

Supplementary Information

De Novo Metagenomic Assembly Reveals Abundant Novel Major Lineage of Archaea in Hypersaline Microbial Communities

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Supplementary Methods

Metagenome assembly methods

Details of genomic DNA sequence libraries are provided in **Supplementary Table S1**. Sanger end sequencing yielded average read lengths of 800 nucleotides. One 0.1 μm filter library was also pyrosequenced using 454 Titanium chemistry, with an average read length of 400 nucleotides. Assembly software parameters were systematically varied in preliminary assemblies to empirically identify settings producing maximum scaffold length, minimum gap length, and sharpest peak resolution in a length-weighted histogram of scaffold percent GC. Final assembly parameters were:

```
utgErrorRate=0.10
ovlErrorRate=0.10
cnsErrorRate=0.10
cgwErrorRate=0.12
utgBubblePopping=0
utgGenomeSize=500000
merSize=15
doFragmentCorrection=0
doExtendClearRanges=1
doResolveSurrogates=1
Unitigger parameter -j = -20.
```

Composite assemblies including all available libraries were used to classify scaffolds into one of four categories: Nanohaloarchaea, non-Nanohaloarchaea, ambiguous, or unclassified. Scaffold classifications were based on manual assessment of multiple independent parameters. Matches to known microbial 16S rRNA sequences were identified by BLASTN search against the GreenGenes reference database (DeSantis *et al.*, 2006), requiring a minimum alignment length of 200 nucleotides and e-value of 1e-7 or better. For each scaffold, number and alignment quality of predicted protein matches to GenBank sequences associated with previously sequenced halophilic archaeal genomes were assessed based on a BLASTX search against the GenBank nr database with an e-value cutoff of 1e-5 or better. For scaffolds longer than 3,000 nucleotides, distribution of reads derived from the 0.1 μm and 0.8 μm filter libraries and percent G+C nucleotide composition were also considered in determining scaffold origin.

A second, iterative round of assembly was performed combining all reads previously associated with scaffolds identified as possible Nanohaloarchaea, ambiguous or unclassified. Unassembled singletons reads were also included in the second round, but reads associated with scaffolds identified as non-Nanohaloarchaea were excluded. Scaffolds from the second round of assembly were classified according to the same procedures as the first round.

Phylogenetic analysis methods

Sixty-six individual ribosomal protein datasets from Euryarchaeotal genomes (**Supplementary Table S8**), including J07AB43 and J07ABA56, were aligned using MAFFT version 6.833 (Philippe, 1993). All alignments were visually inspected and manually corrected when necessary. Regions where the alignment was doubtful were removed prior to further phylogenetic analyses. Datasets for nine ribosomal proteins were discarded because of insufficient taxonomic sampling (L13e, L14e, L20a, L30e, L34e, L35ae, S25e, S26e, S30e), since these proteins were absent in more than 10 euryarchaeal genomes. The remaining 57 ribosomal proteins were combined to construct a single alignment containing 5858 amino acid positions. This alignment was subsequently recoded using Dayhoff 4 categories (ASTGP, DNEQ, RHK and MVILFWY, with cysteines being considered as missing characters) (Hrdy *et al.*, 2004; Susko and Roger, 2007). A subset of 43 of the original 68 archaeal genomes were selected to represent the diversity of Euryarchaeota, eliminating multiple closely related representatives of the same order (e.g. *Pyrococcus*, *Thermococcus*, *Methanosarcina*, and *Methanococcus maripaludis*).

Maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenetic analyses were performed using both TreeFinder v.10.08 (Jobb *et al.*, 2004) and PhyML version 3.0 (Guindon and Gascuel, 2003). The evolutionary model was chosen in agreement with the ‘propose model’ tool implemented in TreeFinder (AICc criterion). For the euryarchaeal 16S rRNA and the ribosomal protein recoded alignment analyses we used the General Time Reversible model, with empirical nucleic acids estimated frequencies, a gamma correction (4 discrete categories and an estimated alpha-parameter) to take into account evolutionary rate variation across sites. For the euryarchaeal 16S rRNA analysis we have also considered that a proportion of the sites were invariant (this proportion was estimated by ML). For the alignment of the non-recoded ribosomal protein concatenation analysis, the Le and Gascuel model with empirical amino acid estimated frequencies, a gamma correction (4 discrete categories and an estimated alpha-parameter), and an estimated frequency of invariant sites was employed. Additional ML phylogenetic analyses of these three datasets were performed using

PhyML with the same parameters. Finally, nanohaloarchaeal diversity (Figure 6) was inferred by ML phylogenetic analysis via TreeFinder using the J1 model and gamma correction. The robustness of each resulting ML phylogenetic tree was estimated using non parametric bootstrap approaches implemented in TreeFinder and PhyML (100 replicates of the original dataset).

Supplementary Table S1. Summary of Lake Tyrrell metagenomic sequencing libraries used in this study. Average read length is shown \pm standard deviation.

| Library name | Retention Filter | Collection Date | Library type | Sequencing platform | Number of reads | Avg. read length |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| ABM | 0.8 μ m | 1/23/2007 | 8-10 kb plasmid | Sanger | 81,197 | 776 \pm 157 |
| ABL | 0.8 μ m | 1/23/2007 | 40 kb fosmid | Sanger | 43,490 | 599 \pm 230 |
| CBM | 0.8 μ m | 1/25/2007 | 8-10 kb plasmid | Sanger | 81,032 | 781 \pm 155 |
| CBL | 0.8 μ m | 1/25/2007 | 40 kb fosmid | Sanger | 33,029 | 678 \pm 191 |
| AAM | 0.1 μ m | 1/23/2007 | 8-10 kb plasmid | Sanger | 95,988 | 699 \pm 198 |
| CAM | 0.1 μ m | 1/25/2007 | 8-10 kb plasmid | Sanger | 92,242 | 747 \pm 179 |
| CAT | 0.1 μ m | 1/25/2007 | 454-Titanium | Pyrosequence | 205,925 | 401 \pm 120 |
| Total | | | | | 632,903 | 622 \pm 229 |

Supplementary Table S2. Assembly properties of J07AB43 and J07AB56 group scaffolds. Total percentages were calculated as length-weighted averages.

| Group | Scaffold ID | Scaffold length | Gap length | Num. gaps | Read depth | % GC | % 0.1 μm reads |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| J07NFR43 | Total | 1,227,157 | 26,201 | 210 | 8.3 | 43% | 97% |
| | 7180000030744 | 798,418 | 8,083 | 144 | 8.8 | 43% | 97% |
| | 7180000030739 | 112,863 | 310 | 9 | 9.7 | 43% | 97% |
| | 7180000030726 | 111,825 | 3,412 | 19 | 5.9 | 43% | 99% |
| | 7180000030734 | 65,032 | 370 | 12 | 7.9 | 43% | 96% |
| | 7180000030724 | 54,503 | 2,312 | 8 | 5.4 | 43% | 98% |
| | 7180000030742 | 52,428 | 8,276 | 10 | 8.1 | 43% | 98% |
| | 7180000030737 | 32,088 | 3,438 | 8 | 6.0 | 44% | 97% |
| J07NFR56 | Total | 1,215,802 | 121,708 | 259 | 5.1 | 56% | 92% |
| | 7180000039101 | 959,093 | 100,058 | 208 | 5.1 | 56% | 92% |
| | 7180000039072 | 196,424 | 8,804 | 40 | 5.3 | 55% | 93% |
| | 7180000039097 | 60,285 | 12,846 | 11 | 4.5 | 55% | 97% |

Supplementary Table S3. Estimation of draft genome completeness by detection of 53 highly conserved archaeal proteins.

| Func_id | Func_name | J07AB56 | J07AB43 |
|---------|---|---------|---------|
| COG0013 | Alanyl-tRNA synthetase | + | + |
| COG0018 | Arginyl-tRNA synthetase | + | + |
| COG0455 | ATPases involved in chromosome partitioning | + | + |
| COG0459 | Chaperonin GroEL (HSP60 family) | + | + |
| COG0085 | DNA-directed RNA polymerase, beta subunit/140 kD subunit | + | + |
| COG0086 | DNA-directed RNA polymerase, beta' subunit/160 kD subunit | + | + |
| COG0008 | Glutamyl- and glutaminyl-tRNA synthetases | + | + |
| COG0124 | Histidyl-tRNA synthetase | + | + |
| COG0060 | Isoleucyl-tRNA synthetase | + | + |
| COG0495 | Leucyl-tRNA synthetase | + | + |
| COG0024 | Methionine aminopeptidase | + | + |
| COG0143 | Methionyl-tRNA synthetase | + | + |
| COG0071 | Molecular chaperone (small heat shock protein) | + | + |
| COG0016 | Phenylalanyl-tRNA synthetase alpha subunit | + | + |
| COG0177 | Predicted EndoIII-related endonuclease | + | + |
| COG0012 | Predicted GTPase, probable translation factor | + | + |
| COG0201 | Preprotein translocase subunit SecY | + | + |
| COG0130 | Pseudouridine synthase | + | + |
| COG0468 | RecA/RadA recombinase | + | + |
| COG0164 | Ribonuclease HII | + | + |
| COG0081 | Ribosomal protein L1 | + | + |
| COG0080 | Ribosomal protein L11 | + | + |
| COG0102 | Ribosomal protein L13 | + | + |
| COG0093 | Ribosomal protein L14 | + | - |
| COG0200 | Ribosomal protein L15 | + | + |
| COG0197 | Ribosomal protein L16/L10E | + | + |
| COG0256 | Ribosomal protein L18 | + | + |

| Func_id | Func_name | J07AB56 | J07AB43 |
|----------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| COG0090 | Ribosomal protein L2 | + | - |
| COG0091 | Ribosomal protein L22 | + | - |
| COG0087 | Ribosomal protein L3 | + | - |
| COG0088 | Ribosomal protein L4 | + | - |
| COG0094 | Ribosomal protein L5 | + | + |
| COG0097 | Ribosomal protein L6P/L9E | + | + |
| COG0051 | Ribosomal protein S10 | + | + |
| COG0100 | Ribosomal protein S11 | + | + |
| COG0048 | Ribosomal protein S12 | + | + |
| COG0099 | Ribosomal protein S13 | + | + |
| COG0186 | Ribosomal protein S17 | + | - |
| COG0185 | Ribosomal protein S19 | + | - |
| COG0052 | Ribosomal protein S2 | + | + |
| COG0092 | Ribosomal protein S3 | + | - |
| COG0522 | Ribosomal protein S4 and related proteins | + | + |
| COG0098 | Ribosomal protein S5 | + | + |
| COG0049 | Ribosomal protein S7 | + | + |
| COG0096 | Ribosomal protein S8 | + | + |
| COG0103 | Ribosomal protein S9 | + | + |
| COG0441 | Threonyl-tRNA synthetase | + | + |
| COG0250 | Transcription antiterminator | + | + |
| COG0480 | Translation elongation factors (GTPases) | + | + |
| COG0361 | Translation initiation factor 1 (IF-1) | + | - |
| COG0532 | Translation initiation factor 2 (IF-2; GTPase) | + | + |
| COG0180 | Tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase | + | + |
| COG0525 | Valyl-tRNA synthetase | + | + |

| | | | |
|---------|--|------|-----|
| Total | | 53 | 44 |
| percent | | 100% | 83% |

Supplementary Table S4. Cell counts from fluorescence in situ hybridization images of Lake Tyrrell Australia and South Bay Salt Works, Chula Vista, California.

(a) Lake Tyrrell, Australia (LT)

| | Detection | Number (Cells/mL) | Pct. |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Total | DAPI | $1.6 \pm 0.3 \times 10^7$ | 100 |
| Archaea | Arc915 FISH probe | $1.4 \pm 0.2 \times 10^7$ | 90 |
| Nanohaloarchaea | Narc_1214 FISH probe | $2 \pm 0.5 \times 10^6$ | 14 |
| Bacteria | Eubmix FISH probe | $1.9 \pm 0.5 \times 10^6$ | 10 |

(b) South Bay Salt Works, Chula Vista, California (CV)

| | Detection | November, 2009 | | June, 2010 | |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| | | Number (Cells/mL) | Pct. | Number (Cells/mL) | Pct. |
| Total | DAPI | $3.2 \pm 0.3 \times 10^7$ | 100 | $3.4 \pm 0.3 \times 10^7$ | 100 |
| Archaea | Arc915 FISH probe | $2.6 \pm 0.3 \times 10^7$ | 83 | $2.8 \pm 0.2 \times 10^7$ | 77 |
| Nanohaloarchaea | NArc_1214 FISH probe | $2.5 \pm 0.4 \times 10^6$ | 8 | $3.8 \pm 0.7 \times 10^6$ | 11 |
| Bacteria | Eubmix FISH probe | $5.5 \pm 0.3 \times 10^6$ | 17 | $7.9 \pm 0.4 \times 10^6$ | 23 |

Supplementary Table S5. DNA-distance matrix comparison of 16S rRNA genes.

| | J07AB43 | J0756AB | <i>Halorubrum lacusprofundi</i> | <i>Haloquadratum walsbyi</i> | <i>Halogeometricum borinquense</i> | <i>Halomicrobiump mukohataei</i> | <i>Natrialba magadii</i> | <i>Haloterrigena turkmenica</i> | <i>Halobacterium salinarum</i> | <i>Natronomonas pharaonis</i> | <i>Halarcula marismortui</i> | <i>Halorhabdus utahensis</i> |
|---|---------|---------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| J07AB43 (<i>Nanosalina</i> sp.) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| J0756AB (<i>Nanosalinarum</i> sp.) | 16% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Halorubrum lacusprofundi</i> | 34% | 35% | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Haloquadratum walsbyi</i> | 37% | 35% | 15% | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Halogeometricum borinquense</i> | 35% | 37% | 14% | 9% | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Halomicrobiump mukohataei</i> | 34% | 34% | 14% | 16% | 16% | | | | | | | |
| <i>Natrialba magadii</i> | 35% | 36% | 14% | 14% | 11% | 15% | | | | | | |
| <i>Haloterrigena turkmenica</i> | 35% | 35% | 15% | 13% | 12% | 16% | 4% | | | | | |
| <i>Halobacterium salinarum</i> | 33% | 34% | 13% | 14% | 13% | 14% | 11% | 12% | | | | |
| <i>Natronomonas pharaonis</i> | 34% | 32% | 13% | 14% | 12% | 13% | 12% | 12% | 10% | | | |
| <i>Halarcula marismortui</i> | 34% | 36% | 16% | 15% | 14% | 11% | 11% | 12% | 11% | 10% | | |
| <i>Halorhabdus utahensis</i> | 32% | 34% | 15% | 16% | 13% | 14% | 10% | 10% | 9% | 9% | 8% | |

Supplementary Table S6. Complete amino acid compositions of microbial genomes shown in Figure 5, ordered by taxonomic group. Key numbers are based on genome percent G+C ranked in ascending order.

| key | Species | pct GC | Glu | Asp | Gln | Asn | Lys | Arg | His | Ser | Thr | Tyr | Gly | Ala | Val | Leu | Ile | Pro | Phe | Trp | Met | Cys | Taxonomic Group |
|-----|---|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| 19 | J07AB43 (<i>Nanosalina</i> sp.) | 43 | 10.1 | 7.3 | 3.7 | 4.6 | 5.8 | 4.7 | 1.7 | 7.6 | 5.2 | 3.3 | 6.8 | 5.9 | 6.9 | 8.1 | 6.3 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 0.9 | 2.3 | 0.7 | Nanohaloarchaea |
| 39 | J07AB56 (<i>Nanosalinarum</i> sp.) | 56 | 10.0 | 7.3 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 6.5 | 1.8 | 7.6 | 5.3 | 2.7 | 7.8 | 7.3 | 8.2 | 8.9 | 4.4 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 0.7 | Nanohaloarchaea |
| 43 | <i>Haloarcula marismortui</i> | 61 | 8.1 | 8.3 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 6.1 | 2.0 | 6.0 | 6.9 | 2.7 | 8.3 | 10.4 | 8.6 | 8.8 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 3.3 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 0.8 | Halobacteriales |
| 50 | <i>Halobacterium salinarum R1</i> | 65 | 7.1 | 8.9 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 6.5 | 2.2 | 5.4 | 6.8 | 2.6 | 8.2 | 12.4 | 9.3 | 8.6 | 3.8 | 4.6 | 3.1 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 0.8 | Halobacteriales |
| 41 | <i>Halogeometricum borinquense</i> | 61 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 6.3 | 2.0 | 6.2 | 6.7 | 2.7 | 8.1 | 10.2 | 8.9 | 8.7 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 1.1 | 1.8 | 0.7 | Halobacteriales |
| 51 | <i>Halomicrombium mukohataei</i> | 66 | 8.3 | 8.6 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 6.7 | 2.0 | 5.6 | 6.7 | 2.7 | 8.5 | 11.1 | 9.2 | 8.9 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 3.2 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 0.7 | Halobacteriales |
| 28 | <i>Haloquadratum walsbyi</i> | 48 | 7.4 | 7.8 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 2.3 | 5.8 | 2.1 | 6.8 | 7.9 | 2.8 | 7.5 | 9.4 | 7.8 | 8.2 | 6.2 | 4.4 | 3.2 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 0.8 | Halobacteriales |
| 46 | <i>Halorhabdus utahensis</i> | 63 | 8.6 | 8.5 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 1.8 | 6.4 | 2.0 | 5.6 | 6.7 | 2.6 | 8.5 | 10.6 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 3.3 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 0.6 | Halobacteriales |
| 48 | <i>Halorubrum lacusprofundi</i> | 64 | 8.5 | 8.8 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 6.7 | 2.0 | 5.5 | 6.3 | 2.7 | 8.5 | 11.0 | 8.8 | 8.7 | 4.2 | 4.6 | 3.3 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 0.7 | Halobacteriales |
| 49 | <i>Haloterrigena turkmenica</i> | 65 | 9.2 | 8.6 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 6.7 | 2.0 | 5.7 | 6.5 | 2.7 | 8.3 | 10.5 | 8.6 | 8.8 | 4.4 | 4.7 | 3.2 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 0.8 | Halobacteriales |
| 42 | <i>Natrialba magadii</i> | 61 | 9.2 | 8.9 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 6.0 | 2.1 | 6.0 | 6.9 | 2.7 | 8.1 | 10.4 | 8.3 | 8.7 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 3.2 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 0.7 | Halobacteriales |
| 45 | <i>Natronomonas pharaonis</i> | 63 | 8.8 | 8.7 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 6.4 | 2.0 | 5.3 | 6.4 | 2.6 | 8.4 | 11.4 | 8.9 | 8.8 | 4.2 | 4.6 | 3.3 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 0.8 | Halobacteriales |
| 4 | <i>Methanobrevibacter smithii</i> | 31 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 2.3 | 6.8 | 8.0 | 3.0 | 1.6 | 6.5 | 5.3 | 4.0 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 6.8 | 8.6 | 9.4 | 3.2 | 4.3 | 0.7 | 2.3 | 1.3 | Methanobacteriales |
| 1 | <i>Methanospaera stadtmanae</i> | 29 | 6.8 | 6.1 | 2.6 | 7.5 | 8.2 | 3.0 | 1.7 | 6.3 | 6.7 | 4.3 | 5.9 | 5.2 | 6.3 | 8.4 | 10.3 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 0.6 | 2.3 | 1.2 | Methanobacteriales |
| 29 | <i>Methanobacterium thermoautotrophicum</i> | 49 | 8.1 | 5.9 | 1.9 | 3.3 | 4.6 | 6.8 | 1.9 | 6.1 | 5.0 | 3.2 | 8.0 | 7.3 | 7.7 | 9.4 | 7.7 | 4.3 | 3.6 | 0.8 | 3.1 | 1.2 | Methanobacteriales |
| 7 | <i>Methanothermus fervidus</i> | 32 | 7.4 | 5.1 | 1.6 | 4.9 | 10.6 | 4.1 | 1.7 | 5.3 | 4.6 | 3.7 | 6.7 | 5.9 | 7.1 | 8.9 | 10.0 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 0.7 | 2.4 | 1.3 | Methanobacteriales |
| 3 | <i>Methanococcus jannaschii</i> | 31 | 8.6 | 5.5 | 1.5 | 5.3 | 10.4 | 3.8 | 1.4 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 4.4 | 6.3 | 5.5 | 6.8 | 9.5 | 10.5 | 3.4 | 4.3 | 0.7 | 2.3 | 1.3 | Methanococcales |
| 2 | <i>Methanococcus aeolicus Nankai-3</i> | 31 | 7.5 | 5.6 | 1.8 | 7.1 | 9.6 | 3.0 | 1.6 | 5.4 | 4.8 | 4.1 | 6.7 | 5.4 | 6.1 | 8.7 | 10.8 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 0.6 | 2.6 | 1.4 | Methanococcales |
| 5 | <i>Methanococcus vannielii SB</i> | 32 | 7.9 | 5.2 | 1.8 | 6.0 | 9.4 | 3.2 | 1.5 | 6.4 | 4.9 | 3.9 | 6.6 | 5.3 | 6.7 | 9.3 | 9.9 | 3.4 | 4.3 | 0.6 | 2.5 | 1.3 | Methanococcales |
| 6 | <i>Methanococcus voltae A3</i> | 32 | 7.7 | 5.8 | 2.1 | 7.4 | 9.3 | 2.9 | 1.4 | 6.1 | 5.1 | 4.3 | 6.2 | 5.4 | 6.3 | 9.0 | 9.5 | 3.1 | 3.7 | 0.6 | 2.6 | 1.4 | Methanococcales |
| 8 | <i>Methanococcus maripaludis C5</i> | 33 | 8.3 | 5.6 | 1.9 | 5.6 | 8.9 | 3.2 | 1.5 | 6.2 | 5.0 | 3.9 | 6.6 | 5.6 | 6.8 | 9.2 | 9.4 | 3.3 | 4.3 | 0.6 | 2.6 | 1.3 | Methanococcales |
| 34 | <i>Methanocella paludicola</i> | 54 | 6.2 | 5.8 | 2.4 | 3.6 | 6.1 | 5.2 | 1.7 | 6.1 | 5.2 | 3.6 | 8.0 | 8.6 | 7.7 | 9.2 | 7.1 | 4.5 | 3.7 | 1.0 | 3.2 | 1.3 | Methanocellales |
| 38 | <i>Candidatus Methanospaerula palustris</i> | 56 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.9 | 5.6 | 2.0 | 6.1 | 6.8 | 3.0 | 8.2 | 8.5 | 7.8 | 9.4 | 7.0 | 4.8 | 3.7 | 1.0 | 2.5 | 1.3 | Methanomicrobiales |
| 36 | <i>Candidatus Methanoregula boonei</i> | 55 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 4.7 | 5.5 | 2.0 | 6.0 | 6.2 | 3.0 | 8.0 | 9.5 | 7.5 | 9.2 | 7.2 | 4.9 | 3.9 | 1.0 | 2.4 | 1.4 | Methanomicrobiales |

| key | Species | pct GC | Glu | Asp | Gln | Asn | Lys | Arg | His | Ser | Thr | Tyr | Gly | Ala | Val | Leu | Ile | Pro | Phe | Trp | Met | Cys | Taxonomic Group |
|-----|--------------------------------------|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| 31 | <i>Methanocorpusculum labreanum</i> | 50 | 6.7 | 5.5 | 2.5 | 3.6 | 5.5 | 4.7 | 1.8 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 3.4 | 7.8 | 8.5 | 7.5 | 9.2 | 7.6 | 4.4 | 3.9 | 0.9 | 2.9 | 1.5 | Methanomicrobiales |
| 44 | <i>Methanoculleus marisnigri</i> | 62 | 7.2 | 5.7 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 7.0 | 2.0 | 5.1 | 5.5 | 3.0 | 8.5 | 10.2 | 8.3 | 9.5 | 6.1 | 5.0 | 3.6 | 1.0 | 2.4 | 1.3 | Methanomicrobiales |
| 30 | <i>Methanoplanus petrolearius</i> | 50 | 7.5 | 6.0 | 2.2 | 4.1 | 5.7 | 4.5 | 1.6 | 6.9 | 5.3 | 3.6 | 7.9 | 7.2 | 7.0 | 8.7 | 8.4 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 1.0 | 2.7 | 1.4 | Methanomicrobiales |
| 25 | <i>Methanospirillum hungatei</i> | 45 | 6.8 | 5.8 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 2.2 | 6.7 | 5.8 | 3.4 | 7.3 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 9.2 | 8.5 | 4.7 | 4.0 | 1.1 | 2.6 | 1.4 | Methanomicrobiales |
| 35 | <i>Methanoseta thermophila</i> | 54 | 7.3 | 5.8 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 4.0 | 7.5 | 1.8 | 6.7 | 4.6 | 3.1 | 7.9 | 8.3 | 7.8 | 9.5 | 7.3 | 4.5 | 3.3 | 1.0 | 3.1 | 1.3 | Methanosarcinales |
| 16 | <i>Methanococcoides burtonii</i> | 41 | 7.3 | 6.3 | 2.5 | 4.6 | 6.5 | 4.2 | 1.9 | 6.7 | 5.4 | 3.4 | 7.1 | 6.8 | 7.3 | 8.9 | 8.4 | 3.6 | 4.0 | 0.9 | 3.0 | 1.2 | Methanosarcinales |
| 21 | <i>Methanohalophilus mahii</i> | 43 | 7.7 | 6.2 | 2.8 | 4.5 | 6.1 | 4.5 | 1.9 | 6.4 | 5.3 | 3.4 | 7.4 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 8.8 | 8.0 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 0.8 | 2.9 | 1.3 | Methanosarcinales |
| 11 | <i>Methanosalsum zhilinae</i> | 38 | 7.4 | 6.3 | 2.7 | 4.6 | 6.2 | 4.7 | 2.0 | 6.9 | 5.1 | 3.5 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 6.9 | 8.6 | 9.0 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 0.9 | 2.9 | 1.2 | Methanosarcinales |
| 15 | <i>Methanosarcina barkeri fusaro</i> | 41 | 7.6 | 5.2 | 2.6 | 4.8 | 7.0 | 4.2 | 1.7 | 7.0 | 5.5 | 3.7 | 7.1 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 9.4 | 7.8 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 1.0 | 2.4 | 1.2 | Methanosarcinales |
| 20 | <i>Methanosarcina mazei</i> | 43 | 8.2 | 5.3 | 2.5 | 4.4 | 6.8 | 4.7 | 1.7 | 6.8 | 5.1 | 3.5 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 6.9 | 9.4 | 7.7 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 0.9 | 2.5 | 1.2 | Methanosarcinales |
| 22 | <i>Methanosarcina acetivorans</i> | 44 | 8.0 | 5.3 | 2.5 | 4.5 | 6.6 | 4.5 | 1.7 | 6.9 | 5.4 | 3.7 | 7.2 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 9.4 | 7.4 | 4.0 | 4.4 | 1.1 | 2.5 | 1.3 | Methanosarcinales |
| 40 | <i>Methanopyrus kandleri</i> | 60 | 10.0 | 5.8 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 4.0 | 8.3 | 1.9 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 2.8 | 8.1 | 8.3 | 10.4 | 10.1 | 4.8 | 5.5 | 2.9 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 1.3 | Methanopyrales |
| 18 | <i>Archaeoglobus profundus I</i> | 43 | 8.6 | 5.3 | 1.6 | 3.5 | 8.2 | 5.7 | 1.5 | 5.0 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 8.7 | 9.8 | 8.3 | 3.7 | 4.5 | 1.0 | 2.3 | 1.3 | Archaeoglobales |
| 27 | <i>Archaeoglobus fulgidus</i> | 48 | 8.9 | 4.9 | 1.8 | 3.2 | 6.9 | 5.8 | 1.5 | 5.5 | 4.2 | 3.6 | 7.2 | 7.8 | 8.6 | 9.5 | 7.2 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 1.0 | 2.6 | 1.2 | Archaeoglobales |
| 23 | <i>Ferroglobus placidus</i> | 45 | 9.5 | 4.7 | 1.5 | 3.4 | 8.4 | 5.3 | 1.5 | 5.5 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 6.7 | 7.1 | 8.6 | 9.5 | 7.7 | 3.7 | 4.8 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 1.1 | Archaeoglobales |
| 37 | <i>Palaeococcus ferrophilus</i> | 55 | 8.9 | 4.6 | 1.7 | 3.2 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 1.7 | 5.1 | 4.6 | 3.8 | 7.9 | 7.5 | 8.5 | 10.5 | 6.6 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 1.2 | 2.5 | 0.5 | Thermococcales |
| 13 | <i>Pyrococcus furiosus</i> | 40 | 8.9 | 4.4 | 1.8 | 3.5 | 8.1 | 5.3 | 1.5 | 4.9 | 4.4 | 4.0 | 7.1 | 6.6 | 7.9 | 10.1 | 8.7 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 1.2 | 2.3 | 0.6 | Thermococcales |
| 17 | <i>Pyrococcus horikoshii</i> | 41 | 8.7 | 4.4 | 1.7 | 3.5 | 8.0 | 5.6 | 1.5 | 5.2 | 4.3 | 3.9 | 7.1 | 6.4 | 7.7 | 10.2 | 8.8 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 0.6 | Thermococcales |
| 24 | <i>Pyrococcus abyssi</i> | 45 | 8.8 | 4.6 | 1.7 | 3.3 | 7.8 | 5.7 | 1.5 | 5.0 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 7.3 | 6.7 | 8.1 | 10.2 | 8.5 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 0.6 | Thermococcales |
| 32 | <i>Thermococcus onnurineus</i> | 51 | 8.6 | 4.7 | 1.8 | 3.2 | 6.8 | 5.7 | 1.6 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 3.9 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 8.1 | 10.4 | 7.6 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 1.2 | 2.5 | 0.6 | Thermococcales |
| 33 | <i>Thermococcus kodakaraensis</i> | 52 | 8.8 | 4.7 | 1.8 | 3.2 | 6.9 | 5.8 | 1.6 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 3.8 | 7.6 | 7.4 | 8.3 | 10.5 | 7.0 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 1.3 | 2.3 | 0.5 | Thermococcales |
| 12 | <i>Ferroplasma acidarmanus FerI</i> | 38 | 6.2 | 5.4 | 1.9 | 6.0 | 7.4 | 3.9 | 1.6 | 7.3 | 5.1 | 4.9 | 7.0 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 8.6 | 10.0 | 3.5 | 4.7 | 0.7 | 3.1 | 0.6 | Thermoplasmatales |
| 9 | <i>Picrophilus torridu</i> | 36 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 1.5 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 4.4 | 1.5 | 7.4 | 4.4 | 5.4 | 6.5 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 8.6 | 11.1 | 3.5 | 4.9 | 0.7 | 3.1 | 0.6 | Thermoplasmatales |
| 14 | <i>Thermoplasma volcanium</i> | 40 | 6.4 | 5.5 | 2.1 | 4.7 | 6.9 | 4.7 | 1.5 | 7.5 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 7.0 | 6.4 | 7.1 | 8.7 | 9.2 | 3.8 | 4.7 | 0.8 | 2.8 | 0.6 | Thermoplasmatales |
| 26 | <i>Thermoplasma acidophilum</i> | 46 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 2.2 | 4.3 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 1.6 | 7.5 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 7.3 | 7.0 | 7.2 | 8.4 | 9.0 | 3.9 | 4.7 | 0.9 | 3.2 | 0.6 | Thermoplasmatales |
| 52 | <i>Salinibacter ruber</i> | 66 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 7.7 | 2.2 | 5.8 | 6.2 | 2.6 | 8.4 | 10.7 | 7.9 | 9.7 | 3.7 | 5.7 | 3.4 | 1.3 | 1.9 | 0.7 | Sphingobacteriales |
| 10 | <i>Halothermothrix orenii</i> | 38 | 7.5 | 5.5 | 2.7 | 5.2 | 7.9 | 4.7 | 1.6 | 5.4 | 4.8 | 3.9 | 7.4 | 5.8 | 7.2 | 9.9 | 8.8 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 0.9 | 2.3 | 0.7 | Halanaerobiales |
| 53 | <i>Halorhodospira halophila</i> | 67 | 7.5 | 6.1 | 3.9 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 8.7 | 2.4 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 2.4 | 8.9 | 12.0 | 7.5 | 10.7 | 4.1 | 5.4 | 3.1 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 0.9 | Chromatiales |
| 47 | <i>Chromohalobacter salexigens</i> | 64 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 7.5 | 2.6 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 2.4 | 8.1 | 11.5 | 7.2 | 11.3 | 4.6 | 4.9 | 3.4 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 1.0 | Oceanospirillales |

Supplementary Table S7. Environmental sampling and habitat characteristics of database matches to Nanohaloarchaea 16S rRNA gene sequences.

| Clone group | Location | Site characteristics | Sample processing | PCR primers | Reference |
|-------------|---|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| LT | Lake Tyrrell, Australia | Thalassohaline, neutral pH, 29% salinity, crystallizer pond | 0.1 µm (0.8 µm pre-filter) | Arc21F Arc529R | This study |
| CV | Chula Vista San Diego, USA | Thalassohaline, neutral pH, 27% salinity, crystallizer pond | 0.1 µm (0.8 µm pre-filter) | Arc21F LT_1215R | This study |
| Cry/Baj/LDS | Australia | Neutral pH, 34% salinity | Direct Centrifugation | ArcF1 Arc1492R | (Oh <i>et al.</i> , 2010) |
| MSP | Magadi Salt Pond, Kenya, East Africa | Soda lake, pH 12, crystallizer pond | 0.22 µm (0.8 µm pre-filter) | Arc27Fa Arc1492R | (Grant <i>et al.</i> , 1999) |
| SFH1E041 | Tunisia | Neutral pH, Solar saltern | Direct Centrifugation | Arc21F Univ1390R | (Baati <i>et al.</i> , 2008) |
| ARDARCSS13 | Sidi Ameur Salt Lake, Algerian Sahara | Salt Lake soil | ND | ND | EU869371.1 (Unpublished) |
| Sua-GRP6 | Makgadikgadi salt pans, Botswana | Alkaline evaporator pond | Centrifugation | Arc751F UA1406R | (Gareeb and Setani, 2009) |
| 9cA6 | Rio Mesquite, Cuatro Cienegas Basin, Mexico | Neutral pH Shallow pond | Direct to 0.45 µm filter | Univ515F Univ1492R | (Escalante <i>et al.</i> , 2008) |
| EN | Lake Erlannor, China | pH 8, >30% salinity | Direct to 0.45 µm filter | Arc27Fa Arc1492R | (Pagaling <i>et al.</i> , 2009) |
| SH | Lake Shangmatala, China | pH 8.5, >30% salinity | Direct to 0.45 µm filter | Arc27Fa Arc1492R | (Pagaling <i>et al.</i> , 2009) |
| XH | Unknown lake, Inner Mongolia China | pH 8.5, >30% salinity | Direct to 0.45 µm filter | Arc27Fa Arc1492R | (Pagaling <i>et al.</i> , 2009) |
| XA | Unknown pool, Inner Mongolia China | pH 9.5, 19% salinity | Direct to 0.45 µm filter | Arc27Fa Arc1492R | (Pagaling <i>et al.</i> , 2009) |
| AGA | Salar Guayatayoc, Argentina | pH neutral | Direct to 0.45 µm filter | Arc27Fa Arc1492R | (Pagaling <i>et al.</i> , 2009) |

Supplementary Table S8. NCBI accession numbers and 16S rRNA gene coordinates of taxa used in the construction of phylogenetic trees shown in Figure 3 and Supplementary Figure S2A.

| Genome | NCBI accession number | DNA strand | Coordinates |
|--|-----------------------|------------|------------------|
| <i>Archaeoglobus fulgidus DSM 4304</i> | NC_000917.1 | (-) strand | 1790478-1788987 |
| <i>Archaeoglobus profundus Av18, DSM 5631</i> | NC_000917.1 | (-) strand | 1051439-1049930 |
| <i>Candidatus Methanoregula boonei 6A8</i> | NC_009712.1 | (-) strand | 2251978-2250513 |
| <i>Candidatus Methanospaerula palustris E1-9c</i> | NC_011832.1 | (+) strand | 754054-755515 |
| <i>Ferroplasma acidarmanus Fer1, unfinished sequence</i> | gbAABC05000010.1 | (+) strand | 30596-32036 |
| <i>Haloarcula marismortui ATCC 43049 chromosome I</i> | AY596297.1 | (+) strand | 2632355-2633826 |
| <i>Halobacterium salinarum R1</i> | NC_010364.1 | (+) strand | 1863623-1865094 |
| <i>Halogeometricum borinquense PR3, DSM 11551</i> | ABTX01000001.1 | (+) strand | 1509934-1511411 |
| <i>Halomicrombium mukohataei arg-2, DSM 12286</i> | NC_013202.1 | (-) strand | 1954831-1956302 |
| <i>Haloquadratum walsbyi DSM 16790</i> | NC_008212.1 | (+) strand | 67537-69008 |
| <i>Halorhabdus utahensis AX-2, DSM 12940</i> | NC_013158.1 | (+) strand | 1665958 -1667429 |
| <i>Halorubrum lacusprofundi ATCC 49239 chromosome 2</i> | NC_012028.1 | (+) strand | 161307-162776 |
| <i>Haloterrigena turkmenica VKM, DSM 5511</i> | NC_013743.1 | (+) strand | 513463-514937 |
| <i>Methanobacterium thermoautotrophicum str. Delta H</i> | NC_000916.1 | (+) strand | 1602210-1603688 |
| <i>Methanobrevibacter smithii ATCC 35061</i> | NC_009515.1 | (-) strand | 334957-333483 |
| <i>Methanocaldococcus jannaschii DSM 2661</i> | NC_000909.1 | (-) strand | 159459-157985 |
| <i>Methanococcoides burtonii DSM 6242</i> | NC_007955.1 | (-) strand | 1023598-1022125 |
| <i>Methanococcus aeolicus Nankai-3</i> | NC_009635.1 | (-) strand | 1196101-1194635 |
| <i>Methanococcus maripaludis C5</i> | NC_009135.1 | (+) strand | 1594066-1595530 |
| <i>Methanococcus vannielii SB</i> | NC_009634.1 | (+) strand | 155 -1619 |
| <i>Methanococcus voltae A3, unfinished sequence</i> | NC_014222.1 | (+) strand | 1536115-1534651 |
| <i>Methanocorpusculum labreanum Z</i> | NC_008942.1 | (+) strand | 403632-405096 |
| <i>Methanoculleus marisnigri JR1</i> | NC_009051.1 | (-) strand | 1824115-1822651 |
| <i>Methanohalophilus mahii DSM 05219</i> | NC_014002.1 | (+) strand | 561038-562512 |
| <i>Methanoplanus petrolearius SEBR 4847, DSM 11571</i> | NC_014507.1 | (+) strand | 740158 -741625 |
| <i>Methanopyrus kandleri AV19</i> | NC_003551.1 | (-) strand | 518289-516896 |
| <i>Methanosaeta thermophila PT</i> | NC_008553.1 | (+) strand | 845527-846999 |
| <i>Methanosalsum zhilinae WeN5, DSM 4017</i> | FJ224366.1 | (+) strand | Direct sequence |
| <i>Methanosarcina acetivorans str. C2A</i> | NC_003552.1 | (+) strand | 1073041-1074470 |
| <i>Methanosarcina barkeri str. fusaro chromosome 1</i> | NC_007355 | (-) strand | 4677310-4678787 |
| <i>Methanosarcina mazei strain Goe1</i> | refNC_003901.1 | (-) strand | 236779-235306 |
| <i>Methanospaera stadtmanae DSM 3091</i> | NC_007681.1 | (+) strand | 408655-410144 |
| <i>Methanospirillum hungatei JF-1</i> | NC_007796.1 | (+) strand | 39814-41279 |
| <i>Methanothermus fervidus DSM 2088</i> | NC_014658.1 | (-) strand | 28362-26991 |
| <i>Natrialba magadii ATCC 43099, unfinished sequence</i> | NC_013922.1 | (+) strand | 26876-28343 |
| <i>Natronomonas pharaonis DSM 2160</i> | NC_007426.1 | (-) strand | 215928-214463 |
| <i>Palaeococcus ferrophilus DMJ, DSM 13482</i> | NR_028149.1 | (+) strand | Direct sequence |
| <i>Picrophilus torridus DSM 9790</i> | NC_005877.1 | (-) strand | 472195-470727 |

| Genome | NCBI accession number | DNA strand | Coordinates |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Pyrococcus abyssi GE5</i> | NC_000868.1 | (+) strand | 205128-206630 |
| <i>Pyrococcus furiosus DSM 3638</i> | NC_003413.1 | (+) strand | 136930-138426 |
| <i>Pyrococcus horikoshii OT3 DNA</i> | NC_000961.1 | (+) strand | 190975-192469 |
| <i>Thermococcus onnurineus NA1</i> | NC_011529.1 | (+) strand | 1279595-1278100 |
| <i>Thermoplasma volcanium GSS1 DNA</i> | NC_002689.2 | (-) strand | 1520246-1518773 |
| uncultured halophilic archaeon J0756AB | This study | (+) strand | This study |
| uncultured halophilic archaeon J07AB43 | This Study | (-) strand | This Study |
| Uncultured methanogenic archaeon RC-I | AM114193.2 | (+) strand | 2083318-2084792 |
| <i>Ferroglobus placidus AEDIII2DO, DSM 10642</i> | AF220166.1 | (+) strand | 1404007-1405474 |
| <i>Thermococcus kodakarensis KOD1</i> | NC_006624.1 | (+) strand | 2022864-2024361 |
| <i>Thermoplasma acidophilum 122-1B2</i> | NC_002578.1 | (-) strand | 1475770-1474300 |

Supplementary Figure Legends

Supplementary Figure S1. Location of sampling sites and sample characteristics.

Supplementary Figure S2. Unrooted maximum-likelihood phylogenetic trees for the Euryarchaeota. Trees are based on (A) 16S rRNA sequences (48 sequences, 1275 positions; NCBI accession numbers and coordinates provided in Supplementary Table S9) and (B) concatenation of 57 ribosomal proteins (43 sequences, 5858 positions). Names of euryarchaeal sub-lineages are shown in the box. Numbers at nodes represent bootstrap values (A) inferred by TreeFinder/PhyML; (B) inferred by TreeFinder based on amino acid alignments and the 4 state recoded amino acid alignments, shown in parentheses. Bootstrap values of less than 50% are indicated by "-" sign. Scale bar represents an average of 0.1 substitutions per site.



Supplementary Figure S1

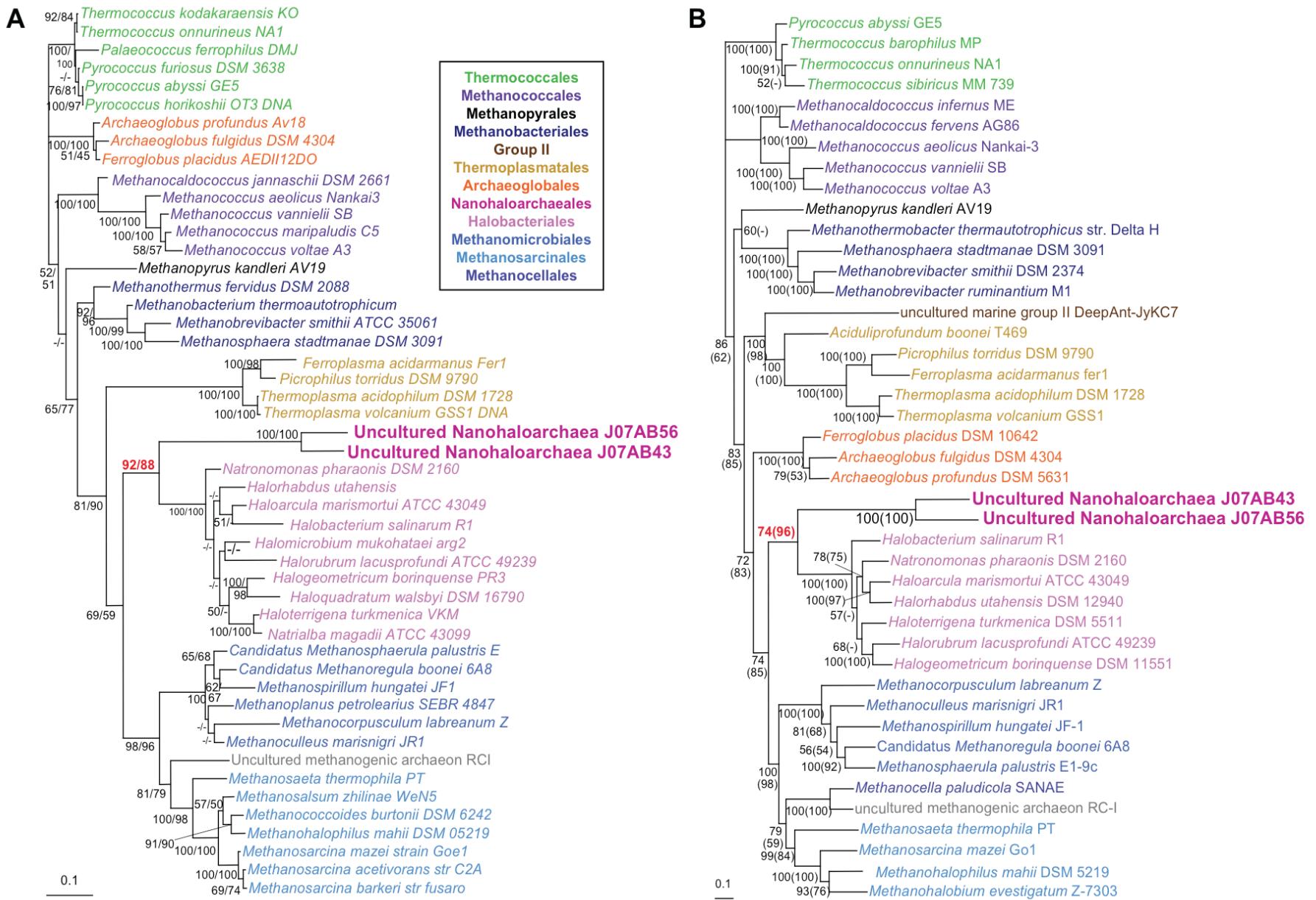
Lake Tyrrell (LT), Victoria,
Australia

South Bay Salt Works,
ChulaVista (CV), California
USA

Images:
 ©2010 Google - Imagery ©2010 TerraMetrics,
 Map data ©2010 Google, Whereis(R), Sensis Pty Ltd
 ©California Department of Fish and Game

| Site | Sampling Date | Temp (°C) | pH | Total Dissolved Solids - Salinity (%) |
|------|---------------|-----------|------|---------------------------------------|
| LT | 1/23/2007 | 21.6 | 7.30 | 29 |
| LT | 1/25/2007 | 27.9 | 7.09 | 29 |
| CV | 10/27/2009 | 22.0 | 7.40 | 27 |
| CV | 06/22/2009 | 28.0 | 7.50 | 27 |

Supplementary Figure S2



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