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► **To cite this version:**

Jennifer Brum, J Cesar Ignacio-Espinoza, Simon Roux, Guilhem Doulcier, Silvia G. Acinas, et al.. Patterns and ecological drivers of ocean viral communities. *Science*, 2015, 348 (6237), pp.1261498. 10.1126/science.1261498 . hal-01768331

HAL Id: hal-01768331

<https://amu.hal.science/hal-01768331v1>

Submitted on 8 Jan 2024

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1 **Title: Patterns and ecological drivers of ocean viral communities**

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58 **Abstract:** Viruses influence ecosystems by modulating microbial population size, diversity,
59 metabolic outputs, and gene flow. Here we use quantitative double-stranded DNA (dsDNA)
60 viral-fraction metagenomes (viromes) and whole viral community morphological datasets from
61 43 *Tara* Oceans expedition samples to assess viral community patterns and structure in the upper
62 ocean. Protein cluster cataloging defined pelagic upper-ocean viral community pan and core
63 gene sets and suggested this sequence space is well-sampled. Analyses of viral protein clusters,
64 populations, and morphology revealed biogeographic patterns whereby viral communities were
65 passively transported on oceanic currents and locally structured by environmental conditions that
66 impact host community structure. Together these investigations establish a global ocean dsDNA
67 viromic dataset with analyses supporting the seed-bank hypothesis to explain how oceanic viral
68 communities maintain high local diversity.

69
70 **One Sentence Summary:** Global patterns that emerge from the *Tara* Oceans Virome dataset
71 support a seed-bank structure underlying observed biogeography in ocean viral communities.

72
73 **Main Text:** Ocean microbes produce half of the oxygen we breathe (1) and drive much of the
74 substrate and redox transformations that fuel Earth's ecosystems (2). However, they do so in a
75 constantly evolving network of chemical, physical and biotic constraints – interactions which are
76 only beginning to be explored. Marine viruses are presumably key players in these interactions
77 (3, 4) as they affect microbial populations through lysis, reprogramming of host metabolism, and
78 horizontal gene transfer. Here we strive to develop an overview of ocean viral community
79 patterns and ecological drivers.

80 The *Tara* Oceans expedition provided a platform for sampling ocean biota from viruses to
81 fish larvae with comprehensive environmental context (5). Prior virus-focused work from this
82 expedition has helped optimize the dsDNA viromic sample-to-sequence workflow (6), evaluate
83 ecological drivers of viral community structure as inferred from morphology (7), and map
84 ecological patterns in the large dsDNA nucleo-cytoplasmic viruses using marker genes (8). Here
85 we explore global patterns and structure of ocean viral communities using 43 samples from 26
86 stations in the *Tara* Oceans expedition (Supplementary File S1) to establish dsDNA viromes
87 from viral-fraction (<0.22 μm) concentrates and quantitative whole viral community
88 morphological datasets from unfiltered seawater. Viruses lack shared genes that can be used for
89 investigation of community patterns. Therefore, we used three levels of information to study
90 such patterns: (i) protein clusters (PCs, 9) as a means to organize virome sequence space
91 commonly dominated by unknown sequences (63–93%, 10), (ii) populations, using established
92 metrics for viral contig recruitment (11), and (iii) morphology, using quantitative transmission
93 electron microscopy (qTEM, 7).

94 95 **The *Tara* Oceans Viromes (TOV) dataset**

96 The 43 *Tara* Oceans Viromes (TOV) dataset is comprised of 2.16 billion ~101-bp paired-end
97 Illumina reads (Supplementary File 1), largely representing epipelagic ocean viral communities
98 (only 1 of 43 viromes are from mesopelagic waters, Environment Ontology feature
99 ENVO:00000213) from the surface (ENVO:00002042) and deep chlorophyll maximum (DCM;

100 ENVO:01000326) throughout seven oceans and seas (Supplementary File S1). The TOV dataset
101 offers deeper sampling of surface ocean viral communities, but under-represents the deep ocean
102 relative to the Pacific Ocean Viromes dataset (POV, 10) which includes 16 viromes from aphotic
103 zone waters. In all viromes, sampling and processing affects what viruses are represented (6, 12-
104 14). We filtered TOV seawater samples through 0.22 μm pore-sized filters and then concentrated
105 viruses in the filtrate using iron chloride flocculation (15). These steps would have removed most
106 cells, but also excluded any viruses larger than 0.22 μm . We then purified the resulting TOV
107 viral concentrates using DNase treatment, which is as effective as density gradients for purifying
108 ocean viral concentrates (14). This DNase-only step is unlikely to impact viral representation in
109 the viromes, but reduces non-viral DNA contamination. Finally, we extracted DNA from the
110 samples and prepared sequence libraries using linker amplification (13). These steps preserve
111 quantitative representation of dsDNA viruses in the resulting viromes (12, 13), but the ligation
112 step excludes RNA viruses, and is biased against single-stranded DNA (ssDNA) viruses (12).

113 We additionally applied qTEM (7) to paired whole seawater samples to evaluate patterns in
114 whole viral communities. This method simultaneously considers ssDNA, dsDNA, and RNA
115 viruses, though without knowledge of their relative abundances since particle morphology does
116 not identify nucleic acid type. In the oceans, total virus abundance estimates based on TEM
117 analyses, which include all viral particles, are similar to estimates based on fluorescent staining,
118 which inefficiently stains ssDNA and RNA viruses (16-24). This suggests that most ocean
119 viruses are dsDNA viruses. However, one study quantifying nucleic acids at a single marine
120 location suggests RNA viruses may constitute as much as half of the viral community there (16).
121 It remains unknown what the relative contribution of these viral types is to the whole viral
122 community, but our analyses suggest small dsDNA viruses likely dominate as follows. The
123 viromes capture the $<0.22 \mu\text{m}$ dsDNA viruses of bacteria and archaea that are thought to
124 dominate marine viral communities, whereas qTEM analysis includes all viruses regardless of
125 size, nucleic acid type, or host (7). In these whole seawater samples used for qTEM, we found
126 that viral capsid diameters ranged from 26 to 129 nm, with the per-sample average capsid
127 diameter constrained at 46–66 nm (Fig. 1). We detected no viral particles larger than 0.22 μm
128 among 100 randomly counted particles from each of 41 qTEM samples. These findings are
129 similar to those from a subset of these *Tara* Oceans stations (14 of the 26 stations; 7), and
130 indicate that size fractionation using 0.22 μm filtration to prepare viromes did not substantially
131 bias the TOV dataset.

132

133 **TOV Protein Clusters for Comparison of Local and Global Genetic Richness and Diversity**

134 Across the 43 viromes, a total of 1,075,763 PCs were observed, with samples beyond the 20th
135 virome adding few PCs (Fig. 2A). When combining TOV with 16 photic-zone viromes from the
136 POV dataset (10), the number of PCs increased to 1,323,921, but again approached a plateau
137 (Fig. 2B). These results suggest that, while impossible to sample completely, the sequence space
138 corresponding to dsDNA viruses from the epipelagic ocean is now relatively well sampled. This
139 contrasts results from marine microbial metagenomic surveys using older sequencing

140 technologies (9), but is consistent with those from this expedition (25), as well as findings from
141 viral sequence datasets which suggest a limited range of functional diversity derived from
142 bacterial and archaeal viral isolates (26) and the POV dataset (27).

143 PCs were next used to establish the core genes shared across the TOV dataset (Fig. 2A).
144 Broadly, there were 220, 710 and 424 core PCs shared across all surface and DCM viromes,
145 surface viromes only, and DCM viromes only, respectively. The number of core PCs in the
146 upper-ocean TOV samples (220 PCs) was thus less than the number of photic-zone core PCs in
147 POV (565 PCs; 28), likely because the POV dataset includes only the Pacific Ocean while TOV
148 includes samples from seven oceans and seas. However, the number of core PCs in the upper-
149 ocean TOV samples exceeded the total number of core PCs observed in POV (180 PCs; 28),
150 likely because of deep-ocean representation in POV (half of the samples in POV are from the
151 aphotic zone). Consistent with the latter, the addition of the sole deep-ocean TOV sample,
152 TARA_70_MESO, decreased the number of core PCs shared by all TOV samples from 220 to
153 65, which suggests that deep-ocean viral genetic repertoires are different from those in the upper
154 oceans. Indeed, niche-differentiation has been observed in viromes sampled across these oceanic
155 zones in the POV dataset (28), and similar findings were observed in the microbial metagenomic
156 counterparts from the *Tara* Oceans Expedition (25). Thus viral communities from the deep ocean
157 remain poorly explored and appear to hold different gene sets from those in the epipelagic
158 oceans.

159 Beyond core and pan metagenomic analyses, PCs also provide a metric for viral community
160 diversity comparisons (Fig. 3A; Supplementary File S1) from which three trends emerge in the
161 TOV dataset. First, high-latitude viromes (82_DCM and 85_DCM) were least diverse
162 (Shannon's H' of 8.93 and 9.22 nats), consistent with patterns in marine macroorganisms (29)
163 and epipelagic ocean bacteria (25, 30). Second, the remaining viromes had similar diversity
164 (Shannon's H' between 9.47 and 10.55 nats) and evenness (Pielou's J from 0.85 to 0.91)
165 indicating low dominance of any particular PCs (31). Third, local diversity was relatively similar
166 to global diversity (local:global ratios of H' from 0.73 to 0.87), suggesting high dispersal of viral
167 genes (32) across the sampled ocean viral communities.

168

169 **TOV Viral Populations for Assessing Global Viral Community Structure**

170 We next estimated abundances of the 5,476 dominant viral populations in TOV, which
171 represented up to 14.5% of aligned reads in a sample and were defined by applying empirically-
172 derived recruitment cut-offs from naturally-occurring T4-like cyanophages (11) to high-
173 confidence contigs from bacterial and archaeal viruses (see Methods). Assigning viral
174 populations based on virome data remains challenging (11, 33), but here assembly of large
175 contigs (up to 100 kb) aided our ability to accomplish not only analyses at the gene-level using
176 PCs, but also the genome-level using viral populations. Viral populations were rarely endemic to
177 one station (15%), and instead were commonly observed across >4 stations (47%), and up to 24
178 of the 26 stations (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5A). Exceptional samples include those from the Benguela
179 upwelling region (TARA_67_SUR) and high-latitude samples from the Antarctic Circumpolar

180 and Falklands currents (TARA_82_DCM and TARA_85_DCM, respectively). These samples
181 were also divergent when assessing microbial communities (TARA_82_DCM and
182 TARA_85_DCM displayed lower microbial genetic richness; (25)) and eukaryotic communities
183 (TARA_67_SUR had specific and unique eukaryotic communities in all size fractions; 34).
184 While many viral populations were broadly distributed, they were much more abundant at the
185 original location (origin inferred from longest contig assembled; see Methods) compared to
186 alternate stations (Fig. 5B). Thus most populations were relatively widespread, but with variable
187 sample-to-sample abundances. As was observed with PCs, diversity and evenness estimates
188 based on viral populations were similar across all samples except for high-latitude samples
189 (TARA_82_DCM and TARA_85_DCM) and one sample in the Red Sea (TARA_32_DCM) that
190 displayed lower diversity (Fig. 3B; Supplementary File S1). Finally, local diversity was
191 relatively similar to global diversity (local:global ratios of H' from 0.23 to 0.86, average 0.74,
192 Supplementary File S1), reflecting the high dispersal of viruses as highlighted by PC analysis.

193 Only 39 of the 5,476 populations we identified could be affiliated to cultured viruses,
194 reflecting the dearth of reference viral genomes in databases. These cultured viruses include
195 those infecting the abundant and widespread hosts SAR11, SAR116, *Roseobacter*,
196 *Prochlorococcus* and *Synechococcus* (Fig. 6). The most abundant and widespread viral
197 populations observed in TOV lack cultured representatives (Fig. 6), which suggests that most
198 upper ocean viruses remain to be characterized even though viruses from known dominant
199 microbial hosts (35-39) have been cultured. Methods independent of cultivation, including viral
200 tagging (11) and mining of microbial genomic datasets (40, 41), show promise to expand the
201 number of available viral reference genomes (33).

202

203 **Drivers of Global Viral Community Composition and Distribution**

204 We next leveraged this global dataset to evaluate ecological drivers (including environmental
205 variables, sample location, and microbial abundances; Supplementary File S1) of viral
206 community structure using all three data types – morphology, populations, and PCs. These
207 metrics revealed increasing resolution, respectively, and showed that viral community structure
208 was influenced by region and/or environmental conditions (Table 1). We conducted the analysis
209 of ecological drivers using all samples in this study as well as a sample subset that omitted
210 samples with exceptional environmental conditions and divergent viral communities observed
211 using PC and population analyses (see above; TARA_67_SUR, TARA_82_DCM,
212 TARA_85_DCM, and TARA_70_MESO). Within the sample subset, oceanic viral communities
213 varied significantly with Longhurst province, biome, latitude, temperature, oxygen
214 concentration, and microbial concentrations (including total bacteria, *Synechococcus*, and
215 *Prochlorococcus*). Viral communities were not structured by depth (surface vs DCM) except
216 when considering PCs, likely reflecting minimal variation between samples in the epipelagic
217 zone compared to that of globally-sourced samples, and higher resolution provided by PCs.
218 Nutrients influenced viral community structure when considering the whole dataset, but were
219 much less explanatory when the few high-nutrient samples were removed, except for the

220 influence of phosphate concentration on viral populations. Thus nutrient concentrations may
221 influence viral community structure, but testing this hypothesis would require analysis of
222 samples across a more continuous nutrient gradient.

223 Global-scale analyses of oceanic macro- (29) and micro-organisms (30) have been
224 conducted, including a concurrent *Tara* Oceans study showing that temperature and oxygen
225 influence microbial community structure (25). Environmental conditions have also been shown
226 to affect global viral community morphological traits (7). Our TOV study is consistent with these
227 earlier findings in that viral communities are influenced by temperature and oxygen
228 concentration, but not chlorophyll concentration (Table 1). Biogeographic structuring of TOV
229 viral communities based on the significant influence of latitude and Longhurst provinces is also
230 consistent with the conclusion that geographic region influences community structure in Pacific
231 Ocean viruses (42). While only PC analysis showed depth-based divergence, this likely reflects
232 poor ($n=1$) deep sample representation in the TOV dataset as discussed above. Prior POV viral
233 investigation and concurrent *Tara* Oceans microbial analysis, both of which have better deep-
234 water representation, show stronger depth patterns whereby photic and aphotic zone
235 communities diverge (25, 28, 42). Thus our results suggest biogeography of upper-ocean viral
236 communities is structured by environmental conditions.

237 Since viruses require host organisms to replicate, viral community structure follows from
238 environmental conditions shaping the host community, as observed in paired *Tara* Oceans
239 microbial samples (25), which would then indirectly affect viral community composition.
240 However, global distribution of viruses can also be directly influenced by environmental
241 conditions, such as salinity, that affect their ability to infect their hosts (43). Additionally, the
242 variable decay rates of cultivated viruses and whole viral communities (44) could also influence
243 their distribution as viruses with lower inherent decay rates will persist for longer in the
244 environment, and environments with more favorable conditions (such as fewer extracellular
245 enzymes) will also contribute to increased viral persistence. Until methods to link viruses to their
246 host cells in natural communities mature to the point of investigating this issue at larger scales
247 (emerging possible methods reviewed by 33, 45), analyses such as ours remain the only means to
248 assess ecological drivers of viral community structure.

249 To further investigate how ocean viral communities are distributed throughout the oceans, we
250 compared population abundances between neighboring samples to assess the net direction and
251 magnitude of population exchange (Fig. 7, see Methods). These genomic signals revealed that
252 population exchange between dsDNA viral communities was largely directed along major
253 oceanic current systems (46). For example, the Agulhas current and subsequent ring formation
254 (47) connects viral communities between the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, as also observed in
255 planktonic communities from the *Tara* Oceans expedition (48), while increased connection
256 between the high-latitude stations (TARA_82 and TARA_85) reflects their common origin at the
257 divergence of the Falklands and Antarctic Circumpolar currents. Further, current strength (46)
258 was generally related to the magnitude of inter-sample population exchange, as higher and lower
259 exchange was observed, respectively, in stronger currents such as the Agulhas current, and

260 within the open ocean gyres or between land-restricted basins such as the Mediterranean and Red
261 Seas. These findings suggest that the intensity of water mass movement, in addition to
262 environmental conditions, may explain the degree to which viral populations cluster globally
263 (Fig. 4). Beyond such current-driven biogeographic evidence, vertical viral transport from
264 surface to DCM samples was also observed (Fig. 4). This is consistent with POV observations
265 wherein deep-sea viromes include a modest influx of genetic material derived from surface-
266 ocean viruses that are presumably transported on sinking particles (28). Exceptions include areas
267 such as the Arabian Sea upwelling region, where increased mixing and upwelling likely exceed
268 sinking within the upper ocean.

269 Our TOV results enabled evaluation of a hypothesis describing the structure of viral
270 communities in the environment. Gene-marker-based studies targeting subsets of ocean viruses
271 previously found high local and low global diversity (49), a pattern also recently observed
272 genome-wide in natural cyanophage populations (11). To explain this, a seed-bank viral
273 community structure has been invoked whereby high local genetic diversity can exist by drawing
274 variation from a common and relatively limited global gene pool (49). Our results support this
275 hypothesis regarding viral community structure. Ecological driver analyses suggests that such
276 local ‘seed’ communities are influenced by environmental conditions, which directly impact their
277 microbial hosts and then indirectly restructure viral communities. These seed communities then
278 form the ‘bank’ in neighboring samples, presumably when passively transported by ocean
279 currents as shown here through the population-level analyses of net viral movement between
280 samples. This systematically-sampled, global dataset suggests large- and small-scale processes
281 play roles in structuring viral communities and offers empirical grounding for the seed-bank
282 hypothesis with regards to viral community distribution and structure.

283

284 **Conclusions**

285 Our large-scale dataset provides a picture of global upper-ocean viral communities in which
286 we assessed patterns using multiple parameters including morphology, populations and PCs. Our
287 data provide advanced and complementary views on viral community structure including non-
288 marker-gene-based diversity estimates and broad application of population-based viral ecology.
289 We affirm the seed-bank model for viruses, hypothesized nearly a decade ago (49), which
290 explains how high local viral diversity can be consistent with limited global diversity (11, 27).
291 The mechanism underlying this seed-bank population structure appears to be a local production
292 of viruses under small-scale environmental constraints and passive dispersal with oceanic
293 currents. Improving sequencing, assembly and experimental methods are transforming the
294 investigation of viruses in nature (33, 45), and pave the way towards assessment of viral
295 community structure and analysis of virus-host co-occurrence networks (50) without requiring
296 marker genes (51, 52). Such experimental and analytical progress, coupled to sampling
297 opportunities from the *Tara* Oceans expedition, are advancing viral ecology towards the
298 quantitative science needed to model the nano- (viruses) and micro- (microbes) scale entities
299 driving Earth’s ecosystems.

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Materials and Methods

Sample Collection

Forty-three samples were collected between November 2, 2009, and May 13, 2011, at 26 locations throughout the world's oceans (Supplementary File S1) through the *Tara* Oceans Expedition (5). These included samples from a range of depths (surface, deep chlorophyll maximum, and one mesopelagic sample) located in 7 oceans and seas, 4 different biomes and 11 Longhurst oceanographic provinces (Supplementary File S1). Longhurst provinces and biomes are defined based on Longhurst (53) and environmental features are defined based on Environment Ontology (<http://environmentontology.org/>). Sampling strategy and methodology for the *Tara* Oceans Expedition is fully described by Pesant *et al.* (54).

Environmental Parameters

Temperature, salinity, and oxygen data were collected from each station using a CTD (Sea-Bird Electronics, Bellevue, WA, USA; SBE 911plus with Searam recorder) and dissolved oxygen sensor (Sea-Bird Electronics; SBE 43). Nutrient concentrations were determined using segmented flow analysis (55) and included nitrite, phosphate, nitrite plus nitrate, and silica. Nutrient concentrations below the detection limit ($0.02 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$) are reported as $0.02 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$. Chlorophyll concentrations were measured using HPLC (56, 57). These environmental parameters are available in Pangaea (www.pangaea.de) using the accession numbers in Supplementary File S1.

Microbial Abundances

Flow-cytometry was used to determine the concentration of *Synechococcus*, *Prochlorococcus*, total bacteria, low-DNA bacteria, high-DNA bacteria, and the percent of bacteria with high DNA in each sample (58).

Morphological Analysis of Viral Communities

Quantitative transmission electron microscopy (qTEM) was used to evaluate the capsid diameter distributions of viral communities as previously described (7). Briefly, preserved unfiltered samples (EM-grade glutaraldehyde; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA; 2% final concentration) were flash-frozen and stored at -80°C until analysis. Viruses were deposited onto TEM grids using an air-driven ultracentrifuge (Airfuge CLS, Beckman Coulter, Brea, CA, USA), followed by positive staining of the deposited material with 2% uranyl acetate (Ted Pella, Redding, CA, USA). Samples were then examined using a transmission electron microscope (Philips CM12, FEI, Hillsboro, OR, USA) with 100 kV accelerating voltage. Micrographs of 100 viruses were collected per sample using a Macrofire Monochrome CCD camera (Optronics, Goleta, CA, USA) and analyzed using ImageJ software (US National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA; 59) to measure the capsid diameter. A subset (21) of the 41 samples presented here had previously been analyzed in a different study (7).

342

343 *Virome Construction*

344 For each sample, 20 L of seawater were 0.22 μ m-filtered and viruses were concentrated
345 from the filtrate using iron chloride flocculation (15) followed by storage at 4°C. After
346 resuspension in ascorbic-EDTA buffer (0.1 M EDTA, 0.2 M Mg, 0.2 M ascorbic acid, pH 6.0),
347 viral particles were concentrated using Amicon Ultra 100 kDa centrifugal devices (Millipore),
348 treated with DNase I (100U/mL) followed by the addition of 0.1 M EDTA and 0.1 M EGTA to
349 halt enzyme activity, and extracted as previously described (14). Briefly, viral particle
350 suspensions were treated with Wizard PCR Preps DNA Purification Resin (Promega, WI, USA)
351 at a ratio of 0.5 mL sample to 1 mL resin, and eluted with TE buffer (10 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 1 mM
352 EDTA) using Wizard Minicolumns. Extracted DNA was Covaris-sheared and size selected to
353 160–180 bp, followed by amplification and ligation per the standard Illumina protocol.
354 Sequencing was done on a HiSeq 2000 system at the Genoscope facilities (Paris, France).

355

356 *Quality Control of Reads and Assembly*

357 Individual reads of 43 metagenomes were quality controlled using a combination of
358 trimming and filtering as previously described (60). Briefly, bases were trimmed at the 5' end if
359 the number of base calls for any base (A, T, G, C) diverged by more than two standard
360 deviations from the average across all cycles. Conversely, bases were trimmed at the 3' end of
361 reads if the quality score was <20. Finally, reads that were shorter than 95 bp or reads with a
362 median quality score <20 were removed from further analyses. Assembly of reads was done
363 using SOAPdenovo (61) where insert and k-mer size are calculated at run-time and are specific
364 to each virome as implemented in the MOCAT pipeline (62). On average, 34.2% of the virome
365 reads were included in the assembled contigs (min: 21.08%, max: 48.52%). Virome reads were
366 deposited in the European Nucleotide Archive (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/>) under accession
367 numbers reported in Supplementary File S1.

368

369 *Protein Clustering*

370 Open Reading Frames (ORFs) were predicted from all quality-controlled contigs using
371 Prodigal (63) with default settings. Predicted ORFs were clustered based on sequence similarity
372 as described previously (9, 10). Briefly, ORFs were initially mapped to existing clusters (POV,
373 GOS and phage genomes), using cd-hit-2d ('-g 1 -n 4 -d 0 -T 24 -M 45000'; 60% percent
374 identity and 80% coverage). Then the remaining, unmapped ORFs were self-clustered, using cd-
375 hit with the same options as above. Only protein clusters (PCs) with more than two ORFs were
376 considered *bona fide* and were used for subsequent analyses. To develop read counts per PC for
377 statistical analyses, reads were mapped back to predicted ORFs in the contigs dataset using
378 Mosaik with the following settings: "-a all -m all -hs 15 -minp 0.95 -mmp 0.05 -mhp 100 -act
379 20" (version 1.1.0021; <http://bioinformatics.bc.edu/marthlab/Mosaik>). Read counts to PCs were
380 normalized by sequencing depth of each virome. Shannon diversity (H') was calculated from PC
381 read counts using only PCs with more than two predicted ORFs. Observed richness is reported as

382 the total number of reads in each PC. Pielou's evenness (J) was calculated as the ratio of H'/H_{\max} ,
383 where $H_{\max} = \ln N$, and N = total number of observed PCs in a sample.

384

385 *Analysis of Viral Populations*

386 Considering the size of the entire dataset (3,821,756 assembled contigs), we decided to
387 focus the analysis of viral populations using contigs most likely originating from bacterial or
388 archaeal viruses. For this, we mined only the 22,912 contigs with more than 10 predicted genes
389 (corresponding to an average of 6.41% of the assembled reads per sample, min: 1.29%, max:
390 14.52%), as the origin of contigs with only a few predicted genes can be spurious. First, we
391 removed 6,706 contigs suspected of having originated from cellular genomes (64), whether due
392 to free genomic DNA contamination or viral-encapsulation of cellular DNA (for example, in
393 gene transfer agents or generalized transducing phages). These suspect cellular contigs were
394 those containing no typical viral genes (such as virion-related genes including major capsid
395 proteins and large subunits of the terminase) and displaying as many 'characterized genes' (such
396 as genes with a significant similarity to a PFAM domain through Hmmssearch, 65) as a typical
397 cellular genome, whereas phage genomes are typically enriched in 'uncharacterized genes' (40).
398 We also removed all contigs posited to originate from eukaryotic viruses. These were contigs
399 that contained at least three predicted proteins with best BLAST hits to a eukaryotic virus, and
400 more than half of the affiliated proteins were not associated to bacteriophages or archaeal
401 viruses. Not surprisingly, given that eukaryotes are outnumbered by bacteria and archaea in the
402 marine environment, this step removed only 142 contigs associated with eukaryotic viruses.
403 From the remaining 16,124 contigs most likely to have originated from bacterial or archaeal
404 viruses, the population study only used those longer than 10kb in size – a total of 6,322 contigs,
405 which corresponded to an average of 4.04% of the assembled reads per sample, min: 0.98%,
406 max: 9.97%).

407 These 6,322 contigs were then clustered into populations if they shared more than 80% of
408 their genes at >95% nucleotide identity; a threshold derived from naturally-occurring T4-like
409 cyanophages (11). This resulted in 5,476 'populations' from the 6,322 contigs, where as many as
410 12 contigs (average 1.15 contigs) were included per population. For each population, the longest
411 contig was chosen as the 'seed' sequence.

412 The relative abundance of each population was computed by mapping all quality-
413 controlled reads to the set of 5,476 non-redundant populations (considering only mapping quality
414 scores greater than 1) with Bowtie 2 (66). For each sample–sequence pair, if more than 75% of
415 the reference sequence was covered by virome reads, the relative abundance was computed as
416 the number of base pairs recruited to the contig normalized to the total number of base pairs
417 available in the virome and the contig length. Shannon diversity index (H') and Pielou's evenness
418 (J) were calculated as done for PCs using the relative abundance of viral populations.

419 The sample containing the seed sequence (the longest contig in a population) was also
420 considered the best estimate of that population's origin. We reasoned this was because the
421 longest contig in a population would derive most often from the sample with the highest

422 coverage (a metric for population abundance) and likely corresponded to the location with the
423 greatest viral abundance for this population. This assumption was supported by the results
424 showing that populations were most abundant in their original samples (Fig. 4, Fig. 5B). Even
425 though some individual cases could diverge from this rule, we expected to correctly identify
426 most of these original locations, hence getting an accurate global signal.

427 The seed sequence was also used to assess taxonomic affiliation of the viral population.
428 Cases where >50% of the genes were affiliated to a specific reference genome from RefSeq
429 (based on a BLASTp comparison with thresholds of 50 for bit score and 10^{-5} for e-value) with an
430 identity percentage of at least 75% (at the protein sequence level) were considered as confident
431 affiliations to the corresponding reference virus.

432 Finally, estimations of net viral population movement between samples were made based
433 on the relative abundance of populations in one sample compared to that of its neighboring
434 samples (Fig. 4). For each neighboring sample pair, the average relative abundance of
435 populations originating from sample A in sample B was compared with the relative abundance of
436 populations originating from sample B in sample A. The origin of each population was defined
437 as the sample in which the longest contig of the population was assembled. The magnitude of
438 these differences was carried through the analysis to estimate the level of transport between each
439 pair of samples (depicted as line width in Fig. 7) and the difference between these values was
440 used to estimate the directionality of the transfer. For example, if sample B contains many
441 populations from sample A, but very few populations from sample B are detected in sample A,
442 we calculate that the net movement is from sample A to sample B. Again, while the sampling of
443 some populations may not be strong, the net movement was calculated as the average of all
444 shared populations between neighboring sample pairs, which corresponded to 105 different
445 populations on average (ranging from 2 to 412).

446 447 *Statistical Ordination of Samples*

448 Viral community composition based on capsid diameter distributions (from qTEM; using
449 7-nm histogram bin sizes), population abundances, and normalized PC read counts (using only
450 protein clusters with more than 20 representatives) were compared using non-metric
451 multidimensional scaling (NMDS) performed using the ‘metaMDS’ function (default
452 parameters) of the vegan package (67) in R version 2.15.2 (68). The influence of metadata on
453 sample ordination was evaluated using the functions ‘envfit’ for factor variables including depth
454 category, Longhurst province, and biome, and ‘ordisurf’ for all linear variables, in the vegan
455 package (67, 69). Several samples had exceptional environmental conditions (TARA_67_SUR,
456 TARA_70_MESO, TARA_82_DCM, and TARA_85_DCM), thus all statistical ordination
457 analyses were conducted with and without these samples (referred to as the ‘sample subset’) to
458 evaluate their influence.

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608
609

610 **Acknowledgements.** We thank Jesse Czekanski-Moir for advice on statistics and Laurent
611 Coppola for assistance with validating nutrient data. We thank the commitment of the following
612 people and sponsors: CNRS (in particular Groupement de Recherche GDR3280), European
613 Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), Genoscope/CEA, VIB, Stazione Zoologica Anton
614 Dohrn, UNIMIB, Fund for Scientific Research – Flanders, Rega Institute, KU Leuven, The
615 French Ministry of Research, the French Government 'Investissements d'Avenir' programmes
616 OCEANOMICS (ANR-11-BTBR-0008), FRANCE GENOMIQUE (ANR-10-INBS-09-08),
617 MEMO LIFE (ANR-10-LABX-54), PSL* Research University (ANR-11-IDEX-0001-02), ANR
618 (projects POSEIDON/ANR-09-BLAN-0348, PHYTBACK/ANR-2010-1709-01,
619 PROMETHEUS/ANR-09-PCS-GENM-217, TARA-GIRUS/ANR-09-PCS-GENM-218),
620 European Union FP7 (MicroB3/No.287589, IHMS/HEALTH-F4-2010-261376), ERC Advanced
621 Grant Award to CB (Diatomite: 294823), Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation grant (#3790) to
622 MBS, Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation grant CGL2011-26848/BOS MicroOcean
623 PANGENOMICS to SGA, TANIT (CONES 2010-0036) from the Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts
624 Universitaris i Reserca to SGA, JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number 26430184 to HO, and FWO,
625 BIO5, Biosphere 2 to MBS. We also thank the support and commitment of Agnès b. and Etienne
626 Bourgois, the Veolia Environment Foundation, Region Bretagne, Lorient Agglomeration, World
627 Courier, Illumina, the EDF Foundation, FRB, the Prince Albert II de Monaco Foundation, the
628 *Tara* schooner and its captains and crew. We thank MERCATOR-CORIOLIS and ACRI-ST for
629 providing daily satellite data during the expedition. We are also grateful to the French Ministry
630 of Foreign Affairs for supporting the expedition and to the countries who graciously granted
631 sampling permissions. *Tara Oceans* would not exist without continuous support from 23
632 institutes (<http://oceans.taraexpeditions.org>). We also acknowledge excellent assistance from the
633 European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI), in particular Guy Cochrane and Petra ten Hoopen, as
634 well as the EMBL Advanced Light Microscopy Facility (ALMF), in particular Rainer
635 Pepperkok. The authors further declare that all data reported herein are fully and freely available
636 from the date of publication, with no restrictions, and that all of the samples, analyses,
637 publications, and ownership of data are free from legal entanglement or restriction of any sort by
638 the various nations whose waters the *Tara Oceans* expedition sampled in. Data described herein
639 is available at EBI (project identifiers PRJEB402 and PRJEB7988) and Pangaea (see
640 Supplementary Table S1), and the data release policy regarding future public release of *Tara*
641 *Oceans* data is described in Pesant *et al* (54). We also acknowledge the EMBL Advanced Light
642 Microscopy Facility (ALMF), and in particular Rainer Pepperkok. This research is funded in part
643 by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation through grants GBMF2631 and GBMF3790 to
644 MBS. We also acknowledge support from UA high-performance computing; the foundation for
645 France-American Cultural Exchange, Partner University Fund program, awarded to Ecole

646 Normale Supérieure and the University of Arizona; and a grant to the University of Arizona
647 Ecosystem Genomics Institute through the UA Technology and Research Initiative Fund and the
648 Water, Environmental and Energy Solutions Initiative. All authors approved the final
649 manuscript. This article is contribution number XXX of the *Tara* Oceans Expedition.
650 Supplement contains additional data.

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712 **Supplementary Information**

713

714 **Supplementary File S1. Description of samples and relevant virome data.** Metadata is
715 presented for each *Tara* Oceans sample in this study including the PANGAEA accession
716 numbers, sample location and environmental conditions, and the abundances of selected
717 microorganisms. Detailed information is also presented for the viromes in this study including
718 ENA accession numbers, the total number of reads and PCs for each virome, and diversity and
719 evenness data for each virome based on PCs and viral populations.

720

721

722 **Figure Legends**

723

724 **Fig. 1. Distribution of viral capsid diameters in each sample (n = 100 viruses per sample).**

725 Data are not available for samples TARA_18_DCM and TARA_70_MESO. Boxplots are
726 constructed with the upper and lower lines corresponding to the 25th and 75th percentiles, while
727 outliers are displayed as points. Longhurst provinces are indicated below samples (MEDI,
728 Mediterranean Sea; REDS, Red Sea; ARAB, NW Arabian Upwelling; MONS, Indian Monsoon
729 Gyres; ISSG, Indian S. Subtropical Gyre; EAFR, E. Africa Coastal; BENG, Benguela Current
730 Coastal; SATL, S. Atlantic Gyre; FKLD, SW Atlantic Shelves; APLR, Austral Polar; PNEC, N.
731 Pacific Equatorial Countercurrent).

732

733 **Fig. 2. Protein cluster (PC) richness in core and pan viromes from the TOV and POV**

734 **datasets.** A) Accumulation curves of core and pan PCs in the TOV dataset. Vertical axis shows
735 the number of shared (core virome) and total (pan virome) PCs when n viromes are compared (n
736 = 1 to 43; from 3 to 41 only 1000 combinations are shown). Lines: i) total number of PCs
737 (1,075,763 PCs), ii) core surface virome (710 PCs), iii) core DCM virome (424 PCs), iv) core
738 surface and DCM virome (220 PCs), v) all samples (including the deep-ocean sample
739 TARA_70_MESO; 65 PCs). B) Core and pan PCs in all TOV and photic-zone POV samples
740 combined. Vertical axis shows the number of shared (core virome) and total (pan-virome) PCs
741 when n viromes are compared ($n = 1$ to 57; from 3 to 57 only 1,000 combinations are shown).
742 Overall, 1,323,921 PCs were identified in all viromes combined.

743

744 **Fig. 3. Alpha diversity measurements in TOV dataset.** A) Shannon's richness H' and Pielou's

745 evenness J calculated from protein clusters counts for each sample and a pool of all samples,
746 normalized to 5 million reads. B) Shannon's richness H' and Pielou's evenness J calculated from
747 relative abundances of viral populations for each sample and a pool of all samples, with
748 subsamples of 100,000 reads. Outliers corresponding to values outside of the average value plus
749 or minus two standard deviations are colored in green and red, respectively. Values calculated

750 from the pool of all samples are colored in blue. Longhurst provinces are indicated below
751 samples using the same abbreviations as in Fig. 1.

752

753 **Fig. 4. Relative abundance of viral populations in TOV by sample.** This heatmap displays the
754 relative abundance of each population (sorted according to its original sample; y-axis) in each
755 sample (x-axis). Relative abundance of one population in a sample is based on recruitment of
756 reads to the population reference contig, and only considered if more than 75% of the reference
757 contig is covered. Longhurst provinces are indicated below samples (using the same
758 abbreviations as in Fig. 1) and outlined in black on the heatmap.

759

760 **Fig. 5. Relative abundance of viral populations in TOV by station.** A) Evaluation of viral
761 population distribution showing the number of stations (y-axis) in which each population (sorted
762 by their original station, x-axis) is distributed. Populations are grouped by station, merging
763 surface and DCM samples from the same station. B) Relative abundance of populations at the
764 original stations where the contigs were assembled compared to their abundance at other stations.
765 Boxplots are constructed as in Fig. 1.

766

767 **Fig. 6. Taxonomic affiliation of TOV viral populations sorted by distribution and average
768 abundance.** A population was considered as similar to a known virus when less than half of its
769 reference contig genes were uncharacterized, and all characterized genes had taxonomic
770 affiliations to the same reference genome. As in Fig. 4, the relative abundance (y-axis) is
771 computed for each sample as the number of bp mapped to a contig per kb of contig per Mb of
772 metagenome sequenced. Here, the relative abundance of a population is defined as the average
773 abundance of its reference contig across all samples.

774

775 **Fig. 7. Net movement of viral populations throughout the oceans.** Calculations are based on
776 reciprocal comparison of viral population abundances between neighboring samples (see Fig. 3
777 and Methods). For each sample pair, the average relative population abundances in one sample
778 originating from a neighboring sample were calculated and compared (for example, relative
779 abundance of populations from sample A found in sample B are compared with relative
780 abundance of populations from sample B found in sample A). The sign of the relative abundance
781 difference between neighboring samples was used to estimate the movement direction
782 (arrowhead), and the absolute value of the difference was interpreted as reflecting the movement
783 magnitude (line width). Stations are labeled with station number. 'Down' and 'up' refer to net
784 vertical movement of viral populations between the surface and DCM samples at the same
785 station.

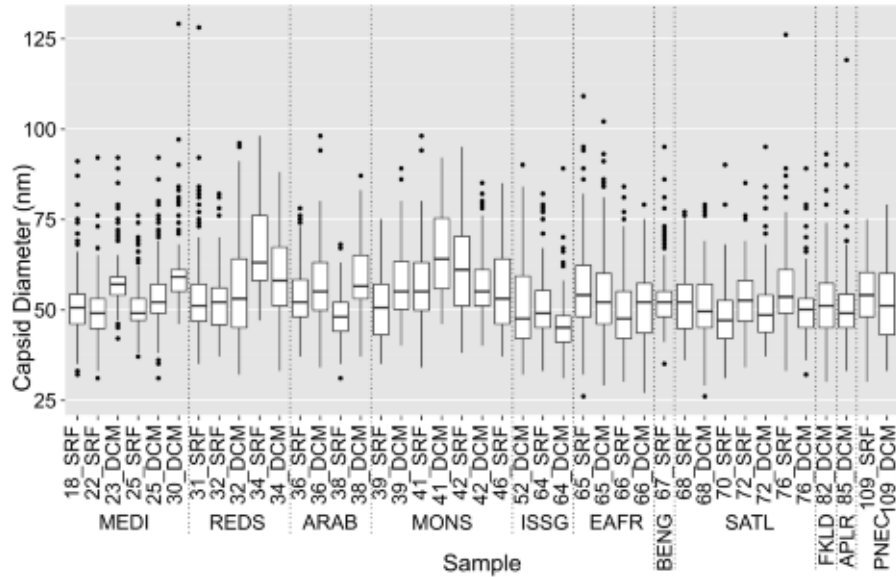


Fig. 1. Distribution of viral capsid diameters in each sample (n = 100 viruses per sample). Data are not available for samples TARA_18_DCM and TARA_70_MESO. Boxplots are constructed with the upper and lower lines corresponding to the 25th and 75th percentiles, while outliers are displayed as points. Longhurst provinces are indicated below samples (MEDI, Mediterranean Sea; REDS, Red Sea; ARAB, NW Arabian Upwelling; MONS, Indian Monsoon Gyres; ISSG, Indian S. Subtropical Gyre; EAFR, E. Africa Coastal; BENG, Benguela Current Coastal; SATL, S. Atlantic Gyre; FKLD, SW Atlantic Shelves; APLR, Austral Polar; PNEC, N. Pacific Equatorial Countercurrent).

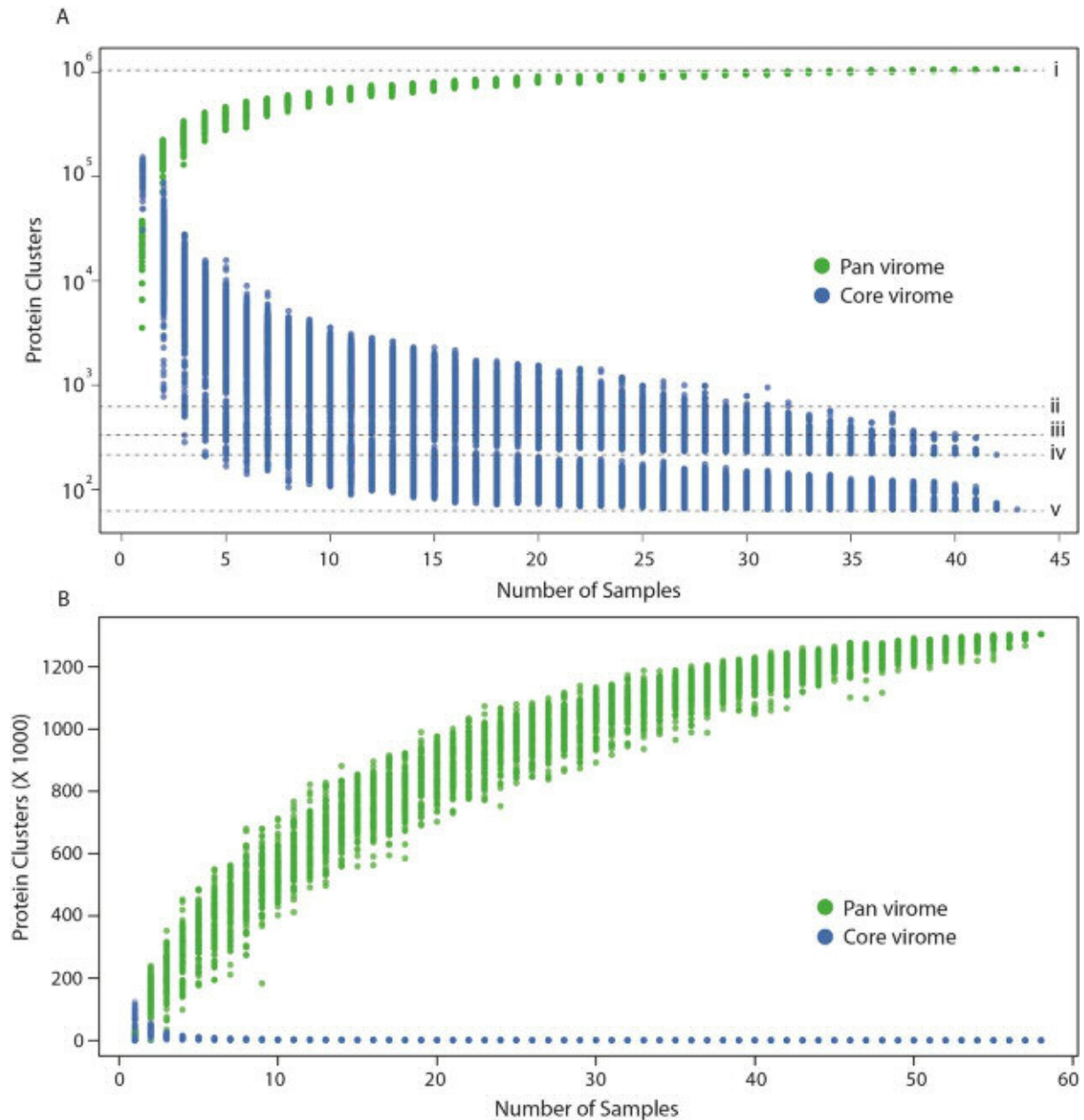


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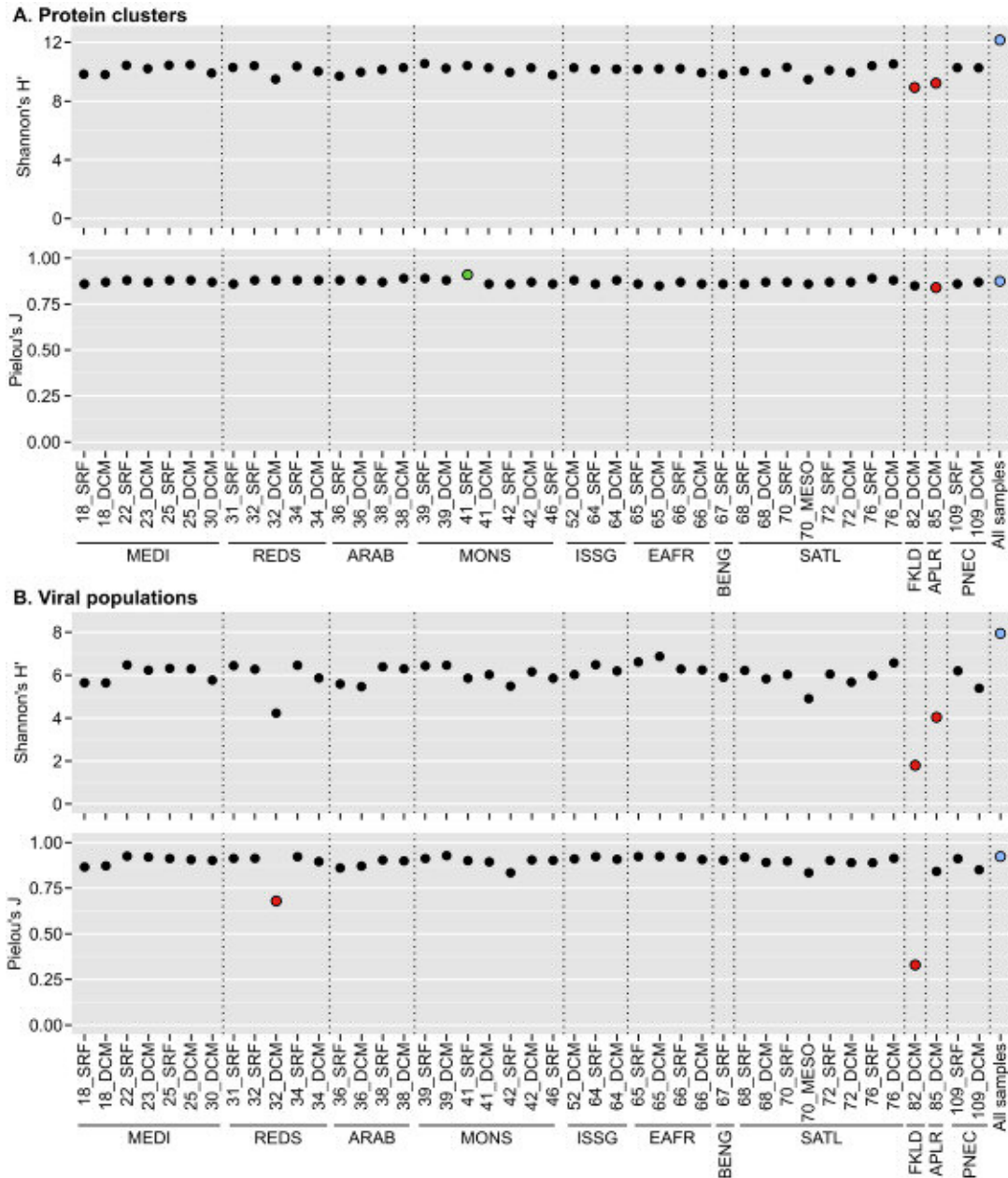


Fig. 3. Alpha diversity measurements in TOV dataset. A) Shannon's richness H' and Pielou's evenness J calculated from protein clusters counts for each sample and a pool of all samples, normalized to 5 million reads. B) Shannon's richness H' and Pielou's evenness J calculated from relative abundances of viral populations for each sample and a pool of all samples, with subsamples of 100,000 reads. Outliers corresponding to values outside of the average value plus or minus two standard deviations are colored in green and red, respectively. Values calculated from the pool of all samples are colored in blue. Longhurst provinces are indicated below samples using the same abbreviations as in Fig. 1.

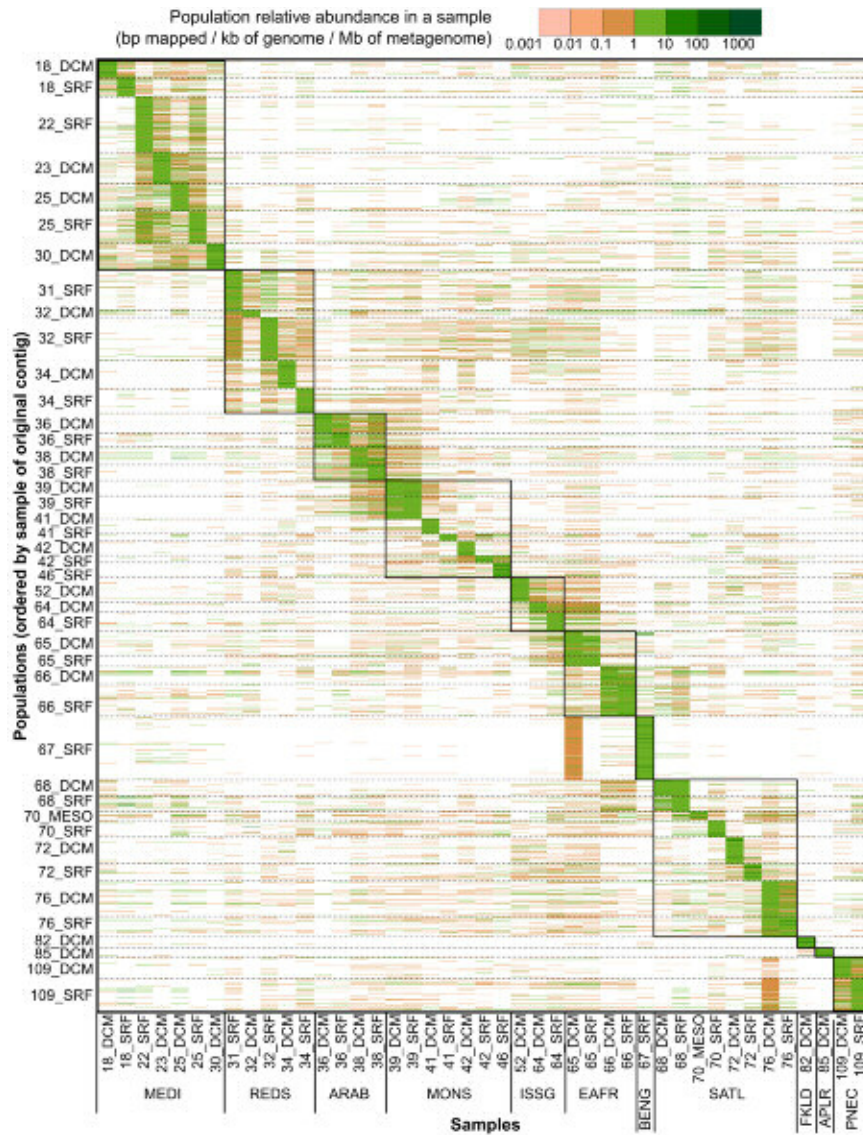


Fig. 4. Relative abundance of viral populations in TOV by sample. This heatmap displays the relative abundance of each population (sorted according to its original sample; y-axis) in each sample (x-axis). Relative abundance of one population in a sample is based on recruitment of reads to the population reference contig, and only considered if more than 75% of the reference contig is covered. Longhurst provinces are indicated below samples (using the same abbreviations as in Fig. 1) and outlined in black on the heatmap.

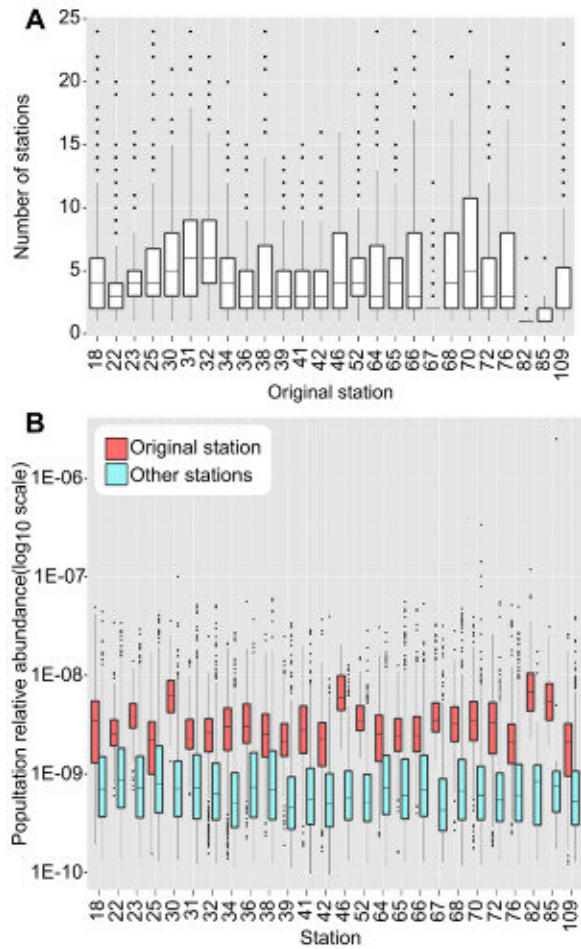


Fig. 5. Relative abundance of viral populations in TOV by station. A) Evaluation of viral population distribution showing the number of stations (y-axis) in which each population (sorted by their original station, x-axis) is distributed. Populations are grouped by station, merging surface and DCM samples from the same station. B) Relative abundance of populations at the original stations where the contigs were assembled compared to their abundance at other stations. Boxplots are constructed as in Fig. 1.

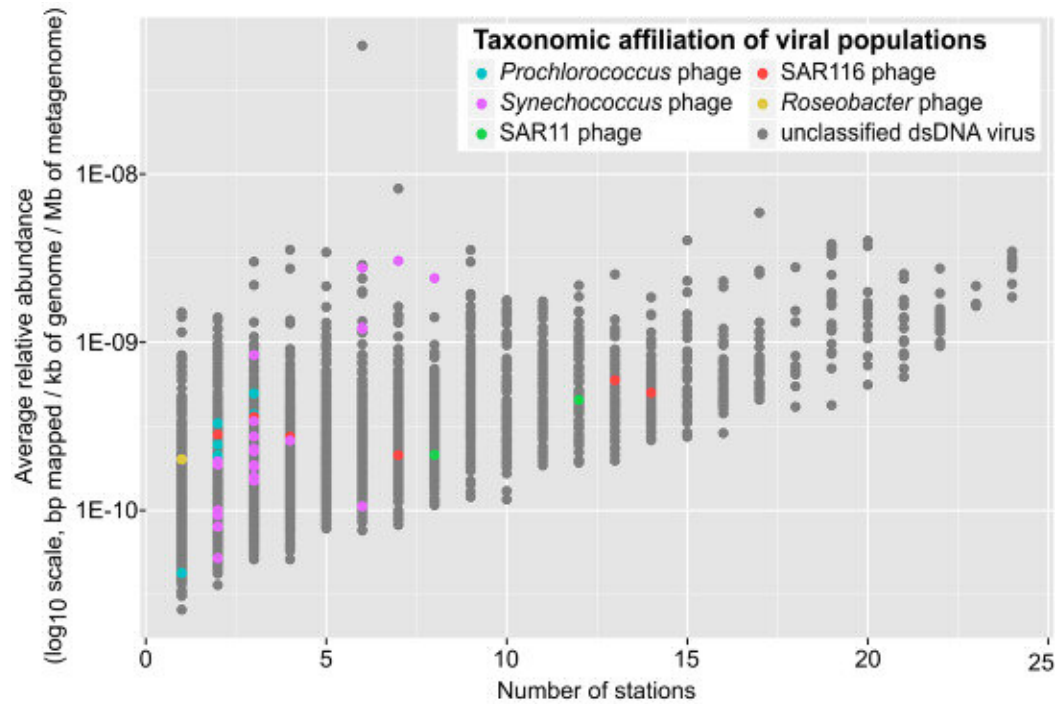


Fig. 6. Taxonomic affiliation of TOV viral populations sorted by distribution and average abundance. A population was considered as similar to a known virus when less than half of its reference contig genes were uncharacterized, and all characterized genes had taxonomic affiliations to the same reference genome. As in Fig. 4, the relative abundance (y-axis) is computed for each sample as the number of bp mapped to a contig per kb of contig per Mb of metagenome sequenced. Here, the relative abundance of a population is defined as the average abundance of its reference contig across all samples.

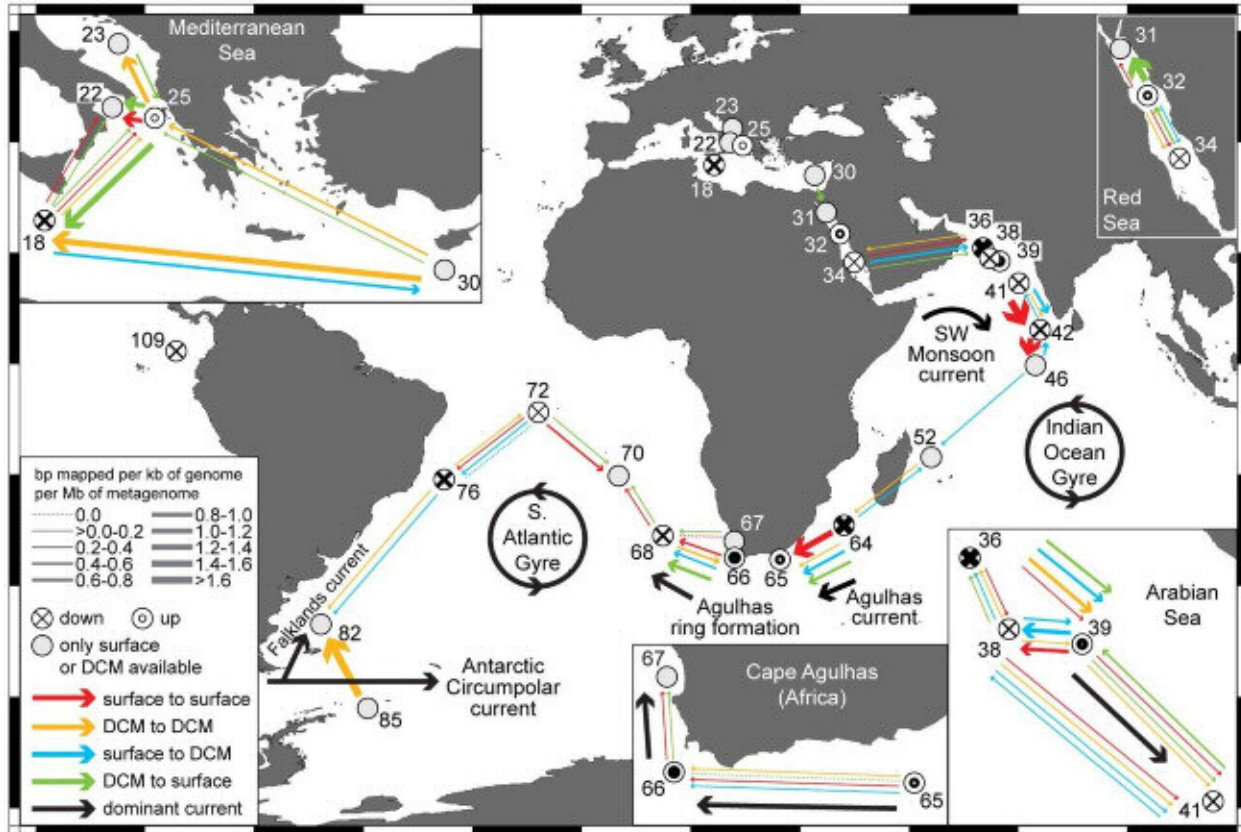


Fig. 7. Net movement of viral populations throughout the oceans. Calculations are based on reciprocal comparison of viral population abundances between neighboring samples (see Fig. 3 and Methods). For each sample pair, the average relative population abundances in one sample originating from a neighboring sample were calculated and compared (for example, relative abundance of populations from sample A found in sample B are compared with relative abundance of populations from sample B found in sample A). The sign of the relative abundance difference between neighboring samples was used to estimate the movement direction (arrowhead), and the absolute value of the difference was interpreted as reflecting the movement magnitude (line width). Stations are labeled with station number. ‘Down’ and ‘up’ refer to net vertical movement of viral populations between the surface and DCM samples at the same station.

Table 1. Relationships between viral community structure (based on viral morphology, populations, and PCs) and metadata using NMDS analysis of all samples and the sample subset (all samples except for TARA_67_SRF, TARA_70_MESO, TARA_82_DCM, and TARA_85_DCM due to exceptional environmental conditions at these locations). Significant relationships are italicized and in bold.

		Viral Morphology (qTEM)	Populations (contigs)	Protein Clusters (PCs)
Depth Category	all samples	p = 0.354 (n = 41)	p = 0.362 (n = 43)	<i>p = 0.033 (n = 43)</i>
	sample subset	p = 0.228 (n = 38)	p = 0.105 (n = 39)	<i>p = 0.011 (n = 39)</i>
Province	all samples	p = 0.098 (n = 41)	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 43)</i>	<i>p = 0.014 (n = 43)</i>
	sample subset	<i>p = 0.029 (n = 38)</i>	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 39)</i>	<i>p = 0.008 (n = 39)</i>
Biome	all samples	p = 0.099 (n = 41)	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 43)</i>	p = 0.097 (n = 43)
	sample subset	p = 0.120 (n = 38)	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 39)</i>	p = 0.543 (n = 39)
Latitude	all samples	<i>p = 0.003 (n = 41)</i>	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 43)</i>	<i>p = 0.002 (n = 43)</i>
	sample subset	<i>p = 0.014 (n = 38)</i>	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 39)</i>	<i>p = 0.010 (n = 39)</i>
Temperature	all samples	<i>p = 0.001 (n = 41)</i>	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 43)</i>	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 43)</i>
	sample subset	<i>p = 0.001 (n = 38)</i>	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 39)</i>	<i>p = 0.015 (n = 39)</i>
Salinity	all samples	p = 0.118 (n = 39)	<i>p = 0.035 (n = 41)</i>	<i>p = 0.029 (n = 41)</i>
	sample subset	p = 0.138 (n = 36)	p = 0.075 (n = 37)	<i>p = 0.001 (n = 37)</i>
Oxygen	all samples	<i>p = 0.001 (n = 41)</i>	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 43)</i>	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 43)</i>
	sample subset	<i>p = 0.005 (n = 38)</i>	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 39)</i>	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 39)</i>
Chlorophyll	all samples	p = 0.711 (n = 41)	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 43)</i>	<i>p = 0.001 (n = 39)</i>
	sample subset	p = 0.738 (n = 38)	p = 0.412 (n = 39)	p = 0.059 (n = 39)
Nitrite	all samples	p = 0.951 (n = 39)	p = 0.648 (n = 41)	p = 0.828 (n = 41)
	sample subset	p = 0.851 (n = 36)	p = 0.509 (n = 37)	p = 0.999 (n = 37)
Phosphate	all samples	p = 0.275 (n = 39)	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 41)</i>	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 41)</i>
	sample subset	p = 0.411 (n = 36)	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 37)</i>	p = 0.583 (n = 37)
Nitrite+Nitrate	all samples	<i>p = 0.046 (n = 39)</i>	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 41)</i>	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 41)</i>
	sample subset	p = 0.290 (n = 36)	p = 0.052 (n = 37)	p = 0.643 (n = 37)
Silica	all samples	<i>p = 0.008 (n = 39)</i>	<i>p = 0.002 (n = 41)</i>	<i>p = 0.008 (n = 41)</i>
	sample subset	p = 0.255 (n = 36)	p = 0.285 (n = 37)	p = 0.191 (n = 37)
Bacteria	all samples	p = 0.579 (n = 39)	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 40)</i>	p = 0.119 (n = 40)
	sample subset	p = 0.329 (n = 36)	<i>p = 0.003 (n = 36)</i>	<i>p = 0.007 (n = 36)</i>
Low DNA bacteria	all samples	p = 0.227 (n = 39)	p = 0.090 (n = 40)	p = 0.123 (n = 40)
	sample subset	p = 0.468 (n = 36)	<i>p = 0.018 (n = 36)</i>	<i>p = 0.005 (n = 36)</i>
High DNA bacteria	all samples	p = 0.967 (n = 39)	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 40)</i>	p = 0.273 (n = 40)
	sample subset	p = 0.174 (n = 36)	<i>p = 0.027 (n = 36)</i>	<i>p = 0.024 (n = 36)</i>
% high DNA bacteria	all samples	<i>p = 0.007 (n = 39)</i>	p = 0.078 (n = 40)	<i>p = 0.009 (n = 40)</i>
	sample subset	<i>p = 0.017 (n = 36)</i>	p = 0.059 (n = 36)	<i>p < 0.001 (n = 36)</i>
<i>Synechococcus</i>	all samples	p = 0.143 (n = 39)	p = 0.094 (n = 40)	<i>p = 0.041 (n = 40)</i>
	sample subset	p = 0.142 (n = 36)	<i>p = 0.023 (n = 36)</i>	<i>p = 0.013 (n = 36)</i>
<i>Prochlorococcus</i>	all samples	p = 0.118 (n = 39)	p = 0.076 (n = 40)	p = 0.123 (n = 40)
	sample subset	p = 0.249 (n = 37)	p = 0.161 (n = 37)	p = 0.140 (n = 37)

Station Number	Station Name	Source Identifier (FAOFA number and/or name)	FAOFAFA number	Corresponding national data published at FAOFAFA	Start Date (YYYY-mm-DD)	End Date (YYYY-mm-DD)	Latitude (Degrees North)	Longitude (Degrees East)	Sampled depth (m)	Mooring depth (m)	Mooring type (Station Number)	System used to acquire data (DHO Control System)	Mooring system (Station Number)	Instrument used (Station Number)	Instrument type (Station Number)	Instrument model (Station Number)	Instrument serial number (Station Number)	Instrument status (Station Number)	Instrument location (Station Number)	Instrument depth (Station Number)	Instrument depth range (Station Number)	Instrument depth interval (Station Number)	Instrument depth resolution (Station Number)	Instrument depth accuracy (Station Number)	Instrument depth precision (Station Number)	Instrument depth range resolution (Station Number)	Instrument depth range accuracy (Station Number)	Instrument depth range precision (Station Number)	Instrument depth range resolution accuracy (Station Number)	Instrument depth range precision accuracy (Station Number)
FAOFA_01	FAOFA_01_01	BOEM deep offshore mooring buoy	FAOFA_010001_01	1001-01-011807	28.783	141.75	33	139	10	10	Mooring Buoys	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	
FAOFA_02	FAOFA_02_01	180° surface water buoy	FAOFA_010001_02	1001-01-011810	28.783	141.75	33	139	10	10	Mooring Buoys	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	
FAOFA_03	FAOFA_03_01	180° surface water buoy	FAOFA_010001_03	1001-01-011810	28.783	141.75	33	139	10	10	Mooring Buoys	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	
FAOFA_04	FAOFA_04_01	180° surface water buoy	FAOFA_010001_04	1001-01-011810	28.783	141.75	33	139	10	10	Mooring Buoys	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	OBIS Mooring Buoy	

* Values in parentheses are reported at the detection level of 0.01 µg/l

NA = Not available

