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Dechloromonas: to be or not to be a PAO?// That is the question!

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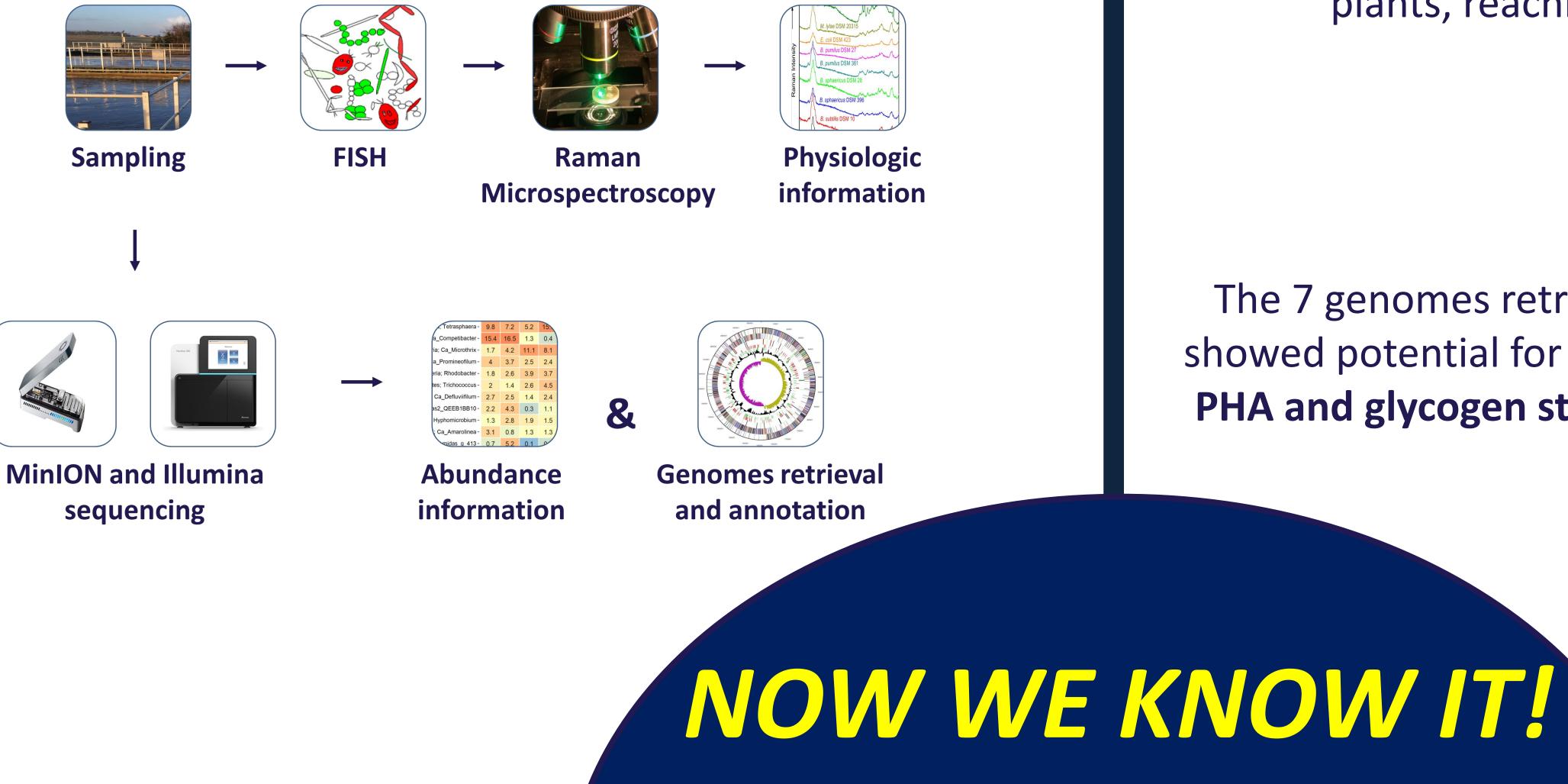
Background and Methods

EBPR (Enhanced Biological Phosphorus Removal) is a biotechnological process that relies on the ability of certain microorganisms, called PAO (polyphosphate accumulating organisms), to store phosphate intracellularly. Members of the genus *Dechloromonas* are often abundant in EBPR plants worldwide and have long been considered putative PAOs, as intracellular **poly-P** has been identified with traditional staining methods. The **aim of this** study was to determine its metabolic potential, to verify it and define the levels and dynamics of important storage polymers using **metagenomics** and

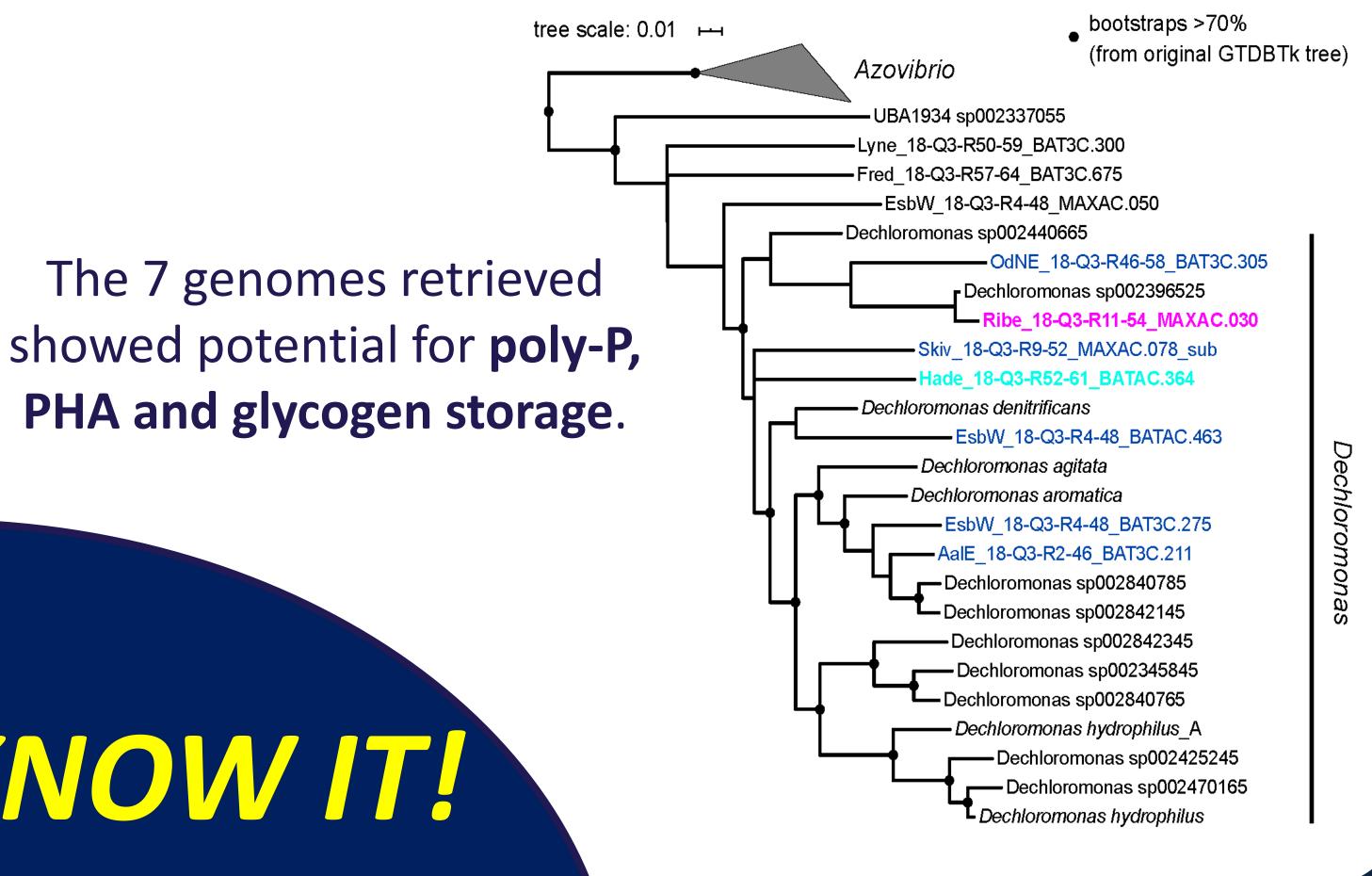
Abundance and metabolic potential

Tetrasphaera	6.6	9.5	5.2	4.4	0.2	3.9	9.4	15	8	12.8	7.4	9.6	3.7	14.8	12.7	21.8	0.1	2.2	9.8	10.1	4.3	5.1	14.8	3.6	7.7	5.7	1.8	7.3	6.9	13.6	8.3	3.9	6.3	5.3	9.5	15.5	4.4	6.1	22.8
Dechloromonas-	2.7	2.3	1.8	1.8	0.1	1.7	2.7	2.9	1.3	2.5	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.3	7.3	1.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	1.6	3.3	1.9	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.9	1	2.1	2.6	1.7	2.2	0.5	4.2	0.8	2.8	0.5	2	3.4	0.2
Ca_Accumulibacter-	0.5	1.2	0.4	1	0	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.6	1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	1.6	0.3	0.5	0.2	1.5	1	0.3	1.4	0.9	1.1	0.4	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.6	1.1	0.5	0.1
Tessaracoccus	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.5	0	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.8	2.3	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.2	2.6	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1
Ca_Obscuribacter	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0.3	0.2	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0
	Avedøre	Bjergmarken	Bjerringbro	Boeslum	CP Kelco	Damhusåen	Egå	Ejby Mølle [.]	Esbjerg E	Esbjerg W	Fornæs	Fredericia	Haderslev	Hirtshals	Hjørring	Horsens	Kalundborg	Kerteminde	Kolding	Lundtofte	Lynetten	Mariagerfjord	Marselisborg	Middelfart	Mørke	Odense NE	Odense NW [.]	Randers	Ribe	Ringkøbing	Skive	Søholt	Viborg	Viby	Aabenraa	Åby	Aalborg E	Aalborg W [_]	Aars

FISH-Raman microspectroscopy.



Dechloromonas is the second most abundant PAO in Danish plants, reaching up to **40%** of the biomass.



Dechloromonas in lab-scale P release experiments

Dechloromonds is an

important PAO in fullscale EBPR WWTPs.

The presence and dynamic behaviour of intracellular storage polymers was confirmed by FISH-Raman in *Dechloromonas* cells during Prelease experiments, with mixed biomass from lab-enrichment and full-scale sludge.

P removal (%) 80 Dechloromonas in **full-scale WWTPs**

