Genome sequence of Shimia str. SK013, a representative of the Roseobacter group isolated from marine sediment

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Abstract

Shimia strain SK013 is an aerobic, Gram-negative, rod shaped alphaproteobacterium affiliated with the Roseobacter group within the family Rhodobacteraceae. The strain was isolated from surface sediment (0–1 cm) of the Skagerrak at 114 m below sea level. The 4,049,808 bp genome of Shimia str. SK013 comprises 3,981 protein-coding genes and 47 RNA genes. It contains one chromosome and no extrachromosomal elements. The genome analysis revealed the presence of genes for a dimethylsulfoniopropionate lyase, demethylase and the trimethylamine methyltransferase (mttB) as well as genes for nitrate, nitrite and dimethyl sulfide reduction. This indicates that Shimia str. SK013 is able to switch from aerobic to anaerobic metabolism and thus is capable of aerobic and anaerobic sulfur cycling at the seafloor. Among the ability to convert other sulfur compounds it has the genetic capacity to produce climatically active dimethyl sulfide. Growth on glutamate as a sole carbon source results in formation of cell-connecting filaments, a putative phenotypic adaptation of the surface-associated strain to the environmental conditions at the seafloor. Genome analysis revealed the presence of a flagellum (fla1) and a type IV pilus biogenesis, which is speculated to be a prerequisite for biofilm formation. This is also related to genes responsible for signalling such as N-acyl homoserine lactones, as well as quip-genes responsible for quorum quenching and antibiotic biosynthesis. Pairwise similarities of 16S rRNA genes (98.56 % sequence similarity to the next relative S. haliotis) and the in silico DNA-DNA hybridization (21.20 % sequence similarity to S. haliotis) indicated Shimia str. SK013 to be considered as a new species. The genome analysis of Shimia str. SK013 offered first insights into specific physiological and phenotypic adaptation mechanisms of Roseobacter-affiliated bacteria to the benthic environment.

Keywords: Anaerobic metabolism, Cell-connecting filaments, Quorum quenching, Flagella gene cluster, DMSP, DMSO reductase, Denitrification

Introduction

The Roseobacter group is known for its worldwide distribution and its broad metabolic versatility in a great variety of marine habitats [1–3]. About 25 % of all Roseobacter species with validly published names (42 out of 168) have a benthic origin [4]. In marine sediments, they can contribute up to 11 of all 16S rRNA genes and up to 10 % of total cell counts [5, 6], but still little is known about the specific distribution and physiology of roseobacters in this habitat.

Shimia str. SK013, analysed in the present study, was isolated from the top centimeter of Skagerrak sediments at a water depth of 114 m below sea level (mbsl) [7]. The strain is affiliated with the genus Shimia which was first proposed by Choi and Cho in 2006 [8] in honor of Dr. Jae H. Shim, for his contributions to marine plankton ecology in Korea. According to Pujalte et al. [4], the genus Shimia consists of four species, with a fifth species Shimia sagamensis recently included. Members of the genus Shimia were isolated from different marine habitats: e.g. S. haliotis was isolated from the intestinal tract of the abalone Haliotis discus hannai [9], S. biformata from surface sea water [10], S. isoporae from reef building corals.
and *S. marina* from a fish farm biofilm [8]. The new species affiliated to the genus *Shimia* (*Shimia sagamensis*) was isolated from cold seep sediment [12]. The sequenced genome of *Shimia* str. SK013 will allow for genetic comparison between the strain and other organisms of benthic origin, additional sediment-derived roseobacters and close relatives isolated from different habitats.

Here, we present the genome of *Shimia* str. SK013 with special emphasis on the genes involved in sulfur cycling such as dimethylsuloniopropionate (DMSP) degradation and dimethyl sulfoxide reduction, as well as other anaerobic pathways such as nitrate reduction. The second focus is on genes which may be indicative for biofilm formation (pili, flagella and quorum sensing) as an adaptation to their surface-associated lifestyle.

### Organism information

#### Classification and features

Sediment samples were collected in July 2011 during a cruise with the RV ‘Heincke’ (expedition HE361) to the eastern North Sea. The strain was isolated from surface sediment (0–1 cm) of the Skagerrak (Site 27, 57°61.28′N, 8°58.18′E) at 114 mbsl from an aerobic enrichment culture. *Shimia* str. SK013 is a Gram-negative, motile, rod shaped bacterium with a length of 1.8 to 2.0 μm and a width of approximately 0.5 μm (Table 1; Fig. 1). Colonies are small, slightly domed and white to transparent on artificial sea water medium agar plates, but cream-coloured.

### Table 1 Classification and general features of *Shimia* str. SK013 in accordance with the MIGS recommendations published by the Genome Standards Consortium [46]

| MIGS ID | Property                          | Term                        | Evidence code |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
|         | **Classification**                |                             |               |
|         | Domain *Bacteria*                 | TAS [47]                    |               |
|         | Phylum *Proteobacteria*           | TAS [48]                    |               |
|         | Class *Alphaproteobacteria*       | TAS [49, 50]                |               |
|         | Order *Rhodobacterales*           | TAS [50, 51]                |               |
|         | Family *Rhodobacteraceae*         | TAS [50, 51]                |               |
|         | Genus *Shimia*                    | TAS [8]                     |               |
|         | Species *Shimia*                  | TAS [8]                     |               |
|         | Strain SK013 (IMG2608642164)      | TAS [7]                     |               |
|         | Gram stain                        | negative                    | IDA           |
|         | Cell shape                        | Rod shaped                  | IDA           |
|         | Motility                          | Motile                      | IDA           |
|         | Sporulation                       | none                        | NAS           |
|         | Temperature range                 | Mesophile; 10–35 °C         | IDA           |
|         | Optimum temperature               | 25–30 °C                    | IDA           |
|         | pH range; Optimum                 | 5–9; 7                      | IDA           |
|         | Carbon source                     | Sugars, amino acids         | IDA           |
| MIGS-6  | Habitat                           | Marine                      | IDA           |
| MIGS-6.3| Salinity                          | 0–5 % NaCl (w/v)            | IDA           |
| MIGS-22 | Oxygen requirement                | Aerobic                     | IDA           |
| MIGS-15 | Biotic relationship               | Unknown                     | NAS           |
| MIGS-14 | Pathogenicity                     | non-pathogen                | NAS           |
| MIGS-4  | Geographic location               | North Sea/Skagerrak area    | IDA           |
| MIGS-5  | Sample collection                 | July 24, 2011               | IDA           |
| MIGS-4.1| Latitude                          | 57°36.77′N                  | IDA           |
| MIGS-4.2| Longitude                         | 08°35.41′E                  | IDA           |
| MIGS-4.3| Depth                             | 114 m below sea level       | IDA           |
| MIGS-4.4| Altitude                          | Unknown                     |               |

*Evidence codes - IDA Inferred from Direct Assay, TAS Traceable Author Statement (i.e., a direct report exists in the literature), NAS Non-traceable Author Statement (i.e., not directly observed for the living, isolated sample, but based on a generally accepted property for the species, or anecdotal evidence). These evidence codes are from the Gene Ontology project [52]*
or beige in marine broth medium agar plates. The strain is mesophilic (range: 10–35 °C, T_{opt} = 30 °C), neutrophilic (optimum pH: 6–7) and halophilic (optimum: 2–3 % w/v).

*Shimia* str. SK013 grows well in liquid medium but relatively slowly on agar-solidified marine broth and artificial sea water medium. The strain is able to utilize various substrates such as glucose, lactose, glutamate, mannose, xylose, acetate and citrate. When *Shimia* str. SK013 grows in ASW medium with glutamate as sole carbon source, cell-connecting filaments that might represent bundle-forming pili or specialized flagella are induced (Fig. 1). However, these structures were not observed in cultures amended with any other tested substrate (see above). The 16S rRNA gene sequence of *Shimia* str. SK013 (1453 bp) was analysed using ARB [13] and revealed 98.56 % sequence similarity to the next relative, *Shimia haliotis*. Furthermore, in the phylogenetic tree, *Shimia* str. SK013 is branching together with the other *Shimia* species except *Shimia biformata* (Fig. 2).

**Genome sequencing information**

**Genome project history**

*Shimia* str. SK013 was selected for draft genome sequencing based on its physiological and phenotypical features and its benthic origin. The information related to this project is summarized in Table 2. The draft genome is deposited in the Genomes On Line Database [14] and in the Integrated Microbial Genome database [15]. The Whole Genome Shotgun project has been deposited at DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank under the accession number LAJH0000000.1.

**Growth conditions and genomic DNA preparation**

*Shimia* str. SK013 was enriched and isolated from agar plates containing artificial sea water medium [16] with DMS (100 μM) and lactate (5 mM) as substrates, incubated at 15 °C. The genomic DNA extraction was performed using a DNA isolation kit (MO BIO, Carlsbad, CA, USA), following the manufactures instructions.
Genome sequencing and assembly

Whole-genome sequencing was performed using the Illumina technology. Preparation of paired-end sequencing library with the Illumina Nextera XT library preparation kit and sequencing of the library using the Genome Analyzer IIx were performed as described by the manufacturer (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). A total of 11,098,582 paired-end reads were derived from sequencing and trimmed using Trimmomatic version 0.32 [17]. De novo assembly of all trimmed reads with SPAdes version 3.5.0 [18] resulted in 28 contigs and 137.9-fold coverage. A summary of project information is shown in Table 2.

Genome annotation

Protein-coding genes were identified as part of the genome annotation pipeline the Integrated Microbial Genomes Expert Review platform using Prodigal v2.50. The predicted CDS were translated and used to search the CDD, KEGG, UniProt, TIGRFam, Pfam and InterPro databases. These data sources were combined to assert a product description for each predicted protein. Non-coding genes and miscellaneous features were predicted using tRNAscan-SE [19], RNAmmer [20], Rfam [21], TMHMM [22] and SignalP [23]. Additional gene prediction analyses and functional annotation were performed within the IMG-Expert Review platform [24].

Genome properties

The genome analysis showed the presence of 28 scaffolds corresponding to one large chromosome with a total length of 4,049,808 bp and a G+C content of 57.22% (Table 3). The absence of additional

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Table 2 Genome sequencing project information

| MIGS ID | Property                        | Term               |
|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| MIGS 31 | Finishing quality               | Draft              |
| MIGS 28 | Libraries used                  | Nextera XT         |
| MIGS 29 | Sequencing platforms            | Illumina GAII, PacBio |
| MIGS 31.2 | Fold coverage               |                    |
| MIGS 30 | Assemblers                      | SPAdes v3.5        |
| MIGS 32 | Gene calling method             | Prodigal v2.5      |
|         | Locus Tag                       | SHIM               |
|         | Genbank ID                      | LAJH000000000      |
|         | GenBank Date of Release         | September 16, 2015 |
|         | GOLD ID                         | GP0103193          |
|         | BIOPROJECT                      | PRJNA277163        |
| MIGS 13 | Source Material Identifier      | SAMN03387008       |
|         | Project relevance               | Environmental      |
extrachromosomal elements was inferred based on the absence of RepABC, RepA, RepB and DnaA-like modules for plasmid replication and maintenance that are characteristic for Rhodobacteraceae [25]. In total, 4,028 genes were predicted, in which 3,981 were protein-coding genes and 47 RNA genes. About 82.35 % were protein-coding genes with a putative function while those remaining were annotated as hypothetical proteins. The genome statistics are further provided in Table 3 and in Fig. 3. The distribution of genes into functional categories (clusters of orthologous groups) is shown in Table 4.

**Insights from the genome sequence**

The genome of Shimia str. SK013 contains genes for sulfur cycling that might enable anaerobic growth. Genes for quorum sensing and quorum quenching might support roseobacters to thrive in complex microbial communities found in sediments. Genome comparison (Table 5; Fig. 3) revealed that Shimia str. SK013 shares the respective genes with a selection of surface-associated roseobacters and the other two Shimia species whose genomes are available. It is well documented that roseobacters are involved in the transformation of DMSP by demethylation or by using the cleavage pathway [6, 26, 27]. Anaerobically, some roseobacters are capable of DMSO reduction resulting in the release of the climatically active DMS [5, 27]. Genes for the DMSP lyase (Shim_05930) and demethylase (Shim_7490) as well as for the DMSO reductase (Shim_34610) found in Shimia str. SK013 indicate their functional role in DMSP degradation and DMSO conversion. All three genes are also present within the genome of S. haliotis and in those of a selection of surface-associated roseobacters (Table 6): S. haliotis (Ga0070219_1011011, 101620, 103192), Octadecabacter

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**Table 3** Genome statistics of Shimia str. SK013

| Attribute                      | Value      | % of total |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Genome size (bp)              | 4,049,808  | 100.00     |
| DNA coding (bp)               | 3,677,855  | 90.82      |
| DNA G + C (bp)                | 2,317,341  | 57.22      |
| DNA scaffolds                 | 28         |            |
| Total genes                   | 4028       | 100.00     |
| Protein-coding genes          | 3981       | 98.83      |
| RNA genes                     | 47         | 1.17       |
| Pseudo genes                  | 0          |            |
| Genes in paralog clusters     | 3069       | 76.19      |
| Genes with function prediction| 3317       | 82.35      |
| Genes assigned to COGs        | 2860       | 71.00      |
| Genes with Pfam domains       | 3365       | 83.54      |
| Genes with signal peptides    | 370        | 9.19       |
| Genes with transmembrane helices | 911    | 22.62      |
| CRISPR repeats                | 0          |            |

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**Fig. 3** Graphical representation of the genome of Shimia str. SK013. From outside to inside (1–15 color circles): sequence of Shimia str. SK013 (1st circle) is compared to the other species within the genus Shimia and other type strains within the Roseobacter group, (16th circle): G + C content of Shimia str. SK013. Comparisons and visualizations are performed with BRIG [53].
arcticus (OA238_c10540, c20430, c35930), Roseobacter litoralis (RLO149_c019880, c022350, c001820) and Leisingera nanhaiensis (Leina_00726, 01164, 02539). Shimia marina is missing the genes for DMSP lyase, but also contains genes for DMSP demethylase (Ga0069993_10296, 102173) and DMSO reductase (Ga0069993_106210). Interestingly, the genome of Shimia str. SK013 simultaneously contained genes for a sulfite reductase (Shim_12650), sulfur dehydrogenase (SoxC; Shim_11330), sulfur oxidizing proteins (SoxXYZ; Shim_11380, 11370, 11360) and sulfur oxidation (SoxA; Shim_11350). Other than in the Roseobacter group-affiliated fosmid found in German tidal-flat sediments [6], the soxD gene and the rDSR gene are not present. We observed all genes necessary for the denitrification pathway such as nitrate reductase (Shim_01900), nitrite reductase (Shim_01920), nitric oxide reductase (Shim_02650) and nitrous oxide reductase (Shim_02640). Shimia str. SK013 contains a periplasmic nitrate reductase composed of five subunits [28] such as NapA (Shim_18270), NapB (Shim_18300), NapD (Shim_18260), NapE (Shim_04260) and NapG (Shim_18320). The presence of periplasmic nitrate reductase genes suggest the potential for anaerobic respiration [29] in Shimia str. SK013, whereas the genus Shimia has been described as strictly aerobic until now [8]. Interestingly, anaerobic respiration was also observed in Leisingera nanhaiensis [30] and Phaeobacter inhibens T5T [31], which were originally described as strictly aerobic. The genes involved in nitrogen regulation (Shim_09380) and nitrogen fixation regulation (Shim_29520) were also found in the genome of Shimia str. SK013. Denitrification genes in Shimia str. SK013 showed a strong resemblance to those present in S. haliotis, with the exception the genes coding for nitrite reductase and nitrogen fixation regulation (nitrate reductase and subunits; Ga0070219_10142 to 10145, nitric oxide reductase; Ga0070219_106169; nitrous oxide reductase; Ga0070219_106170, nitrogen regulation; Ga0070219_101812). S. marina showed only the presence of genes for nitrate reduction (Ga0069993_10650), nitrite reduction (Ga0069993_10648), nitrogen regulation (Ga0069993_102260) and nitrogen fixation regulation (Ga0069993_105163). A comparative search revealed the presence of all the genes involved in the nitrogen cycle that were mentioned above for Oceancola nanhaiensis (SIAM614_16412, 31426, 14520, 22007), Roseobacter litoralis (RLO149_c039850, c031550, c017950, c035140), Phaeobacter arcticus (Phaar_03838, 02837, 01419, 03079, 04163) and Sulfotobacter pontiacus (PM01_06655, 15855, 12625, 02530). Furthermore, the

### Table 4 Number of genes associated with general COG functional categories

| Code | Value | %age | Description                                                                 |
|------|-------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| J    | 194   | 6.02 | Translation, ribosomal structure and biogenesis                             |
| A    | n.a.  | n.a. | RNA processing and modification                                             |
| K    | 221   | 6.86 | Transcription                                                               |
| L    | 90    | 2.80 | Replication, recombination and repair                                        |
| B    | 2     | 0.06 | Chromatin structure and dynamics                                            |
| D    | 25    | 0.78 | Cell cycle control, Cell division, chromosome partitioning                  |
| V    | 61    | 1.89 | Defense mechanisms                                                          |
| T    | 126   | 3.91 | Signal transduction mechanisms                                              |
| M    | 178   | 5.53 | Cell wall/membrane biogenesis                                               |
| N    | 50    | 1.55 | Cell motility                                                               |
| U    | 41    | 1.27 | Intracellular trafficking and secretion                                     |
| O    | 156   | 4.84 | Posttranslational modification, protein turnover, chaperones                 |
| C    | 238   | 7.39 | Energy production and conversion                                            |
| G    | 203   | 6.30 | Carbohydrate transport and metabolism                                        |
| E    | 388   | 12.05| Amino acid transport and metabolism                                         |
| F    | 87    | 2.70 | Nucleotide transport and metabolism                                         |
| H    | 174   | 5.40 | Coenzyme transport and metabolism                                           |
| I    | 186   | 5.78 | Lipid transport and metabolism                                              |
| P    | 143   | 4.44 | Inorganic ion transport and metabolism                                      |
| Q    | 130   | 4.04 | Secondary metabolites biosynthesis, transport and catabolism                 |
| R    | 313   | 9.72 | General function prediction only                                            |
| S    | 192   | 5.96 | Function unknown                                                            |
| -    | 1168  | 39.00| Not in COGs                                                                 |

The total is based on the total number of protein-coding genes in the genome

### Table 5 Genome statistics comparison with available genomes of Shimia species

| Genome name | Shimia str. SK013 | S. haliotis | S. marina |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Genome Size | 4,049,808         | 3,995,969   | 4,061,252 |
| Gene Count  | 4,028             | 3,953       | 3,992     |
| Scaffold Count | 28               | 22          | 32        |
| G + C content (%) | 57.22          | 58.04       | 57.34     |
| RNA Count  | 47                | 58          | 61        |
| rRNA Count | 3                 | 5           | 5         |
| COG Count  | 2,860             | 2,751       | 2,776     |
| COG (%)    | 71.00             | 69.59       | 69.54     |
| Pfam Count | 3,350             | 3,300       | 3,365     |
| Pfam (%)   | 83.17             | 83.48       | 84.29     |
| TIGRfam Count | 1,148          | 1,155       | 1,172     |
| TIGRfam (%) | 28.50             | 29.22       | 29.36     |
| IMG Pathway Count | 223           | 213         | 207       |
| IMG Pathway (%) | 5.54           | 5.39        | 5.19      |
| Horizontally Transferred Count | 223          | 158         | 135       |
| Horizontally Transferred (%) | 5.54          | 4.00        | 3.38      |

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Table 6: Highlighted genes of *Shimia* str. SK013 present in other roseobacters

| Highlighted gene products and locus tags | Shimia haliotis | Shimia marina | Oceanicola nanhaiensis | Octadecabacter antarcticus | Octadecabacter arcticus | Roseobacter litoralis | Phaeobacter arcticus | Stappia stellulata | Leisingera nanhaiensis | Labrenzia aggregata | Loktanella cinnabarina | Sulfitobacter pontiacus | Sediminimonas qiaohouensis | Wenxinia marina |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| DMSP lyase/DddP Shim_05930              | +               | +             | +                      | +                         | +                       | +                     | +                   | +               | +                    | +                    | +                    | +                    | +                     | +                |
| DMSP Demethylase Shim_07490             |                |               |                        |                           |                         |                       |                     |                 |                      |                      |                      |                      |                       |                   |
| DMSO reductase Shim_34610               |                |               | +                      | +                         | +                       |                       |                     |                 | +                    | +                    | +                    | +                    | +                     | +                |
| Trimethylamine methyltransferase Shim_09600, Shim_31260 | +       | +             |                        | +                         | +                       | +                     | +                   | +               | +                    |                      | +                    | +                    | +                     | +                |
| Type IV pilus biogenesis Shim_13020     |                |               |                        | +                         | +                       |                       |                     | +               | +                    | +                    | +                    | +                    | +                     |                   |
| AHL acylase QuIP precursor Shim_09300   |                |               |                        |                           | +                       |                       |                     |                 | +                    | +                    | +                    | +                    | +                     |                   |
| Homoserine/homoserine lactone efflux protein Shim_16180 | +       | +             |                        |                           |                         |                       |                     |                 | +                    | +                    | +                    | +                    | +                     |                   |
| N-AHLs Shim_31370                      |                |               |                        |                           |                         |                       |                     |                 | +                    | +                    | +                    | +                    | +                     |                   |
The conspicuous morphological trait of cell-connecting filaments in *Shimia* str. SK013 (Fig. 1) led to the search for the presence of genes involved in the formation of pili and flagella. The bacterial flagellum is one of the signal transduction systems with complex proteins which enables the bacterial reorientation and motility [32]. So far three different types of flagella gene clusters (FGCs) were described, designated *fla1*, *fla2* and *fla3* in *Rhodobacteraceae* that originated from FGC duplications [33]. Genome analysis revealed the presence of a single compact flagella gene cluster of the *fla1*-type on the chromosome (contig_000021; Shim_33080 to Shim_33420) that contains all genes necessary for the assembly of a functional flagellum. Recently, Frank et al. [33] showed for the plasmid curing mutant of *Marinovum algicola* DG898, which is lacking the 143-kb plasmid pMaD5 with a *fla2*-type FGC, a conspicuous morphological similarity with the filamentous structures observed in the current study for *Shimia* str. SK013 (Fig. 1). The bundles of filaments were explained by the presence of an additional chromosome-encoded *fla1*-type flagellum in *Marinovum*. However, genes for type IV pilus biogenesis, which were found in *Shimia* str. SK013 (Shim_13020, Shim_37620) are also present in the genome of *M. algicola* DG898 (MALG_02262) and thus, it remains unclear if the conspicuous bundles at the cell pole are caused by pilus and/or flagellum formation.

As the described morphological traits are often related to a surface-associated lifestyle, we also searched the genome of *Shimia* str. SK013 for genes involved in the production of signalling molecules and quorum sensing as indicators for the communication within biofilms. Earlier studies showed that quorum sensing signals are mainly associated with virulence [34, 35], but recent investigations revealed that these signalling molecules play a significant role in basic metabolic processes [36, 37]. The presence of genes for the production of *N*-acylhomoserine lactones (AHLs) (Shim_31370) and homoserine lactones (Shim_16180) that are part of the quorum sensing system indicate that *Shimia* str. SK013 uses this form of bacterial communication. In contrast, the newly established genome only contains a few additional genes which interfere with quorum sensing such as quorum quenching or antibiotic biosynthesis related genes (AHL acylase QuiP precursor; Shim_09300) [38–40]. When compared to other selected roseobacters, these three signal molecule genes were also found in *Roseobacter litoralis* (RLO149_c018030, c029420, c006500) and *Sediminomonas qihoensis* (G568DRAFT_00799, 01106, 03483). This finding was proven by an antiSMASH analysis [41] of the *Shimia* str. SK013 genome, indicating the presence of the type I polyketide synthase (PKS), the homoserine lactone cluster and the bacteriocin gene cluster.

Pairwise similarities of 16S rRNA genes of *Shimia* str. SK013 and the next relative, *Shimia haliotis* were 98.56 %. A genome comparison of *Shimia* str. SK013 with the available draft genomes from the KMG-2 project, Genomic encyclopedia of Bacteria and Archaea (GEBA) [42, 43] of *Shimia haliotis* DSM 28453 (IMG ID: 2619619046) and *Shimia marina* DSM 26895 (IMG ID: 2619618961) was conducted using the online analysis tool “Genome-Genome-Distance Calculator” 2.0 (GGDC). The results of the *in silico* calculated DNA-DNA hybridization (DDH) of *Shimia* str. SK013 suggests that the given genome might belong to a new species based on the low percentages obtained (Table 7). According to the GGDC tool, formula 2 was recommended for the comparison between the draft genomes as it provides higher DDH correlations than Average Nucleotide Identity (ANI) implementations [44, 45]. The analysis showed that *Shimia* str. SK013 only shared a genome sequence similarity of 21 % with *Shimia haliotis* DSM 28453 and 20 % with *Shimia marina* DSM 26895 and thus represents neither a new isolate of the species *S. haliotis* nor of *S. marina*. A direct comparison with the available *Shimia* genomes revealed further differences such as the IMG pathway counts (representing the number of metabolites and macromolecular complexes) and horizontally transferred gene counts (Table 5). Until now, genome sequences of *S. bioformata*, *S. isoporae* and *Shimia sagamensis* are not available for additional *in silico* calculated DNA-DNA hybridization or direct genome comparisons. However, as *S. haliotis* was identified as the closest relative by 16S rRNA gene analysis with a 66/60 % bootstrap support, the DDH data provide strong evidence that *Shimia* str. SK013 represents a new species within the genus *Shimia*.

Table 7 Digital DDH similarities between *Shimia* str. SK013 and other *Shimia* species, calculated *in silico* with the GGDC server version 2.0 [45]a

| Reference species       | Formula 1     | Formula 2     | Formula 3     |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| *Shimia haliotis* DSM 28453 | 37.20 % +/- 3.44 | 21.20 % +/- 2.34 | 31.60 % +/- 3.02 |
| *Shimia marina* DSM 26895  | 16.70 % +/- 3.25 | 19.70 % +/- 2.30 | 16.60 % +/- 2.75 |

*a* The standard deviations indicate the inherent uncertainty in estimating DDH values from intergenomic distances based on models derived from empirical test data sets (which are always limited in size); see [45] for details. The distance formulas are explained in [44]. Formula 2 is recommended, particularly for draft genome (like species above)
Conclusions
The genome analysis of *Shimia* str. SK013 revealed distinct genes responsible for DMSP utilization, DMSO, nitrate and nitrite reduction which indicate that this strain is a facultative anaerobic bacterium. The presence of genes responsible for signalling can serve as a guide for identification of quorum sensing compounds, as well as antibiotics potentially responsible for quorum quenching. Based on genome comparison and DNA-DNA hybridization with the next relatives, *Shimia* str. SK013 might represent a new species and should be considered for species description.

Abbreviations
AHLs: acyl homoserine lactones; ASW: artificial sea water; BFP: bundle-forming pilus; DMS: dimethyl sulfoxide; DMSO: dimethyl sulfoxide; DMSP: dimethylsulfonpropionate; FGC: flagella gene clusters; GGDC: Genome-Genome-Distance Calculator; KMG: 1000 microbial genomes; mbsl: meters below sea level; PKS: polyketide synthase; SepHA: signal peptides; TMHMM: transmembrane helices hidden markov models.

Competing interests
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors’ contributions
SK, SY wrote the manuscript and analysed the annotated genome and comparative genomes. MP calculated the phylogenetic tree. WV contributed in phenotypic data. JP analysed the annotated genome. MG, NC, TW, NS and HPK provided sequenced, assembled and annotated genomes of *Shimia* species and other roseobacter. HC provided analytical facilities and edited the manuscript. BE planned, helped to execute the study and edited the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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