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Extreme genome diversity and cryptic speciation in a harmful algal bloom forming eukaryote

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SUMMARY

Harmful algal blooms of the toxic haptophyte Prymnesium parvum are a recurrent problem in many inland and estuarine waters around the world. Strains of P. parvum vary in the toxins they produce and in other physiological traits associated with harmful algal blooms, but the genetic basis for this variation is unknown. To investigate genome diversity in this morphospecies, we generated genome assemblies for fifteen phylogenetically and geographically diverse strains of P. parvum including Hi-C guided, near-chromosome level assemblies for two strains. Comparative analysis revealed considerable DNA content variation between strains, ranging from 115 Mbp

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization, J.H.W., R.P.A., A.L.P., N.F.W., T.R.F., S.R.M., B.S.M., and W.W.D.; Methodology, J.H.W., R.P.A., A.L.P., N.F.W., and T.R.F.; Investigation, J.H.W., R.P.A., A.L.P., N.F.W., T.R.F., and O.L.R.; Resources, J.H.W., S.R.M., and B.S.M.; Writing – Original Draft, J.H.W., R.P.A., A.L.P., N.F.W., and T.R.F.; Writing – Review & Editing, J.H.W., R.P.A., A.L.P., N.F.W., T.R.F., O.L.R., S.R.M., B.S.M., and W.W.D.; Visualization, J.H.W., R.P.A., A.L.P., N.F.W., T.R.F., and O.L.R.; Supervision, J.H.W., S.R.M., B.S.M., and W.W.D.; Funding Acquisition, J.H.W., T.R.F., B.S.M., and W.W.D.

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to 845 Mbp. Strains included haploids, diploids, and polyploids, but not all differences in DNA content were due to variation in genome copy number. Haploid genome size between strains of different chemotypes differed by as much as 243 Mbp. Syntenic and phylogenetic analyses indicate that UTEX 2797, a common laboratory strain from Texas, is a hybrid that retains two phylogenetically distinct haplotypes. Investigation of gene families variably present across the strains identified several functional categories associated with metabolic and genome size variation in P. parvum including genes for the biosynthesis of toxic metabolites and proliferation of transposable elements. Together, our results indicate that P parvum is comprised of multiple cryptic species. These genomes provide a robust phylogenetic and genomic framework for investigations into the eco-physiological consequences of the intra- and inter-specific genetic variation present in P. parvum and demonstrate the need for similar resources for other harmful algal bloom-forming morphospecies.

eTOC Blurb

Wisecaver et al. presents genomes for fifteen strains of Prymnesium parvum, a cause of harmful algal blooms around the world. They uncover unprecedented sequence-level, gene family, and genome architecture evolution and provide evidence for both cryptic speciation and hybridization in this protist morphospecies.

Graphical Abstract

INTRODUCTION

Environmentally disruptive harmful algal blooms are increasing in frequency and severity in many marine, brackish, and freshwater ecosystems $1-3$. Knowledge of genetic variation within harmful algal bloom populations can aid efforts to predict when blooms will occur and model bloom impacts in a changing climate. However, genome-level data are currently limited for harmful algal bloom-forming species⁴. One such species, *Prymnesium parvum*, is a unicellular microalga belonging to the haptophyte clade of eukaryotes⁵. Globally, harmful algal blooms of P. parvum have considerable ecologic and economic impacts. In the southwestern United States, particularly in Texas, blooms are correlated with several troubling environmental trends including increased use of glyphosate herbicides, increased concentrations of atmospheric CO_2 , and decreased wetland cover^{6,7}.

P. parvum's success as a harmful algal bloom-forming species likely results from several interrelated aspects of its biology. The species is extremely eurythermal and euryhaline, tolerating temperatures ranging from 2 to 32 \degree C and salinities ranging from 0.5 to 125% of typical seawater⁸. Although *P. parvum* is photosynthetic and maintains permanent chloroplasts, it is also a mixotroph and able to ingest organic material via phagocytosis $9,10$. Despite its small size, P. parvum is a ferocious facultative predator capable of swarming and killing various prey including bacteria, other microbial eukaryotes, aquatic invertebrates, and even fish^{11–14}. The species produces toxins that are thought to assist in this predatory behavior and/or inhibit the activity of competitors and grazers⁵. Heterotrophy and toxicity can increase in P. parvum cultures grown in sub-optimal conditions, $e.g.,$ when nutrients are limiting or water temperature/salinity is at the edge of what a strain can tolerate $8,10,15$.

P. parvum produces a variety of toxic metabolites¹⁶. Most conspicuous are the prymnesins, massive ladder-frame polyether compounds that are unique to P. parvum but structurally similar to the phycotoxins of many harmful algal bloom-forming dinoflagellates¹⁷. More than 50 different prymnesins have been identified and are grouped into types based on the number of carbons in their aglycone backbone. The backbone of A-type prymnesins contain 91 carbons, while B-type and C-type prymnesins contain 85 and 83 carbons, respectively^{18,19}. To date, all strains of *P. parvum* produce just one type of prymnesin, and strains that produce the same prymnesin type $(i.e.,$ chemotype) group together in phylogenies of rDNA sequences^{19,20}. The strong agreement between phylogeny and chemotype —despite strains of different chemotypes often existing in the same geographical location—suggests that there is limited gene flow between chemotypes of P. parvum¹⁹.

Strains of P. parvum may appear morphologically indistinguishable, but the species harbors considerable phenotypic diversity. In addition to the previously discussed diversity in prymnesin chemotypes, the amount of prymnesin produced varies between strains²⁰ as does overall toxicity^{20–23}. Predatory behavior also varies between *P. parvum* strains, even between strains taken from the same bloom²⁴. Moreover, several abiotic factors including temperature, salinity, pH, and irradiance have distinct effects on the relative growth rate and toxicity of different strains $23,25-27$, demonstrating remarkable genotype by environment interactions and adaptive plasticity in P. parvum.

Extensive physiological and biochemical variation between strains of *P. parvum* indicates either the existence of multiple cryptic species¹⁹ or extreme standing genetic variation in this morphospecies. However, the genetic differences between strains have not yet been quantified. Here, we generated fifteen sequenced genomes of P. parvum strains and report considerable genomic variation, both at the nucleotide level and in terms of gene family presence/absence. Our comparative phylogenetic analysis supports monophyletic origins of A-, B-, and C-type prymnesins, with C-type strains having more within-clade sequence diversity compared to A- and B-types. Moreover, we found that the three prymnesin chemotypes of P. parvum have dramatically different haploid genome sizes. In addition to haploid strains identified in all three chemotypes, we also identified A- and C-type diploid strains, as well as A- and B-type 4n tetraploids. Lastly, we present evidence that UTEX 2797, a common laboratory strain from Texas, is a hybrid that retains two phylogenetically distinct haplotypes.

RESULTS

Prymnesium parvum genome assemblies.

We obtained Hi-C scaffolded, highly contiguous genome assemblies of two P. parvum strains from Texas: UTEX 2797 and 12B1. UTEX 2797 was selected for sequencing due to its use in numerous toxicology and physiology experiments of *P. parvum*^{19,20,22,27–32}. However, preliminary analysis of k-mer frequencies revealed that UTEX 2797 displays high sequence-level heterozygosity (Figure 1A), which can complicate genome assembly. Therefore, we also selected strain $12B1^{21}$, which had no observable heterozygosity to obtain a homozygous reference assembly (Figure 1A). UTEX 2797 produces A-type prymnesins18,19, and our chemotyping analysis revealed strain 12B1 produces A-type prymnesins as well (Figure S1).

The nuclear DNA content of both strains was estimated using flow cytometry (Figure 1B). The majority of 12B1 nuclei contained an average of 0.12 pg DNA, which corresponds to approximately 115.6 million base pairs (Mbp). The 12B1 flow cytometry histogram also contained a second, substantially smaller peak corresponding to approximately 0.23 pg DNA (228 Mbp), indicating that some cells may have been in the process of dividing $(i.e.,$ the G_2 phase of the cell cycle) (Figure 1B). The UTEX 2797 flow cytometry histogram contained a single dominant peak corresponding to 0.28 pg DNA, or 274.4 Mbp (Figure 1B). A cryptic sexual lifecycle for P. parvum has been proposed that alternates between haploid and diploid forms, which are only distinguishable by transmission electron microscopy of the cells' outer scales³³. However, neither syngamy nor meiosis have been observed in *P. parvum*, and its lifecycle remains unknown. Therefore, we must be cautious when inferring the haploid genome size and relative ploidy states of different strains, and we tentatively labeled the dominant peaks in 12B1 and UTEX 2797 as 1C and 2C, respectively (Figure 1B).

The Hi-C scaffolded genome assembly for 12B1 consisted of 34 scaffolds spanning 93.6 Mbp with an N50 of 3.2 Mbp (Table S1). The UTEX 2797 assembly was over twice the length of the 12B1 assembly at 197.6 Mbp and consisted of 66 scaffolds with an N50 of 3.4 Mbp (Table S1). Compared to nine other haptophyte assemblies, the UTEX 2797 and 12B1 assemblies are the second and third most contiguous (Figure 1C). We predicted and

annotated 23,802 and 45,535 protein-coding genes in the genomes of 12B1 and UTEX 2797, respectively (Table S1). The recovery of BUSCO conserved single-copy genes in both strains is the greatest of any currently available haptophyte genome assembly (Figure 1C). While only 5.1% of BUSCOs were duplicated in 12B1, the majority of BUSCOs (75.5%) were duplicated in UTEX 2797 (Table S3).

Synteny and collinearity analyses further highlight the duplicated state of the UTEX 2797 genome assembly. A strong 2:1 synteny pattern is observed between the genes of UTEX 2797 and 12B1; 93% of UTEX 2797 genes are syntenic to a single region in 12B1, whereas 84% of 12B1 genes are syntenic to two regions in the UTEX 2797 genome (Figure 1D). Most 12B1 scaffolds are collinear with two syntenic regions in the UTEX 2797 assembly, but an abundance of large structural variants $(e.g.,$ inversions, indels, translocations) are apparent both between the two reference strains as well as between syntenic scaffolds of UTEX 2797 (Figure 1E). Together, these data indicate that the assembly of UTEX 2797 consists of two largely non-collapsed haplotypes, which is consistent with the strain being a highly heterozygous diploid. Due to the extreme heterozygosity present in UTEX 2797, we suspected that the strain may have arisen via hybridization of two divergent parents, as has been observed in other eukaryotic lineages including diatoms³⁴, fungi^{35,36}, and plants³⁷. However, further investigation required data from additional *P. parvum* strains.

To enable phylogenetic analysis of P. parvum and investigate the origin of the divergent haplotypes in UTEX 2797, we selected thirteen additional P . parvum strains from different geographical locations and prymnesin chemotypes (Table S1). In addition to 12B1 and UTEX 2797, we included four other strains that produce A-type prymnesins: 12A1, CCMP2941, CCMP3037, and RCC3703 (Figure $S1$)¹⁹. Three strains in the analysis are already known to produce B-type prymnesins (K-0081, K-0374, and KAC-39), and four to produce C-type prymnesins (K-0252, RCC191, RCC1433, and RCC1436)^{18,19}. We chemotyped two additional strains (RCC3426 and UTEX 995) for this analysis and determined that RCC3426 produces B-type prymnesins and UTEX 995 produces C-types (Figure S1). We assembled and annotated the genomes of these thirteen additional strains using Illumina short reads (Table S1). Genome assembly lengths ranged from 77.0 Mbp (CCMP3707) to 92.9 Mbp (RCC1436). As expected of short-read assemblies, genome contiguity was low, with contig N50s that ranged from 3414 bp (K-0081) to 8872 bp (RCC1433). Nevertheless, coding gene space was well represented, and the number of protein coding genes ranged from 26,458 (CCMP3037) to 32,339 (UTEX 995) (Table S1). BUSCO scores ranged from 65% (UTEX 995) to 81% (RCC1433), comparable to BUSCO scores observed in other Illumina-only haptophyte genome assemblies (Table S3). However, it is notable that 10 unique BUSCOs were not recovered in any of the 24 haptophyte genomes investigated (Table S3). This suggests that some BUSCOs may be absent in haptophytes or too divergent to be recovered using the current BUSCO sequence models.

High sequence divergence within a unicellular morphospecies.

To determine the relatedness among strains of different chemotypes, we used 2699 singlecopy orthogroups (SCOGs) present in all 15 strains for concatenation- and coalescent-based species tree analyses. Support for the species tree topology was generally high across the

tree but low within A-type and B-type clades (Figure 2A, Figure S2). Low support values corresponded to areas of disagreement between the concatenation and coalescent based phylogenies (Figure S2).

Divergence among strains was evaluated was estimated based on the average number of substitutions per synonymous site (Ks) between gene pairs in 15,074 orthogroups. These orthogroups were selected based on their presence in 10 or more strains and robust nucleotide alignments. Average Ks within A- and B-type clades was extremely low at 0.003 and 0.000, respectively (Figure 2A). The C-type strains formed three distinct groups based on Ks: clade C1 (RCC191 and RCC1433), clade C2 (RCC1436, UTEX 995), and clade C3 $(K-0252)$. Median Ks was elevated when C-type strains were compared to each other (Ks) $= 0.0241$) with the C3 strain, K-0252, from Australia acting as a significant outlier when compared to other C-types ($Ks = 0.048$) (Figure 2A). The largest Ks values occurred when C-type strains were compared to A- and B-types ($Ks = 0.093$). These results suggest that the best root location for the P . parvum species tree is along the branch separating C-type strains from A- and B-types, supporting the supported the monophyletic origin of A-, B-, and C-type prymnesins (Figure 2A).

A second approach was used to explore strain relatedness that was complimentary Ks and based on breadth of coverage (BOC) of each strain's Illumina reads to the 12B1 reference genome. Average BOC varied dramatically between chemotypes, ranging from 91.7% in A-type strains, 72.7% in B-types, and 63.4% in C-types (Figure 2B). A-type strains from the U.S.A had a higher average BOC (95.4%) compared to the two A-type strains from Europe (84.2%). All strains maintained high sequence coverage across 12B1's genic space, ranging from 97.5% in other A-type strains to 91.2% in strain UTEX 995 (Figure 2B). This pattern is similar to that seen in interspecific comparisons of *Arabidopsis* spp. (Streptophyta), in which protein-coding genes are conserved while intergenic sequences show significant divergence³⁸.

Phylogenetically divergent haplotypes within a single strain.

Average breadth of coverage was strikingly low for most strains when aligned to the UTEX 2797 assembly (Figure 2B). The two exceptions were UTEX 2797 (i.e., aligned to itself, BOC = 86%) and another strain from Texas, 12A1 (BOC = 91.7%). This pattern of low coverage across the UTEX 2797 assembly is consistent with UTEX 2797 having two divergent haplotypes. Strain 12A1 likely shares these or closely related haplotypes as its reads map well across the UTEX 2797 assembly while the reads from other A-type strains primarily map to one UTEX 2797 haplotype or the other (Figure 2B).

If the two haplotypes of UTEX 2797 have divergent evolutionary histories, as suggested by the BOC analysis, this could lead to high levels of incongruence between the input gene trees (in which UTEX 2797 may group in two locations reflecting the evolutionary histories of its two haplotypes) and the inferred species tree (which forces each strain to appear only once). Therefore, we performed a gene tree-species tree reconciliation analysis using GRAMPA³⁹ to test whether a multi-labeled (MUL) species tree in which UTEX 2797 appeared twice was a more parsimonious representation of the input gene trees compared to the original single-labeled species tree. Seven of 29 possible MUL phylogenies had

a smaller parsimony score, *i.e.*, required fewer total gene duplication and loss events, compared to the single-labeled species tree (Table S4). In the most parsimonious MUL species tree, UTEX 2797 grouped in two locations: with other A-type strains from the U.S.A (hereafter clade A1) and with CCMP2941 and RCC3703 from Europe (hereafter clade A2) (Figure 3). Plotting the genomic distribution of UTEX 2797 genes that group with either clade A1 or A2 revealed a striking pattern. Most scaffolds formed syntenic pairs in the which one scaffold had a high proportion of genes that grouped with subclade A1 and the second scaffold contained genes that grouped with subclade A2 (Figure 3). To quantify the divergence between the UTEX 2797 haplotypes, we compared the distribution of synonymous substitutions of UTEX 2797 genes that grouped with either the A1 or A2 clades. This analysis revealed a bimodal distribution of Ks values in which A1 genes in UTEX 2797 were essentially identical to A1 strains 12B1 and CCMP3037 ($Ks = 0$) and more divergent to A2 strains RCC3703 and CCMP2941 ($Ks = 0.009$) (Figure S3). This pattern was reversed in A2 genes (Figure S3). From these results we can infer that UTEX 2797 was formed via the hybridization of an A1-like and an A2-like parent.

Inter-strain variation in DNA content and haploid genome size.

Flow cytometry revealed that DNA content varied dramatically among P. parvum strains (Figure 4A). Strain 12B1 had the smallest amount of nuclear DNA at 115.6 Mbp, while K-0081 (a B-type strain) had the largest at 845.6 Mbp. Large variation in DNA content between strains of *P. parvum* has previously been interpreted as differences in ploidy³³. However, in our analysis, the relative DNA content between strains did not discretely cluster around integer fold changes (Figure 4A), as would be expected if all variation in nuclear DNA content was due to differences in genome copy number $(i.e., ploidy)$. Given the sequence-level divergence between strains in our analysis, it is possible that differences between strains could extend to the size of their haploid genome as well. Moreover, due to the limited understanding of the *P. parvum* lifecycle, the ploidy of different strains was not immediately clear. This creates a circular puzzle, as we cannot infer the haploid genome size of a strain from flow cytometry without a priori knowing the strain's ploidy.

To address this limitation, we used two sequence-based approaches to estimate the relative haploid genome size between strains. First, k-mer frequency analyses were performed using the Illumina reads from each strain. The coverage of maximal unique k-mers (CMUK) of the homozygous peak in k-mer frequency plots was used as a proxy for haploid genome size, with larger CMUKs indicative of smaller haploid genomes and vice versa. CMUK varied dramatically between strains with different prymnesin chemotypes, ranging from an average of 55.8 in B-type producers to 120.3 in A-types (Figure 4B, Table S1). Average CMUK also varied between C-type strains with strains in the C1 clade having an average CMUK of 104.5 compared to strains in C2 and C3 clades, which had an average CMUK of 77.3 (Figure 4B, Table S1). This pattern indicates considerable differences in haploid genome size between clades with the A-type clade having the smallest haploid genome size and the B-type clade having the largest.

The amount of heterozygosity also varied considerably between strains (Figure 4B). In addition to 12B1, six strains (A1 strain CCMP3037; B strains K-0374, KAC-39, RCC3426;

and C1 strains RCC191, RCC1433) showed little to no evidence of heterozygosity, which could indicate that, like 12B1, these strains are haploid. However, in the case of A1 strain CCMP3037, its flow cytometry estimated DNA content was twice that of 12B1 despite the two strains having similar CMUKs peaks (Figure 4A,B). This indicates that CCMP3037 is a diploid strain with low levels of heterozygosity. For all other low heterozygosity strains in B and C1 clades, decreased CMUK relative to 12B1 corresponds with increased DNA content, suggesting that these strains are haploids. All other strains displayed comparatively moderate to high levels of heterozygosity, indicating that they are either diploids (2n) or polyploid (3n or greater). Notably, strain 12A1 had a pronounced heterozygous peak indicating extremely high levels of heterozygosity, like that observed in UTEX 2797 (Figure 4B). This, coupled with 12A1's high BOC against the UTEX 2797 diploid assembly, indicates that 12A1 is also a hybrid strain.

Average read coverage across 2699 single-copy orthogroups (SCOGs) was used as a second sequence-based estimate of haploid genome size (Figure 4C, Table S1). SCOG and CMUK coverage estimates were in agreement for most strains, except for UTEX 2797, which had significantly lower average SCOG coverage compared to the location of its CMUK peak (Figure 4B,C). This discrepancy is due to the nature of its hybrid genome and Hi-C scaffolded assembly with resolved haplotypes. To be assigned to a SCOG, genes in UTEX 2797 have likely returned to single-copy post hybridization, resulting in lower coverage compared to genes that have been retained in duplicate. Using the Lander-Waterman equation^{40,41}, the sequence-based estimate of haploid genome size ranged from 91 Mbp in A-type strain CCMP3031 to 203 Mbp in B-type strain K-0374 (Figure 4D).

Cross-referencing total DNA content with the sequence-based haploid genome size, we were able to assign a predicted ploidy level for each strain (Figure 4E, Table S1). Six strains were determined to be haploids, and seven (including hybrids 12A1 and UTEX 2797) were diploids. Two strains, A-type CCMP2941 and B-type K-0081 appear tetraploid. Using this predicted ploidy, we also determined flow cytometry-based estimates of haploid genome size (Figure 4F, Table S1). The A clade has the smallest genome size (average $= 130$ Mbp), followed by the C1 clade (153 Mbp). The C3 strain (K-0252) had an estimated genome size of 204 Mbp, and the C2 clade had an average genome size of 225 Mbp. Lastly, B clade strains had the largest genomes (average $= 281$ Mbp), while also having the largest amount of intra-clade variation in genome size (Figure 4F).

Accessory gene families and horizontal gene transfer.

To investigate the impact of genome variation on gene family evolution in P parvum, we performed a pangenome analysis orthogroups (*i.e.*, gene families) and identified a total of 47,043 orthogroups including 16,453 core orthogroups present in all strains; 20,738 accessory orthogroups present in 2–14 strains; and 9852 singleton orthogroups unique to a single strain. The number of shared orthogroups generally clustered by prymnesin type, with some exceptions (Figure 5A). Strains 12B1 and UTEX 2797 did not cluster with other A-types, likely in part due to the differences between their Hi-C scaffolded assemblies and the other Illumina-only assemblies. The C-types also clustered into two groups based on

orthogroup membership, with C2 strains (RCC1436 and UTEX 995) clustering separate from C1 and C3 strains (Figure 5A).

A significant percentage of all orthogroups (44.1%) were variably present in 2–14 strains. Many of these orthogroups ($n = 16,633$; 80.2%) could not be assigned any functional annotation. Among the accessory orthogroups that could be annotated $(n = 4105; 19.8\%)$, several belong to enriched functional categories that could be associated with metabolic and genome size variation in P. parvum. KEGG specialized metabolic pathways, including those for the biosynthesis of type I polyketides, macrolides, and nonribosomal peptides, were enriched in accessory orthogroups compared to core and singleton orthogroups (BH adjusted p-value < 0.01; Figure 5B, Table S5). Moreover, 31 Gene Ontology (GO) categories were enriched in the accessory orthogroups, the most significantly enriched of which was GO:0015074, DNA integration (BH adjusted p-value = 3.68E-73; Figure 5C, Table S5). Most orthogroups assigned to this GO category were annotated as integrase-like enzymes, common components of lysogenic viruses and transposable elements. We investigated the 60 genes annotated with the DNA integration GO term (GO:0015074) in 12B1 and UTEX 2797 and found that all genes fell within 400 bp of a predicted repeat. Many of these genes were found within Ngaro LTRs, which intersected 31.3% of integrase-like genes in 12B1. This pattern reveals that enrichment of the DNA integration GO term is driven by transposable element integrase genes that have been incorporated into the gene model predictions. We investigated the phylogenetic distribution of this pattern by performing functional enrichment on gene families uniquely present in A-, B-, and C-type strains. We found that the DNA integration GO term was enriched in the B- and C-type specific orthogroups (BH adjusted p-values = $3.94e^{-15}$ and $1.72e^{-4}$, respectively) but was not significantly enriched in A-type specific orthogroups (Table S5), suggesting that an expansion of transposon copy number may contribute to the greater haploid genome sizes of the B- and C-type clades.

One potential source of accessory genes in a pangenome is horizontal gene transfer $(HGT)^{42}$. To investigate the role of HGT in the genome evolution of *P. parvum*, we performed a combined Alien Index and phylogenetic analysis⁴³. We identified 11 HGT events into Prymnesium after the genus diverged from other haptophytes. Phylogenetic trees of these HGTs showed clear donor lineages with strong node support (Figure S4, Table S6). Nine of the 11 HGTs had expression support (maximum length-scaled TPMs > 30; Table S6). Two HGTs were likely acquired from eukaryotic donors: HGT01, a bicarbonate transporter of diatom origin, and HGT02, a gene of unknown function that grouped with pelagophytes. Eight HGTs (HGT03 - HGT10) were likely acquired from bacteria. All the bacterially derived HGTs were enzyme-coding with diverse metabolic activities (Table S6). For example, HGT09 grouped phylogenetically with sequences from marine bacteria (Figure 6A), including bmp5, a decarboxylating flavin-dependent halogenase involved in the biosynthesis of polybrominated natural products in *Pseudoalteromonas* spp.⁴⁴. Lastly, HGT11 was a Clp protease that grouped with large dsDNA megaviruses that infect eukaryotic algae (Figure 6B).

The genomic neighborhood of HGT11 in UTEX 2797 contains six additional genes with a top BLAST hit to EhV-86, a dsDNA megavirus that infects the haptophyte Emiliania huxley⁴⁵ (Figure S5). These additional genes were not recovered in our primary screen for

HGT due to a limited number of hits to proteins in the NCBI RefSeq database, making these genes insufficient for phylogenetic analysis. However, their sequence similarities to EhV-86 suggests that this 50 kbp region of viral-like genes was likely acquired as a single block (Figure S5). Only one gene in this region (UTEX2797g6289, a major capsid protein) had a significant hit to the dsDNA megavirus PpDNAV, which was recently isolated from *P. parvum*⁴⁶ (Figure S5). EhV-86 and PpDNAV are both members of the *Phycodnaviridae*, a clade of large DNA viruses that infect eukaryotic algae. The genomes of sequenced *Phycodnaviridae* range in size from 160 to 560 kb and contain hundreds of genes⁴⁷. The Phycodnaviridae are typically lytic in nature; however, one virus in this group, EsV-1 can integrate into its host genome⁴⁷. It is unclear whether the HGT11 viral region in UTEX 2797 is the result of viral integration or was acquired though an alternative mechanism. None of the genes in this region were expressed under any of the growth conditions surveyed, and whether these genes are functional in UTEX 2797 is unknown.

Several horizontally transferred genes were part of the accessory genome and variably present across strains (Table S6). Some of this variation is likely due to ancestral HGTs being lost in some clades; $e.g.,$ HGT07 and HGT10 both appear to have been gained in an ancestor of *Prymnesium* and subsequently lost in the B-type clade (Figure S4). HGT11, the Clp protease gene of viral origin, was notable due to its presence in only four disparate strains: three A-type strains (UTEX 2797, 12A1, and CCMP2941) and one C-type (RCC1433) (Figure 6B). If this gene was acquired in a shared ancestor of all four strains, at least six independent loss events would be required to explain this presence/absence pattern. An alternative explanation could be that multiple independent acquisitions of a viral Clp protease have occurred in P. parvum. We checked for shared synteny between UTEX 2797 and the three additional strains that contain HGT11. In 12A1, HGT11 is located on a 20-gene scaffold (Scaf652979) which shares nearly perfect synteny with UTEX 2797, including five genes within the proposed viral fragment (Figure S6), which suggests that UTEX 2797 and 12A1 share the same HGT event. In contrast, the scaffolds that contain HGT11 in CCMP2941 and RCC1433 are syntenic with each other, but neither are syntenic with UTEX 2797 (Figure S6). This suggests that the HGT that gave rise to the Clp protease in CCMP2941 and RCC1433 may be independent from that of UTEX 2797 and 12A1. Long-read assemblies of additional strains including 12A1, CCMP2941, and RCC1433 are needed to confirm this pattern.

DISCUSSION

The harmful algal bloom-forming eukaryote, Prymnesium parvum, possesses considerable genomic diversity. Combining data from synonymous substitutions, reference genome coverage, phylogenetics, and genome size, the fifteen strains in our analysis can be subdivided into six distinct clades consisting of at least three cryptic species (Figure 4). Evidence for these cryptic species comes from the fact that prymnesin chemotype is phylogenetically segregated, which indicates that the P. parvum A-, B-, and C-type clades are reproductively isolated. Here, we provide further support for these clades being separate cryptic species based on the extreme variation in their genome size, as excessive chromosome-level differences will likely inhibit proper chromosome pairing during meiosis. Another haptophyte with population-level genomic data is the coccolithophore, E. huxleyi.

And like *P. parvum, E. huxleyi* forms a species complex with a pan genome that shows significant variation in terms of gene content and reference genome coverage⁴⁸. If this pattern extends to additional haptophyte morphospecies, it suggests that species diversity may be severely underestimated in this ecologically important lineage of algae.

The most dramatic difference in *P. parvum* genome size occurred between the sister clades of A- and B- type strains (Figure 4F). These clades show limited substitutions at synonymous sites ($Ks = 0.02$; Figure 2A), which suggests a relatively recent divergence in genome size. Possible mechanisms for genome expansion in B-type strains includes wholegenome duplication (WGD) and/or proliferation of transposable elements. Our analysis of Ks distributions showed no evidence of recent WGD in the last common ancestor of the B-clade. Instead, gene functions associated with transposable elements were enriched in gene families unique to B-type strains (Table S5), suggesting that the increase in their genome size could be due to an increase in transposition activity of these elements. A high-quality reference genome of a B-type strain would enable further investigation of repeat diversity and expansion across these two clades and clarify the mechanism(s) of genome size variation in *P. parvum*.

Although *P. parvum* is currently considered a single morphospecies, earlier taxonomic descriptions split the species in two $(P.$ parvum and $P.$ patelliferum) based on differences in the morphology of the organic scales that cover their cell surface⁴⁹. When the rDNA ITS1 region was found to be identical in strains of P. parvum and P. patelliferum isolated from the same geographic location, the two species were merged into one⁵⁰. Later, two strains originally identified as P. parvum (K-0081 and strain RL10parv93, not included in our analysis) were found to have higher amounts of DNA compared to three strains labeled P. patelliferum (K-0252, RCC191, and a third strain not assessed here, RLpat93)³³. This observation led Larsen and Edvardsen (1998) to propose a cryptic lifecycle for P. parvum that alternates between flagellated haploid and diploid forms. Our analysis identified strains of different ploidy states, supporting the existence of a cryptic sexual lifecycle. Moreover, the existence of a hybrid strain (UTEX 2797) with two phylogenetically divergent parental genotypes indicates that syngamy can occur in P. parvum. Lastly, P. parvum retains the full complement of conserved meiosis and recombination genes present in other haptophytes⁵¹. The combined evidence suggests that *P. parvum* is capable of sexual reproduction. Our assessment of ploidy across these strains, which includes flow cytometry and read-based estimates of haploid genome size, indicates that K-0081 is a tetraploid, not a diploid as previously thought, and that K-0252 is a diploid and not a haploid (Figure 4). Given the inclusion of these strains in the hypothesis about scale morphology and ploidy, our new results suggest that scale morphology is not diagnostic of ploidy state. Analysis of the fifteen strains reported here places variation in ploidy and genome size in a phylogenetic framework, facilitating future investigation into cellular morphology and sexual reproduction in *P. parvum*.

Our phylogenomic analysis also reveals that UTEX 2797, a Texas P. parvum strain frequently used in growth and toxicity experiments, is a hybrid of A1 and A2 parents (Figure 4A). To our knowledge, this is only the second genome level analysis of hybridization in a protist or eukaryotic alga³⁴. Regarding the evolutionary history of UTEX 2797, it is

intriguing that the A1 strains in our analysis were isolated from the U.S.A while the A2 strains were isolated from Europe, and it is tempting to speculate that hybridization was a result of a recent introduction of the A2 lineage in Texas. However, further investigation into the origin of UTEX 2797 requires additional taxon sampling of A-type strains in Texas and around the world. Our analyses suggest that the high heterozygosity strain 12A1 is a hybrid as well, but a long-read based assembly for 12A1 is required to determine if it arose from the same hybridization event as UTEX 2797. The evolutionary outcome of hybridization in P. parvum is also unknown. Are these hybrid strains capable of sexual reproduction? Genome divergence between A1 and A2 clades may be such that homologous chromosomes are unable to pair correctly during meiosis. If so, these hybrids may be effectively trapped as diploids and only able to reproduce asexually. Alternatively, whole-genome duplication following hybridization (allopolyploidy) has been shown to restore fertility in hybrid yeast³⁶, which could make these *P. parvum* hybrids reproductively haploids. Characterizing the sexual lifecycle of P. parvum would allow researchers to address several outstanding questions regarding the ecological and evolutionary consequences of extreme genetic variation in these toxic bloom forming eukaryotes. Knowledge of the P. parvum lifecycle would enable the design of mating tests to determine the reproductive status of hybrid strains. Mating tests could also be used to assess reproductive isolation between divergent populations, as has been done in other morphologically indistinguishable cryptic species complexes^{52–54}.

Previous work indicates that harmful algal blooms of *P. parvum* are comprised of multiple genotypes^{21,24,55}, and our results reveal that the genome-level differences between these genotypes can be dramatic. For example, strains 12A1 and 12B1 were isolated from the same Texas bloom in 2010 and consistently show different cell-level behaviors involved in toxicity and predation of microalgal prey^{21,24}. Here, we show that characteristic differences between 12A1 and 12B1 extend to large differences in their genomes as well, with 12A1 being a hybrid diploid and 12B1 having a streamlined haploid genome. Moreover, significant gene-level differences exist between these two strains, with 7% ($n = 1485$) of 12B1 orthogroups absent in 12A1. An even larger percentage, 22% (n = 5709), of 12A1 orthogroups are absent in 12B1, including one that was horizontally acquired (HGT11; Figure 6B). Gene families that are variably present across strains in our analysis include those for the biosynthesis of type I polyketides, (Figure 5B), the class of specialized metabolites that includes prymnesins¹⁷. This is unsurprising given the structural diversity in prymnesins that have already been characterized in P . parvum^{18,19}. However, it is notable that 12A1 and 12B1, both A-type strains, show variable representation of eighteen orthogroups assigned to the type I polyketide KEGG pathway (map01052; Table S5). If any of these orthogroups are involved in toxin biosynthesis, phenotypic differences between these two strains could extend to their toxin profiles as well. The coding capacity of P. parvum has also been expanded by HGT. Prymnesins are halogenated metabolites, and though we have not functionally characterized it, it is tantalizing to note that a halogenase is among the HGT candidates in the *P. parvum* genomes (HGT09; Figure 6A). HGT is often a source of metabolic innovation^{43,56–58} and elucidating the prymnesin pathway will determine if this gene is relevant to the production of these metabolites. More work is needed to identify the genetic factors associated with toxin production and

the phenotypic differences between these diverse strains of P. parvum. Additionally, work is needed to identify the selective advantage of different phenotypes and whether such advantages fluctuate between bloom and non-bloom conditions. The genome assemblies and phylogenomic analysis reported here are thus essential resources that will enable future investigation into the eco-physiological consequences of hidden genetic diversity in this harmful algal bloom-forming morphospecies.

STAR METHODS

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact—Further information and requests for resources should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Jennifer Wisecaver (jwisecav@purdue.edu).

Materials availability—*P. parvum* strains 12B1 and 12A1 have been deposited in the UTEX Culture Collection of Algae at UT-Austin under UTEX accessions UTEX LB ZZ1299 and UTEX LB ZZ1300.

Data and code availability—All genome assemblies, predicted CDS and protein sequences, multiple sequence alignments, tree files, and other related data files are available through FigShare (https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.21376500). Scripts for chromatogram production are available on Figshare https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.22267066.v1. All other scripts are available through GitHub [\(https://github.com/WisecaverLab/](https://github.com/WisecaverLab/Pparvum_genome_diversity) [Pparvum_genome_diversity](https://github.com/WisecaverLab/Pparvum_genome_diversity)). Raw sequencing reads have been deposited in the Sequence Read Archive database under accession number PRJNA807128. LC-MS data from chemotyping is available in the EBI MetaboLights database under accession MTBLS5893.

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND STUDY PARTICIPANT DETAILS

Culturing methods.—Strains and their respective media types are summarized in Table S1. Cultures were kept at 20 °C using a 12:12 light dark cycle and irradiance of 40–200 μ mol photos m⁻² s⁻¹.

METHOD DETAILS

Flow cytometry.—Nuclei for genome size estimation were isolated using LB01 buffer (15 mM Tris, 2 mM Na₂-EDTA, 0.5 mM spermine tetrahydrochloride, 80 mM KCl, 20 mM NaCl, 0.1% (v/v) Triton X-100, pH=8.0)^{60,61}. For *P. parvum*, 1 mL of exponentially growing culture was centrifuged at $1000 \times g$ for 10 minutes. The supernatant was decanted, and the cell pellet was flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen. The pellet was resuspended in 1 mL of ice-cold LB01 buffer. For the *Chlorella vulgaris* genome standard, 1 mL of exponentially growing liquid culture (Carolina Biological) was centrifuged at $1000 \times g$ for 10 minutes. The cell pellet was resuspended in 1 mL ice-cold LB01 buffer and transferred to a 2 mL ZR BashingBead Lysis Tube (Zymo Research Cat #S6003–50). The tube was agitated using a Disruptor Genie (Scientific Industries Model #SI-D238) for 5 minutes. For the Selaginella moellendorfii genome standard, leaf and stem tissue (provided by Dr. Scott McAdam, Purdue University) were chopped using a razor blade with 1.5 mL ice-cold LB01 buffer added per 100 mg tissue for 3 minutes. For the Arabidopsis thaliana genome standard,

rosette tissue from the Col-0 reference accession (provided by Dr. Clint Chapple, Purdue University) was chopped using a razor blade with 1.5 mL ice-cold LB01 buffer added per 100 mg tissue for 3 minutes. All nuclei suspensions were filtered through a 40 μm cell strainer and kept at 4 °C until use.

RNaseA and propidium iodide were added to nuclei suspensions at a final concentration of 0.4 mg/mL and 0.05 mg/mL respectively. After briefly vortexing, the nuclei were incubated at 4 °C in the dark for 3 hours. Samples were analyzed using a BD Accuri C6 Plus flow cytometer. All samples were gathered using a flow rate of 14 μL/min and a core size of 10 μm. Fluorescence values were gathered using a 488-nm laser using a 585/40 nm band pass filter and a 670 nm long pass filter. Data from at least 300 nuclei were collected per sample. Biological replicates were performed on three subsequent afternoons at approximately the same time. Samples were processed using the FlowCal Python library⁶². The endoreduplicative nature of the A. thaliana tissue enabled identification of 2C, 4C, 8C, 16C, and 32C nuclei in this species 63 . A line of best fit through the genome standards was calculated using ordinary least squares linear regression. The linear model was then used to estimate the nuclear DNA content in picograms for P. parvum strains, which was converted to estimated base pairs assuming a conversion factor of 1 pg = $0.98 \times$ 10^9 base pairs⁶⁴.

Prymnesin chemotyping.—*P. parvum* strains were cultured in media consisting of L1 (Guillard and Morton, 2003) in GF/F glass fiber filter (Whatman, USA) filtered seawater (Scripps Institution of Oceanography seawater system) diluted to 25% salinity with 18 MOhm water with 1.5 mM added NaHCO₃ to adjust for the lack of carbon in 18 MOhm water⁶⁵. Cultures were grown in 100 mL of media in 500 mL glass Erlenmeyer flasks without external aeration or shaking. Exponential phase culture $(>= 100e^3 \text{ cells/mL}, \le$ $600e³$ cells/mL; late log phase) was harvested via filtration onto 47 mm glass fiber filters (GF/B of GF/F, Whatman) using laboratory vacuum. The resulting filters were stored in 50 mL polypropylene (PP) centrifuge tubes at −80 °C until extraction.

PP tubes with the collected biomass filters were shaken with 25 mL of ethyl acetate at 37 °C (220 RPM) for 20 minutes, and the resulting yellow-green extract was discarded. We chose ethyl acetate rather than the standard cold acetone for pre-extraction based on reports that the cold-acetone lipid-solubilization step can lead to PRYM losses due to variable quantities of water on the filter and resulting extraction⁶⁵. The ethyl acetate pre-extraction step was repeated 2–3 times until the resulting extract was without coloration. The tube was shaken with 25 mL of methanol (MeOH) at 37 °C for 30 minutes. After centrifugation at 4000 \times g for 10 minutes at 20 °C, the MeOH extract was decanted into a 25 mL pear-shaped flask (P/N 9477–06, Ace Glass) and rotary evaporated to dryness at 30 °C under reduced pressure (50 mbar, 150 RPM). The resulting residue was redissolved in 500 μL MeOH and filtered through a 0.2 μm PFTE filter (P/N: CIPT-02, American Chromatography Supplies) into a glass HPLC vial. For each sample, 20 μL was injected onto an Agilent 1260 Infinity HPLC system coupled to an Agilent 6530 quadrupole time-of-flight (QToF) mass spectrometer.

Compounds were separated via gradient HPLC on an Agilent 1260 Infinity system, via C18 reversed phase chromatography (Phenomenex Kinetex C18 150×4.6 mm, 5 µm, 100 Å,

with C18 guard column), at 0.7 mL/min with the following solvents and gradients: Solvent A: $H_2O + 0.1\%$ v/v formic acid, Solvent B: acetonitrile $+ 0.1\%$ v/v formic acid. Compounds were eluted with a gradient of 10% to 100% B over 30 minutes. To wash and equilibrate the column for subsequent injections, the gradient was then held at 100% B until 36 minutes, decreased to 50% over 3 minutes, returned to 10% over 3 minutes, and equilibrated at 10% B for 3 minutes for a total run time of 45 minutes. Under these conditions PRYM-1 and PRYM-2 eluted at around 55–57% B (15.19 to 15.68 min).

The Agilent 6530 QToF MS was configured in either the 3200 m/z, HiRes (4GHz) instrument state or the high dynamic range (2GHz) instrument state. In either case the instrument was quick tuned and mass calibrated just before use. The instrument was set to positive ionization mode. The source parameters were 300 °C gas temp, 11 L/min drying gas, nebulizer at 45 psig, source voltage at 4000V, fragmentor at 100V, Skimmer at 65V, OCT 1 Rf Vpp at 750 V. N₂ gas was supplied by a Parker NitroFlowLab N₂ generator at ~>90% purity. The reference mass infusion and locking were disabled, due to an overlap with the PRYM aglycone $[M+2H]^{2+}$ isotopic peaks with the vendor supplied lock mass. The LC flow was diverted to waste from 0 to 6 minutes and MS acquisition was not performed. At 6 minutes, the LC flow was switched to the MS source $\&$ the instrument began acquiring MS¹ data from 125–3200 *m/z*, at a rate of 4 spectra/second, in the auto MS² mode with a 250 ms dwell time per subsequent $MS²$ scan. Between 1–3 of the most abundant precursors per $MS¹$ cycle were chosen for fragmentation, with dynamic exclusion of precursors after their selection. A fixed collision energy of 20 was used. All data was acquired in profile mode. MS acquisition was stopped after 43 minutes.

The resulting LC-MS data was transformed from Agilent MassHunter .d format to .mzML format using Proteowizard v 3.0.2030366, with parameters '--zlib'. Data in .mzML format were analyzed using with MZmine2 $v2.53^{67}$, while .d format data were analyzed with Agilent MassHunter (B.05.00). PRYM-1 and PRYM-2 were identified by comparison of their characteristic multi-chlorinated $MS¹$ isotopologue ionization intensity pattern to *in silico* calculated $MS¹$ isotopologue intensity patterns using the enviPat Web 2.4 tool⁶⁸. Coeluting $[M+H]^+$, $[M+2H]^2$ ⁺, and presumed aglycone in-source fragments, each showing the characteristic $MS¹$ pattern, were detected. Chromatograms were produced using $pymzML⁶⁹$, matplotlib⁷⁰, and svgutils⁷¹, and production scripts are available on Figshare https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.22267066.v1. Raw data is available on Metabolights at study ID MTBLS5893.

Genome sequencing and assembly.—Genomic DNA for Illumina sequencing was extracted from *P. parvum* cell pellets using the CTAB method according to the following protocol https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.b5qhq5t672. Extracted DNA was purified using a Genomic DNA Clean and Concentrator kit (Zymo Research). Sequencing libraries were constructed and sequenced to produce 150 bp paired-end reads using one of two approaches: 1) libraries were prepared using a TruSeq DNA PCR-Free library prep kit (Illumina, San Diego, CA), and sequenced using an Illumina NovaSeq 6000 at the Purdue Genomics Center 2) libraries were prepared using an NEBNext DNA library prep kit (New England Biolabs Inc.) and sequenced using an Illumina NovaSeq 6000 by Novogene Corporation Inc. (Sacramento, CA). Illumina gDNA read quality was assessed by FastQC

v0.10.0⁷³. Short-read only genome assemblies were performed by Abyss v2.2.4⁷⁴ using a k-mer size of 96. Contigs less than 500 bp in length and those flagged as bacterial contamination (see below) were discarded.

Strains were grown in xenic conditions; therefore, bacterial contamination in the Illumina assemblies was identified using BlobTools v1.1.1⁷⁵. For each strain, Illumina gDNA reads were aligned to the Abyss assembly using BWA-MEM v0.7.15⁷⁶ to generate a coverage BAM file. Contigs were queried against the NCBI nucleotide (nt) database (accessed September 11, 2021) using blastn v2.11.0⁷⁷. DIAMOND v2.0.8.146⁷⁸ was used to query contigs against a custom protein databases that consisted of NCBI RefSeq (release 207)⁷⁹ sequences supplemented with additional predicted protein sequences from MMETSP⁸⁰ and the 1000 Plants transcriptome sequencing project $(1KP)^{81}$. The custom protein database used in the BlobTools analysis is available from the authors as well as through the following link: [https://www.datadepot.rcac.purdue.edu/jwisecav/custom-refseq/2021-08-02/.](https://www.datadepot.rcac.purdue.edu/jwisecav/custom-refseq/2021-08-02/) The BlobTools taxrule 'bestsumorder' determined the taxonomic assignment of each contig, prioritizing information from protein hits first. Contigs denoted as non-eukaryotic in origin were removed to produce the final filtered assembly. Lastly, BBSplit v38.87⁸² was used to retain only Illumina reads that mapped to the BlobTools filtered assembly (hereafter referred to as filtered Illumina reads). This filtering step removed 14% of paired reads on average for each strain (Table S1). UTEX 995 was an outlier with 52% of its reads removed due to a large amount of contamination from Proteobacteria and Bacteroidetes. All BlobTools results, including blobplot figures, are available for download from the project's FigShare data repository (see Data Availability).

For long-read sequencing with Oxford Nanopore Technologies (ONT), high molecular weight DNA was extracted from isolated *P. parvum* nuclei using the following protocol https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.7b7hirn⁸³. At least 1.5 μg of gDNA was used as input for an Oxford Nanopore LSK-109 library ligation kit and sequenced on R9 MinION flow cells. Base calling was performed with Guppy v2.3.5 84 . Reads less than 3 kbp long or with quality scores less than 7 were discarded. Different assembly approaches were selected to optimize for either assembly contiguity (in the case of low heterozygosity 12B1) or the amount of resolved haplotypes (in the case of high heterozygosity UTEX 2797). The 12B1 long-read assembly was created using both Nanopore and Illumina gDNA data via MaSuRCA v3.3.1⁸⁵ with the following parameters: LHE_COVERAGE=60, CA_PARAMETERS=cgwErrorRate=0.15, KMER_COUNT_THRESHOLD=2, CLOSE_GAPS=1, JF_SIZE=5000000000. The UTEX 2797 long-read assembly was created using ONT reads only via Canu v2.1.1⁸⁶ with an expected genome size of 200 Mbp. Both assembly types were error corrected via five rounds of polishing with Illumina gDNA reads that were first aligned to the assembly with using BWA-MEM v0.7.15⁷⁶ and polished with Pilon v1.23 using default settings⁸⁷.

To identify mitochondria- and plastid-derived contigs, predicted proteins from the Emiliania huxleyi mitochondrial (Accn: NC_005332.1) and plastid (Accn: NC_007288.1) genomes were queried using tblastn v2.11.0⁷⁷ against both long-read genome assemblies. A single contig corresponding to the plastid genome was identified in both assemblies. One contig was flagged as mitochondrial in origin in UTEX 2797, while no mitochondria-derived

contig was identified in 12B1. All three organelle-derived contigs were excluded from the nuclear genome assemblies and are available for download from the project's FigShare data repository (see Data Availability).

Chromatin conformation capture data was generated using a Phase Genomics (Seattle, WA) Proximo Hi-C 2.0 Kit, which is a commercially available version of the Hi-C protocol⁸⁸. Following the manufacturer's instructions for the kit, intact cells were crosslinked using a formaldehyde solution, digested using the DPNII restriction enzyme, end repaired with biotinylated nucleotides, and proximity ligated to create chimeric molecules composed of fragments from different regions of the genome that were physically proximal in vivo. Molecules were pulled down with streptavidin beads, processed into an Illuminacompatible sequencing library, and sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq platform as 2×150 bp reads. Illumina reads were aligned to the long-read assemblies (Canu assembly for UTEX 2797 and MaSuRCA assembly for 12B1) using BWA-MEM v0.7.1576 with the -5SP options specified, and all other options default. SAMBLASTER⁸⁹ was used to flag PCR duplicates, which were then excluded. Alignments were filtered with SAMtools⁹⁰ using the -F 2304 filtering flag to remove non-primary and secondary alignments. Putative misjoined contigs were broken using Juicebox $91,92$ based on Hi-C alignments. Kraken $v2⁹³$ identified eukaryotic contigs, which were selected for scaffolding, and prokaryotic contaminants, which were discarded. The same alignment procedure was repeated from the beginning on this corrected assembly. Phase Genomics' Proximo Hi-C genome scaffolding platform was used to create chromosome-scale scaffolds from the corrected assembly as previously described 94 . As in the LACHESIS method 95 , this process computes a contact frequency matrix from the aligned Hi-C read pairs, normalized by the number of DPNII restriction sites (GATC) on each contig, and constructs scaffolds that optimize expected contact frequency and other statistical patterns in Hi-C data. Approximately 60,000 separate Proximo runs were performed to optimize the number of scaffolds and scaffold construction to make the scaffolds as concordant with the oybserved Hi-C data as possible.

During the Alien Index analysis (see Horizontal Gene Transfer methods section below), we flagged two 12B1 MaSuRCA contigs (scf7180000001543 on 12B1-Scaf8 and scf7180000001202 on 12B1-Scaf32) as bacterial contamination in the scaffolded 12B1 assembly. Both contigs were located at the ends of scaffolds, all genes on the contigs were of bacterial origin, and the percent identity to the database sequences was high ($> 80\%$ for all genes), indicating that these bacterially derived contigs were incorporated into the Hi-C scaffolded assembly in error rather than true horizontal gene transfer. Therefore, these contig sequences were manually removed from the final genome assembly and the flagged genes filtered from the final gene set. The resulting 12B1 assembly and gene annotations following these steps were designated as final (v1).

Repeat prediction.—*De novo* repeat identification was separately performed on the scaffolded assemblies of strains 12B1 and UTEX 2797 using RepeatModeler v2.0.1⁹⁶. The resulting modeled libraries were used to inform repeat masking the assemblies with RepeatMasker v4.0.7 97 . Repeats were also masked using the UTEX 2797 *de novo* repeat library for the short-read only assemblies. Total repetitive sequence made up 29.4% and

35.5% of the 12B1 and UTEX 2797 genome assemblies, respectively, which are within the range of values (22.9% - 64%) reported for other haptophytes^{48,98,99}.

Gene Prediction.—To maximize capture of the *P. parvum* transcriptome for gene calling, we performed RNA-Seq of UTEX 2797 cultures grown in six different conditions: low salinity (2 PSU), medium salinity (11 PSU), high salinity (32 PSU), low vitamin $(1/10th)$ the standard concentration of L1 media), low phosphorus $(1/25th$ the standard concentration of L1 media), and low light (30 µmol photos $m^{-2} s^{-1}$). Additional cultures in standard media conditions (see Table S1) were sampled at four diurnal timepoints: T0 (onset of light cycle), T6 (6 hrs after onset of light cycle), T12 (onset of dark cycle), and T18 (6 hrs after onset of dark cycle). Starting 100 mL cultures were inoculated at 10,000 cells/mL and grown at 20 °C using a 12:12 light dark cycle. Beginning five days post inoculation, cultures were maintained using semi-continuous replacement every three days by discarding 10% of the culture and replacing with fresh media. Cell densities were measured every three days to track culture growth. Upon reaching densities of $\sim 1 \times 10^6$ cells/mL, cultures were harvested by centrifugation at $4500 \times g$ for 5 minutes and snap freezing in liquid nitrogen. Total RNA was extracted from pelleted cells using the following protocol: https:// dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bv3hn8j6¹⁰⁰. Stranded RNA-Seq libraries were constructed and sequenced by Novogene Corporation Inc. (Sacramento, CA) using a NEBNext Ultra TM RNA Library Prep Kit (NEB, USA) following manufacturer's recommendations. Libraires were sequenced on the Illumina NovaSeq 600 platform to produce 150 bp paired-end reads. RNA-Seq reads were aligned to the UTEX 2797 scaffolded assembly using STAR $v2.7.8a^{101}$ with the maximum intron length set to 10 kbp.

Gene model and protein prediction was first conducted on the UTEX 2797 scaffolded assembly with BRAKER2 v2.1.5102,103. BRAKER2 was supplied the UTEX 2797 scaffolded assembly with repeats soft-masked, a custom protein database comprised of Swiss-Prot and all haptophyte predicted proteins from MMETSP⁸⁰, and the UTEX 2797 Illumina RNA-Seq data aligned to the soft-masked genome. All subsequent predictions for other strains via BRAKER2 utilized the resulting Augustus species-specific training configuration file^{104} and the same custom protein databases.

Characterization of Assembly Completeness.—Telomeric repeats were identified from scanning the final assemblies of 12B1 and UTEX 2797 with TRFFinder v4.09105 using the following parameters: 2 7 7 80 10 50 500 -f -d -m -h. Any tandem repeat within the first or last 2 kbp of a scaffold's length and whose repeat block was any permutation of the conserved Haptophyta telomere repeat TTAGGG106 was selected. Chromosomal end-to-end assembly was accomplished for 29.4% ($n = 10$) of 12B1 and 7.6% ($n = 5$) of UTEX 2797 scaffolds, evidenced by the presence of telomeric sequence on both scaffold ends (Table S2). A single telomere repeat could be identified in an additional 44.1% (n = 15) of 12B1 scaffolds and 34.8% ($n = 23$) of UTEX 2797 scaffolds (Table S2). Overall, 35 and 33 predicted telomeres were identified on 12B1 and UTEX 2797 scaffolds, respectively. Although a rough estimate, this suggests a haploid chromosome count for these strains of approximately $n = 17$. Conservation of core genes was performed using BUSCO v4.0.6

using the eukaryota α db10 dataset, created on 2019–11-20 and consisting of 70 genomes and 255 conserved gene families $107,108$.

Synteny.—Pairwise synteny between the Hi-C scaffolded genomes of UTEX 2797 and 12B1 was identified and visualized with the JCVI pipeline109. Syntenic blocks within and between genome assemblies were identified with SynMap2 on the online Comparative Genomics Platform (CoGe) using the Relative Gene Order algorithm and Quota Align Merge with default settings to merge syntenic blocks¹¹⁰. Synteny visualizations between UTEX 2797 haplotypes on syntenic scaffolds were performed with XMatchView¹¹¹. Shared synteny in the region surrounding HGT11 was visualized with pyGenomeViz 112 .

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Phylogenomic analysis.—Orthologous sequences were identified using OrthoFinder $v2.4.1^{113}$ with the single longest predicted coding sequence (CDS) per gene as input and using the blast nucl sequence search option. Gene trees were constructed for every orthogroup containing sequences from at least 10 strains. Orthogroup CDS nucleotide sequences were aligned with MAFFT $v7.471^{114}$ in the GUIDANCE $v2.02$ alignment software suite using the codon aware method¹¹⁵. The length of the ungapped alignment was evaluated using TrimAL v1.4.rev15¹¹⁶, and orthogroups with ungapped alignments less than 150 bp were excluded from further analysis. Maximum likelihood (ML) gene phylogenies were constructed with IQ-TREE v1.6.12¹¹⁷ using the trimmed multiple sequence alignment as input. ModelFinder¹¹⁸ was used to determine the best-fit nucleic acid substitution model, and 1000 replicates of both SH-aLRT and ultrafast bootstrapping analyses were performed. Gene trees were rooted based on the species tree using Notung v2.9.1.5 with its duplication, transfer, loss and ILS aware parsimony-based root optimization algorithm using default costs for all events^{119,120}. In total, gene trees were built for 15,074 orthogroups that passed the strain count and alignment length filtering thresholds. The number of synonymous substitutions per synonymous site (Ks) was assessed for each pair of sequences within each orthogroup using the ungapped alignment as input. K_s was calculated according to LPB93 method using the yn00 module in PAML v4.9 $121-123$.

The P. parvum species tree was constructed based on the combined signal from 2699 singlecopy orthogroups (SCOGs) using both concatenation- and coalescence-based approaches. For the concatenation approach, the ML phylogeny was constructed in IQ-TREE v2.2.0¹²⁴ based on a concatenated nucleotide data matrix consisting of 96 partitions and 2,982,918 sites with no missing data. The best partition model was selected using a relaxed hierarchical clustering algorithm as implemented by ModelFinder in IQ-TREE v2.2.0. The coalescencebased phylogeny estimation was conducted using ASTRAL v5.7.1¹²⁵. Gene and site concordance factors were calculated for both species trees with IQ-TREE v2.2.0 using the 2699 single-copy genes used to construct the species trees.

Because the most closely related haptophyte species with sequenced genomes were too divergent to serve as outgroups for a nucleotide-based phylogeny, support for different root locations for the species phylogeny were evaluated using IQ-TREE v2.2.0 using the same best partition scheme as above but with a linked non-reversible DNA substitution model

12.12 across all partitions. The --root-test option was enabled to perform a tree topology test and compare the log-likelihoods of the trees based on every possible root location¹²⁶. Both concatenation- and coalescent-based species trees supported the monophyletic origin of A-type and B-type prymnesins (Figure 2A, Figure S2). The root with the highest likelihood score caused the C-type prymnesin producers to be paraphyletic, which is a phylogenetic pattern also observed in a prior 18S rDNA phylogeny²⁰. However, 'rootstrap' support for this root location was low (68%), and two alternative root locations, including one in which C-type producers were monophyletic, could not be rejected (AU tree topology test P-values > 0.1 ; Figure 2A, Figure S2). Support for the species tree topology was assessed using gene and site concordance factors $(gCF/sCF)^{127}$. Support was generally high across the tree but low within A-type and B-type clades (Figure 2A, Figure S2). These low support values also correspond to areas of disagreement between the concatenation and coalescent based phylogenies (Figure S2).

Multi-labeled (MUL) species trees were built using GRAMPA v1.3 with UTEX 2797 as the h1 polyploid clade³⁹. Two MUL tree analyses were run using different sets of Notung rooted gene trees as input: SCOGs only (2699 trees) and all orthogroups (15,040 trees). The MUL tree with the best parsimony score was the same using either gene tree set (Table S4). Sister taxa of each UTEX 2797 gene were identified using the Bio.Phylo Biopython toolkit¹²⁸. The proportion of genes along each UTEX 2797 scaffold that grouped with subclade A1 or A2 were calculated with BEDTools intersect¹²⁹ using 500 kbp windows and requiring a 50% minimum overlap for each gene. Subclade proportions and scaffold synteny were visualized using Circos v0.69 $-9¹³⁰$.

Breadth of coverage.—Breadth of coverage was calculated from alignments of the filtered Illumina reads to the 12B1 and UTEX 2797 scaffolded assemblies. To control for library differences between strains, the filtered Illumina reads were randomly subsampled to equal read counts ($n = 44$ million pairs) using reformat.sh, a tool of the BBTools software suite v38.8782, with sample seed set to 13. Alignments were generated using BWA-MEM v0.7.15⁷⁶. Depth of coverage was calculated on a per-base level for both 12B1 and UTEX 2797 assemblies using samtools. Breadth of coverage was calculated as the proportion of base-pairs in the final assembly that had coverage greater than N coverage. BOC using coverage $n = 0, 5, 10, 20,$ and 50 were all evaluated.

Heterozygosity and read coverage analyses.—Heterozygosity and coverage of maximal unique k-mers were estimated using the subsampled, filtered Illumina gDNA reads (see Characterization of Assembly Completeness Methods section) using KMC $v3.1.1^{131}$ with a k-mer length (-k) of 21, minimal k-mer occurrence (-ci) of 1, and maximal k-mer occurrence (-cs) of 10,000.

Read coverage of single copy orthogroups (SCOGs) was calculated by first aligning the subsampled, filtered Illumina gDNA reads to each strain's assembly using BWA-MEM v0.7.15⁷⁶. Mean read depths were calculated for each SCOG with BEDTools intersect¹²⁹ with the -mean option enabled. The median read depth of the 2699 SCOGs was then used as an estimate of the average coverage of the genome. The haploid genome size (G) was calculated using the Lander-Waterman equation⁴⁰: $G = LN/C$ where LN is the total

combined length (bp) of the input Illumina reads and C is coverage as estimated by SCOG read depth⁴¹.

Functional annotation and enrichment tests.—Gene functional annotations were assigned via InterProScan v5.50–84.0¹³² using default settings and KofamScan¹³³ with the threshold-scale set to 0.9. In total, 86.2% and 86.4% of the 12B1 and UTEX 2797 genes could be assigned predicted functional annotations. KinFin v1.0¹³⁴ was used to transfer gene functional annotations to the orthogroup level if the annotation was assigned to 50% or more of strains in an orthogroup. All gene and orthogroup functional annotations are available for download from the project's FigShare data repository (see Data Availability). Tests for enrichment of higher-level functional categories were performed using the core go.obo ontology (Gene Ontology Consortium) and the KEGG PATHWAY metabolic hierarchy downloaded via the KEGG API. Hypergeometric tests were performed in python using the SciPy library hypergeom¹³⁵, and p-values were adjusted for multiple comparisons using the StatsModels library multitest¹³⁶ with the Benjamini & Hochberg (BH) method¹³⁷.

Horizontal gene transfer.—We assessed the genomes for possible HGT events using a modified Alien Index (AI) score¹³⁸, which was calculated as previously described⁴³. Briefly, each predicted protein sequence was queried against the same custom protein database used for BlobTools (see above) with DIAMOND (v2.0.8.146)⁷⁸. A custom python script sorted the DIAMOND results based on the normalized bitscore (*nbs*), where *nbs* was calculated as the bitscore of the single best scoring HSP to the subject sequence divided by the best bitscore possible for the query sequence (i.e., the bitscore of the query aligned to itself). The AI score is given by the formula: $AI = nbsO - nbsH$, where $nbsO$ is the normalized bit score of the best hit to a species outside of the Haptista lineage (NCBI:txid2608109), $nbsH$ is the normalized bit score of the best hit to a species within the Haptista lineage skipping all hits to the Prymnesium genus (NCBI:txid35143). AI scores range from −1 to 1, being greater than 0 if the predicted protein sequence had a better hit to a non-Haptista sequence, suggestive of either horizontal gene transfer (HGT) or contamination⁴³. Because donor and recipient lineages cannot be differentiated based on AI score alone, and given the relatively common occurrence of HGT from haptophytes to dinoflagellates (particularly dinoflagellates containing haptophyte-derived chloroplasts)¹³⁹, we also skipped all hits to the Dinophyceae lineage (NCBI:txid 2864) when calculating AI scores. We filtered our HGT candidates $(AI > 0)$ to those that were most likely to be phylogenetically informative by requiring $AI > 0.1$ and total hits 50. In addition, if the top hit was to a eukaryote, we further required than $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 haptophytes from outside the *Prymnesium* genus be present in the top 200 hits. This extra requirement allowed us to evaluate whether haptophytes formed a monophyletic clade or whether Prymnesium grouped separately, which would provide stronger support for HGT^{140} . Lastly, due to the risk of bacterial contamination in the Illumina-only assemblies, all candidate HGTs had to be present in one or both scaffolded assemblies of 12B1 and UTEX 2797. The AI screen flagged 95 orthogroups as candidate HGTs. See Data Availability for access to the database and scripts.

Phylogenetic trees of protein sequences were constructed for all filtered AI-flagged HGT candidates. Full-length proteins corresponding to the top 200 hits (E-value $< 1 \times 10^{-10}$)

to each query sequence were extracted from the local database using esl-sfetch¹⁴¹. Protein queries with less than 50 significant hits were skipped. Protein sequences were aligned with MAFFT v7.471 using the E-INS-i strategy and the BLOSUM30 amino acid scoring matrix¹¹⁴ and trimmed with trimAL v1.4.rev15 using its gappyout strategy¹¹⁶. Proteins with trimmed alignments < 150 amino acids in length were excluded. The topologies of the remaining genes were inferred using maximum likelihood as implemented in IQ-TREE v1.6.12¹¹⁷ using an empirically determined substitution model and 1000 rapid bootstrap replications. The phylogenies were midpoint rooted and branches with local support < 95 were collapsed using the ape and phangorn R packages^{142,143}. Phylogenies were visualized using ITOL version 4^{144} and inspected manually to identify phylogenetically supported HGT candidate proteins. Most AI-flagged HGT candidates $(n = 61)$ were phylogenetically inconclusive or lacked support for HGT. Of the 34 HGT candidates that passed manual inspection, we focused on the eleven HGTs with clear donor lineages with strong node support (Fig. S4, Table S6).

Gene expression.—Quantification of gene expression was performed using Kallisto v0.46.2145. The Kallisto index was built using all BRAKER predicted transcripts with the default k-mer size of 31. Transcripts per million (TPM) gene abundance values from Kallisto were scaled using the average transcript length, averaged over samples and to library size, using the lengthScaledTPM option in tximport v1.18.0¹⁴⁶. The full matrix of gene expression can be downloaded from the project's FigShare data repository.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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Highlights

- The protist morphospecies *Prymnesium parvum* contains at least three cryptic species
- **•** Haploid genome size differs dramatically between these cryptic species
- **•** Strains can be hybrids that retain two phylogenetically distinct haplotypes
- **•** Variable gene families include candidates for the biosynthesis of toxic metabolites

Wisecaver et al. Page 32

Figure 1. Genome metrics for *P. parvum* **Hi-C scaffolded long-read assemblies.**

A) K-mer frequency plots showing estimated heterozygosity for strains UTEX 2797 and 12B1. The homozygous k-mer peaks are indicated by vertical bars, with the number above the homozygous peaks indicating the coverage of maximal unique k-mers (CMUKs). UTEX 2797 has high heterozygosity as indicated by the large second peak at half the k-mer coverage of the homozygous peak. B) Histogram indicating the relative fluorescent intensity of propidium iodide-stained nuclei for strains 12B1 (pink) and UTEX 2797 (yellow) relative to genome standards: Cv, Chlorella vulgaris (light blue); Sm, Selaginella moellendorfii (green); At, Arabidopsis thaliana Col-0 (dark blue). C) Comparison of assembly completeness and contiguity across eleven haptophyte genome assemblies. Cp, Chrysochromulina parva; Ct, Chrysochromulina tobinii; Dl, Diacronema lutheri; Eh, Emiliania huxleyi; Ig, Isochrysis galbana; Pas, Pavlovales sp.; Pha, Phaeocystis antarctica; Phg, Phaeocystis globosa; Tl, Tisochrysis lutea. D) Ratio of syntenic block counts between P. parvum genome assemblies for strains 12B1 and UTEX 2797. Syntenic blocks of UTEX 2797 per 12B1 gene (left) and syntenic blocks of 12B1 per UTEX 2797 gene (right) are shown, indicating a clear 1:2 pattern of 12B1 to UTEX 2797. E) Macrosynteny of the 12B1 and UTEX 2797 genomes. Syntenic gene pairs are denoted by black points and positionally oriented by scaffold (grid squares). See also Table S1, Table S2, Table S3.

A) Concatenation-based ML species phylogeny. The heatmap shows the median synonymous substitutions per synonymous site (Ks) between all strains. B) Breadth of coverage (BOC) bar plots showing the percent of 12B1 and UTEX 2797 reference bases spanned by >10 Illumina reads from each strain. BOC is provided for all genomic positions and genic space as separate statistics. See also Figure S1, Figure S2.

Figure 3. Phylogenetically distinct haplotypes of *P. parvum* **strain UTEX 2797.**

Circos plot showing the 66 scaffolds of UTEX 2797 with four tracks (1) outer black track indicates scaffolds, (2) orange heatmap illustrates the percentage of genes in 50 kbp windows that group within the A1 clade, (3) pink heatmap indicates the percentage of genes in the same 50 kbp windows that group within the A2 clade, and (4) syntenic blocks (15) syntenic genes per block) are designated as gray bands. Multi-labeled (MUL) species tree (top left) shows the topology of the A1 and A2 clades as determined by the GRAMPA gene tree-species tree reconciliation analysis. See also Figure S3, Table S4.

Figure 4. Summary of ploidy, heterozygosity, and genome size diversity in *P. parvum***.**

Evolutionary model (left) depicts strain relationships, including a predicted hybridization (dashed lines) giving rise to strains UTEX 2797 and 12A1. A) Boxplots depicting total DNA content per nuclei (Mbp) based on flow cytometry. Numbers (left) indicate mean Mbp per strain. Vertical dashed lines indicate 1x, 2x, 4x, 8x Mbp relative to 12B1. B) K-mer coverage plots depict estimated heterozygosity; numbers indicate CMUKs, i.e., the homozygous kmer peaks labeled by the vertical bars. Heterozygosity can be qualitatively assessed by the presence and relative height of a second peak at half the k-mer coverage of the homozygous peak. C) Boxplots depicting the distribution of read coverage for 2699 SCOGs; numbers indicate median read coverage. D) Haploid genome size was estimated using read coverage (total read length divided by median Illumina read coverage of SCOGs). E) Predicted ploidy was determined by cross-referencing DNA content (A) with sequencing-based estimated of genome size (B-D). F) Haploid genome size was estimated using flow cytometry (total DNA content divided by proposed ploidy). See also Table S1.

Wisecaver et al. Page 36

Figure 5. Pan genome analysis of *P. parvum***.**

A) Hierarchically clustered heatmap showing the number of orthogroups shared by each strain pair. Strains are colored based on the prymnesin type produced (as in Figure 2). Center diagonal indicates the total number of orthogroups, including singletons, present in each strain. Bar charts indicate the number of accessory orthogroups and singleton orthogroups in each strain. B) Significantly enriched KEGG pathways (unbolded) and pathway categories (bolded); arrows point to KEGG pathway parent category. Bar height indicates frequency of the annotation in accessory orthogroups with one or more KEGG annotations. C) Significantly enriched GO categories in accessory orthogroups. Width of network edges indicate the degree of similarity between GO terms as calculated by $REVIGO⁵⁹$. Bubble size indicates frequency of the annotation in accessory orthogroups with one or more GO annotations. See also Table S5.

Wisecaver et al. Page 37

Figure 6. Horizontal gene transfer in *P. parvum***.**

A) Flavin-dependent halogenase phylogeny showing HGT from marine bacteria. The $bmp5$ gene functionally characterized in Pseudoalteromonas is labeled. B) Clp protease phylogeny showing HGT from viruses. For both phylogenies, numbers along select branches indicate ultrafast bootstrap support values for the descendant nodes. See also Figure S4, Figure S5, Figure S6, Table S6.

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

