

# 1 Host-microbe interactions in the chemosynthetic *Riftia pachyptila*

## 2 symbiosis

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27

## 28 **Abstract**

29 The deep-sea tubeworm *Riftia pachyptila* lacks a digestive system, but completely relies on bacterial  
30 endosymbionts for nutrition. Although the symbiont has been studied in detail on the molecular level,  
31 such analyses were unavailable for the animal host, because sequence information was lacking. To  
32 identify host-symbiont interaction mechanisms, we therefore sequenced the *Riftia* transcriptome,  
33 which enabled comparative metaproteomic analyses of symbiont-containing versus symbiont-free  
34 tissues, both under energy-rich and energy-limited conditions. We demonstrate that metabolic  
35 interactions include nutrient allocation from symbiont to host by symbiont digestion, and substrate  
36 transfer to the symbiont by abundant host proteins. Our analysis further suggests that *Riftia*  
37 maintains its symbiont by protecting the bacteria from oxidative damage, while also exerting  
38 symbiont population control. Eukaryote-like symbiont proteins might facilitate intracellular  
39 symbiont persistence. Energy limitation apparently leads to reduced symbiont biomass and  
40 increased symbiont digestion. Our study provides unprecedented insights into host-microbe  
41 interactions that shape this highly efficient symbiosis.

42

## 43 **Introduction**

44 All animals are associated with microorganisms (Bang et al., 2018; Bosch and McFall-Ngai, 2011),  
45 and consequently, animal-microbe interactions shape life on our planet. While research has  
46 concentrated for decades on pathogenic associations, beneficial, i.e. mutualistic symbioses are  
47 increasingly moving into the center of attention (McFall-Ngai et al., 2013).

48 Mutualistic relationships are often based on nutritional benefits for both partners: Symbionts supply  
49 their host with nutrients otherwise lacking in the hosts' diet, while the host in turn provides the  
50 symbionts with metabolites, shelter and optimal growth conditions (Moya et al., 2008). To establish  
51 and stably maintain their alliance, the partners have to interact on the molecular level. The hosts'  
52 immune system needs to control the symbiont population without erasing it altogether (Feldhaar  
53 and Gross, 2009), for example by restricting the symbionts to certain organs and/or by down-  
54 regulating its own immune response (reviewed in Nyholm and Graf, 2012). Symbionts, on the other  
55 hand, often employ strategies resembling those of pathogens to colonize and persist in their host. For  
56 example, similar protein secretion systems are employed by both, symbionts and pathogens, for  
57 interactions with the host (Dale and Moran, 2006; Hentschel et al., 2000; McFall-Ngai, 2008; Moya et  
58 al., 2008).

59 In many animals, host-microbe interactions are difficult to assess, due to the high number of  
60 potentially involved microbes and the presence of long- and short-term associations, which are hard  
61 to distinguish (McFall-Ngai, 2008). Therefore, low-complexity models are important to identify and  
62 characterize interaction mechanisms (Webster, 2014). Symbioses of marine invertebrates and their  
63 chemoautotrophic symbionts have emerged as suitable study systems. In these symbioses, animal  
64 hosts such as gutless annelids and bivalves are often tightly associated with one or few symbiont  
65 types, which enable the eukaryotes to prevail in otherwise hostile environments (Dubilier et al.,  
66 2008). One of the most conspicuous representatives of these associations, and the first animal in

67 which chemoautotrophic symbionts were discovered, is the giant tube worm *Riftia pachyptila* (short  
68 *Riftia*) that thrives around deep-sea hydrothermal vents of the East Pacific (Cavanaugh et al., 1981;  
69 Felbeck, 1981). The host's absolute dependency on its symbiont makes *Riftia* an ideal system to study  
70 beneficial host-microbe interactions in a mutualistic symbiosis.

71 The worm completely lacks a digestive system, but instead receives all necessary nutrients from one  
72 phylotype of chemosynthetic endosymbionts (Cavanaugh et al., 1981; Distel et al., 1988; Hand, 1987;  
73 Robidart et al., 2008). The host in turn provides the endosymbionts with all necessary inorganic  
74 compounds for chemosynthesis (Stewart and Cavanaugh, 2005). This association is remarkably  
75 productive: *Riftia* grows extraordinarily fast (> 85 cm increase in tube length per year, Lutz et al.,  
76 1994) and reaches body lengths of up to 1.5 m (Jones, 1981).

77 The uncultured gammaproteobacterial *Riftia* symbiont, tentatively named *Candidatus Endoriftia*  
78 *persephone* (Robidart et al., 2008), densely populates bacteriocytes in the host trophosome, a  
79 specialized organ that fills most of the worm's body cavity (Hand, 1987). The bacteria oxidize  
80 inorganic reduced compounds such as hydrogen sulfide to generate energy for carbon fixation  
81 (Cavanaugh et al., 1981; Fisher et al., 1989; Markert et al., 2011; Petersen et al., 2011; Robidart et al.,  
82 2011; Van Dover, 2000). The symbiont can store elemental sulfur, an intermediate of sulfide  
83 oxidation, in sulfur globules (Pflugfelder et al., 2005). Trophosome tissue containing high amounts of  
84 stored sulfur has a light yellowish color. During sulfide limitation, i.e., when energy availability is  
85 restricted, stored sulfur is consumed and the trophosome appears much darker (Pflugfelder et al.,  
86 2005; Wilmot Jr. and Vetter, 1990). The energetic status of the symbiosis can thus be directly inferred  
87 from the color of the trophosome.

88 *Riftia* has been extensively studied, especially with respect to its anatomy, biochemistry, symbiont  
89 transmission, and substrate transfer between host, symbionts and the environment (e.g. Drozdov  
90 and Galkin, 2012; Liu et al., 2017; Robidart et al., 2011; Sanchez et al., 2007b; Scott et al., 2012; see

91 Stewart and Cavanaugh, 2005 for a review). The symbiont's metabolism has been studied in detail as  
92 well (Stewart and Cavanaugh, 2005), in particular by means of metagenomics and metaproteomics  
93 (Gardebrecht et al., 2012; Markert et al., 2007, 2011; Robidart et al., 2008). Yet, little is known about  
94 interactions between the two symbiotic partners and, particularly, about the proteins directly  
95 involved in these processes.

96 Our study aimed to illuminate the underlying mechanisms of host-symbiont interactions on the  
97 protein level. For this purpose, we employed a state-of-the-art global metaproteomics approach,  
98 which required comprehensive sequence data for both partners. While the genome of the *Riftia*  
99 symbiont was sequenced previously (Gardebrecht et al., 2012; Robidart et al., 2008), up to now no  
100 such information was available for the host. Therefore, we sequenced the transcriptome of the *Riftia*  
101 host *de novo*. This enabled us to build a comprehensive protein database, which we used to compare  
102 protein abundance patterns in symbiont-containing and symbiont-free *Riftia* tissues. By comparing  
103 sulfur-rich and sulfur-depleted specimens, we furthermore examined how host-symbiont  
104 interactions vary under high- and low energy conditions. Our analysis sheds light on metabolite  
105 exchange processes between both partners, on the host's symbiont maintenance strategies and on  
106 the symbiont's molecular mechanisms to persist inside the host.

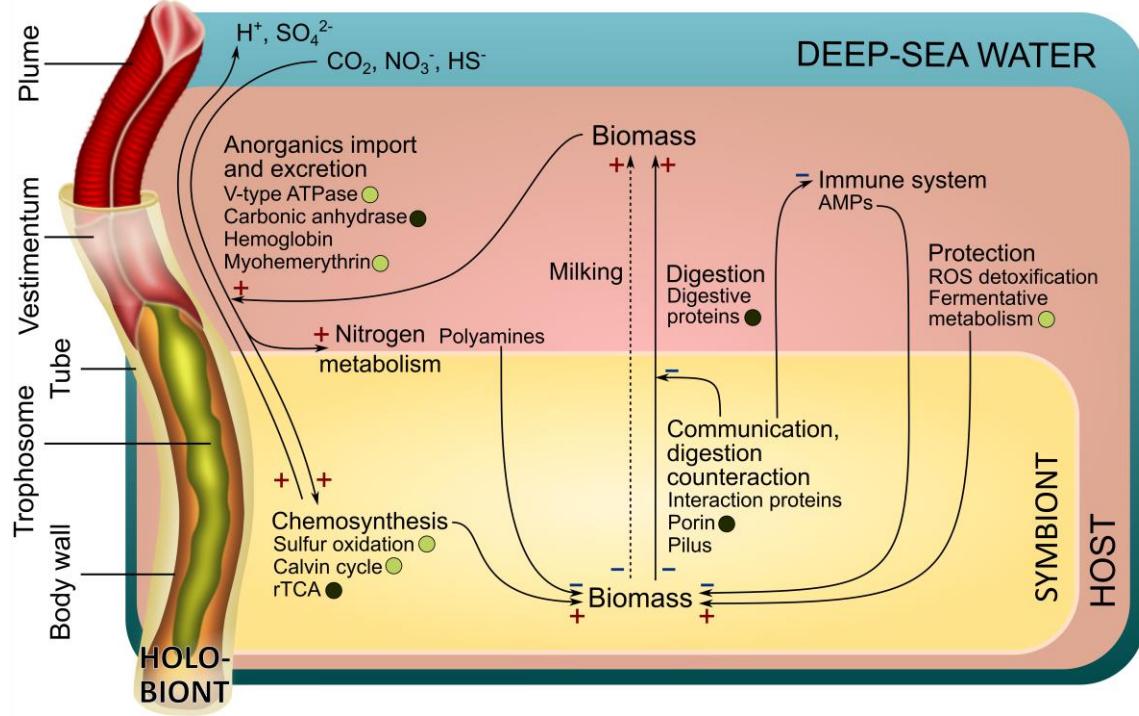
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## 108 **Results and Discussion**

109

### 110 Interaction analysis of a chemosynthetic deep-sea symbiosis

111 We sequenced the *Riftia* host transcriptome *de novo* and combined it with three existing symbiont  
112 genomes to create a comprehensive holobiont database for identification of *Riftia* host and symbiont  
113 proteins (see Material and Methods). Our metaproteomic analysis included comparisons between  
114 symbiont-containing and symbiont-free tissues of specimens with light and dark trophosomes  
115 (hereafter referred to as sulfur-rich, S-rich specimens and tissues, and S-depleted specimens and  
116 tissues, respectively). A fully replicated dataset and stringent experimental design enabled us to find  
117 statistically significant differences in individual protein abundance between sample types, as well as  
118 abundance differences between functional protein groups. For an overview of all identified proteins,  
119 see Supplementary Results and Discussion Part 1 (SOM1). We identified symbiosis-specific proteins  
120 and molecular interaction processes, including (i) metabolite exchange between host and symbiont,  
121 (ii) host strategies of symbiont maintenance, and (iii) symbiont mechanisms to persist inside the  
122 host. Furthermore, we found that (iv) S availability affects symbiotic interactions in *Riftia*. For a  
123 graphical representation of the main interactions, see Figure 1. Beyond the results presented here,  
124 our data sets also provide a valuable resource for future *Riftia* studies and microbe-eukaryote  
125 symbiosis research in general.



126

127 Figure 1: Main interactions in the *Riftia* symbiosis. "+" indicates presumably stimulating  
128 interactions, "-" indicates presumably inhibiting interactions. Circles, where present, indicate that  
129 the respective proteins are more abundant in S-rich (light circles) or S-depleted (dark circles)  
130 specimens, respectively. Milking: Transfer of small organic compounds (see SOM3).

131

## 132 Metabolite exchange between host and symbiont

133 *Riftia* digests its symbionts for nutrition

134 Our results suggest that the main mode of nutrient transfer from symbiont to host is the active  
135 digestion of symbiont cells, and that this process might involve endosome-like maturation of  
136 symbiont-containing vesicles. We detected a total of 113 host enzymes involved in protein-, amino  
137 acid- and glycan degradation as well as in glycolysis and fatty acid beta oxidation. 22 of these proteins  
138 were significantly more abundant in trophosome samples than in the other tissues (Table 1). Overall,  
139 nearly all of the respective protein groups had higher abundances (i.e. summed-up %orgNSAF) in the  
140 symbiont-bearing trophosome than in other tissues, both in S-rich and S-depleted specimens (Figure  
141 2). Many of the protein degradation-related proteins contain signal peptides and are thus likely either

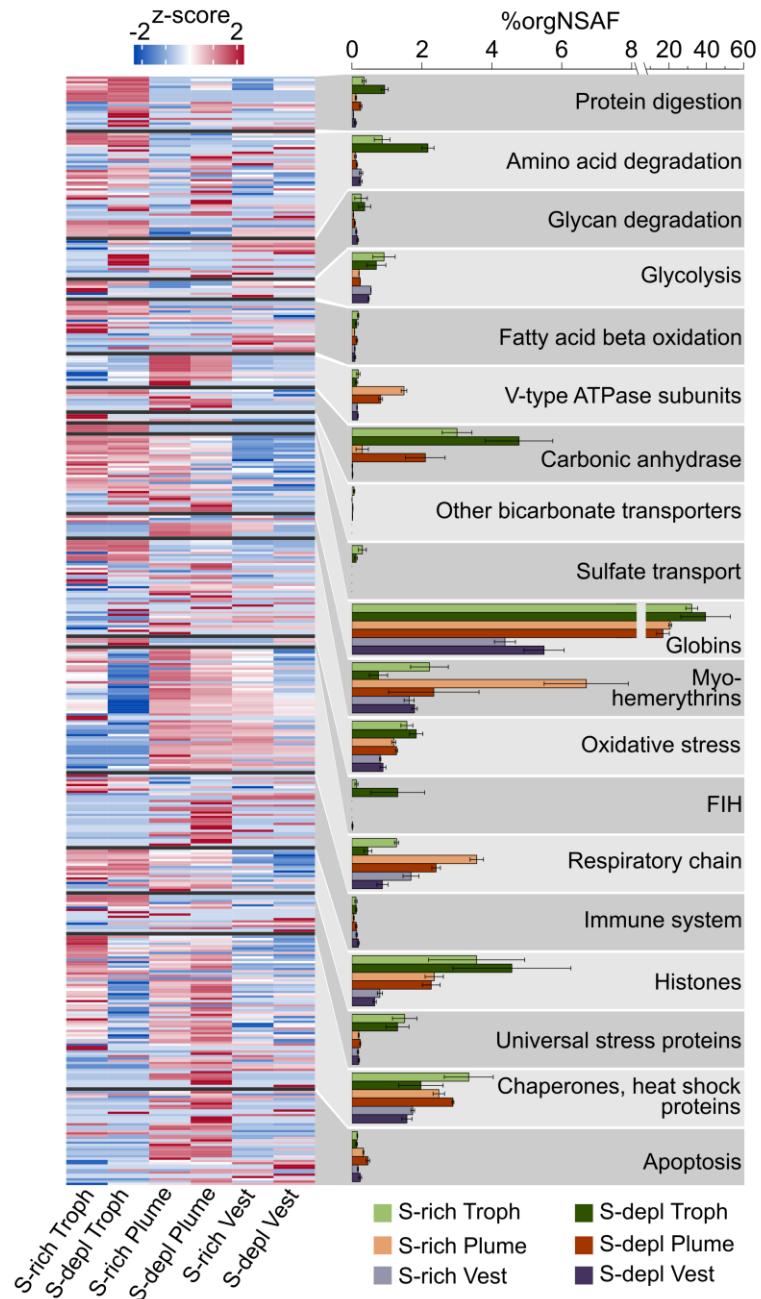
142 contained in lysosomes or secreted into the symbiont-containing vesicles to digest the symbiont cells  
143 (Table 1, Supp. Table S1).

144 Our findings are in accordance with previous biochemical, autoradiographic and microscopic studies,  
145 which suggested symbiont digestion in *Riftia* trophosome (Boetius and Felbeck, 1995; Bright et al.,  
146 2000; Hand, 1987; Pflugfelder et al., 2009). Moreover, abundant degradative enzymes and symbiont  
147 digestion appear to be common in other mutualistic symbioses as well, including deep-sea mussels  
148 (Ponnudurai et al., 2017; Streams et al., 1997, Ponnudurai et al., submitted), shallow-water clams  
149 (Caro et al., 2009; König et al., 2015) and the gutless oligochaete *Olavius algarvensis* (Wippler et al.,  
150 2016; Woyke et al., 2006).

151 Our metaproteome analysis suggests that symbiont digestion in *Riftia* might involve maturation of  
152 symbiont-containing host vesicles in a process resembling the maturation of endosomes. Endosomes  
153 form after endocytosis of extracellular compounds and mature from early to late endosomes, which  
154 ultimately fuse with lysosomes. The endosome-associated proteins Rab5 and Rab7 showed  
155 significantly higher abundances in trophosome samples compared to other host tissues. Rab5 and  
156 Rab7 localize to early and late endosomes as well as autophagosomes, respectively, and are markers  
157 for these recycling-related organelles (Chavrier et al., 1990; Hyttinen et al., 2013; Vieira et al., 2002).  
158 The idea of symbiont degradation via an endosome-like maturation process in *Riftia* is additionally  
159 supported by the observation of multilamellar bodies in *Riftia* bacteriocytes in our TEM images  
160 (Figure 3). These multilamellar bodies can form in endosomes (Marchetti et al., 2004), but were also  
161 suggested to be associated with autophagic cell death in *Riftia* trophosome (Pflugfelder 2009).  
162 Although autophagy and apoptosis were suggested to be involved in cell death in *Riftia* trophosome  
163 (Pflugfelder et al., 2009), our results contradict this hypothesis. We detected only two autophagy-  
164 related proteins (Supp. Table S2) and only 12 of 41 detected apoptosis-related *Riftia* proteins were  
165 identified in the trophosome, mostly with similar or significantly lower abundances as compared to  
166 other tissues. Caspases, the main apoptotic effectors, were not detected at all on the protein level in

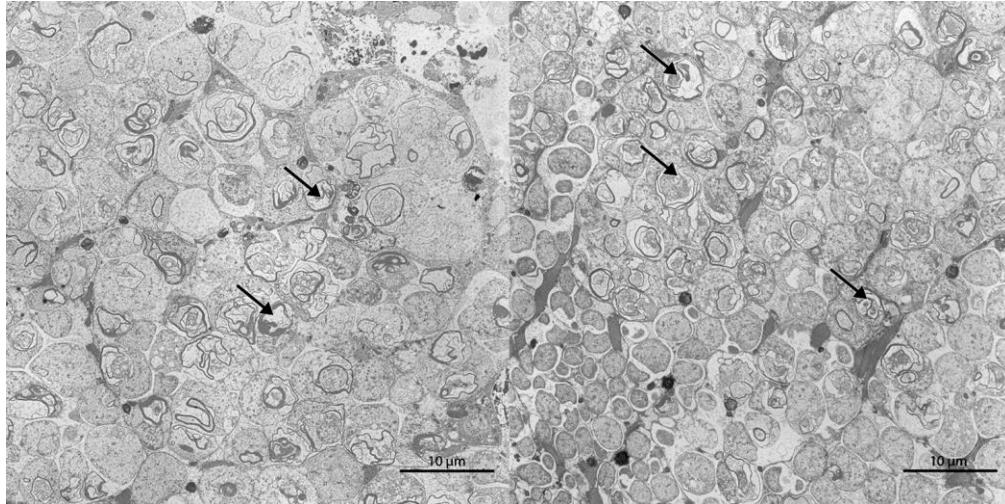
167 trophosome samples (see also SOM2). This is in line with previous microscopic results, which did not  
168 indicate apoptosis in the trophosome (Bright and Sorgo, 2003). A non-autophagic, non-apoptotic cell  
169 death mechanism was recently described in pea aphid bacteriocytes (Simonet et al., 2018). In the  
170 aphids, the proposed mechanism involved hypervacuolation of host bacteriocytes, which was,  
171 however, not observed in *Riftia* trophosome. Another caspase-independent cell death mechanism,  
172 which involves the protease cathepsin B, has been described in cancer cells (Bröker et al., 2004). As  
173 cathepsin B was significantly more abundant in trophosome than in other *Riftia* tissues, we speculate  
174 that this protease, amongst other degradative enzymes, may be involved in controlled cell death in  
175 *Riftia* trophosome.

176 Besides symbiont digestion, a second mode of nutrient transfer, the release of small organic carbon  
177 compounds by intact symbionts, was suggested to be present in *Riftia* (Bright et al., 2000; Felbeck  
178 and Jarchow, 1998). Our calculated  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  ratios might support this theory (SOM3).



179

180 Figure 2: Functional groups of selected *Riftia* host proteins and their relative abundances in tissue  
181 samples. The heatmap shows log-normalized, centered and scaled protein abundances. The bar chart  
182 shows summed up abundances (%orgNSAF) of the proteins in the respective category. Error bars  
183 indicate standard error of the mean. Note the different scaling in the right part of the x-axis. The  
184 "Chaperones, heat shock proteins" category also includes chaperonins and Clp proteases. FIH: factor  
185 inhibiting hypoxia-inducible factor 1α. S-depl: S-depleted. To view the list of all identified proteins,  
186 including their abundances, see Supp. Table S1. (The table can be filtered for the same main or sub  
187 categories as presented in this figure; these categories are labelled with "X" in column "Figure 2").  
188 Vest: vestimentum. Troph: trophosome.  
189



190

191 Figure 3: Transmission electron micrographs of *Riftia* trophosome tissue sections. Cell degradation  
192 is indicated by the presence of lamellar bodies (black arrows). Brightness and contrast of the  
193 micrographs were adjusted for visual clarity. Scale bar: 10  $\mu$ m

194

195 Table 1: Proteins which are putatively involved in symbiont digestion and which had significantly  
196 higher abundances in trophosome samples than in other tissues of S-rich and S-depleted specimens.

Accession	Description	Sig in S-rich Troph	Sig in S-depl Troph	Secreted/ membrane?*
<b>Protein digestion</b>				
Host_DN32373_c0_g1_i1::g.193014	Cathepsin Z	x	x	M
Host_DN34261_c0_g1_i1::g.35886	Cathepsin B	x	x	S
Host_DN38047_c1_g1_i1::g.177385	Cathepsin Z	x	x	M
Host_DN41150_c0_g1_i1::g.101468	Cathepsin L1	x	x	S
Host_DN34118_c0_g1_i3::g.155432	Digestive cysteine proteinase 2	x	x	S
Host_DN39514_c3_g1_i1::g.201492	Legumain	x	x	S
Host_DN34848_c0_g1_i1::g.215091	Dipeptidyl peptidase 1	o	x	S
<b>Amino acid degradation</b>				
Host_DN37934_c0_g3_i4::g.212722	4-hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase	x	x	S
Host_DN35553_c0_g1_i1::g.72896	Maleylacetoacetate isomerase	x	x	-
Host_DN37934_c0_g3_i6::g.212725	4-hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase	x	x	-
Host_DN40417_c0_g1_i7::g.93374	D-aspartate oxidase	x	x	possibly M
Host_DN41135_c1_g1_i1::g.101501	Homogentisate 1,2- dioxygenase	x	x	-
Host_DN39303_c6_g1_i3::g.66273	Urocanate hydratase OS=Mus musculus GN=Uroc1 PE=1 SV=2	x	x	-

Accession	Description	Sig in S-rich Troph	Sig in S-depl Troph	Secreted/membrane?*
Host_DN37934_c0_g3_i11::g.212729	4-hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase	o	x	-
Host_DN39293_c0_g3_i16::g.11113	Histidine ammonia-lyase	o	x	-
Host_DN41135_c1_g1_i2::g.101503	Homogentisate 1,2-dioxygenase	o	x	-
Host_DN40306_c1_g4_i8::g.129962	Aminoacylase-1	o	x	-
<b>Glycan degradation</b>				
Host_DN36692_c1_g2_i4::g.169924	Lysosomal alpha-glucosidase	x	x	M/possibly S
Host_DN36692_c1_g2_i3::g.169923	Glucoamylase 1	o	x	-
Host_DN37016_c0_g1_i1::g.156600	Lysosomal alpha-mannosidase	o	x	S
<b>Fatty acid beta oxidation</b>				
Host_DN34874_c0_g1_i9::g.215370	Propionyl-CoA carboxylase beta chain, mitochondrial	x	o	-
Host_DN41664_c1_g5_i6::g.166806	Peroxisomal bifunctional enzyme	o	x	-

197 Sig: Significance (x: significant, o: non-significant), Troph: Trophosome, S-depl: S-depleted.  
 198 \*Subcellular localization (M: membrane-associated, S: secreted) was predicted using Phobius,  
 199 TMHMM, and SignalP. "Possibly": localization prediction based on one tool only.

200

201 *Riftia* dedicates a substantial part of its proteome to provisioning the symbionts with O<sub>2</sub>,  
 202 sulfide and CO<sub>2</sub>

203 We found highly abundant and diverse globins, myohemerythrins, V-type ATPase subunits and  
 204 carbonic anhydrases in the host proteome (Figure 2), indicating that *Riftia* dedicates a substantial  
 205 part of its proteome to provisioning the symbiont with all necessary substrates for chemosynthesis.

206 Globins made up about one third of all trophosomal host proteins and one fifth of the total plume  
 207 proteome (Figure 2), with extracellular hemoglobins being particularly abundant (in sum 32-  
 208 40%orgNSAF in trophosome and 17-21% in plume samples). *Riftia* has three distinct extracellular  
 209 hemoglobins composed of globin chains and, in the case of the hexagonal bilayer hemoglobin, globin  
 210 linker chains (Flores et al., 2005; Zal et al., 1996, 1998). We detected several of these subunits,  
 211 including isoforms that are (to our knowledge) hitherto undescribed (Supp. Table S1). *Riftia*'s

212 extracellular hemoglobins have been shown to bind both O<sub>2</sub> and sulfide (Flores et al., 2005, reviewed  
213 in Bailly and Vinogradov, 2005; Hourdez and Weber, 2005). Abundant hemoglobins in the highly  
214 vascularized plume therefore ensure efficient uptake of these compounds for transport to the  
215 symbionts. The symbionts are microaerophilic (Fisher et al., 1989), and simultaneous reversible O<sub>2</sub>-  
216 and sulfide-binding to abundant hemoglobins in the trophosome therefore not only provides the  
217 bacteria with chemosynthetic substrates and prevents spontaneous sulfide oxidation, but also  
218 protects the symbionts from oxygen. (See SOM4 for hemoglobins as a means of protecting the host  
219 from sulfide toxicity and for other sulfur metabolic pathways in the host.) In addition to extracellular  
220 hemoglobins, we identified four low-abundance (0.002-0.084%orgNSAF) globins that are probably  
221 intracellular and might store O<sub>2</sub> (SOM5).

222 Besides hemoglobins, myohemerythrins were detected in all tissues, with particularly high  
223 abundances of 6.7%orgNSAF in S-rich plumes. With their comparatively high oxygen-binding  
224 capacity (Mangum, 1992), hemerythrins could facilitate oxygen uptake from the environment into  
225 the plume, and are possibly also involved in O<sub>2</sub> storage and intracellular transport in *Riftia*. Moreover,  
226 the abundance distribution of the nine detected myohemerythrins suggests a tissue-specific function  
227 (SOM6).

228 V-type ATPase subunits were found with highest total abundances of up to 1.5%orgNSAF in *Riftia*  
229 plumes (Figure 2), and almost all of the detected subunits were significantly more abundant or  
230 exclusively detected in the plumes. V-type ATPases have a pivotal function in regulating internal pH  
231 and CO<sub>2</sub> uptake (De Cian et al., 2003a) and thus in symbiont provisioning. The high energy demand  
232 of V-type ATPase-dependent pH regulation could be met via a relatively higher respiration activity in  
233 the plume, as indicated by comparatively high total abundances of respiratory chain proteins (Figure  
234 2), ATP synthase and mitochondrial ribosomes in this tissue. Additionally, carbonic anhydrase (CA),  
235 another important enzyme for CO<sub>2</sub> uptake, was detected in all tissues. While we observed tissue-  
236 specific abundance patterns of individual CAs (Supp. Figure S4, SOM7), overall CA abundance was

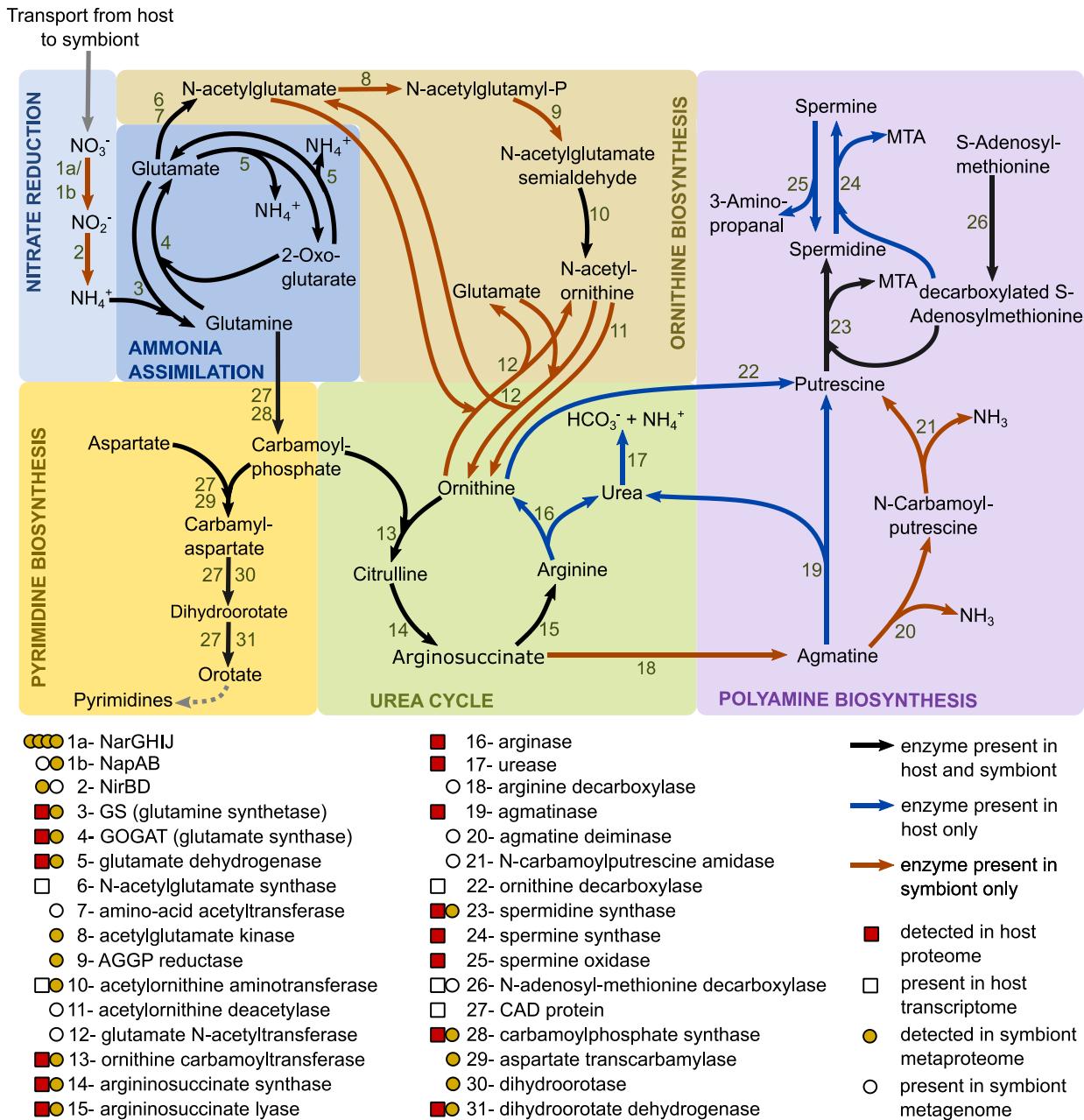
237 highest in the trophosome (Figure 2). CA facilitates CO<sub>2</sub> diffusion into the plume by converting it to  
238 HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (De Cian et al., 2003a; Goffredi et al., 1999), and likely back-converts the HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> to CO<sub>2</sub> for  
239 fixation by the symbionts in the trophosome. Our analysis suggests that three of the *Riftia* CAs could  
240 be membrane-bound (SOM7), which might facilitate CO<sub>2</sub> diffusion into the bacteriocytes by  
241 converting HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> to CO<sub>2</sub> in the direct cell vicinity (De Cian et al., 2003b; Sanchez et al., 2007a).  
242 Transport of HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> to the bacteriocytes could be mediated by bicarbonate exchangers, which we  
243 identified in trophosome and plume samples.

244 While carbon for fixation by the *Riftia* symbiont is likely mainly transported in the form of CO<sub>2</sub>/HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>,  
245 the host may additionally pre-fix CO<sub>2</sub> into organic C<sub>4</sub> compounds which are then transported to the  
246 symbiont (Felbeck, 1985). We did identify host phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase and pyruvate  
247 carboxylase, which could be involved in this process (SOM8).

248 *Riftia*'s nitrogen metabolism depends less on the symbiont than previously assumed  
249 *Riftia* symbionts supply their host not only with carbon and energy sources, but also with ammonium  
250 produced by bacterial nitrate reduction (Figure 4, SOM9). However, with regard to the subsequent  
251 metabolism of organic nitrogen, the host might be more self-sufficient than previously thought:  
252 Previous biochemical analyses suggested that only the symbiont, but not the host, can *de novo*  
253 synthesize pyrimidines (Minic et al., 2001) and produce polyamines (Minic and Hervé, 2003). In  
254 contrast to those studies, we found the multifunctional CAD protein (carbamoyl-phosphate  
255 synthetase 2, aspartate transcarbamoylase, and dihydroorotate), in the *Riftia* host  
256 metatranscriptome, suggesting that the host can catalyze the first steps of pyrimidine synthesis. As  
257 we did not detect CAD protein on the protein level, expression levels and associated activities in the  
258 host are likely rather low, and most of the pyrimidine demand could be satisfied by digesting  
259 symbionts. In addition, we found key genes involved in polyamine synthesis in the hosts'  
260 metatranscriptome and partially also detected the respective proteins in the hosts' metaproteome

261 (Figure 4). Our results suggest that while both *Riftia* symbiosis partners can synthesize spermidine,  
262 in fact only the host is able to generate spermine. Host spermidine synthase and spermine synthase  
263 were exclusively detected in trophosome samples in our study, suggesting that the polyamines  
264 produced by these proteins could have a role in symbiont-host interactions. They could, for example,  
265 be involved in restricting the symbiont to its cell compartment, i.e. the bacteriocyte vesicle, as  
266 suggested for bacterial pathogens (SOM10). In addition, only the host seems to possess a full urea  
267 cycle and might degrade not only its own, but also nitrogen-containing metabolites of the symbiont  
268 (SOM9). These results show that the symbiont provides the host with necessary metabolic energy  
269 and building blocks for biosynthesis, but that the host has also retained key biosynthetic capacities  
270 for N-containing organic compounds.

271



272

273 Figure 4: Main nitrogen metabolic pathways in the *Riftia* symbiosis. AGGP reductase: N-acetyl-  
 274 gamma-glutamyl-phosphate reductase, CAD protein: multifunctional carbamoyl-phosphate  
 275 synthetase 2, aspartate transcarbamoylase, and dihydroorotase protein, MTA: 5'-  
 276 methylthioadenosine. Note that the symbiont might also be capable of nitrate respiration (Hentschel  
 277 and Felbeck, 1993; Markert et al., 2011), which is not depicted here.

278

279 Host strategies of symbiont maintenance

280 *Riftia* protects its symbiont from oxidative damage and may even generate hypoxic  
281 conditions in the trophosome

282 We found several reactive oxygen species (ROS)-scavenging enzymes (superoxide dismutase,  
283 peroxiredoxin, glutathione S-transferase), as well as proteins indicative of anaerobic metabolism and  
284 universal stress proteins with significantly higher individual abundance and in higher total amounts  
285 (summed %orgNSAF) in the trophosome compared to other tissues (Figure 2, SOM11). *Riftia*'s ROS-  
286 detoxifying enzymes probably not only protect the host, but also the microaerophilic symbiont  
287 against ROS. Upregulation of host proteins involved in ROS detoxification was previously shown in  
288 the *Wolbachia* symbiosis (Brennan et al., 2008; Zug and Hammerstein, 2015). Additionally, malate  
289 dehydrogenase was highly abundant in trophosomes. This enzyme is regularly observed in different  
290 invertebrates under anaerobic conditions (Hourdez and Lallier, 2007) and is involved in maintaining  
291 redox balance during anaerobiosis (Fields and Quinn, 1981). The trophosome might thus rely more  
292 on fermentative metabolism than on respiration, as also indicated by the overall lower abundance of  
293 host respiratory chain proteins in trophosome compared to other tissues of both, S-rich and S-  
294 depleted specimens. We also detected hypoxia-inducible factor 1-alpha inhibitors (factor inhibiting  
295 HIF1a; FIH) almost exclusively in trophosome samples, which further supports the idea that free  
296 oxygen concentrations in the trophosome are low. This is in line with the high oxygen-binding  
297 capacity of *Riftia* hemoglobins (Fisher et al., 1989; Hentschel and Felbeck, 1993), and with the  
298 suggestion of fermentative metabolism under hypoxic and even oxic conditions in *Riftia*, based on  
299 biochemical results (Arndt et al., 1998). Taken together, lower oxygen concentration in the  
300 trophosome, (partial) anaerobic host metabolism, and host ROS-detoxifying enzymes in this tissue  
301 would not only protect the symbionts from oxidative damage, but would additionally decrease the  
302 competition between the *Riftia* host and its symbionts for oxygen.

303

304 The *Riftia* immune system might be involved in symbiont population control

305 We detected several proteins which are potentially involved in a specific immune reaction of *Riftia*

306 against its symbiont in the trophosome. Two bactericidal permeability-increasing proteins (BPIPs)

307 were detected, one exclusively in the trophosome, the other only in the plume. BPIPs act specifically

308 against Gram-negative bacteria, causing initial growth arrest and subsequent killing due to inner

309 membrane damage (Elsbach and Weiss, 1998). In *Riftia*, BPIPs could be involved in keeping the

310 symbiont population under control, e.g. as part of the digestion process or by preventing the

311 symbionts from leaving their intracellular host vesicles. Likewise, in the *Vibrio*-squid symbiosis,

312 BPIPs have been implied in restricting the symbiont population to the light organ (Chen et al., 2017).

313 In addition to BPIPs, a pathogen-related protein (PRP) was present in all replicates of S-rich

314 trophosome, but absent from all other tissues. In plants, pathogen-related proteins accumulate

315 during defense responses against pathogens (reviewed in Van Loon and Van Strien, 1999). Pathogen-

316 related proteins have also been described in nematodes (Asojo et al., 2005) and humans (Eberle et

317 al., 2002), although their function remains elusive.

318 We also found that histones had overall higher abundance in *Riftia* trophosome than in other tissues.

319 Four of these histones were significantly more abundant in trophosomes than in other tissues, and

320 three additional histones were exclusively detected in trophosome samples (Supp. Table S1). Besides

321 being crucial for DNA interactions, histones and histone-derived peptides can have antimicrobial

322 effects (Cho et al., 2009; Park et al., 1998; Rose et al., 1998). A blastp search of the detected *Riftia*

323 histones against the Antimicrobial Peptide (AMP) Database APD3 (Wang et al., 2016) gave hits for

324 four of the *Riftia* histones (Supp. Table S3), stimulating the speculation that these histones may have

325 antimicrobial properties. While AMP-like histone-derived peptides in the plume might be involved

326 in defense against environmental microbes, the high abundance of histones in the trophosome could

327 point to a function in host-symbiont interaction. Host-derived AMPs could, for example, be involved

328 in controlling the symbiont's cell cycle. In their life cycle, the symbionts apparently differentiate from

329 actively dividing stem cells into growing, but non-dividing larger cells (Bright and Sorgo, 2003). As  
330 various AMPs were shown to inhibit cell division or septum formation and to cause filamentous cell  
331 morphologies (reviewed in Brogden, 2005), we speculate that *Riftia* AMPs may inhibit cell division  
332 as well, e.g. via interaction with symbiont GroEL. Interaction between a host AMP and a symbiont  
333 GroEL has been proposed to lead to cell elongation of bacterial weevil symbionts (Login et al., 2011).  
334 A role of histones and histone-derived peptides in immune system responses has been described or  
335 suggested in various other organisms, including catfish (Park et al., 1998), Komodo dragons (Bishop  
336 et al., 2017), toads (Cho et al., 2009) and humans (Rose et al., 1998).

337 Beyond individual immune system proteins, we did not observe a general immune response of *Riftia*  
338 against its symbiont (which is not surprising, as the symbionts are contained inside host vesicles).  
339 This indicates that the host immune system does not play a major role in controlling symbiont  
340 population size. More likely, symbiont population control might to a large part be a result of digestion  
341 of symbionts (a “mowing” process), which effectively prevents the symbionts from escaping their  
342 compartments and/or overgrowing the host. Nevertheless, the immune system might be involved in  
343 phage protection and symbiont recognition during establishment of the symbiosis (SOM12).

344

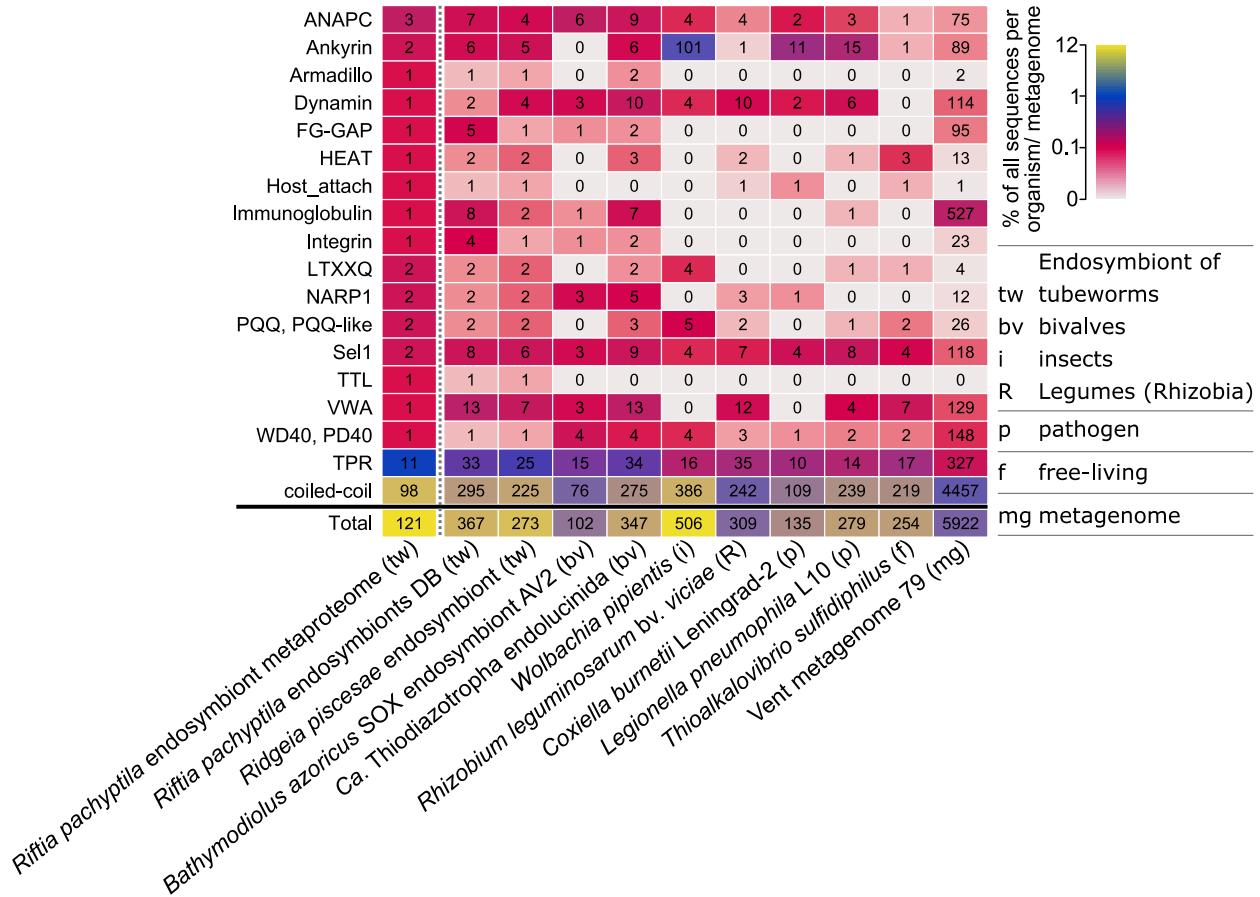
### 345 Symbiont persistence mechanisms

346 Eukaryote-like protein structures in the symbiont might be involved in host  
347 communication

348 The metagenome of the *Riftia* symbiont *Ca. E. persephone* encodes several protein groups with  
349 possible roles in symbiont-host interactions, including eukaryote-like protein (ELP) structures, as  
350 revealed by our SMART analysis (Supp. Table S4). We detected more than 100 of these symbiont  
351 proteins in the trophosome samples (Figure 5), which points to a symbiosis-relevant function.

352 Among the ELPs detected in the symbiont metaproteome were two ankyrin repeat-containing  
353 proteins, which contain a signal peptide and are therefore likely secreted (predicted by Phobius,  
354 <http://phobius.sbc.su.se/>). Ankyrin repeats were found to mediate protein-protein interactions (Li  
355 et al., 2006). In the sponge *Cymbastela concentrica*, symbiont ankyrins were proposed to interact with  
356 the eukaryote's phagocytosis system: The symbiont ankyrins were heterologously expressed in *E.*  
357 *coli* and led to inhibition of phagocytosis by amoebae (Nguyen et al., 2014). Likewise, a secreted  
358 *Legionella pneumophila* ankyrin protein apparently interferes with host endosome maturation (Pan  
359 et al., 2008). The *Ca. E. persephone* ankyrin repeat-containing proteins could therefore directly  
360 interact with host proteins as well, e.g. to modulate endosome maturation, and thus to interfere with  
361 symbiont digestion by the host. Similarly, proteins with tetratricopeptide repeat (TPR)/Sel1  
362 domains, which we also detected in the *Ca. E. persephone* metaproteome, have been shown to impact  
363 phagocytosis by amoeba (Reynolds and Thomas, 2016).

364 The *Riftia* symbiont furthermore encodes eukaryote-like proteins of the tubulin-tyrosine ligase  
365 family (TTL proteins). These proteins post-translationally modify tubulin and thus interact with the  
366 eukaryotic cytoskeleton (Prota et al., 2013). We found one TTL protein in the *Ca. E. persephone*  
367 metaproteome. Other protein groups which are involved in protein-protein interactions in  
368 eukaryotes, e.g. with cytoskeletal proteins, and which we detected in *Ca. E. persephone*, include  
369 armadillo repeat proteins (Coates, 2003) and HEAT repeat-containing proteins (Yoshimura and  
370 Hirano, 2016). As several of the protein structures analyzed here are also found in other mutualistic  
371 symbionts and pathogens (SOM13, Supp. Table S4), it is conceivable that parallels exist between  
372 interaction processes of mutualistic and pathogenic associations, and that the *Riftia* symbiont  
373 employs a strategy similar to that of pathogens to communicate with its host on the molecular level.



374

375 Figure 5: Selected domains with eukaryote-like structures and with putative functions in symbiont-  
376 host interactions in the *Riftia* symbiont and in selected other organisms and metagenomes. Color  
377 scale: percentage of genes/proteins containing the respective domain relative to all gene/protein  
378 sequences in this organism or metagenome. Numbers: total number of genes/proteins containing the  
379 respective domain. For an overview of all analyzed organisms and domains see Supp. Figure S5. For  
380 details on the organisms see Supp. Table S5. For further information about the selected protein  
381 groups see Supp. Table S4. 'Riftia pachyptila endosymbiont metaproteome' refers to the *Riftia*  
382 symbiont proteins detected in this study.

383

384 Symbiont membrane proteins may export effector proteins into host cells and lead to  
385 strain adaptation

386 We detected various outer membrane-related proteins in the *Ca. E. persephone* proteome, including  
387 a porin (Sym\_EGV52132.1), which was one of the most abundantly expressed symbiont proteins, and  
388 12 type IV pilus (T4P) system proteins (PilQ, PilF, PilC, PilBTU, PilM, PilN, PilP, FimV, PilH, PilY1). Five  
389 additional T4P structure proteins were encoded in the metagenome (*pilVWXE*, *pilO*). These proteins

390 are in direct contact with the host cells, and therefore likely involved in interactions between both  
391 symbiosis partners, including such processes that facilitate the symbiont's persistence inside the host  
392 cells.

393 The abundant symbiont porins could transport effector molecules, e.g. to modulate digestion by the  
394 host. A role of porins in effector transport during symbiosis has been hypothesized for the *Vibrio*  
395 *fischeri* OmpU, a channel protein that is important for symbiont recognition by the squid host  
396 (Nyholm et al., 2009).

397 The T4P system is a complex structure, which, in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, comprises more than 40  
398 proteins, including structural and regulatory proteins (Leighton et al., 2015). It can have several  
399 functions in different species: adhesion, secretion and natural transformation (Davidson et al., 2014;  
400 Hager et al., 2006; Leighton et al., 2015; Stone and Kwaik, 1999). As the *Ca. E. persephone* T4P system  
401 is likely not involved in adhesion to host cells during symbiosis (although it might be during the initial  
402 infection), it could participate in protein secretion and/or natural transformation. The *Riftia*  
403 symbiont's T4P system could export putative effector proteins (e.g. ankyrins, SET domain proteins,  
404 SOM13, SOM14) for host interactions. Interestingly, in the pathogen *Francisella tularensis* ssp.  
405 *novicida*, a T4P structure is involved in secretion of infection-moderating proteins (Hager et al.,  
406 2006).

407 Besides their putative function in effector protein export, symbiont membrane proteins may also lead  
408 to bacterial strain adaptation. The *Riftia* symbiont population is polyclonal, i.e. consists of several  
409 distinct strains (Polzin et al., 2019). T4P system-mediated exchange of genetic material between  
410 different symbiont strains would add to this diversity in the symbiosis and might additionally enable  
411 exchange of symbiosis-related genes within the free-living *Ca. E. persephone* population. Natural  
412 transformation in symbionts has only recently been shown for *V. fischeri* in culture (Pollack-Berti et  
413 al., 2010) and the earthworm symbiont *Verminephrobacter eiseniae*, which likely employs a T4P

414 structure for DNA uptake (Davidson et al., 2014). As microbial cell densities are comparatively high  
415 in eukaryote-prokaryote mutualisms, natural transformation in these systems might actually be  
416 more common than previously recognized. The proposed DNA uptake by the *Riftia* symbiont may not  
417 only facilitate exchange between symbiont strains, but may also promote horizontal gene transfer  
418 between host and symbiont, e.g. of eukaryote-like proteins. This hypothesis, as well as the  
419 speculation that *Ca. E. persephone* might be capable of conjugation (SOM14) certainly warrant  
420 further investigations.

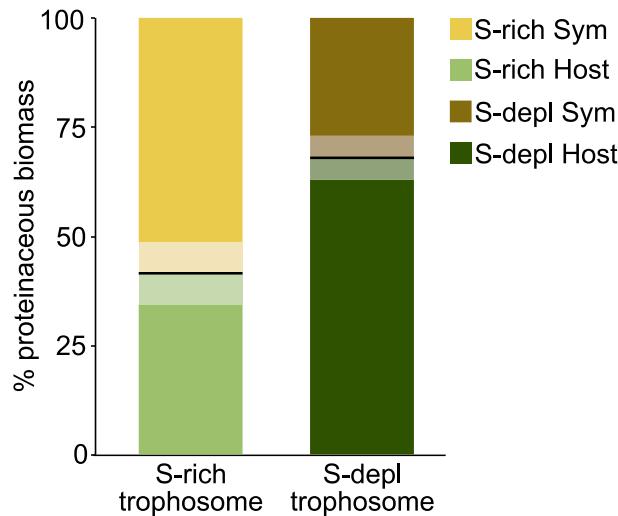
## 421 S availability affects symbiotic interactions in *Riftia*

422 S-depleted *Riftia* hosts digest more symbionts than S-rich specimens  
423 We compared the metaproteomes of *Riftia* specimens with and without stored sulfur (i.e., energy-  
424 rich vs. energy-depleted specimens) to examine how energy availability impacts symbiotic  
425 interactions. Metabolite transfer is apparently especially influenced by the energy regime: The host  
426 supposedly relies more on symbiont digestion in times of S shortage. Proteinaceous symbiont  
427 biomass was notably lower in S-depleted trophosomes (32%) than in S-rich trophosomes (58%;  
428 Figure 6). Simultaneously, overall abundances for several groups of host digestive enzymes were  
429 higher in S-starved trophosomes (Figure 2), and a number of individual host proteins were  
430 significantly more abundant in these S-depleted samples, such as enzymes involved in protein  
431 digestion (including cathepsin B), amino acid degradation, the late-endosome protein Rab7 and  
432 histones (Supp. Table S1). One reason for this supposed increase in symbiont digestion in S-depleted  
433 trophosomes could be a lower nutritional value of the energy-depleted symbionts. S-depleted  
434 symbionts have lower abundances of enzymes involved in sulfur oxidation, probably due to lower S  
435 availability. Therefore, less energy might be available for biosynthesis under S depletion, rendering  
436 the symbiont less “nutritious” for the host. S-depleted hosts may thus have less energy available,  
437 despite increased symbiont digestion. This idea is supported by the observation that host proteins

438 involved in the energy-generating glycolysis, TCA cycle, respiratory chain, ATP synthesis and  
439 biosynthetic pathways were less abundant in S-depleted trophosomes than in S-rich trophosomes.  
440 Potentially, increased symbiont digestion under S-depleted conditions is necessary for the host to  
441 satisfy its basal metabolic demand. Concomitant with the postulated lower nutritional value of S-  
442 depleted symbionts, the Calvin cycle key enzyme RubisCO had an about 10-fold lower abundance in  
443 S-depleted symbionts. Abundance of the rTCA cycle key enzyme ATP citrate lyase (EGV51152.1), on  
444 the other hand, was slightly higher in S-depleted symbionts than in S-rich symbionts, albeit only 1.4-  
445 fold. Under S-depleted conditions, symbionts apparently rely relatively more on the rTCA cycle,  
446 which is more energy-efficient than the Calvin cycle (Markert et al., 2007). The Calvin cycle could be  
447 used in addition to the rTCA cycle under favorable conditions to maximize overall carbon fixation.  
448 Moreover, symbiont enzymes involved in translation were overall more abundant in S-rich  
449 trophosomes than in S-depleted trophosomes. Less protein biosynthesis in S-depleted symbionts  
450 would not only impact the nutritional value of these symbionts, but additionally directly decrease the  
451 proteinaceous symbiont biomass. The reason for the lower proteinaceous biomass of symbionts in  
452 S-depleted trophosomes is therefore probably two-fold: The host digests more symbionts and the  
453 symbionts produce less biomass compared to energy-rich trophosomes.

454 These findings are in contrast to previous results (Scott et al., 2012), which showed no significant  
455 differences in autotrophic activity and symbiont abundance between *Riftia* specimens from high- vs.  
456 low-sulfide habitats. Possibly, increased symbiont digestion is a short-term adaptation to fluctuating  
457 environmental conditions, whereas under long-term low-S conditions the symbiosis might adapt e.g.  
458 by reduced growth rates. Decrease in symbiont abundance or total protein under energy-limiting  
459 conditions has also been noted in *Bathymodiolus* (Stewart et al., 2005) and *C. orbicularis* bivalves  
460 (Caro et al., 2009) as well as in *O. algarvensis* oligochaetes (Wippler et al., 2016). Relying on the  
461 symbionts as nutrient source also under unfavorable conditions thus appears to be a common

462 symbiosis mechanism, which would ensure survival of the host and a subset of the symbiont  
463 population, ultimately prolonging survival of the individual holobiont.



464  
465 Figure 6: % proteinaceous biomass contributions of host and symbiont as calculated from our  
466 metaproteomics results (Kleiner et al., 2017). Bold lines indicate the mean, semitransparent areas  
467 indicate standard error of the mean. Sym: Symbiont, S-depl: S-depleted

468  
469 S availability influences CO<sub>2</sub> uptake, pH regulation and O<sub>2</sub> regime in the *Riftia* host  
470 S-depleted hosts seem to invest relatively more biosynthetic capacities in CO<sub>2</sub> uptake and less in pH  
471 regulation, and their trophosomes are supposedly less hypoxic than those of S-rich hosts (SOM11,  
472 SOM15). At the same time, S availability appeared to have little influence on non-symbiont-related  
473 processes in the host, as only very few (i.e. < 10) individual proteins significantly differed in  
474 abundance between S-rich and S-dark plume and vestimentum samples. This indicates that the host's  
475 metabolism is very well buffered against changes in environmental conditions.

476 Higher digestion pressure might result in symbiont countermeasures  
477 In S-depleted *Riftia* specimens, a putative *Ca. E. persephone* dodecin was significantly more abundant  
478 than in S-rich specimens. This protein might be involved in protecting the symbiont against oxygen  
479 and/or digestion stress (SOM14). A symbiont porin, which was also significantly more abundant in

480 S-depleted specimens, might be involved in counteracting the supposedly higher digestion pressure  
481 (see above and SOM14).

482 **Conclusion**

483 To fully understand the biology of organisms, it is crucial to study them together with their symbiotic  
484 partners as holobionts (Gilbert et al., 2012). Given its low complexity, high specificity and extreme  
485 dependence of the host on the symbiont, the association of *Riftia* and its bacterial partner serves as  
486 an excellent system to study mutualistic host-microbe interactions. While *Riftia* lives in a unique and  
487 remote environment, many of the interactions we identified, like symbiont digestion by the host, high  
488 host investment in substrate transfer to the symbiont, host-directed symbiont population control,  
489 and eukaryote-like symbiont proteins that could interact with the hosts' molecular machinery, seem  
490 to be critical in other symbiotic associations as well, including insects, mussels and oligochaetes.  
491 These interactions might therefore represent common principles among evolutionarily diverse  
492 mutualistic animal-microbe associations.

493 Our study provides access to the *Riftia* host transcriptome and protein sequences and thus paves the  
494 way for future research on host-microbe interactions in *Riftia* and other systems. Promising research  
495 directions include the elucidation of protein functions, e.g. of *Riftia* immune system proteins and  
496 symbiont eukaryote-like proteins by heterologous gene expression and biochemical assays in model  
497 systems. Moreover, our work stimulates future in-depth studies of the molecular mechanisms  
498 involved in recognition of both partners during the initial infection of *Riftia* larvae by free-living  
499 symbionts. Putative differences between *Riftia*'s short- and long-term adaptation strategies in  
500 response to changing environmental conditions also warrant further investigation.

501

502

503

## 504 Material and Methods

### 505 Sampling

506 *Riftia* tissue samples were obtained during several research cruises in 2008, 2014 and 2017 with RV  
507 Atlantis to the deep-sea hydrothermal vent fields on the East Pacific Rise at 9°50' N, 104°17' W. *Riftia*  
508 specimens were collected by the human occupied vehicle Alvin or the remotely operated vehicle  
509 Jason in approximately 2,500 m water depth. Sampling dates for all *Riftia* tissue samples for  
510 proteomics, transcriptomics and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) are summarized in Supp.  
511 Table S6. Different specimens were used for proteomics, transcriptomics and TEM. *Riftia* specimens  
512 were dissected onboard and tissue samples stored at -80 °C. The lamellae of the tentacular crown  
513 were shaved off to provide “plume” samples, trophosome samples were dissected from whole  
514 trophosome, body wall samples were retrieved and washed after removal of the trophosome, and  
515 vestimental samples were cut off from the lateral portions of the vestimentum. Specimens were  
516 classified into sulfur-rich (S-rich), S-depleted and medium S according to their trophosome color  
517 (yellow/light green, dark green/black, or medium green, respectively).

### 518 Extraction of whole-tissue RNA

519 RNA was extracted from a total of 22 tissue samples from 9 specimens (6 x trophosome, 6 x body  
520 wall, 5 x plume, 5 x vestimentum, see Figure 1). Tissue samples were homogenized by bead-beating  
521 with lysing matrix D (MP Biomedicals) in 1 ml TRIzol® (Thermo Fisher Scientific; 3x 6.5m/s for 30  
522 s, 3 min cooling on ice in between). After 5 min acclimatization to room temperature, samples were  
523 applied onto QIAshredder columns (Qiagen) and centrifuged (16,000 x g, 3 min, 4 °C). Afterwards,  
524 RNA was isolated from the aqueous flow-through according to the TRIzol extraction protocol, with  
525 the modification that samples were centrifuged for 20 min at 12,000 x g and 4 °C for phase separation.  
526 Glycogen was added for RNA precipitation. RNA was washed twice with 75% ethanol and purified  
527 using the Norgen RNA Clean-Up and Concentration kit according to the manufacturer’s Protocol A,

528 including DNA removal with DNase (Qiagen). Quality of extracted RNA was assessed using Nanodrop  
529 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and Bioanalyzer (Agilent) analyses.

530 Transcriptome sequencing and assembly

531 *Transcriptome sequencing*

532 Transcriptome sequencing was performed employing the TruSeq stranded mRNA (poly A-based)  
533 library protocol (Illumina) on a HiSeq 4000 (Illumina), according to the manufacturer's guidelines.

534 *Transcriptome assembly*

535 High-throughput paired-end Illumina sequencing resulted in an average of about 26 million reads  
536 per end per library (min 16,045,121 reads per end, max 31,318,532 reads per end, 95% CI  
537 1,673,590). After de-multiplexing and quality-checking of reads in FastQC v0.11.5 (Andrews, 2010),  
538 we trimmed low quality bases and adapters with Trimmomatic v0.32 (Bolger et al., 2014) using the  
539 settings ILLUMINACLIP:AllAdapters.fa:2:30:10 SLIDINGWINDOW:4:20, and LEADING:5 TRAILING:5  
540 HEADCROP:15 MINLEN:75. Although bacterial mRNA does not possess a polyA tail, previous  
541 research has shown that bacterial reads can still be present in polyA-enriched RNA-Seq libraries  
542 (Egas et al., 2012). To filter out potential symbiont contaminations from our host transcriptomes, we  
543 used the Bowtie 2 v2.2.9 aligner (Langmead and Salzberg, 2012) in very-sensitive mode to map the  
544 quality-filtered paired-end reads against the published genomes of the endosymbionts of *Riftia*  
545 (“Riftia1”, NCBI locus tag prefix RIFP1SYM, and “Riftia2”, locus tag prefix RIFP2SYM) and *Tevnia*  
546 *jerichonana* (Gardebrecht et al., 2012). Unmapped paired-end reads were subsequently extracted  
547 using SAMtools v1.4.1 (Li et al., 2009). Potential environmental sequence contaminations from  
548 sample handling were excluded with DeconSeq v0.4.3 (Schmieder and Edwards, 2011) using  
549 coverage and identity thresholds of 0.90 and 0.95, respectively. The decontaminated host reads were  
550 normalized and assembled with Trinity v2.3.2 (Grabherr et al., 2011). To optimize the transcriptome  
551 assembly we performed four different assemblies with different parameters and input files: 1) only

552 paired reads, 2) paired and unpaired reads, 3) only paired reads plus jaccard-clip option (to reduce  
553 chimeras), 4) paired and unpaired reads plus jaccard-clip option.

554 To assess the completeness of the different assemblies we compared our transcriptomes against the  
555 BUSCO v2.0 eukaryote and metazoan orthologous datasets (Simão et al., 2015). Overall, the best  
556 results in terms of transcriptome completeness and quality were obtained by the assembly approach  
557 using paired and unpaired reads plus jaccard-clip option (Supp. Table S7). This dataset was used for  
558 all further analyses.

559 *Open reading frame (ORF) prediction*

560 TransDecoder v3.0.1 (Haas et al., 2013) was used to identify coding regions in the assembled  
561 transcripts. To improve ORF prediction, we examined all candidate ORFs for homology to known  
562 proteins by searching the Swiss-Prot (<http://www.uniprot.org>) and Pfam (Finn et al., 2016)  
563 databases (downloaded January 3, 2017) with BLASTP (Altschul et al., 1990, e-value 1e-05) and  
564 HMMER3 (Eddy, 2009), respectively. ORFs that were longer than 100 amino acids and/or had a  
565 database entry were retained. The FASTA headers of the TransDecoder output files were modified  
566 with a custom PERL script to include the BLASTP protein annotations.

567 **Database generation**

568 A common database for protein identification of *Riftia* host and symbiont was generated. To this end,  
569 host protein sequences were clustered at 95% identity with CD-HIT v. 4.6 (Huang et al., 2010). For  
570 symbiont sequences, the three proteomes of the *Riftia1*, *Riftia2* and *Tenvia* symbiont (Gardebrecht et  
571 al., 2012) were used. *Riftia1* was used as basis for clustering the symbiont protein sequences with  
572 CD-Hit-2D (Huang et al., 2010). Subsequently, the combined symbiont database was clustered at 95%  
573 identity. Identifier prefixes were added to distinguish between host and symbiont sequences for  
574 Calis-p (Kleiner et al., 2018, see below). Host and symbiont databases were concatenated and the

575 cRAP database containing common laboratory contaminants (The Global Proteome Machine  
576 Organization) was added. The final database contained 71,194 sequences.

577 Proteomics sample preparation and analysis

578 For metaproteomics analysis, we used three biological replicates per tissue (trophosome,  
579 vestimentum, plume) and condition (specimens with S-rich and S-depleted trophosomes), which  
580 resulted in a total of 18 samples. Tissues were disrupted by bead-beating for 45 s at 6.0 m/s with  
581 lysing matrix D tubes (MP Biomedicals) in SDT buffer (4% (w/v) sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 100  
582 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.6, 0.1 M dithiothreitol (DTT)), followed by heating to 95 °C for 10 min. Tryptic  
583 peptides were generated following the FASP protocol of Wiśniewski et al. (2009) with minor  
584 modifications as described by Hamann et al. (Hamann et al., 2016). Peptide concentrations were  
585 determined with the Pierce Micro BCA assay (Thermo Scientific Pierce) according to the  
586 manufacturer's instructions. The tryptic digest was desalted on-line during LC-MS/MS analysis.

587 All samples were analyzed by 1D-LC-MS/MS as in Hinzke et al. (2019), using 4 h gradients. Samples  
588 were analyzed in a randomized block design (Oberg and Vitek, 2009) and run in technical triplicates.  
589 Two technical replicate runs were acquired with a 50 cm analytical column, one with a 75 cm  
590 analytical column. To standardize the stable isotope fingerprinting (SIF) analysis (Kleiner et al.,  
591 2018), human hair was measured in technical duplicate alongside the *Riftia* samples in the replicate  
592 run using a 75 cm column.

593 Proteomics data evaluation

594 *Protein identification, quantification and statistical analyses*

595 For protein identification, MS/MS spectra of combined technical triplicate runs were searched  
596 against the combined host and symbiont database using the Sequest HT node in Proteome Discoverer  
597 version 2.0.0.802 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) as in Kleiner et al. (2018). For protein abundance  
598 estimates, normalized spectral abundance factors (NSAFs, Zybailov et al., 2006) were calculated per

599 sample and organism (%orgNSAF, Mueller et al., 2010). Statistical evaluation was performed based  
600 on spectral counts using the edgeR package (Robinson et al., 2010) in R (R Core Team, 2017). The  
601 edgeR package uses an overdispersed Poisson model for analysis of count data. Overdispersion is  
602 moderated across proteins using empirical Bayes methods (Robinson et al., 2010). We employed a  
603 false-discovery rate (FDR) of 0.05 to assign statistical significance to protein abundance differences.  
604 For graphical representation, heatmaps were generated with the R package ComplexHeatmaps (Gu  
605 et al., 2016) and intersection plots with the R package UpsetR (Lex et al., 2014). Protein biomasses of  
606 host and symbiont were calculated as in Kleiner et al. (2017).

607  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values of *Riftia* symbiont and host were calculated from mass spectrometry data with Calis-p  
608 (Kleiner et al., 2018) using one technical replicate LC-MS/MS run (75 cm analytical column). Human  
609 hair was used as reference material.

610 *Protein annotations, functional characterization and categorization*  
611 Besides the annotations included in the database, proteins were further characterized using the  
612 online tools described in Supp. Table S8. Proteins were manually categorized into functional groups  
613 based on their annotations and the information in the Uniprot (The UniProt Consortium, 2017), NCBI  
614 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) and InterPro (Finn et al., 2017) databases. We used the  
615 Transporter                    Automatic                    Annotation                    Pipeline                    (TransAAP)  
616 ([http://www.membranetransport.org/transportDB2/TransAAP\\_login.html](http://www.membranetransport.org/transportDB2/TransAAP_login.html)) of the TransportDB2  
617 (Elbourne et al., 2017) and TCDB (Saier Jr et al., 2016) with gblast 2  
618 (<http://www.tcdb.org/labsoftware.php>) to annotate transporters in the *Riftia* symbiont  
619 metagenome database. To detect possible antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) among the host proteins,  
620 we searched the detected host proteins against the antimicrobial peptide database APD3 (Wang et  
621 al., 2016) using BLASTP (Altschul et al., 1990) in BLAST+ 2.7.1 (Camacho et al., 2009). Results were  
622 filtered for %identity >75% and e-value < 0.005. We screened the *Riftia* proteome for homologs of

623 known autophagy-related *Drosophila melanogaster* proteins (as listed in Chang and Neufeld, 2010)  
624 by Blast-searching (BLASTP, Altschul et al., 1990) in BLAST+ 2.8.1, Camacho et al., 2009) the *Riftia*  
625 host proteome against the respective *Drosophila* amino acid sequences (Supp. Table S2).

626 *SMART analysis of eukaryote-like and potential interaction domains*

627 We used the SMART tool (Letunic and Bork, 2018) to screen the *Riftia* symbiont protein database for  
628 proteins and domains which could be involved in symbiont-host interactions. Structures which did  
629 not meet the threshold required by SMART were excluded, whereas overlapping features were  
630 included. We manually filtered the SMART annotations to find putative interaction-relevant  
631 structures based on the Pfam and SMART database information. To compare the *Riftia* symbiont with  
632 other host-associated (mutualistic or pathogenic) and free-living organisms, we also included  
633 domains not present in the *Riftia* annotations, but possibly relevant for host-bacteria interactions in  
634 other organisms based on the literature. All annotations we included are given in Supp. Table S4. The  
635 organisms and their proteome accession numbers we used for comparison can be found in Supp.  
636 Table S5. Proteins with structures that did not pass the threshold criterion in SMART were removed.

637 *Multiple sequence alignments*

638 We used the alignment tool MUSCLE provided by EMBL  
639 (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/muscle/>) for multiple sequence alignment of protein sequences.  
640 Alignments were verified visually.

641 Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

642 The trophosome sample for TEM was fixed at room temperature for 1 h in fixative containing 4%  
643 paraformaldehyde, 1% glutaraldehyde, 10% sucrose in 50 mM HEPES (glutaraldehyde was added  
644 directly before use) and stored at 4 °C. The sample was washed three times with washing buffer (100  
645 mM cacodylate buffer [pH 7.0], 1 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.09 M sucrose) for 10 min each step and treated with 1  
646 % osmium tetroxide in washing buffer for 1 h at room temperature. After three additional washing

647 steps in washing buffer for 10 min each, the sample was dehydrated in a graded series of ethanol  
648 (30%, 50%, 70%, 90%, and 100%) on ice for 30 min each step. Afterwards, the material was  
649 subjected to stepwise infiltration with the acrylic resin LR White according to Hammerschmidt et al.  
650 (2005). Sections were cut with a diamond knife on an ultramicrotome (Reichert Ultracut, Leica UK  
651 Ltd), stained with 4 % aqueous uranyl acetate for 5 min and finally examined with a transmission  
652 electron microscope LEO 906 (Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH) at an acceleration voltage of 80 kV. The  
653 micrographs were edited using Adobe Photoshop CS6.

654 Data availability

655 The mass spectrometry proteomics data and the database have been deposited to the  
656 ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE (Vizcaíno et al., 2016) partner repository with the  
657 dataset identifier PXD012439. Transcriptomics raw data have been deposited to the NCBI Sequence  
658 Read Archive (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra>) with the BioProject accession number  
659 PRJNA534438 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra/PRJNA534438>). The datasets will be released  
660 upon acceptance of the manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal.

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## 679 **Author contributions**

680 T.H., S.M. and M.K. designed experiments, T.H. prepared and analyzed samples for metaproteomics  
681 with input from M.K., compiled metaproteomics database with input from M.K. and S.M., performed  
682 statistical analyses, prepared samples for RNA sequencing with input from C.B., prepared figures,  
683 wrote manuscript. T.S. was involved in project coordination. T.R., R.H. and P.R. coordinated  
684 transcriptome sequencing. H.F. helped with sampling. S.M.S. obtained funding for the research

685 cruises and coordinated sampling as chief scientist. C.B. assembled and annotated transcriptomic  
686 data. All authors contributed to the final manuscript.

687

688 **Competing interests**

689 The authors declare no competing financial or non-financial interests.

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