Thalassobius mediterraneus is the type species of the genus Thalassobius and a member of the Roseobacter clade, an abundant representative of marine bacteria. T. mediterraneus XSM19T (=CECT 5383T) was isolated from the Western Mediterranean coast near Valencia (Spain) in 1989. We present here the draft genome sequence and annotation of this strain (ENA/DBJ/NCBI accession number CYSF00000000), which is comprised of 3,431,658 bp distributed in 19 contigs and encodes 10 rRNA genes, 51 tRNA genes and 3276 protein coding genes. Relevant findings are commented, including the complete set of genes required for poly-beta-hydroxybutyrate (PHB) synthesis and genes related to degradation of aromatic compounds.

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1. Direct link to deposited data

http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/data/view/CYSF00000000

Thalassobius is a genus of the family Rhodobacteraceae, order Rhodobacterales within the class Alphaproteobacteria [1]. It also belongs to the so-called Roseobacter group, which contains several of the more ubiquitous and predominant components of marine bacteria and plays an important role in biochemical global processes [2]. Currently, the genus Thalassobius contains four species with validly published names: T. mediterraneus [1], T. gelatinovorus [1], T. aestuarii [3] and T. maritimus [4]. ‘T. aquaeponii’ was reported recently [5], although it has not been yet validated, and even more recently T. abyssi has been also proposed [6].

2. Experimental design, materials and methods

T. mediterraneus CECT 5383T is a Gram-negative, coccoid-rod shaped, strictly aerobic, mesophilic, non-pigmented, non-motile and chemoorganotrophic bacterium isolated 2–3 km off Mediterranean coast near Valencia, Spain. It usually forms 2–3 cell chains but not rosettes and utilizes organic acids and amino acids as carbon source but few carbohydrates. It does not reduce nitrate to nitrite [1].

T. mediterraneus CECT 5383T was cultured in marine agar (MA; Difco) at 26 °C under aerobic conditions during three days. Genomic DNA was isolated using Real Pure Spin kit (Durviz) following the standard protocol recommended by the manufacturer. The integrity of the extracted DNA was checked by visualization in a 2.0% agarose gel electrophoresis. Its purity and quantity was checked by measuring the absorbance at 260 and 280 nm with a spectrophotometer NanoDrop2000c (Thermo Scientific) and calculating the ratio A260/A280.

Genomic DNA was sequenced at Central Service of Support to Experimental Research (SCSIE) of the University of Valencia (Valencia, Spain) using an Illumina MiSeq platform with 2 × 250 paired-end reads. A total of 1,707,192 reads were obtained with 426,425,241 bp, which resulted in a sequencing coverage of 118×.

Reads were assembled with SeqMan NGen 12.0.1 included as a free application in BaseSpace Genomics Cloud Computing (https://basespace.illumina.com). The final assembly is comprised of 19 contigs with genome coverage of 93×.
This draft genome was annotated with Prokka [7], within Galaxy Orione Server, and RAST v.2.0 [8] using default parameters. A total of 3276 protein coding genes, 51 tRNA genes and 10 rRNA genes were predicted by Prokka and 3270 protein coding genes, 43 tRNA genes and 7 rRNA genes by RAST. Genome features are summarized in Table 1 and a graphical representation of the genome sequence is given in Fig. 1.

*T. mediterraneus* CECT 5383T draft genome codes for all the enzymes of Tricarboxilic Acids Cycle. Glycolysis pathway is incomplete as gene encoding 6-phosphofructokinase is not present however Entner–Doudoroff pathway is complete. Pentose–Phosphate pathway is lacking of 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase enzyme gene in the oxidative route, suggesting also an incomplete pathway. This could explain why this strain utilizes few carbohydrates as carbon and energy sources [1]. Glyoxylate pathway is also incomplete, without gene encoding isocitrate lyase, however Ethyl–Malonyl–CoA pathway can supply glycolate for serine cycle as all genes involved in this route are present. Although gene encoding for nitrate transporter precursor (NrtA) was encoded, Module Reconstruction by KEGG Mapper (http://www.genome.jp/kegg/tool/map_module.html) showed that assimilatory and dissimilatory nitrate reduction were incomplete with 1 block missing in both cases (nitrite reductase in assimilatory pathway and respiratory nitrate reductase in dissimilatory pathway). This finding is in agreement with the negative result of nitrate to nitrite conversion [1].

The genus Thalassobius was reported to be a poly-beta-hydroxybutyrate producer and granules of this bioplastic were found in strain XSM19 when it was described [1]. To support these finding phaABCZPR genes, coding for beta-ketothiolase, acetoacetyl-CoA reductase, PHB synthase, depolymerase C, phasin protein granule-associated and polyhydroxyalcanoate synthesis repressor respectively, were explored. Six phaA genes were found and one copy of the rest of pha genes with the exception of phaP, suggesting the granule associated protein is accessory. The genus Thalassobius was associated with bacterial communities in dissolved organic matter enriched water [10] and oil and/or dispersant mixed water [11] and an isolate was identified to be able to degrade phthalates [12]. In view of these data, genes involved in aromatic or aliphatic compound degradation were investigated. Although the KEGG Reconstruction module did not recognize complete aromatic degradation pathways, many genes have been found encoding genes related: two toluene efflux pumps and toluene-4-sulfonate monooxygenase system, iron–sulfur subunit TsM1, bbGF genes involved in anaerobic toluene metabolic pathway, 3-chloro-4-hydroxyphenylacetate reductive dehalogenase precursor and two haloalkane dehalogenases coding genes involved in chloroalkane and chlorobenzene degradation, a 3-hydroxybenzoate

![Fig. 1. Genome map of *T. mediterraneus* CECT 5383T (concatenated gbk file was used in CG view server [9]).](image-url)
6-hydroxylase 1 and two naphthalene 1,2-dioxygenase subunits genes involved in naphthalene degradation, an anaerobic benzoate catabolism transcriptional regulator and anthranilate 1,2-dioxygenase large subunit genes, two alkane monooxygenase genes, p-hydroxyphenylacetate 3-hydroxylase, reductase component, phenylacetate-CoA ligase and two paaG genes involved in phenylacetate degradation, a phenylacetaldehyde dehydrogenase féaB gene involved in styrene degradation and two 3-oxoadipate enol-lactonase 2 encoding genes involved in catechol cleavage to oxoadipate. These findings show the large number of genes related to a potential of degrading such polluting compounds however it is necessary to continue working on closing the genome sequence and on experimentation to see if it has this ability or has lost it, as predicted by KEGG.

3. Nucleotide sequence accession number

The Whole Genome Shotgun project is deposited at DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank under accession number CYSF00000000.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests with respect to the work published in this paper.

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