus* genomes are reported in this region to date (Biller et al., 2014; Yan et al., 2018a,b). The present study reports 15 HLII *Prochlorococcus* and 101 co-cultured heterotrophic bacterial genomes in the western Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea. The genomes discussed here have been deposited in the National Center for Biotechnology Information, and require further analysis to explore the fine-scale diversity of *Prochlorococcus* and their future applications in marine microbiology and ecology.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Isolation of the *Prochlorococcus* HLII Strains

The *Prochlorococcus* HLII strains discussed in the present study were isolated from a depth of 50–150 m at seven different stations in the western Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea in 2014

(Supplementary Figure 1; Table 1). The isolation process was performed as previously described (Yan et al., 2021). Briefly, seawater collected by a Niskin bottle was subjected to gravity filtration through double polycarbonate filters (Millipore, USA) with a pore size of 0.6 μm (Chisholm et al., 1992). Then, a Pro2 medium nutrient stock solution was added to the filtrate (Moore et al., 2007). The filtrate was placed in an incubator onboard for initial enrichment for 4–8 weeks. After confirmation by a flow cytometer, the *Prochlorococcus* strains were maintained at a constant temperature of 22°C and a continuous light intensity of 10–20 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$.

DNA Isolation, Library Preparation, and DNA Sequencing

DNA isolation, library preparation, and DNA sequencing were performed as previously described (Yan et al., 2021). Briefly, genomic DNA was collected from 25 ml laboratory cultures by centrifugation (10,000 \times g for 30 min) and extracted using a QIAamp DNA mini kit (Qiagen, Germany). One μg of extracted DNA was fragmented by a Covaris ME220 Focused-ultrasonicator (Covaris, USA). DNA library was constructed using a NEBNext® Ultra™ DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina® in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (NEB, USA). Ten ng of library DNA was taken and subjected to bidirectional sequencing using an Illumina NovaSeq 6000 instrument with a read length of 150 bp. All library construction and sequencing were performed at Shanghai Majorbio Bio-pharm Technology Co., Ltd (Shanghai, China).

Assembly and Annotation

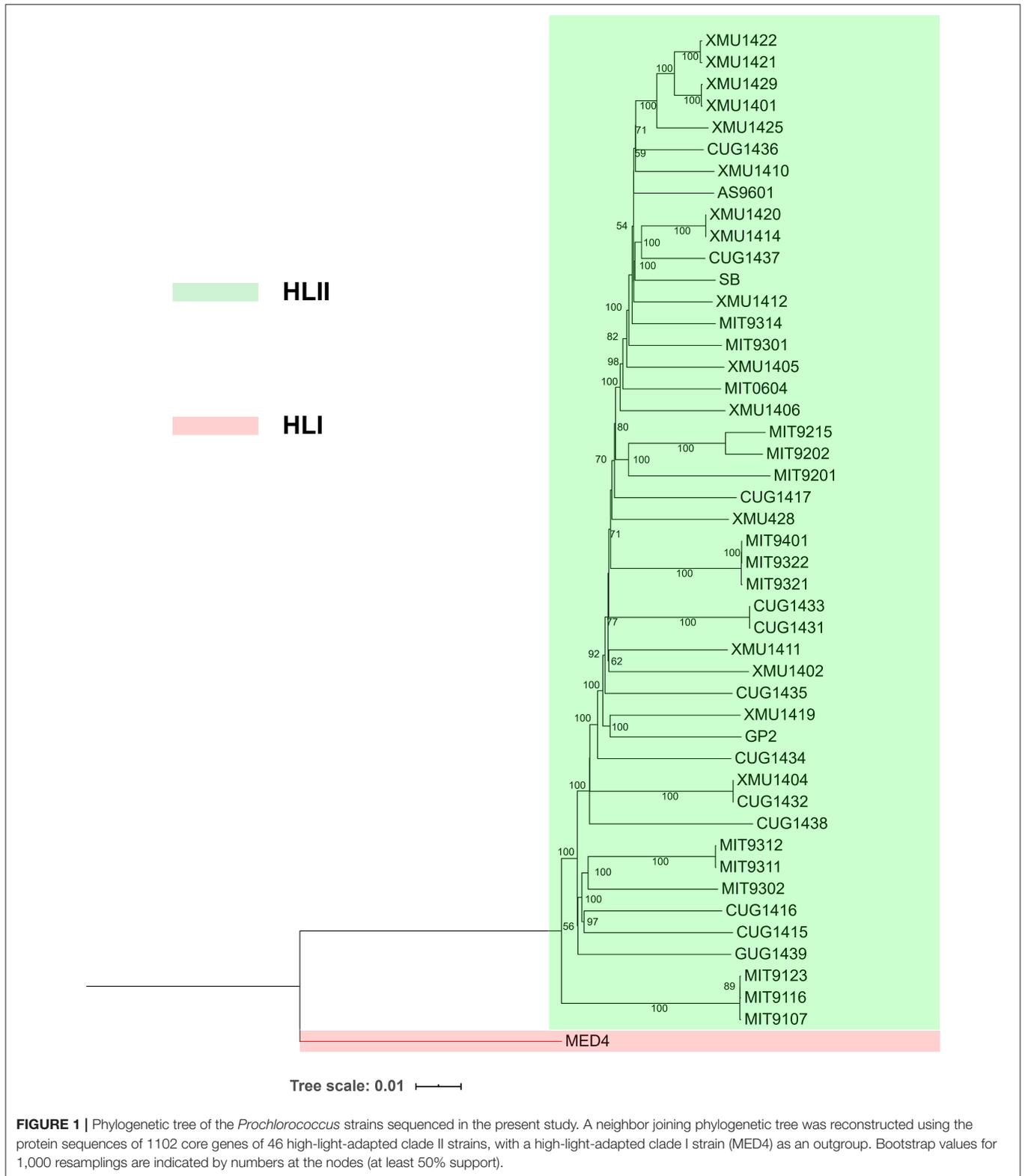
To recover *Prochlorococcus* and heterotrophic bacterial genomes from non-axenic cultures, genome assembly was performed using the MetaWRAP v1.2.1 pipeline on a Linux cluster with 96 cores and 512 GB of RAM (Uritskiy et al., 2018). Briefly, the reads from all samples were trimmed using the metaWRAP-Read_qc module and then individually assembled with the metaWRAP assembly module using MEGAHIT as a metagenomic assembler (Li et al., 2015). Bins were calculated using three binning modules, including CONCOCT (Alneberg et al., 2014), MetaBat (Kang et al., 2015), and MaxBin2 (Wu et al., 2016). Then, the bin_refinement module was used to combine and improve the results generated by the three binners. Finally, the reassemble_bins module was used to attain better bins. The quality cutoffs of all steps were set as: completeness > 90% and contamination < 5% using CheckM (Parks et al., 2015). The assembled genomes were annotated using the Rapid Annotation using Subsystem Technology online server (FIGfam version Release 70) (Aziz et al., 2008).

Phylogenomic Analysis

Phylogenetic relationships of HLII *Prochlorococcus* strains were reconstructed by using concatenated protein sequences. Briefly, protein sequences of 1102 core genes defined at 70% similarity level were aligned with MUSCLE (Edgar, 2004) and concatenated using Bacterial Pangenome Analysis Pipeline

TABLE 1 | Genome characteristics and assembly statistics of the *Prochlorococcus* HLII strains sequenced in the present study.

Strain	Isolation location		Isolation depth (m)	Assembly size (bp)	GC (%)	No. of contigs	N50 (bp)	Completeness Contamination (%)	No. of Subsystems	No. of coding sequences	NCBI accession	
	Lon.(E)	Lat.(N)										
XMU1420	122.85	22.4	25	1671773	31.4	5	473809	99.72	0	207	1973	SAMN16237191
XMU1421	124	20	150	1644071	31.1	58	54585	98.25	0	193	2003	SAMN16237192
XMU1422	124	20	150	1687916	31.2	8	943488	100	0	194	1999	SAMN16237193
XMU1425	129	18	25	1657348	31.4	11	1649576	99.63	0	196	1949	SAMN16237196
XMU1428	127	20	50	1721994	31.1	5	489313	99.45	0.271	204	2029	SAMN16237199
XMU1429	126	18	150	1662178	31.3	2	922413	99.45	0	197	1945	SAMN16237200
CUG1431	130	19.5	100	1705525	31.1	7	495930	99.72	0	205	2019	SAMN16237202
CUG1432	130	19.5	100	1684763	31.4	20	1317473	99.45	0	196	1953	SAMN16237203
CUG1433	120	20	300	1704328	31.1	4	1560639	99.72	0	205	2006	SAMN16237204
CUG1434	127	20	150	1669812	31.3	4	1630219	100	0	203	1956	SAMN16237205
CUG1435	129	18	25	1671137	31.3	2	1565153	99.18	0	204	1961	SAMN16237206
CUG1436	123	20	75	1657416	31.3	5	899462	99.9	0	201	1928	SAMN16237207
CUG1437	129	18	100	1702619	31.3	5	1699314	100	0.135	205	1980	SAMN16237208
CUG1438	120	20	300	1631569	31.4	4	1017773	100	0	195	1926	SAMN16237209
CUG1439	127	20	100	1709288	31.2	6	1498538	100	0.271	201	2007	SAMN16237210



v1.3.0 (Chaudhari et al., 2016). Gblocks software v0.91b was used for degaping in the divergent regions (Castresana, 2000). The neighbor joining phylogenetic tree with 1000

bootstraps was constructed using MEGA X (Kumar et al., 2018), and visualized using iTOL version 4 (Letunic and Bork, 2019).

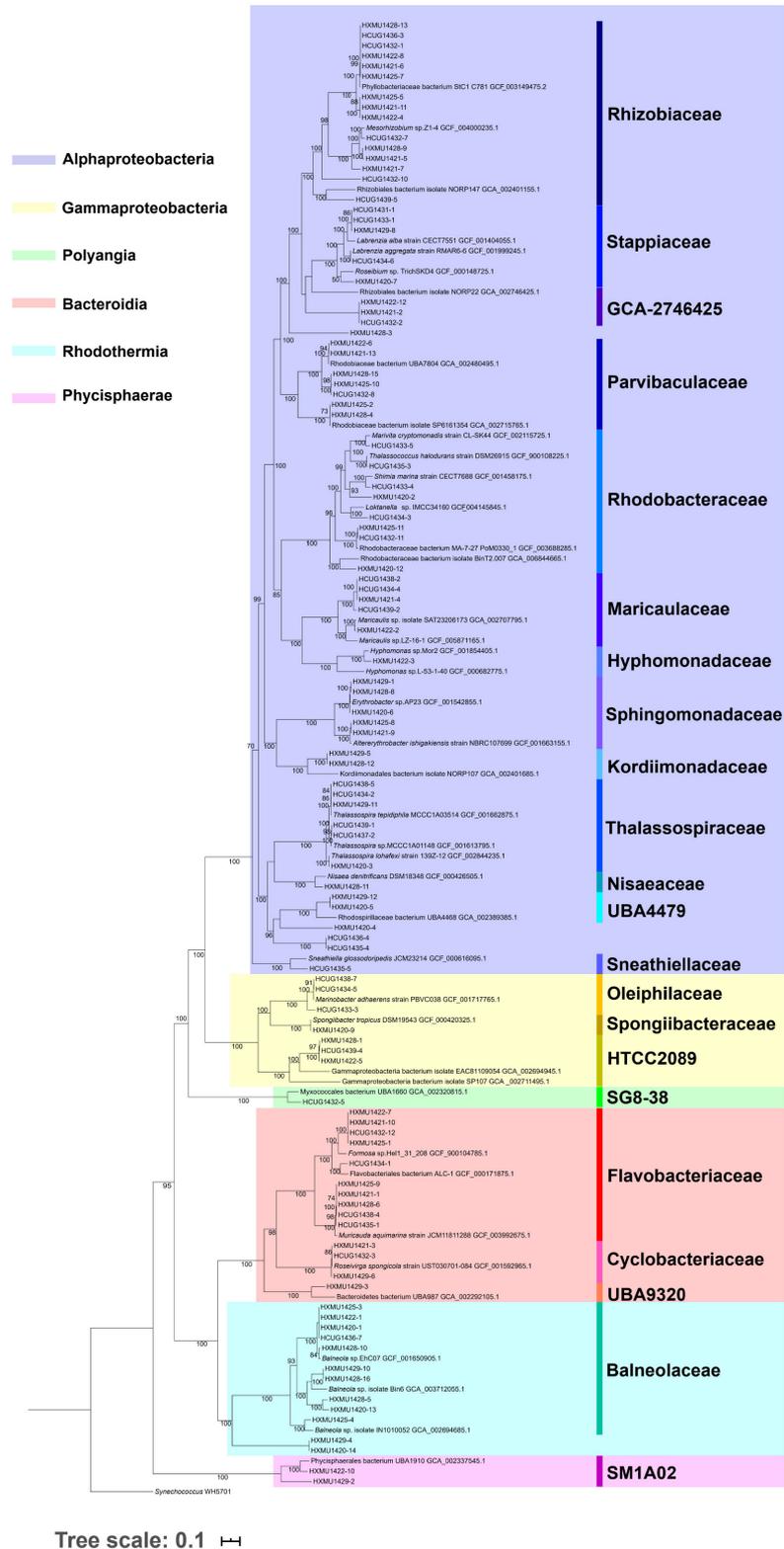


FIGURE 2 | Phylogenetic tree of 101 co-cultured heterotrophic bacteria genomes, with the *Synechococcus* WH5701 strain as an outgroup. A maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree was reconstructed using the concatenated amino acid sequences of 120 bacterial ortholog genes. Bootstrap values for 1,000 resamplings are indicated by numbers at the nodes (at least 50% support).

Evolutionary relationships and taxonomic classification of co-cultured heterotrophic bacteria were reconstructed based on concatenated amino acid sequences of 120 bacterial ortholog genes using GTDB-tk v1.3.0 (Chaumeil et al., 2019). Briefly, the 120 ortholog genes were identified and aligned with HMMER (Finn et al., 2011), concatenated into a single multiple sequence alignment, and trimmed with the 5,000-column bacterial mask (Chaumeil et al., 2019). The maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree was constructed using FastTree v2.1.10 (Price et al., 2009). The phylogenetic tree presented in the present study was visualized using iTOL version 4 (Letunic and Bork, 2019).

Pan-Genome Analysis

Gene-based pan-genome analysis of the HLII *Prochlorococcus* strains was conducted using the Bacterial Pangenome Analysis Pipeline v1.3.0 (Chaudhari et al., 2016), which uses the USEARCH algorithms to identify core genes. The similarity cutoff for amino acid sequences of the core gene was set as 50%.

INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

Genomic Data of the *Prochlorococcus* HLII Strains

In the present study, The DNA of 15 *Prochlorococcus* HLII cultures were sequenced, and the raw data were quality controlled and assembled. Genome sizes of the 15 HLII isolates ranged from 1,631,569 bp to 1,721,994 bp, with an average GC content of 31.26% (s.d. = 0.11) and an average of 1,976 coding sequences per genome (s.d. = 28) (Table 1). Their phylogenetic position was confirmed through phylogenomic tree construction using core genome amino acid sequences at a similarity cutoff of 70% (Figure 1). In this study, 101 co-cultured heterotrophic bacterial genomes were obtained from the non-axenic HLII cultures using the binning method. The completeness of these genomes ranged from 90.2 to 100%, with an average of 97.7%. The completeness, contamination, genome size, GC content, and number of coding sequences of each genome are shown in Supplementary Table 1. Their phylogenetic positions were confirmed through phylogenetic trees using 120 bacterial orthologous genes (Figure 2). The phylogenetic tree comprised four bacterial clades, including *Alphaproteobacteria*, *Rhodothermia*, *Gammaproteobacteria*, and *Bacteroidia*, and

was further separated into six classes, 22 families, and 37 genera (Figure 2; Supplementary Table 1).

REUSE POTENTIAL

The genomes of the *Prochlorococcus* HLII strains and their co-cultured heterotrophic bacteria discussed here warrant further analysis to explore the fine-scale diversity of *Prochlorococcus* and co-cultured heterotrophic bacteria, and their future applications in marine microbiology and ecology.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The raw sequence data and assembled genome data of the 15 HL II *Prochlorococcus* strains and 101 co-cultured heterotrophic bacteria reported in the present study have been deposited in the National Center for Biotechnology Information GenBank under the BioProject number PRJNA664924. Accession numbers for the individual genomes used in this study are listed in Table 1 and Supplementary Tables 1, 2.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

WY, RZ, and NJ designed the study. WY conducted the isolation of *Prochlorococcus* strains. XF, WZ, and TL participated in genome analysis. WY, MN, and RZ wrote the manuscript. All authors contributed to the final version of the manuscript.

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2020.619826/full#supplementary-material>

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Conflict of Interest: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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