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## **The nature of electron acceptor (MnIV/NO3) triggers differential expression of genes associated with stress and ammonium limitation responses in** *Shewanella algae* **C6G3**

5 Axel Aigle<sup>1</sup>, Patricia Bonin<sup>1</sup>, Nicolas Fernandez -Nunez<sup>2</sup>, Béatrice Loriod<sup>2</sup>, Sophie Guasco<sup>1</sup>, Aurélie

6 Bergon<sup>2</sup>, Fabrice Armougom<sup>1</sup>, Chantal Iobbi-Nivol<sup>3</sup>, Jean Imbert<sup>2</sup>, Valérie Michotey<sup>\*1</sup>.

8 <sup>1</sup> Aix Marseille Univ, Univ Toulon, CNRS, IRD, MIO UM 110, Mediterranean Institute of

Oceanography, Marseille, France

10 <sup>2</sup> UMR\_S 1090, TGML/TAGC, Aix-Marseille Université, Marseille F-13009, France

<sup>3</sup> Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS, BIP Bioénergétique et Ingénierie des Protéines UMR 7281, 13402,

Marseille, France

### **Abstract-**

 *Shewanella algae* C6G3 can reduce dissimilatively nitrate into ammonium and manganese-oxide (MnIV) into MnII. It has the unusual ability to produce anaerobically nitrite from ammonium in the presence of MnIV. To gain insight into their metabolic capabilities, global mRNA expression patterns were investigated by RNA-seq and qRT-PCR in cells growing with lactate and ammonium as carbon and nitrogen sources and with either MnIV or nitrate as electron acceptors. Gene exhibiting higher expression levels in the presence of MnIV belonged to functional categories of carbohydrate, coenzyme, lipid metabolisms and inorganic ion transport. Comparative transcriptomic pattern between MnIV and NO<sup>3</sup> revealed that the strain presented an ammonium limitation status with MnIV, despite the presence of non-limiting concentration of ammonium under both culture conditions. In addition, in presence of MnIV, *ntrB/nrtC* regulators, ammonium channel, nitrogen regulatory protein P-II, glutamine synthetase and asparagine synthetase glutamine dependent genes were over-represented. Under nitrate condition, the expression of genes involved in the synthesis of several amino acids was increased. Finally, expression level of genes associated with the general stress response was also amplified and among them, *katE,* a putative catalase/peroxidase present on several *Shewanella* genomes, was highly expressed with a relative median value higher in MnIV condition.

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- *Key words: Shewanella algae, Manganese-oxide, nitrate, nitrogen-limitation, transcriptome, catalase*
- \*Corresponding author: Valerie Michotey, Marine Institute of Oceanography, M.I.O, campus de
- Luminy, batiment Oceanomed. 13288 Marseille, France
- [Tel:00330486090555;](tel:00330486090555) Valerie.michotey@univ-amu.fr
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#### **1. Introduction**

 The genus *[Shewanella](http://dx.doi.org/10.1601/nm.2914)* widely distributed in marine and freshwater environments is recognized for its 38 metabolic versatility toward broad range of electron acceptors, including oxygen  $(O_2)$ , nitrate  $(NO_3^-)$ , 39 nitrite (NO<sub>2</sub>), fumarate, ferric iron, manganese-oxide (MnO<sub>2</sub> or MnIV), thiosulfate, elemental sulfur, trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO), dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), and anthraquinone-2,6-disulfonate (AQDS) (Beliaev *et al.*, 2005, Fredrickson *et al.*, 2008). This metabolic versatility provides high competitiveness to these species, especially in stratified environments with electron acceptor gradients. The marine sediments are examples where dissolved oxygen concentration decreases with depth following a vertical slope. Oxygen is substituted by alternative electron acceptors leading to their vertical 45 zonation comprising from surface to deep,  $NO<sub>2/3</sub>$ ,  $Mn(III/IV)$ , Fe(III),  $SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2</sup>$ ,  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ <sup>-</sup> (Emerson & Hedges, 2006, Hansel, 2017). The metabolic versatility of *Shewanella* species confers them an important role in the turnover of organic matter and in the carbon cycle, coupled to anaerobic respiration with electron 48 acceptors, such as FeIII, MnIV and NO<sub>2/3</sub><sup>-</sup> (Coates *et al.*, 1998).

49 In marine sediments, the concentration of ammonium is generally much higher than that of  $NO<sub>2/3</sub>$ . These nitrogen oxyanions are mainly produced from ammonium by nitrification in the overlying aerobic zone and can diffuse to the anaerobic area where they fuel many dissimilatory reduction pathways (e. g. denitrification, dissimilatory reduction of nitrate into ammonium or Anammox) leading or not to a nitrogen lost for the system such as gaseous production (Bonin *et al.*, 1998). Many studies have highlighted the strong coupling between aerobic ammonium oxidation and anaerobic  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  or  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  reduction communities (Fernandes *et al.*, 2016). The study of organisms and mechanisms leading to 56 NO<sub>2/3</sub><sup>-</sup> production is therefore essential for the comprehension of the functioning of the anaerobic part of sediments. Several studies have demonstrated the stimulation of activities associated with nitrogen cycle in anaerobic marine sediments in the presence of MnIV, supporting the hypothesis of the 59 occurrence of a manganese-oxide (MnIV) dependent anaerobic NO<sub>2/3</sub> production pattern (Luther *et al.*, 1997, Anschutz *et al.*, 2005, Javanaud *et al.*, 2011, Fernandes *et al.*, 2015). The anaerobic ammonium oxidation seems to be favored with a 2-4 fold NH4/MnIV concentration ratio and is concomitant to higher ammonium consumption (Lin & Taillefert, 2014).

63 During the analysis of the anaerobic  $NO<sub>2/3</sub>$  peak observed in some marine sediments, a *Shewanella algae* C6G3 strain was isolated and characterized from an intertidal zone (Javanaud et al., 2011, Aigle et al., 2015, Aigle et al., 2017). *S. algae* is an ubiquitous species of coastal marine environments (Caccavo *et al.*, 1992, Beleneva *et al.*, 2009) and the strain C6G3 can perform the dissimilatory reduction of nitrate into ammonium and MnIV reduction. It displays the additional ability 68 to produce anaerobically biotic  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  with ammonium as the sole nitrogen source and MnIV as the sole  electron acceptor. Neither ammonia monooxygenase nor hydroxylamine oxidase gene, known in aerobic nitrifiers for oxidation of ammonium into nitrite or nitrate were detected within C6G3 genome (Aigle et al., 2017). In addition, no genes were identified coding for either hydrazine synthase, hydrazine dehydrogenase or hydroxylamine oxidase involved in Anammox in which ammonium is used as electron donor and nitrite as electron acceptor in anaerobiosis and generating N2. Among the genus *Shewanella*, many studies have focused on the *S. oneidensis* MR-1, the most-described strain capable of dissimilatory metabolism of MnIV. The mechanism of extracellular electron exchange has been particularly well detailed (Richardson *et al.*, 2012, Shi *et al.*, 2012, White *et al.*, 2016). Using microarrays, specific expression profiles have been determined after short time incubations with individual non-metal electron acceptors resulting in the identification of unique groups of nitrate-, thiosulfate- and TMAO-induced genes (Beliaev *et al.*, 2005).

 Several differences between *S. algae* C6G3 and *S. oneidenis* genomes have been characterized so far, especially concerning N-cycle and MnIV reduction. Indeed, in *S. algae*, additional genes are present such as a second *nap* operon (encoding a nitrate reductase ), *nrfA* (encoding a second nitrite reductase) and additional genesin the MTR pathway (*mtrH*) (Aigle et al., 2017). Furthermore, in contrast to *S. algae* C6G3 and ATCC5119 strains, no anaerobic biotic NO2/3 production was detected in *S. oneidensis* with ammonium as the sole nitrogen source and MnIV as the sole electron acceptor (Aigle et 86 al., 2017). To understand the impact of MnIV and NO<sub>3</sub> on the metabolism of *S. algae C6G3*, transcriptomic profiles obtained in the presence of these electron acceptors were compared. Several putative overexpressed pathways were further investigated along growth by qRT-PCR. Due to the capability of the strain to oxidize ammonium in nitrite in anaerobiosis, these analyses were focused on NH4 metabolism and stress response.

#### **Materials and Methods**

#### **Growth conditions**

 *Shewanella algae* C6G3 was grown anaerobically at 28 °C in artificial sea water (Baumann *et al.*, 1971) 95 with DL-lactate (25 mM), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (0.43 mM), FeSO<sub>4</sub> (13,2 µM), NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (20 mM) and trace mineral element solution and vitamin (Balch *et al.*, 1979). Nitrate (3 mM) or manganese oxides (1 mM) were added as sole source of electron acceptor. Manganese oxide was synthesized following the protocol of Laha (Laha & Luthy, 1990). Cells were grown under strict anaerobic conditions with a 100% N<sup>2</sup> gas head space. Cultures dedicated to RNA-seq, expression profiling, or physiology were made in duplicate.

Nitrate, nitrite, MnII and 16S rDNA were measured as previously described (Aigle et al., 2017)

#### **Transcriptome analysis**

 For RNA-seq, cells from two independent cultures for each growth condition at three quarters of their exponential phase of growth were pelleted and washed twice with RNAprotect® Bacteria Reagent (Qiagen): Tris-NaCl buffer (0.05 M Tris; 0.15 M NaCl; pH 7.8) 2:1 and rinsed with Tris-NaCl buffer. After lysis in RLT buffer of RNeasy® kit (Qiagen), total RNA was extracted with phenol: chloroform: isoamyl alcohol 125:24:1 pH 4.5, gently mixed and centrifuged 15 min at 12.000 g at 4 °C, and then with chloroform: isoamyl alcohol 24:1, gently mixed and centrifuged 15 min at 12.000 g at 4 °C. Total RNA samples were purified using RNeasy® Mini QIAcube Kit (Qiagen) and DNA contamination was 110 removed using the TURBO DNA-free<sup>TM</sup> kit (Ambion® by Life Technologies<sup>TM</sup>) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

 After RNA quality check, (Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer Santa Clara, CA, USA) and quantification (Nanodrop 2000c Thermo Scientific), the absence of DNA contamination was verified by PCR following the protocol of Aigle *et al.* (2017). The Transcriptomic and Genomic Marseille-Luminy (TGML) platform performed further sample treatments (Amrani *et al.*, 2014). Templates sequencing was performed with semiconductor sequencing chips 318 on the Ion Torrent PGM (Life Technology). Despite the lower number of reads generated by this technology, it was chosen because at that time it allowed to sequence longer reads than Illumina. The RNA-seq data performed in duplicated for each culture condition have been deposited on NCBI GEO platform (accession number GSE109146).

 RNA data were analyzed as previously described (Amrani *et al.*, 2014). Briefly, the R package DESeq was used to analyze the differential expression of genes between the different culture conditions (Anders & Huber, 2010). P-values were calculated and adjusted for multiple testing using the false discovery rate controlling procedure (Benjamini & Hochberg, 1995). An adjusted P-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant. The Kegg Orthology identifiers of genes and the KEGG pathways assignment were performed on *S. algae* C6G3 genome using KAAS tool (KEGG Automatic Annotation Server, GenomeNet).

 For the kinetic of gene expression, RNA was extracted along growth (4 or 5 time points spread from early exponential to early stationary phase of growth) from two independent cultures for each growth condition. Reverse transcriptase reactions with random primers, cDNA quantification by qPCR and data analysis were performed as previously described (Aigle *et al.*, 2017). Primers used for qPCR are listed in Table S1. Row data of target gene expression per ng of total RNA are presented in Table S2. Two technical qPCR quantifications were performed for each RNA extraction. From a previous study, we

 have noticed a lower quality of RNA from MnIV grown cells due to splitting of RNA by MnII. The quantification of the expression of the house-keeping gene  $(rpoD)$  encoding the sigma<sup>70</sup> subunit of the RNA polymerase was used to normalize gene expression in order to avoid putative bias from RNA extraction and reverse transcription efficiency. The median value for *rpoD*/ng of total RNA from 138 duplicate MnIV or NO<sub>3</sub> grown cells at all the time points were 1.49 .10<sup>3</sup> and 5.47 10<sup>3</sup> cDNA/ng RNA, respectively. No clear tendency was seen according to either condition or phase of growth (Fig S1). All cDNA quantifications by qPCR were done on the same reverse transcription.

#### **Results and discussion**

 RNA-seq assays generated 1,725,084 high-quality reads for the four tested samples (two per culture conditions). Between 83 to 95% of the high-quality reads were mapped to *S. algae* C6G3 genome (Table S3). Correlation matrix between RNA-seq normalized expression levels of each independent culture obtained with DESeq (Anders & Huber, 2010) indicated that the similarity between the 2 biological replicates was above 90% (Fig.S2).

 This preliminary study allowed to identify 148 genes as differentially expressed (adjusted p-value <0.05), 67 and 81 were over-represented under MnIV or nitrate conditions, respectively (Fig S3, S4, Table S4). Most of significant differentially expressed genes belonged to COG categories of energy production and conversion (C), amino acid transport and metabolism (E), carbohydrate transport and metabolism (G) , co-enzyme metabolism (I), lipid metabolism (L), inorganic ion transport and metabolism (P), posttranslational modification, protein turnover and chaperones (O) (Fig. 1).

 Under both growth conditions, lactate was the only carbon source available and was partially oxidized into acetate that accumulated in the medium as for many species of its genus (Fig. 2) (Aigle *et al.*, 2015) (Tang *et al.*, 2007, Lian *et al.*, 2016). *S. algae* C6G3 genome contains five formate dehydrogenase gene clusters (Aigle *et al.*, 2015),among them four, i.e. *fdnGHI-fdhC, fdhA1B1C1, fdhA2B2C2, hyaAB,* are also present in *S. oneidensis* MR-1, while the fifth, i.e. *fdoGHI* is present in *E. coli* and in *Sinorhizobium meliloti* (Heidelberg et al., 2002, Wang & Gunsalus, 2003, Pickering & Oresnik, 2008). Under nitrate condition, two formate dehydrogenase clusters (*fdnGHI-fdhD* and *fdoGHI* gene clusters) were over- represented in RNA seq compared to MnIV condition (log2 fold change MnIV/NO<sup>3</sup> between -3.7 and - 6.1; and -3.6 and 5.6, respectively Table S4)). Regulation of *fdnGHI* genes by nitrate was previously demonstrated in *E. coli* (Wang & Gunsalus, 2003) and *S. oneidensis* MR-1 (Beliaev *et al.*, 2005) whereas *fdoGHI* was *shown* to encode a formate dehydrogenase complex NAD<sup>+</sup> independent (Pickering & Oresnik, 2008). Considering its over-representation under nitrate condition observed in our study, *fdoGHI* is probably implicated in the process of nitrate reduction. The *fdh* gene cluster was over-

- represented in the presence of MnIV (genes *fdhA* and *fdhC*, log2 fold change MnIV/NO<sup>3</sup> between 1.7 and 2.33, Table S4). Under this growth condition, it has been proposed that nitrate and nitrite are produced from ammonium (Aigle et al 2017 and Fig.2). Consequently, the dehydrogenase encoded by 170 the *fdh* cluster could be involved in the process of either NO<sub>2/3</sub> production or MnIV reduction.
- Nitrate and nitrite reduction is a stepwise process during *S. algae* C6G3 anaerobic growth with nitrate as electron acceptor (Fig. 2). Dissimilatory nitrate reduction into ammonium is catalyzed by two enzymes, the nitrate reductase (*napA*) oxidizing nitrate to nitrite, and the nitrite reductase formate dehydrogenase (*nrfA*) that oxidizes nitrite to ammonium (Simon, 2002, Simpson *et al.*, 2010, Aigle *et*  175 *al.*, 2015). As the RNA-seq was performed at the <sup>3</sup>/4 of the exponential phase of growth when all nitrate is reduced to nitrite, an over-representation of the *nrfA* gene in RNA seq was expected (log2 fold change 177 MnIV/NO<sub>3</sub> of -2.5, Table S4) in agreement with our previous results obtained by qRT-PCR (Aigle et al., 2017). The similar expression level of the metal transfer reduction operon (*mtrABCDEF*) between both growth conditions is also in agreement with previous observations (Beliaev *et al.*, 2005, Aigle *et al.*, 2017).
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 The over-representation in RNA seq of genes responsible for ammonium assimilation under N-limiting condition, when MnIV was the electron acceptor, is the most striking observation of the present study 184 (Fig. 3, Table S4). In liquid medium, ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) concentration is in equilibrium with ammonia (NH3) according to acid base equilibrium constant (Ka). Regardless the electron acceptor, the culture 186 medium contained at the beginning of the growth 20 mM of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. According to the pKa of NH<sub>4</sub>+/NH<sub>3</sub> 187 (9.23) and the pH of the medium (7.8), the NH<sub>3</sub> concentration is estimated at ~1.2 mM. While ammonia 188 gas can passively diffuse through the cellular membrane,  $NH<sub>4</sub>$  needs to be absorbed through an ammonium channel encoded by the *amtB* gene. This gene is expressed only under drastic ammonium 190 limitation (van Heeswijk et al., 2013). In this study, despite NH<sub>4</sub>+/NH<sub>3</sub> availability in the cultures, the 191 NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> uptake pathway genes were over-represented in the presence of MnIV compared to that of nitrate. Moreover, genes coding for the NRI/NRII-two component system nitrogen regulator (*ntrB/nrtC* also called *glnG/glnL,* log2 fold change MnIV/NO<sup>3</sup> of 2.9 and 3.5*)*, the ammonium channel (*amtB,* log2 fold change MnIV/NO<sup>3</sup> of 6.1), the nitrogen regulatory protein P-II (*glnK,* log2 fold change MnIV/NO<sup>3</sup> of 5.5), the glutamine synthetase (*glnA,* log2 fold change MnIV/NO<sup>3</sup> of 2.7) and the asparagine synthetase glutamine dependent (*asnB,* log2 fold change MnIV/NO<sup>3</sup> of 6.5) were over-represented similarly (Table S4). Entry of ammonium has been convincingly shown to occur through ammonium channels that are blocked by the nitrogen regulatory protein P-II, encoded by the *glnK* gene. The association of AmtB/PII complex is controlled by the UTase enzyme, sensitive to the glutamine product of the glutamine

 synthetase encoded by the *glnA*, to 2-oxoglutarate concentration (an intermediate of the Krebs cycle and an indicator of nitrogen status) and to MgII and ADP/ATP ratio (van Heeswijk *et al.*, 2013).

 Under nitrogen limitation, GlnA catalyzes the formation of glutamine from glutamate and ammonia. The produced glutamine is the substrate of glutamate synthase (GOGAT), which catalyzes the conversion of 2-oxoglutarate and glutamine into two molecules of glutamate. In order to maintain balanced metabolism, the cell must coordinate the assimilation of nitrogen with the assimilation of carbon and other essential nutrients. This coordination is carried out in part by a signal transduction system, which measures signals of carbon and nitrogen status and regulates the activity of GlnA, and by the transcription of nitrogen-regulated (Ntr) genes, whose products facilitate the use of poor nitrogen sources (van Heeswijk *et al.*, 2013).

 *S. algae* C6G3 genes organization is similar to what is known for *E. coli where glnA* is part of the *glnALG* or *glna-ntrBC* operon whereas *amtB* and *glnK* are located in close vicinity (data not shown). The kinetic of the expression of these two operons was followed by qRT-PCR targeting one of their genes (*glnA* and *amtB*) at 4 or 5 time points in duplicate-cultures with MnIV or NO<sub>3</sub> as electron acceptors. The median value of *glnA* expression level of all time points of both duplicate cultures was higher under MnIV than 215 under NO<sub>3</sub> condition, whether it is expressed in absolute quantification (5.98  $10^4$  vs 0.89  $10^4$  of *glnA*  cDNA/ng RNA, Table S2) or relative to *rpoD* (46.1 vs 2.9 ). This over-expression was observed for all time points of the cultures confirming our RNA-seq results (Fig. 3). The *rpoD*-relative expression level of *amtB* was lower than that of *glnA* but presented also a higher median under MnIV (1.7) than under nitrate (0.6) conditions. Its expression in both culture duplicates was higher under MnIV condition than 220 under  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  for three of the four time points of the cultures (Fig. 3). Since the expression of these two 221 genes is induced by low intracellular  $NH_3/NH_4$ <sup>+</sup> concentration, this observation suggests that this strain senses nitrogen limitation in the presence of MnIV throughout growth. It is known that 2-oxoglutarate can stimulate ammonium assimilation by dissociation of the Amt-GlnK complex (van Heeswijk *et al.*, 2013). Interestingly, the increased expression of the gene coding for isocitrate deshydrogenase (IDH), leading to 2-oxoglutarate production, was also confirmed by qRT-PCR in the early exponential phase of growth suggesting a probable production of 2-oxoglutarate, preventing the closure of ammonium channel in the presence of MnIV (Fig.3).

 Several explanations could be proposed for the surprising difference of nitrogen status (limiting *vs* non- limiting available nitrogen) between cultures grown with either nitrate or MnIV as electron acceptors. The limitation by the initial concentration of ammonium concentration (20 mM) can be excluded since its concentration was identical in both culture media and the overexpression of *glnA* and *amtB* occurred from the early exponential phase of growth. Furthermore, several genes responsible for amino acid synthesis such as valine/isoleucine (*ilvC*), methionine /threonine (*metB*) or cysteine (*cysK* and *cysN*)

 were under-expressed under MnIV condition (Fig. 3). The ammonium need for the general biomass development is probably much lower in presence of MnIV since the cell density at the end of the culture was 28 fold lower than that obtained with nitrate. (Fig.2). Ammonium could be destined to anabolism of specific compounds as suggested by the synthesis of higher number of cytochromes coupled to the overproduction of some of them in MnIV grown cells (Fig. S4) and by the overexpression of genes included in carbohydrate, inorganic ion transport and metabolism; coenzyme and lipid, metabolism COG categories (Fig.1). Among these categories, seven genes involved in the synthesis of storage products such as glycogen were found (*glgA*, *glgB*, *glgC*, *glgP*,*pgl*, *malQ,* log2 fold change MnIV/NO<sup>3</sup> between 242 2.4 and 5.5, Table S4). The expression of one of them, *glgB* was confirmed by qRT-PCR for two time points of growth under MnIV condition (Fig. 3). Glycogen has been shown to accumulate in large amount within cells when growth is limited by a deficiency of some factors other than the carbon and energy source (Wilkinson, 1963). Other hypotheses could be formulated to explain the expression of 246 genes induced by NH<sub>3</sub>/NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> limitation: (i), an abiotic reaction involving Mn(II) and scavenging part of 247 available ammonia such as  $Mn^{2+} + 2NH_3 + 2H_2O \leftrightarrow Mn(OH)_{2} + 2NH_4$ <sup>+</sup>; (ii) an additional need of ammonium to partially scavenge the oxides generated from MnIV (MnO2) reduction into MnII, concomitant to nitrite formation with an unresolved mechanism. Nitrite consumption is visible between 20 and 40 h in culture grown with MnIV (Fig.2). Due to the presence of *nrfA* on *S. algae* genome and its expression under this condition (Aigle *et al.*, 2017), the formed nitrite could be further reduced by DNRA into ammonium; (iii) the last one could be the combination of several causes. Further investigations are needed to validate one or several of these hypotheses.

 Nitrate (NO3) dissimilation may produce reactive oxygen/nitrogen species (RONS). For example, *E. coli* cells, grown anaerobically with nitrate as terminal electron acceptor, generate significant NO on adding nitrite. The periplasmic cytochrome  $c$  nitrite reductase (Nrf) was shown, by comparing Nrf<sup>+</sup> and Nrf mutants, to be largely responsible for NO generation (Corker & Poole, 2003). From micro-array, upregulation of a large number of stress responses genes under both nitrate and metal-reducing conditions have been shown in *S. oneidensis* (Beliaev *et al.*, 2005). In *S. algae* C6G3, several genes of stress responses were expressed similarly under nitrate compared to MnIV condition, indicating an analogous stress status. However several other genes (*clpA, clpB*, *katE*, *groEL*, *dnaK*, *rpoS, katE,* Fig.2 and Table S4) known to be involved in the general stress response, are apparently over-represented at least in one conditions as suggested by our RNA-seq preliminary results. The time course of their expressions along growth were investigated by qRT-PCR. Overall, the median expression levels of genes *dnaK*, *groEL* encoding chaperones*, rpoS* encoding the general stress response sigma factor*,* and *clpB* encoding a protease machinery component were higher under nitrate than MnIV condition whether they 267 were expressed either as absolute quantification ( $dnaK$  mRNA abundance *:* 5.68 10<sup>4</sup> vs 3.08 10<sup>3</sup> 268 cDNA/ng RNA; *groEL* mRNA abundance: 7.8 10<sup>3</sup> vs 2.93 10<sup>3</sup> cDNA/ng RNA; *rpoS* mRNA abundance:

269 2.77  $10^4$  vs 3.07  $10^3$  cDNA/ng RNA; *clpB* mRNA abundance: 3.89  $10^3$  vs 5.16  $10^2$  cDNA/ng RNA, Table S 2), or relative to *rpoD* (*dnaK:4.3 vs 2.5*; *groEL*: 1.5 vs 1.12; *rpoS* : 5.4 vs 2.1, *clpB :* 0.38 vs 0.31). However, their temporal expressions differed. Considering *rpoS*, its relative expression level was higher in the presence of nitrate than of MnIV for all the phases of growth (early expo 2, exp, early stat 1, Fig.4). In contrast, the expression of *dnaK*, *clpB* and *groEL* depended on the phase and was overexpressed under MnIV condition in early exponential phase of growth whereas an opposite tendency 275 was seen under  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  condition in exponential phase of growth concomitant with the nitrite peak (Fig. 2, 4).

 Interestingly, under manganese condition, *S. algae* C6G3 transcriptome analysis underlined the strong over-representation (log2 fold change of 4.7, Table S3) of one out of the four catalase/peroxidase genes present in its genome (SA002\_03500, corresponding to *KatE* found in several *Shewanella* species, Table S5). Among the stress genes identified by RNA-seq, *katE* relative expression level was higher particularly under MnIV condition, as shown by the median *rpoD*-relative expression of *katE* reaching 282 21.3 and 6.7 under MnIV or NO<sub>3</sub> conditions, respectively. At a lesser extent, the preferential expression under MnIV condition presented the same tendency for the absolute quantification (*katE* mRNA 284 abundance 3.41  $10^4$  vs 3.36  $10^4$  cDNA/ng RNA). The over-representation of *katE* in the presence of MnIV was confirmed by qRT-PCR in early exponential and stationary phase of growth (Fig. 4), suggesting a specific response to MnIV or to a metabolic byproduct of the strain under these growth conditions.

#### **4. Conclusion**

 Our aim was to better understand the metabolism of *S. algae* when it encounters different electron acceptors such as MnIV and nitrate and the strategies the bacterium develops to adapt its energetic pathways. A transcriptomic analysis revealed major differences in the expression of genes involved in central metabolism such as amino acid synthesis and ammonium assimilation linked to the use of different electron acceptors. Furthermore, *katE*, a gene encoding for a putative catalase/peroxidase, was highly expressed in both conditions but with a greater relative median value under MnIV condition suggesting an important role.

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Fig.1. Over-expressed genes in manganese oxide or nitrate condition based on genes belonging to a COG categories (adjusted p-value <0.05). C, energy production and conversion; E, amino acid transport and metabolism; F, nucleotide transport and metabolism; G, carbohydrate transport and metabolism; H, coenzyme metabolism; I, lipid metabolism; J, translation, ribosomal structure, and biogenesis; K, transcription; L, DNA replication, recombination, and repair; M, cell envelope biogenesis, outer membrane; N, cell motility and secretion; O, posttranslational modification, protein turnover, and chaperones; P, inorganic ion transport and metabolism; Q, secondary metabolite biosynthesis, transport, and catabolism; R, general function prediction only; S, function unknown; T, signal transduction mechanisms; V, defense mechanisms



Fig. 2: Kinetic of growth of *S. algae* C6G3 in anaerobiosis and in the presence of nitrate or Mn(IV) as electron acceptor in minimal medium with lactate as electron donor. Bars represent the standard deviation.



5

*amtB*

*glnA*

MnIV-grown-cells replicate #2

NO3-grown-cells replicate #2

Fig.3. Gene expression level relative to *rpoD* of ammonium, sulfate assimilation and aa synthesis pathway along anaerobic bacterial growth with nitrate or manganese-oxide as the electron acceptor. *amtB*: ammonium transporteur, *glnA:* glutamine synthesis, *IDH:* 2 oxoglutarate synthesis, *cysN*: sulfate assimilation pathway , *cysK*: cystein synthesis, *ilC*: valine synthesis pathway , *metB*: methionine synthesis. \*denotes difference in expression level between condition. ND: Not determined



Fig.4. Genes of stress response. Expression level relative to *rpoD* ATP-dependent Clp protease ATP-binding subunit *clpA*; katalase, *katE*; chaperonin GroEL, *groEL* , chaperone protein DnaK, *dnaK*.; \* denotes difference in expression level between conditions. ND: Not determined.

## **The nature of electron acceptor (MnIV/NO3) triggers differential expression of genes associated with stress and ammonium limitation responses in** *Shewanella algae* **C6G3**

Axel Aigle, Patricia Bonin, Nicolas Fernandez -Nunez , Béatrice Loriod, Sophie Guasco, Aurélie Bergon, Fabrice Armougom, Chantal Iobbi-Nivol, Jean Imbert, Valérie Michotey.

Table S1. Target gene characteristics: primer sequence, fragment size, annealing temperature (Tm) and references.

| <b>Primer</b> | <b>Target</b><br>gene | Primer sequence $(5' \rightarrow 3')$ | Tm                    | <b>Fragment</b><br>size | Ref.     |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| rpoD-F        | rpoD                  | TAC GCC GAA GGC CTG AAA AT            | 62 °C                 | $90$ pb                 | Aigle et |
| rpoD-R        |                       | GAT AGA CAG GCC GGT TTC GG            |                       |                         | al 2017  |
| cysK-F        |                       | AGG CCT GTT GAC CAA AGA CA            | 62 °C                 |                         | This     |
| $cysK-R$      | cysK                  | TCA ACT TGT AAC CTC GGG CG            |                       | 98 pb                   | study    |
| katE-F        | $k$ at $E$            | TGC AGG AGA GGT TGA TGC AG            | 62 °C                 | 98 pb                   | This     |
| katE-R        |                       | TGA AGG GTC CAG CAA GGG AT            |                       |                         | study    |
| $glgB-F$      |                       | GCC GAA CTC TTG GTG CCT TA            | 62 °C                 | $100$ pb                | This     |
| $glgB-R$      | glgB                  | GTT GAT AGC CCC AGG AAC CG            |                       |                         | study    |
| $glnA-F$      |                       | ACA GCC ACC TTT ATG CCC AA            | 62 °C                 | 95 pb                   | This     |
| $glnA-R$      | glnA                  | GCA AAT AGG TTG GTG CCG TC            |                       |                         | study    |
| amt-F         |                       | GCC AGG TTA ACC CTA TCC CG            |                       | 95 pb                   | This     |
| amt-R         | amt                   | AGA ACC ACC GTT GAA ACC GA            | 62 °C                 |                         | study    |
| cysN-F        |                       | TTG GTA TCA GGG CGA AAC CC            | 62 °C                 | 99 pb                   | This     |
| $cysN-R$      | cysN                  | CTG ACA TAC TGC ACC GGG AA            |                       |                         | study    |
| dnaK-F        | dnaK                  | TCT TTG GTG ATC AGT GGG GC            | 62 °C                 | 101pb                   | This     |
| $dnaK-R$      |                       | CAC TGG CTCA CCC AGG AAA T            |                       |                         | study    |
| groEL-F       |                       | GGG CGT GAA TGT TCT GGC TA            | 62 °C                 | 102pb                   | This     |
| $groEL-R$     | groEL                 | TCT TTG GTG ATC AGT GGG GC            |                       |                         | study    |
| katE-F        | $k$ at $E$            | TGC AGG AGA GGT TGAT GCA G            | $62^{\circ}$ C        | 98bp                    | This     |
| katE-R        |                       | TGA AGG GTC CAG CAA GGG A             |                       |                         | study    |
| IDH3-F        |                       | GAA AGT GGC CCG TGA AGT C             | 60 °C                 | 100pb                   | This     |
| IDH3-R        | IDH3                  | GTT TTC CGG GTT CAT CAC CA            |                       |                         | study    |
| $clpA-F$      |                       | AAG GTG GAC ATT CAC GAG CC            | 62 °C                 | 97pb                    | This     |
| $clpA-R$      | clpA                  | GGG TGT AAC GCA CTC CAT GA            |                       |                         | study    |
| $clpB-F$      |                       | ATC CTA ACC GGC CCA TAG GT            |                       | 97pb                    | This     |
| $clpB-R$      | clpB                  | GTG TCG AAC AGG AAC TTG GC            | $62~^\circ\mathrm{C}$ |                         | study    |
| $metB-F$      |                       | GCC GTG ATT GCC AAA GAT CC            |                       |                         | This     |
| $metB-R$      | metB                  | GGT CAG GTA GCT GTC GAA GG            | 62 °C                 | 96 pb                   | study    |
| ilvC-F        |                       | AAT GGC GAC GGT TTG GAG AT            |                       |                         | This     |
| ilvC-R        | ilvC                  | CCG ACT TCA CCT CGG CAA TA            | 62 °C                 | $100$ pb                | study    |
|               |                       |                                       |                       |                         |          |

Table S2: Absolute quantification of cDNAs of interest per ng of RNA added in the reverse transcription reactions, in early (1 and 2) exponential, and stationary (1 and 2) phases of growth of S algae grown with nitrate or MnIV as electron acceptor. Value for the 2 independent cultures for each condition (MnIV or NO3) are shown





Table S3. Summary statistics of RNA-seq runs

| <b>TGML_I</b><br>D | Sample_ID     | <b>Bases</b> | $\geq$ Q20 | <b>Reads</b> | <b>Reads</b><br><b>Mapped</b> | % Mapping |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 581                | NO3 1 C6G3    | 63,727,883   | 55,673,431 | 469,736      | 390.727                       | 83.18     |
| 582                | NO3 2 C6G3    | 81,989,316   | 72.118.405 | 563,025      | 509.908                       | 90.57     |
| 583                | $MnOx$ 1 C6G3 | 58,840,970   | 51,594,018 | 411,316      | 384,501                       | 93.48     |
| 584                | $MnOx$ 2 C6G3 | 26,980,852   | 24,279,815 | 281,007      | 267,923                       | 95.34     |

Table S4. List of differentially expressed genes under MnOx conditions as NO<sub>3</sub> with an adjusted p-value <0.05. The genes discussed in the article are indicated in bold.

| Locus<br>tag JGI<br>SA002_ | Product name  | Code<br>COG   | COG  | <b>KEEG</b><br>Orthology | E.C.<br>number | Log <sub>2</sub> fold<br>change<br>MnOx vs.<br>$NO3-$ |
|----------------------------|---|---------------|------|--------------------------|----------------|---|
|                            |   |               |      |                          |                |   |
| 00257                      | Malate synthase, aceB, glcB   | $\mathbf C$   | 2225 | K01638                   | 2.3.3.9        | 3.50  |
| 00704                      | Sodium pump decarboxylases, oadG<br>(TC:3.B.1)  | $\mathbf C$   | 3630 | K01573                   | 4.1.1.3        | 2.97  |
| 00705                      | Oxaloacetate decarboxylase, oadA<br>$(00705 + 00706)$                                 | $\mathcal{C}$ | 5016 | K01571                   | 4.1.1.3        | 2.40<br>2.99  |
| 00708                      | Sodium ion-translocating decarboxylase,<br>oadB (TC:3.B.1)                            | $\mathbf C$   | 1883 | K01572                   | 4.1.1.3        | 3.14  |
| 05135                      | Anaerobic dehydrogenases, fdhA<br>(TC:5.A.3)  | $\mathbf C$   | 0243 | K00123                   | 1.2.1.2        | 1.74  |
| 05137                      | Formate dehydrogenase, fdhC   | $\mathbf C$   | 2864 | K00127                   | 1.2.1.2        | 2.33  |
| 00475                      | L-lactate dehydrogenase, lldE   | $\mathsf{C}$  | 2048 | K18928                   |                | $-1.67$   |
| 03282                      | Acetate kinase, ackA  | $\mathbf C$   | 0282 | K00925                   | 2.7.2.1        | $-1.92$   |
| 03376                      | Formate dehydrogenase, nitrate<br>inducible, fdnG (TC:5.A.3)<br>$(03376+03377+03378)$ | $\mathbf C$   | 0243 | K00123                   | 1.2.1.2        | $-2.83$<br>$-3.19$<br>$-3.40$                         |
| 03379                      | Formate dehydrogenase fdnH  | $\mathbf C$   | 0437 | K00124                   |                | $-3.70$   |
| 03380                      | Formate dehydrogenase, fdnI   | $\mathbf C$   | 2864 | K00127                   |                | $-4.25$   |
| 03386                      | Formate dehydrogenase, fdhD   | $\mathbf C$   | 1526 | K02379                   |                | $-6.11$   |
| 05459                      | Formate dehydrogenase, fdoI   | $\mathbf C$   | 2864 | K00127                   |                | $-5.63$   |
| 05460                      | Formate dehydrogenase, fdoH   | $\mathbf C$   | 0437 | K00124                   |                | $-4.21$   |
| 05461                      | Formate dehydrogenase, fdoG, fdfH<br>$(05461+05462)$ (TC:5.A.3)                       | $\mathbf C$   | 0243 | K00123                   | 1.2.1.2        | $-3.62$   |
| 02930                      | Glutamine synthetase type I, glnA   | E             | 0174 | K01915                   | 6.3.1.2        | 2.68  |
| 04432                      | Nitrogen regulatory protein P-II<br>family, glnK                                      | E             | 0347 | K04752                   |                | 5.52  |
| 03298                      | Cysteine synthase A, cysK   | E             | 0031 | K01738                   | 2.5.1.47       | 2.55  |
| 02212                      | Sulfate adenylyltransferase, cysD   | EH            | 0175 | K00957                   | 2.7.7.4        | 3.72  |
| 02218                      | Phosphoadenylyl-sulfate reductase<br>thioredoxin-dependent, cysH                      | EH            | 0175 | K00390                   | 1.8.4.8        | 3.86  |
| 05500                      | Asparagine synthase, asnB   | E             | 0367 | K01953                   | 6.3.5.4        | 6.57  |









 $\overline{\phantom{0}}$ 

Table 5. Blastn *katE* (SA002\_03500+SA002\_03501) from *Shewanella algae* C6G3 against all *Shewanella* isolate available on JGI (n=62), and fitness BLAST significant results from JGI (Wetmore et al., 2015 and Rubin et al., 2015).





\*synteny conserved



Fig S1. Absolute expression level of *rpoD* coding of the sigma 70 subunit of the RNA polymerase from duplicate cultures with either nitrate (round symbol) or manganese-oxide (cross symbol) as electron acceptor



Fig S2. Correlation matrix between RNA-seq normalized expression levels of each independent culture obtained with DESeq.

The R package DESeq was used to analyze the differential expression of genes between the different culture conditions (Andres &Huber, 2010).

Anders S, Huber W (2010) Differential expression analysis for sequence count data. Genome Biol 11: R106.

Volcano plot



Figure S3. Volcano plot distribution showing transcriptomic data from S. algae C6G3 grown on nitrate (NO3-, right part) and manganese oxide (MnIV, left part) as electrons acceptors.



Fig S4: Heat mat of the log2 RPKM of overexpressed gene among the 4 independent cultures (Two with nitrate as electron acceptor and 2 with MnIV as electron acceptor)

Material and methods

*c*-type cytochrome detection. Crude extracts (30 µg) of *S. algae* grown anaerobically in the presence of either fumarate, Mn or KNO3 were loaded on 12% SDS-PAGE. After migration, cytochromes were revealed by staining for peroxidase activity of hemes using 3,3',5,5' tetramethylbenzidine (TMBZ)(Thomas et al 1976) .



Fig S5. *c*-type cytochrome profile of *S. algae* according to the electron acceptor present in the growth medium.

Crude extract ( $30\mu$ g/ $\mu$ l) of cells grown in the presence of either fumarate, MnIV or NO3 were submitted to a 12% SDS-PAGE. After electrophoresis, *c*-type cytochromes were visualized by heme staining using TMBZ. M for MW markers

Thomas PE, Lu AY, Ryan D, West SB, Kawalek J, Levin W. Multiple forms of rat liver cytochrome P-450. Immunochemical evidence with antibody against cytochrome P-448. J Biol Chem 1976;251:1385–91.