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SI Results and Discussion

Genome Annotation and Analysis of Sulturimonas gotlandica str. GD1. In pairwise BLASTP comparisons of predicted proteins against the National Center for Biotechnology Information nonredundant protein database, Sulfurimonas gotlandica str. GD1 proteins demonstrated the greatest similarities to proteins of other Epsilonproteobacteria. Of the genes, 53.7% exhibited closest similarities to proteins encoded by Sulfurimonas denitrificans DSM 1251 (1), confirming results from the 16S rDNA analysis (2). Homologs to proteins from other members of the Epsilonproteobacteria include the deep-sea vent strains Sulfurovum sp. NBC37-1 (6.2% best matches) (3), Nitratiruptor sp. SB155-2 (1.3%) (3), Nautilia profundicola AmH (0.6%) (4), the pathogen Acrobacter butzleri RM4018 (5.5%) (5), Sulfurospirillum deleyianum DSM 6946 (3.1%) isolated from freshwater sediment (6), and *Wolinella succinogenes* DSM 1740/ATCC 29543, isolated from bovine rumen fluid (7).

Approximately 74% of all predicted S. gotlandica str. GD1 protein-coding genes could be assigned functions based on similarity searches. The Sox-dependent sulfur oxidation pathway consisted of the Sox multienzyme complex, arranged in two sox gene clusters containing soxXYZAB and soxZYCD, sulfite:cytochrome c oxidoreductase (sor), and sulfide:quinone oxidoreductase (sqr), similar to that described in several deep-sea vent Epsilonproteobacteria (8). Multiple copies of the sqr gene were found distributed within the genome (Table S3). Despite the fact that genes encoding fumarate reductases (frdA, frdB) were present in the genome, growth with alcohol was not detected and the utilization of fumarate as an electron acceptor was not observed.

SI Materials and Methods

Environmental Sampling. All samples were collected in free-flow bottles attached to a conductivity, temperature, and depth-rosette. Cell numbers of Sulfurimonas subgroup GD17 were determined in samples collected from different locations in the central Baltic Sea, sampled between 2005 and 2009, using catalyzed reporter deposition (CARD)-FISH, as described previously (9).

Growth Conditions. Growth experiments were conducted in the dark at 15 °C at pressures of up to 2.5 bar and replicated up to 10 times. All growth experiments were conducted in anoxic artificial brackish water medium (ABW) modified according to Bruns et al. (10). ABW for standard growth conditions contained 95 mM NaCl, 11.2 mM $MgCl_2 \times 6H_2O$, 2.3 mM CaCl₂ \times 2 H₂O, 2 mM KCl, 6.4 mM Na₂SO₄, 2–5 mM NaHCO₃, 192 μM KBr, 92 μM H_3BO_3 , 34 μM SrCl₂, 92 μM NH₄Cl, 9 μM KH₂PO₄, 16 μM NaF, and 1–10 mM Hepes (pH 7.3). KNO_3 and $Na_2S_2O_3$ in the concentration range of 1–10 mM served as substrates for chemolithotrophic denitrification. Resazurin was added as a redox indicator. The medium was prepared and amended with supplements, as described previously (10).

To detect false-positive growth induced by potential contaminants, negative controls containing only electron donors or acceptors were used. As an additional control for the quantification of substrate turnover, sterile media without inoculi were treated and analyzed identical to the cultures. To determine the optimal growth temperature, strain GD1 was grown in ABW with 5 mM nitrate and thiosulfate over a temperature range of 4–40 °C. To examine oxygen sensitivity, GD1 growth was measured in media of varying oxygen concentration (Fig. S2A). Aerobic ABW was prepared and the oxygen content was measured with an optode (POF-PSt3; PreSens) (11). Anaerobic ABW was mixed with appropriate amounts of aerobic ABW to achieve different oxygen concentrations.

Cell growth was determined by DAPI staining and flow cytometry (12), either at the starting date and after 7 d of incubation, or daily in quantitative time courses. Using 5 mM nitrate as an electron acceptor, different compounds were tested for the ability to serve as electron donors: sulfite (1 mM), sulfide (10 μM, 20 μM, 100 μM), elemental sulfur in suspension (1 mM), and hydrogen. ABW was bubbled with forming gas containing 95% nitrogen and 5% hydrogen for several hours before inoculation to test hydrogen as a potential electron donor.

Nitrite (0.6 mM, 2 mM) and fumarate (100 μ M) were tested as possible electron acceptors in ABW containing 5 mM thiosulfate. Further thiosulfate (5 mM) or elemental sulfur in suspension (1 mM) were added as sole supplements. Different organic compounds were tested as possible electron donors with 5 mM nitrate serving as an electron acceptor: yeast extract $(10 \mu g \times l^{-1})$, formate (100 μM), peptone (10 μg \times l⁻¹), pyruvate (100 μM), acetate (100 μM), alcohol mix (100 μM) (butanol, ethanol, methanol, propanol), and fumarate (100 μ M).

We also tested for chemoorganoheterotrophic oxygen respiration by using between 8 μ M and 423 μ M O₂ as electron acceptor; glucose, at concentrations of 10 μM to 11 mM, and peptone, between 2 ng \times 1⁻¹ and 2 g \times 1⁻¹ served, respectively, as electron donor and carbon source. Here, oxygen concentrations were adjusted by adding sterile air to anoxic medium according to Henry's law: $c_{aq} = K_{\text{H}} p_{\text{gas}}$ ($c_{aq} = \text{oxygen concentration in the medium}$; $K_{\text{H}} = 1.28 \times 10^{-3}$ mole $\times 1^{-1} \times \text{bar}^{-1}$; $p_{\text{gas}} =$ partial pressure of oxygen in the headspace of the culture flask).

Chemical Analysis. Thiosulfate, sulfite and hydrogen sulfide were quantified by HPLC-analysis using 3-(bromomethyl)-2,5,6-trimethyl-1H,7H-pyrazolo[1,2-a]pyrazole-1,7-dione [also known as (mono)bromobimane] derivatization, as previously described (13). Samples were diluted 1:100 before derivatization and derivatized preparations were frozen at −80 or −20 °C until processed further. HPLC-analysis equipment from Merck was used, including a Li-Chrosphere 60RP select B column (125×4 mm, 5μ m). A flow rate of 1 mL \times min⁻¹ was used to pass the mobile phase [0.25% (vol/ vol) acetic acid, pH 3.5, (eluent A) and HPLC grade methanol (eluent B)] over the column using the following gradient: 0 min: 0% B; 0.5 min: 0% B; 1 min: 8% B; 4.5 min: 10% B; 7 min: 32% B; 11 min: 32% B; 18 min: 50% B; 22 min: 100% B; 24 min: 100% B; 25 min: 0% B; 30 min: 0% B. After a test run, derivatized samples were diluted to a final thiosulfate concentration of less than 20 μM. The optimal linear relationship between the integrated detector signal and thiosulfate concentration is observed under these conditions. Sulfate concentration was determined turbidometrically by barium precipitation, modified as previously described (14). Here, to avoid the formation and precipitation of zero-valent sulfur from thiosulfate, samples were not acidified by citric acid. Nitrate and nitrite concentrations were determined colorimetrically using the Spongy Cadmium method (15). Oxygen contamination in all chemical analyses was minimized by extensive N_2 use. For nutrient analysis, cells were removed by centrifugation in N_2 flushed centrifugation tubes.

Chemotaxis. Experiments were conducted in an anaerobic chamber to maintain anoxic conditions (COY Laboratory Products). Bacteria were pregrown in ABW with 1 mM thiosulfate and nitrate for 7–10 d. The bacterial suspension was diluted to $10⁵$ to $10⁶$ cells mL−¹ in nitrate-free medium and filled in 5-mL glass vacutainer

(Becton Dickinson; VACUTAINER Systems). Capillaries were filled by capillary action with ABW containing both, thiosulfate (1 mM) and nitrate (1 mM), or only thiosulfate (1 mM) as control, sealed with plasticine, and inserted into the vacutainer. After the incubation the capillaries were carefully removed, wiped with tissue paper, depleted (washed two times with sterile MQ water), filtered on black polycarbonate filters (pore size 0.2 μm; diameter 25 mm; Whatman), and stained with DAPI. Filters were examined with an epifluorescence microscope (Axioskop 2 mot plus; Zeiss), and equipped with a 100 Plan Apochromat oil objective lens (Zeiss). The relative response was determined as a ratio of the mean Sulfurimonas str. GD1 cell density in attractant-containing capillaries and the mean cell number in control capillaries (16).

Genome Sequencing, Annotation, and Analysis. Potential signal peptides and transmembrane helices were predicted using SignalP Ver. 2.0 (17) and TMHMM Ver. 2.0 (18), respectively, and transfer RNA genes were identified using tRNAScan-SE (19). In addition, conserved functional domains were identified using InterProScan (20) and HMMer on Pfam (21), TIGRfam (22), and PantherDB (23). Proteins involved in sensing and signal transduction were identified searching for Pfams EAL, GGDEF, Response reg, either one of PAS, PAS 2, PAS 3, PAS 4 or PAS 6, and either one of H-kinase dim, HD, HWE HK, HisKA 2, HisKA_3 or DUF2222 using hmmpfam with an e-value cutoff of 1 × 10−⁴ . Those of metabolic relevance were identified searching for Pfams APS_kinase, ATP-sulfurylase, PAPS_reduct in the absence of TIGR02055, SoxZ, NapD, NIR_SIR, together with NIR_SIR_ferr, Succ_DH_flav_C, PF02967, Oxidored_q1_N, Molybtopterin, CCP_MauG, either one of NiFeSe_Hases or Ni Hydr CYTB, TIGRFAMS TIGR02055 and PantherDB's SQR using an expected value (e-value) cutoff of 1×10^{-4} . E-values for Pfam's NrFD and NosD (0.01) were adjusted in a way that results matched published data. Additionally, homologs of SorA and FCC from Ralstonia metallidurans CH34, NrfA and NrfH from W. succinogenes DSMZ 1740 (e-value $< 1 \times 10^{-30}$), and SoxC from Thermus thermophilus HB27 (e-value $\lt E$ -35) were identified using BLAST (24). E-values in BLAST searches for homologs of NorB (e-value $< 1 \times 10^{-9}$) and MQR (<1 $\times 10^{-4}$) from *Pseudo*monas aeruginosa, NorC from S. denitrificans, the Cyt b subunit of the Cyt b/c1 complex and subunit I of the Cyt c oxidase from Helicobacter pylori as well as subunit II of the Cyt bd oxidase complex from P. aeruginosa (<1 \times 10⁻¹⁰) were again adjusted to match published data.

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The *S. gotlandica* str. GD1 genome was compared with the genomes of the following Epsilonproteobacteria [\(http://www.ncbi.nlm.](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) [nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)): Caminibacter mediatlanticus TB-2 (NZ_ABCJ00000000), N. profundicola AmH (NC_012115) (4), Sulfurovum sp. NBC37-1 (NC_009663) (3), S. deleyianum DSM 6946 (NC_013512) (6); S. denitrificans $\hat{D}SM$ 1251^T (NC_007575) (1), Sulfurimonas autotrophica DSM 16294 (NC_014506) (25), A. butzleri RM4018 (NC_009850) (5), and Nitratiruptor sp. SB155-2 (NC_009662) (3).

Phylogenetic Analysis. Alignment and phylogenetic analyses of the S. gotlandica str. GD1 16S rRNA sequence were performed using the ARB software package (26). Sequences for analysis were reduced to unambiguously alignable positions using group-specific filters. For phylogenetic analyses, three different trees were calculated using the neighbor-joining, parsimony and maximumlikelihood (Phyml) algorithms based on nearly full-length 16S rRNA sequences (> 1,400 bp). Eventually, shorter sequences were inserted into the reconstructed tree without changing the topology. For neighbor-joining, the Jukes-Cantor-Correction was applied.

Biogeographic Distribution of Epsilon- and Gammaproteobacteria in Hypoxic Systems. The biogeographic distribution of 16S rRNA sequences of the genera Sulfurimonas and Arcobacter as well as those of the gammaproteobacterial sulfur oxidizer SUP05 (27) were determined using the SILVA 106 database (1200/900) (28). SILVA 106 was supplemented by 1424 Sulfurimonas, 1840 Arcobacter and 27710 unclassified gammaproteobacterial sequences downloaded from the Ribosomal Database Project (RDP) database (RDP Release 10, Update 27, Aug 9, 2011) (29). Dataset options in RDP were "Type+Non Type, Uncultured +Isolates, Size: >1200 <1200, Quality: Good." Search terms within the field "isolation_source" in SILVA were: OMZ, Saanich, Nitinat, Black Sea, upwelling, oxygen minimum zone, Cariaco, Arabia, Urania, Venezuela, Eastern Tropical, Framvaren, Mariager, Chile, Peru, redox, chemocline, *anoxic* *water*, *sulfidic* *water*, deoxygen, suboxic, Namibia, transient. In some cases, all Sulfurimonas and Arcobacter sequences were also checked manually for other potential habitats not covered by the above terms. If positive, the gammaproteobacterial sequences were specifically proven for their occurrence in these habitats. Hypoxic systems were further classified into marine sulfidic redoxclines and marine oxygen minimum zones. The occurrences of members of the Sulfurimonas and Arcobacter genera and SUP05 are given in Table S5, as well as the references for the published sequences.

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Fig. S1. Phylogenetic analysis of S. gotlandica str. GD1. Unrooted tree showing the phylogenetic relationships of isolate S. gotlandica str. GD1, which is calculated based on the four GD1 16S rRNA operons, and the closely related members of the Epsilonproteobacteria. The evolutionary distance dendrogram was reconstructed using the Jukes-Cantor correction and neighbor-joining. Branching points supported by neighbor-joining, maximum likelihood, and maximum parsimony algorithms are marked by a filled circle. Branching points supported by two algorithms are marked by an open circle. Genome-sequenced bacteria included in comparative genomics of this study are marked in bold. Target organisms of the SUL90 gene probe (1) and the OST primer set (2) are indicated. The origins of the isolates or clones are indicated by color codes of the background, the rectangles and branches, as well as descriptions on the right, and demonstrate the metabolic versatility of the Epsilonproteobacteria. Strain deposition and nucleotide sequence accession numbers are given in brackets. Bar, 1 estimated substitution per 100 bp.

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Fig. S2. Laboratory batch experiments with S. gotlandica str. GD1. (A) Oxygen sensitivity during incubation with nitrate (5 mM), thiosulfate (5 mM), and different oxygen concentrations. Cell numbers after 7 d of incubation are given. Anoxic ABW was used in the controls. Error bars indicate the SD of three replicates. (B) Growth with 5 mM nitrate and different concentrations of sulfide expressed as percent cell increase after an incubation time of 7 d. "0.01*" Means that a concentration of 0.01 mM sulfide was added every second day. Error bars indicate the SD of three replicates. For every formed GD1-cell, 23 fmol sulfide were oxidized. During exponential growth, chemolithotrophic denitrification with sulfide as electron donor was determined to occur according to the following equation: $6HS^- + 7NO_3^- + 4H^+$ \rightarrow $4SO_4^2$ + $2S_0 + 3.5N_2 + e^- + 5H_2O$; during this turnover, one molecule of CO₂ was fixed.

of > 2 indicate significant chemotactic activity. The incubation time was 1.2–2 h. Negative control capillaries contained no nitrate. The capillary assay was performed three times. Error bars indicate the SD of three to four replicates for each assay.

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Table S1. Summary of general genome features in S. gotlandica str. GD1

CDS, coding sequences.

PNAS PNAS

Table S2. Electron donors and acceptors supporting growth of S. gotlandica str. GD1

Experiments were conducted in ABW (15 °C) and cell numbers were determined after 7 d of incubation. Maximum cell increase is scored as +++; cell increase of > 100% is scored as ++; > 50% is scored as +; no increase is scored as —. All experiments were conducted in three replicates.

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PNAS PNAS

Table S3. Cont.

Table S3. Cont.

PNAS PNAS

*weak similarity. † inter genic.

PNAS PNAS

sulfide quinone reductase.

Table S5. Biogeographic distribution of 16S rRNA sequences of the genera Sulfurimonas and Arcobacter and the gammaproteobacterial sulfur oxidizer SUP05 in marine hypoxic systems

Epsilonproteobacteria Gammaroteobacteria

SANAS

S
A
Z

Analyses were done using the SILVA 106 database (1200/900) (15). SILVA 106 was supplemented by 1424 Sulfurimonas, 1840 Arcobacter, and 27710 unclassified gammaproteobacterial sequences downloaded from the Ribosomal Database Project (RDP) database (RDP Release 10, Update 27, Aug 9, 2011) (16). For further description see SI Text. +, detected; −, not detected.

*Gammaproteobacteria are present as determined by FISH (7) or T-RFLP analyses (8), but SUP05 was not detected in a 16S rRNA clone library (6).

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