

1 Evolution of the cytochrome-*bd* type oxygen reductase superfamily and the 2 function of cydAA' in Archaea

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8

9 Abstract

10 Cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases (cytbd) belong to one of three enzyme superfamilies that catalyze
11 oxygen reduction to water. They are widely distributed in Bacteria and Archaea, but the full extent of
12 their biochemical diversity is unknown. Here we used phylogenomics to identify 3 families and several
13 subfamilies within the cytbd superfamily. The core architecture shared by all members of the superfamily
14 consists of four transmembrane helices that bind two active site hemes, which are responsible for oxygen
15 reduction. While previously characterized cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases use quinol as an
16 electron donor to reduce oxygen, sequence analysis shows that only one of the identified families has a
17 conserved quinol binding site. The other families are missing this feature, suggesting that they use an
18 alternative electron donor. Multiple gene duplication events were identified within the superfamily,
19 resulting in significant evolutionary and structural diversity. The CydAA' cytbd, found exclusively in
20 Archaea, is formed by the co-association of two superfamily paralogs. We heterologously expressed
21 CydAA' from *Caldivirga maquilingsis* and demonstrated that it performs oxygen reduction with quinol
22 as an electron donor. Strikingly, CydAA' is the first isoform of cytbd containing only *b*-type hemes
23 shown to be active when isolated, demonstrating that oxygen reductase activity in this superfamily is not
24 dependent on heme *d*.

25 Introduction

26 The predominance of oxygen in our atmosphere determines the bioenergetic importance
27 of oxygen as an electron acceptor and the prevalence of aerobic respiratory chains. There are
28 only three enzyme superfamilies capable of acting as terminal respiratory oxygen reductases -
29 heme-copper oxygen reductases, alternative oxidases and cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases
30 (cytbd)¹. While enzymes from this superfamily have been characterized from a number of
31 Bacteria, their role in archaeal respiration has not yet been determined. Archaeal aerobic
32 respiratory chains share some similarities with bacterial respiratory chains, however they often
33 differ in their composition of respiratory enzymes and are adapted to use different cofactors such
34 as methanophenazine and F₄₂₀. Complexes that are typically involved in bacterial respiration
35 such as succinate-quinone oxidoreductases², cytochrome *bc₁* complexes³ and heme-copper
36 oxygen reductases from archaea have been previously characterized^{4,5}, while NADH:quinone
37 oxidoreductases and alternative complex III are absent from this domain⁶. The presence of
38 cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases has been noted in archaeal genomes⁷, metagenomes and
39 metaproteomes⁸⁻¹¹ but, no functional member of the cytbd superfamily in archaea has ever been
40 demonstrated.

41 Cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductase is a respiratory enzyme that converts oxygen to
42 water using three hemes, unlike the heme-copper oxygen reductases which have two hemes and
43 a copper in the active sites¹. Purified cytbd accepts electrons from quinols using a low-spin heme
44 *b*₅₅₈ and transfers these electrons to a di-heme active site containing two high-spin hemes. In
45 some of the characterized cytochrome *bd* enzymes, these active site hemes were shown to be
46 heme *b*₅₉₅ and heme *d*, but some other isoforms were shown to contain only hemes *b*. Those
47 cytochrome *bd* family members that contain only hemes *b* are usually referred to as cyanide
48 insensitive oxidases (CIO) or cytochrome *bb'*-type oxygen reductase, and have been identified

49 in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Bacillus subtilis* and others¹²⁻¹⁵. It is unclear whether the presence
50 of only hemes *b* has a physiological implication but it has been suggested that these enzymes are
51 less sensitive to inhibition by cyanide¹³. There is no sequence signature that distinguishes those
52 enzymes in the superfamily that only contain heme *b*. No CIO has ever been isolated and
53 characterized.

54 The canonical cytochrome *bd* oxygen reductases contain a minimum of two subunits,
55 *cydA* and *cydB*, but often contain additional “auxiliary” subunits¹⁶⁻¹⁸ such as *CydX*, a single-
56 transmembrane subunit that is associated with cytochrome *bd*-I from *E. coli* that has been
57 implicated in the stability of the enzyme¹⁹. Cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases have a high
58 affinity for oxygen²⁰ and the previously characterized *cytbds* have been associated with roles in
59 oxygen detoxification, respiratory protection of nitrogenases and as part of sulfide oxidizing
60 respiratory chains²¹⁻²⁵. Cytochrome *bd* catalytic turnover generates a proton motive force by
61 translocation of protons using a conserved proton channel from the cytoplasm to the site of
62 oxygen reduction located near the periplasmic side (electrically positive) of the membrane²⁶. Yet,
63 cytochrome *bd* is not as energetically efficient as the heme-copper oxygen reductases which
64 pump protons in addition to translocating “chemical” protons from the cytoplasm to the
65 periplasmic active site^{27,28}. Expression of cytochrome *bd* has often been associated with
66 microoxic conditions where a high-affinity oxygen reductase would be required²⁹.

67 In this work, we used phylogenomics to determine the diversity and distribution of this
68 high affinity oxygen reductase in Archaea and Bacteria. We determined that there are three
69 distinct families of *cytbD* – one of which contained the quinol binding characteristics present in
70 the structures of *cytbD* from *Escherichia coli* and *Geobacillus thermodenitrificans*³⁰⁻³² and two
71 which do not – and discussed their evolutionary relationships. The distribution of these families

72 even within Archaea involve significant variation and include the two distinct isoforms CydAB
73 and CydAA', the latter of which appears to have been created by gene duplication. We evaluate
74 the relative distribution of the CydAA' and CydAB within the domain archaea and consider the
75 likely role of CydAA' variants within their ecological context. In addition, we show that the
76 CydAA' from *Caldivirga maquilingsensis* is a highly active oxygen reductase with unique
77 biochemical and structural characteristics. This combined phylogenomic and experimental
78 approach has significantly expanded our knowledge of the evolutionary and biochemical
79 diversity within the superfamily, which has important implications for the role of the cytbD
80 superfamily in novel respiratory pathways.

81 **Results**

82 **Diversity of cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases**

83 The molecular structures of cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases from *Escherichia coli*
84 and *Geobacillus thermodenitrificans* have been determined, and showed that cytbD typically has
85 two conserved subunits cydA and cydB, along with a third subunit, cydX or cydS which is a
86 single transmembrane subunit that is not well conserved or found along with cydA and cydB in
87 the genome³⁰⁻³³. Of the two main subunits, cydA is better conserved in all known cytochrome
88 *bd*-type oxygen reductases while cydB is very divergent and is hypothesized to have evolved at
89 faster rates than cydA³⁴. The cydA subunit is made of nine transmembrane helices and contains
90 almost all the conserved amino acids known to be important for catalyzing oxygen reduction and
91 proton translocation, including the ligands for three hemes and the residues forming a proton
92 channel^{35,36}. The first four helices of cydA contain all of the amino acids that form the active site.
93 These include the proton channel and ligands to bind the active site heme *b*₅₉₅ and heme *d* (these

94 ligands have only been verified in the isoforms containing hemes *b* and *d*, and not the ones
95 containing only hemes *b*). The other five helices (V- IX) form the quinol binding site in the
96 biochemically characterized *bd*-type oxygen reductases and include the ligands to heme *b*₅₅₈, the
97 point of entry for electrons from quinols³⁰⁻³². With this structural framework in mind, we
98 performed a sequence analysis of cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen.

99 An analysis of 24706 genomes available in the Genome Taxonomy Database
100 (release89)^{37,38}, revealed the presence of 17852 *cydA* homologs. Of these, 13007 genomes
101 contained at least one *cydA* homolog, suggesting that this enzyme family is widely distributed
102 and important (**Supplementary Table1**). Phylogenomic analysis of *cydA* homologs revealed 15
103 clades of *cydA* that could be distinguished on the basis of unique sequence characteristics.¹
104 (**Supplementary Figure S1, Supplementary Tables1,2**). Four of these clades contain the
105 features that are considered part of the quinol binding site – for e.g., conserved residues Lys252,
106 Glu257 (*E.coli cydA* numbering) while the remaining do not. We inferred that the former four
107 *cydA* clades were quinol:O₂ oxidoreductases and we named them qOR1, qOR2, qOR3 and
108 qOR4a. While *cydA* of the families qOR1, qOR2 and qOR3 associate with *cydB* to form *cydAB*,
109 *cydAA*' is formed by the co-association of two distinct *cydA* clades, qOR4a and qOR4b. qOR4b
110 does not possess quinol binding site characteristics and is likely the result of a gene duplication
111 event. Phylogenetic clustering of *cydA* sequences from all 15 *cydA* clades demonstrated that 2 of
112 the remaining clades are missing quinol binding sites and instead contain a number of heme *c*
113 binding motifs (CxxCH) (**Supplementary figure S1, Supplementary multiple sequence**
114 **alignments MSA1, MSA3**). We named these enzymes OR-C1a and OR-C1b because of the
115 presence of heme *c* binding motifs. Similar to qOR4a/4b, the 'a' and 'b' attachment to the names
116 signifies that their genomic context suggests that they co-associate to form one enzyme OR-C1.

117 Eight of the remaining *cydA* clades were related and named OR-N1, OR-N2, OR-N3a, OR-N3b,
118 OR-N4a, OR-N4b, OR-N5a and OR-N5b. OR-N is named for Nitrospirota because of
119 predominance of these enzymes in that phylum (**Supplementary Figure S1, Supplementary**
120 **multiple sequence alignments MSA1, MSA2, MSA3**). Their close relationship is also
121 supported by the likely structure of the proteins of which they are a part and their genomic
122 context (**Figure 1**). We have attempted to develop a nomenclature for the cytochrome *bd*-type
123 oxygen reductase family that can be easily expanded upon. We designate 3 large families of
124 cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases – qOR, OR-C and OR-N - based on their phylogenetic
125 placement, presence/absence of biochemical signatures such as quinol and heme *c* binding site
126 features, genomic operon context and taxonomic origin. We have designated subfamilies
127 numerically starting from 1 and attached an ‘a’ or ‘b’ subscript if it is likely that two *cydA*
128 subfamilies co-associate to form one enzyme. Most of the ‘a’-type subfamilies include the proton
129 channel residues E99 and E107 (*E. coli* numbering) while ‘b’-type subfamilies do not. It appears
130 that ‘a’ and ‘b’-type subfamilies are also the result of multiple independent gene duplication
131 events within this superfamily. We will discuss the unusual number of gene duplication events
132 within the *cytbd* superfamily and the OR-C and OR-N families later in the text and in
133 **Supplementary Material** but begin with the quinol oxidizing qOR family. Sequences from this
134 family contain all the amino acids that were previously identified as forming the heme ligands,
135 proton channel, oxygen reduction site and quinol binding site^{30–32,36}.

136 **Evolution of the quinol-oxidizing cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases (qOR)**

137 To explore the evolutionary relationship between the families qOR1, qOR2, qOR3 and
138 qOR4a, which are true orthologs, we generated a maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree using
139 RAxML with the OR-C and OR-N family sequences as outgroup (**Figure 2**). Sequence features

140 can be identified to distinguish these families and to validate the above identified monophyletic
141 clades as meaningfully distinct; some of which are outlined below while the remaining features
142 are mentioned in **Supplementary Table 6**. All cydA sequences from qOR1 subfamily have 7
143 amino acids between the two conserved glutamates in the proton channel Glu99 and Glu107 such
144 as in *Escherichia coli* cydA^{26,39} while cydA sequences from qOR2, qOR3 and qOR4a typically
145 have 6 amino acids between the two conserved glutamates (ex. as between Glu101 and Glu108
146 in qOR3-subfamily cytd from *Geobacillus thermodenitrificans*³⁰). This insertion/deletion has
147 been hypothesized to lead to a reversal in the position of hemes from the qOR1-bd in
148 *Escherichia coli* to the qOR3-bd in *Geobacillus thermodenitrificans* although further research is
149 required to establish whether the reversal of heme positions is universal (further discussion on
150 the insertion/deletion in the proton channel and the Q-loop is included in **Supplementary**
151 **Material**). Sequence features which distinguish the qOR4a-subfamily cytd are insertions
152 between helices V and VI, as well as insertions in helix VIII (**Supplementary alignment MSA1,**
153 **Supplementary Table 6**) Conserved tyrosines (Tyr115 and Tyr117 *Geobacillus*
154 *thermodenitrificans* cydA numbering) are present in qOR2 and qOR3 families but not in the
155 qOR4a-subfamily, which is consistent with the close evolutionary relationship between the
156 qOR2 and qOR3-subfamilies observed in the tree topology. Other conserved sequence features,
157 unique to each family are listed in **Supplementary alignment MSA2** and **Supplementary**
158 **Table 6**.

159 Comparing the cydA phylogenetic tree and the distribution of cytochrome *bd*-type
160 oxygen reductases across Archaea and Bacteria provides some insight into the relative age of
161 these families. The qOR1 subfamily, which includes the *Escherichia coli* enzyme, at present
162 count seems to be the most widely distributed with enzymes in over 60 bacterial phyla,

163 **(Supplementary Table 2, 4)** but it is only sparsely distributed in Archaea. In fact, there are only
164 a very few representatives in Euryarchaeota and Asgardarchaeota **(Figure 2)**. It is only widely
165 distributed in Halobacterota, whose oxidative metabolism is expected to have evolved relatively
166 late⁴⁰**(Figure 3)**. This strongly suggests that the qOR1 subfamily is the oldest of the extant
167 families and that it is likely that cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases originated in Bacteria.
168 While *cydA* from the qOR2 subfamily is also fairly well-distributed and found in over 20
169 bacterial phyla, the qOR3-subfamily enzymes are almost exclusive to the Firmicutes and
170 Firmicutes_I phyla with a few enzymes in Archaea. The qOR4a-subfamily enzymes appear to be
171 specific to the Archaea **(Supplementary Tables 2, 4)**. A close evolutionary relationship between
172 the qOR2 and qOR3-subfamilies is suggested by *cydA* tree topology and identifiable sequence
173 characteristics but other trees we inferred have modelled a closer relationship between the qOR2
174 and qOR1 subfamilies (data not shown). Furthermore, the qOR1 subfamily has 7 amino acids
175 between the conserved glutamates in the proton channel, while the qOR4a, qOR2 and qOR3
176 subfamilies consistently have 6 amino acids. Lastly, enzymes from the qOR4a, qOR2 and qOR3
177 subfamilies are almost completely absent from Proteobacteria. This suggests that the qOR2,
178 qOR3 and qOR4a subfamilies diverged from the qOR1 family, Before proteobacteria diverged
179 from other bacterial phyla. While our dataset and phylogenetic analysis is consistent with the
180 above discussion, it must be noted that many lateral gene transfers have been observed within the
181 cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductase¹ which complicate evolutionary analysis.

182 As mentioned above, most *cydA* subfamilies are widely distributed within Bacteria and
183 Archaea, but the qOR4a-subfamily is unique in having sequences that belong only to Archaea. In
184 addition, the qOR4a-subfamily is unique in having a completely different subunit II (*cydA'*),
185 while the qOR1-, qOR2- and qOR3- subfamily members appear to have *cydB* homologs as their

186 subunit II. *cydB* is either not homologous to *cydA'* or is evolutionarily distant. The unique
187 ancestry of the qOR4a-subfamily enzymes which is specific to archaea raises a question about its
188 distribution within that domain.

189 **Distribution of cytochrome-bd type oxygen reductases in archaea**

190 To investigate the distribution of cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases within Archaea
191 and to contextualize the evolution of *cydA* within archaeal evolution, we mapped the presence of
192 qOR4a, qOR1, qOR2 and qOR3 subfamilies of *cydA* onto a phylogenetic tree of all archaea,
193 using a concatenated gene alignment made from the archaeal genomes in GTDB³⁷ using
194 Anvi'o⁴¹, (**Figure 2**). It is clear from this representation that most of the qOR4a-subfamily or
195 *cydAA'* belong to the class Thermoprotei within the phylum Crenarchaeota with a few *cydAA'*
196 in Nitrosphaeria, Thermoplasmatota and Archaeoglobi. Within the Thermoprotei, almost all
197 members of the order Thermoproteales contain *cydAA'* and family *Acidilobaceae* contain
198 *cydAA'* (**Supplementary Table 3**).

199 To place *cydAA'* into an ecological context we looked at their environmental distribution
200 (**Supplementary Table 5**). Microbes containing *cydAA'* are largely found in solfataric fields,
201 hot springs and deep-sea vents, suggesting that *cydAA'* might only be utilized by thermophiles,
202 such as organisms from the genus *Vulcanisaeta*, *Caldivirga*, *Thermofilum* and *Thermocladium*⁴².
203 Within Yellowstone National Park (YNP), a number of these genera are found in hypoxic,
204 sulfur/iron-rich ecosystems, although *Pyrobaculum* and *Thermofilum* have also been found in
205 more oxygenated environments. It has been suggested that members of the Thermoproteales
206 which are found in aerobic environments have a heme-copper oxygen reductase and are more
207 likely to be using aerobic respiration as their primary energetic pathway⁴². This is consistent with
208 what we observe in Thermoproteales – organisms which do not have *cydAA'* have heme-copper

209 oxygen reductases instead (**Supplementary Table 3**). However, of the 8 *Pyrobaculum* genomes
210 in the GTDB database, the three genomes that have *cydAA'*, but are missing a heme-copper
211 oxygen reductase are capable of aerobic respiration^{43,44}. This is suggestive of an adaptation based
212 on oxygen availability in the environment resulting in a trade-off between the greater energetic
213 efficiency and higher oxygen affinity of HCOs and *bd* respectively^{20,28}.

214 Expression of the *cydAA'* genes have been demonstrated in the hot springs and sulfur-
215 rich/iron-rich environments within Yellowstone National Park, using RT-PCR¹⁰ and
216 metatranscriptomics (**Table 1**). While the hot springs were typically hypoxic and sulfur-rich, the
217 iron oxide mats had higher oxygen concentration at the surface and had <0.3 μM concentrations
218 of O_2 within 1 mm. Nitrosphaeria, Acidilobaceae, Thermoproteales and Thermoplasmatota
219 expressed *cydAA'* in these environments, however it is not clear whether these microorganisms
220 were exposed to high O_2 concentrations. In fact, the *Acidolobaceae* are expected to be found in
221 the middle and bottom layers of this mat where O_2 concentrations are lower^{10,45}. All of the above
222 observations are consistent with the presence of *cydAA'* in microaerobic and hypoxic
223 environments. The obvious question that needed to be addressed is whether *cydAA'* actually
224 functions as an oxygen reductase. This was accomplished by biochemically characterizing the
225 *CydAA'* from *C. maquilingensis*.

226 **Partial purification and spectroscopic characterization of the *cydAA'* from *C.*** 227 ***maquilingensis***

228 The *cydAA'* operon from *Caldivirga maquilingensis* consists of two genes – *cydA* and
229 *cydA'*. There are no additional subunits encoded within the operon corresponding to *cydX/cydY*
230 or *cydS*, which are associated, respectively, with *E.coli cydAB* and *G.thermodenitrificans*
231 *cydAB*. Homologues of these subunits are not apparent in the *C. maquilingensis* genome. We

232 cloned the operon into the pET22b vector and expressed it in an *Escherichia coli* strain in which
233 both bd-I and bd-II were deleted (CBO - C43, $\Delta cydA \Delta appB$)¹⁷. The enzyme, cytochrome bb'
234 oxygen reductase from *Caldivirga* was engineered to have numerous different tags –
235 6xHistidine, FLAG, GST and GFP. None of these tags were successful, either because of a poor
236 yield of protein or because of the inability of the affinity-tagged proteins to bind to columns with
237 their corresponding epitopes. A GFP-tagged protein was used to verify the expression in *E.coli*
238 of CydAA' from *Caldivirga maquilingensis*. The presence of the protein could be observed by
239 following the fluorescence of the protein under UV light. Since subunit II was tagged with GFP,
240 it confirms the presence of subunit II in the preparation (**Supplementary Figure 3**). In addition,
241 the purified protein was verified by mass spectrometry with many peptides recovered from
242 subunit I. (**Supplementary Figure 4**). Gel electrophoresis of a partially purified CydAA' shows
243 two bands of the sizes expected for CydA and CydA' (**Supplementary Figure 5**).

244 A UV-visible spectrum of CydAA' in the reduced-minus-oxidized state reveals the
245 absence of the heme *d* absorbance peak. The presence of heme *b*₅₉₅ is also not apparent in the
246 spectrum since the maxima at 595 nm and the Soret peak at 440 nm are also missing. This could
247 indicate that heme *b*₅₉₅ is low spin in this preparation. Hemes were extracted from CydAA' of
248 *Caldivirga maquilingensis* as described previously⁴⁶. Only *b*-type hemes are present in the
249 enzyme (**Figure 4**). This was verified by analyzing the hemes in the protein by LC-MS (data not
250 shown).

251 **CydAA' from *Caldivirga maquilingensis* has oxygen reduction activity**

252 The oxygen reduction activity of CydAA' was tested using a Clark electrode, with
253 reduced coenzyme Q1 (reduced using DTT) as the electron donor. (**Table 2, Figure 4**) At 37 °C
254 the specific activity is ~330 e⁻/s (/heme *b*). While this is not as high as the activity of *E. coli* *bd* at

255 the same temperature (over 1000 e⁻/s), the enzymatic activity is substantial, particularly
256 considering the fact that the source of the enzyme is a thermophilic organism whose growth is
257 optimum at 65 °C. The oxygen reductase activity of CydAA' is insensitive to the presence of 250
258 μM KCN, a concentration of cyanide that would completely inhibit the activity of heme-copper
259 oxygen reductases¹. Since CydAA' was expressed in the *bd*-deletion mutant, *E.coli* strain CBO,
260 the only other potential oxygen reductase in this preparation is *bo*₃ ubiquinol oxygen reductase⁴⁷
261 so the lack of cyanide sensitivity confirms that our purification protocol has separated the two
262 enzymes. The enzyme is also susceptible to Aurachin AC1-10, a known inhibitor of cytochrome
263 *bd* at concentrations as low as 250 nM⁴⁸. We did not test for other possible functions for *cydAA'*
264 such as catalase activity⁴⁹ or peroxidase activity⁵⁰.

265 We previously noted that *cydAA'* is typically found in organisms that perform sulfur-
266 based chemistry such as sulfur reduction and sulfate reduction (**Supplementary Table 5**) and
267 use DMSO-reductase like enzymes which use molybdopterin as a cofactor¹⁰. Combining the
268 above observation with the demonstrated oxygen reductase activity of *CydAA'*, it is likely that
269 the role of *CydAA'* is to detoxify oxygen to protect oxygen-sensitive enzymes involved in sulfur
270 metabolism. This is similar to its expected role in *Desulfovibrio*²⁴ and in the protection of
271 nitrogenases during the process of nitrogen fixation²².

272 It is striking that oxygen reduction is conserved in the qOR4a-subfamily despite the
273 replacement of *CydB* with *CydA'* and therefore, it is worth considering the similarities and
274 differences between *E.coli* *CydAB* and *C.maquilingensis* *CydAA'*.

275 **Structural differences between *CydAB* and *CydAA'* inferred from homology models**

276 To aid in the understanding of differences between CydAA' and other CydAB, we used
277 multiple sequence alignments (**Supplementary Figure 2**) and structural models of cydA and
278 cydA' from *Caldivirga maquilingsensis* (**Supplementary Figure 7**, pdb files are available in
279 supplementary material). The most drastic difference between the *E.coli* and *C.maquilingsensis*
280 enzymes is the absence of cydB. cydB in *E.coli* was shown to contain the oxygen diffusion
281 channel^{31,32} and an additional proton channel leading to heme *d*, bound to subunit I³⁰⁻³². In *C.*
282 *maquilingsensis* the second subunit is cydA' which is 26 % similar to cydA. Only the first two
283 helices are well conserved between these subunits in *C. maquilingsensis* whereas other qOR4a-
284 type cydA' and qOR4b-type cydA, such as in *A. fulgidus* are similar in the first 4 helices. To
285 substitute for the proton channel that exists in cydB, conserved residues in cydA' such as Thr71,
286 Thr74 and His126 might form a different proton channel. cydA' probably hosts an oxygen
287 diffusion channel to substitute for the loss of the one in cydB but it is not possible to tell from the
288 sequence alignment or structural model where in the subunit this might be. Interestingly, cydA'
289 retains His19 which has been implicated as a ligand to heme *d* and heme *b*₅₉₅ in *E. coli* and *G.*
290 *thermodenitrificans* cytbd respectively, which might suggest that an additional heme might bind
291 to the cydA' subunit but we cannot verify or refute this from our protein preparation. A number
292 of mutations are observed around the binuclear-active site in subunit I, which might affect the
293 midpoint potential of the heme or the proton-coupled electron transfer mechanisms.

294 **Evolution of cydA' and other cydA homologs missing the quinol binding site**

295 As mentioned earlier, a phylogenomic analysis of cydA homologs revealed two new
296 families, OR-C and OR-N that share the first four helices containing the oxygen reduction site.
297 The cydA subunit of OR-C *bd*-type oxygen reductases typically has eight transmembrane helices
298 and an extended C-terminal periplasmic portion that binds hemes *c*, strongly suggesting that a

299 cytochrome *c* could be an electron donor to this family. Adjacent to the OR-C1a-type *cydA* is
300 OR-C1b which also has 8 transmembrane helices. The OR-N3a/b, -N4a/b and -N5a/b family
301 *cydA* typically have 10 helices while the OR-N2 and -N1 have 14 transmembrane helices. OR-N
302 enzymes have been previously noted in *Nitrospira*⁵¹ and *Chloroflexi* (N5a/b)⁵². They were
303 recently shown to be expressed in manganese oxidizing autotrophic microorganism, *Candidatus*
304 *manganitrophus noduliformans* (N2/N1) from the phylum *Nitrospira*⁵³ and is implicated in
305 oxygen reduction. Greater details on the OR-C and OR-N families, including distribution,
306 alignments and conserved amino acids are found in **Supplementary Material**. The OR-C and
307 OR-N families are widely distributed in Bacteria. OR-C is present only in Bacteria, while OR-N
308 has very few representatives in Archaea (**Supplementary Table 2, Supplementary Table 4**).

309 A phylogenetic tree of all *cydA* clades suggest that the OR-C and OR-N families are
310 more closely related to qOR4b than the other qOR subfamilies (**Figure 1**). There are also
311 conserved sequence features that suggest that the OR-C and OR-N families are more closely
312 related to the qOR3 and qOR4a families than the qOR1 family including the deletion in the
313 proton channel between the conserved glutamates E101 and E108 like in *G.thermodenitrificans*
314 *cytbd*, and the presence of nearby conserved tyrosines (Y123 and Y125 in the
315 *G.thermodenitrificans* *cytbd* numbering). (**Supplementary table 6**). This suggests that the OR-C
316 and OR-N families diverged from either of these two families and evolved after the qOR
317 reductases. The evolutionary analysis within this family is complicated by the high number of
318 independent gene duplication events. It appears that qOR4b, OR-N5b, OR-N3b, OR-N4b and
319 OR-C1b subfamilies were the result of gene duplication events (**Figure 1**). In fact, OR-3a and
320 OR-3b *cydA* share 50 % sequence similarity. Additionally, the presence of OR-N1-type and OR-
321 N2-type *cydA* in the same operon in some Bacteria and the extent of similarity between them (up

322 to 40%) suggest that they were part of yet another gene duplication. The importance of gene
323 duplication in protein evolution and functional diversification is well-known⁵⁴. The nature this
324 process has taken in the cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases is interesting - a majority of the
325 *cydA* paralogs have maintained the architecture associated with oxygen reduction and all of them
326 have maintained the His19 ligand to the active site heme *d* (as per the *E. coli* structure).
327 Additionally, all the above-mentioned duplication events appear to have resulted in a complex of
328 multiple *cydA*-like proteins with the possible exception of OR-N1 and OR-N2. OR-N2 is often
329 found in operons without another *cydA*-like protein (**Figure 1**). His19 and heme *d* is found near
330 the interface of subunit I and subunit II in the *cydAB* structures and the complete conservation of
331 these features with a change in their interacting partner, is suggestive of the process of
332 duplication and interface evolution recently investigated in hemoglobin⁵⁵. Future work in the
333 biochemical and structural characterization of the various *cytd* families will help us develop
334 insight into the driving forces behind the evolution of this superfamily. Presently, it is clear that
335 the defining characteristic of the *cytd* superfamily is the di-heme oxygen reduction site found in
336 the first four helices of *cydA* homologs. Our analysis suggests that the *bd* protein scaffold was
337 diversified multiple times to perform O₂ chemistry in unique environments, possibly to function
338 with different electron donors.

339 **Conclusions**

340 The superfamily of cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases is one of only two oxygen reductase
341 superfamilies that are widely distributed in Bacteria and Archaea. In the current work we have
342 demonstrated the large diversity of this superfamily using phylogenomics. In addition, we
343 biochemically characterized the CydAA' from *C. maquilingsis* showing that *cydAA'* is a
344 robust oxygen reductase. The isolated CydAA' contained only *b* hemes and no heme *d*. Hence,

345 *C. maquilingsis* CydAA' is a *bb'*-type oxygen reductase and is the first such enzyme to be
346 purified and demonstrated to be a functional oxygen reductase. Finally, we demonstrate that
347 significant diversification of the *cydA* has occurred with the conserved oxygen reduction site
348 being adapted to multiple functions within various ecological niches.

349 **Materials and Methods**

350 **Phylogenomic analysis of cytochrome *bd* sequences in the GTDB database**

351 In order to reconcile the protein phylogeny of cytochrome *bd* oxygen reductases with species
352 taxonomy, we identified and mapped all *cytbd* to their respective species within the GTDB
353 database release⁸⁹³⁷. All *cydA* sequences were extracted from GTDB genomes using BLAST⁵⁶ with an
354 e-value of 1e-1. The sequences were then aligned using muscle⁵⁷ using the optional maxiters cut-off of 2.
355 The alignment was visualized on Jalview⁵⁸ and sequences were filtered to remove *cydA* sequences
356 without characteristics of the quinol binding site or the proton channel. This filtration step was used to
357 remove subunits II but also resulted in the loss of a few subunits I within qOR1 that appear to have lost
358 the proton channel. The filtered set of *cydA* sequences were then classified using a Hidden Markov
359 Model (HMM)-based classifier trained to identify the families – qOR1, qOR2, qOR3, qOR4a, OR-C and
360 OR-N. The HMMs for those subfamilies and families are available in the supplementary material. The
361 presence or absence of *cytbd* in each species was tabulated and is available as **Supplementary Table 2**.
362 The all archaea species tree used to analyze the distribution of cytochrome *bd* oxygen reductases in
363 archaea was generated using Anvi'o⁴¹. A multiple sequence alignment was created by extracting all
364 ribosomal proteins from archaeal genomes using the HMM source Archaea_76. This alignment was then
365 used to generate a phylogenetic tree using FastTree as per Anvi'o's default settings. This tree was
366 annotated using the data available in **Supplementary Table 4** on the iTOL server⁵⁹.

367 The protein phylogeny of cytb_d sequences was inferred using sequences of cytb_d subunit I, cydA. These
368 were extracted from a taxonomically diverse set of genomes and metagenomes from IMG⁶⁰, filtered with
369 UCLUST⁶¹ using a percentage identity cut-off of 0.6 and aligned using MUSCLE. The multiple sequence
370 alignment was used to infer a phylogenetic tree using RAxML⁶² on the CIPRES Science Gateway⁶³ with
371 the PROTGAMMA substitution model, DAYHOFF matrix specification and a bootstrap analysis with
372 100 iterations.

373 **Preparation of construct for of cytochrome *bd* oxidase from *Escherichia coli***

374 The genes encoding the *bb'* oxygen reductase (Gene Object ID: 641276193-4) from *C.*
375 *maquilensis* were PCR amplified using primers purchased from Integrated DNA Technology.
376 The genes were cloned into pET22b (Invitrogen) using 5' NdeI and 3' XhoI cut sites. The
377 inherent 6-Histidine tag in the vector was used to purify the protein. The vector was engineered
378 to use EGFP, GST or FLAG tags alternatively. The tag was added to subunit II in case of EGFP
379 and FLAG; a tag on both subunit I and II was attempted for the His-tag and GST tag. The
380 expression vector, along with pRARE (Novagen) was then transformed into (CBO
381 Δ cydB Δ appC::kan) for protein expression.

382 **Cell Growth and Protein Purification**

383 A single colony was inoculated into 5 ml of LB (yeast extract and tryptone were
384 purchased from Acumedia and NaCl from Sigma-Aldrich) with 100 μ g/ml Ampicillin and
385 incubated with shaking at 37 °C. The following day, the 5 ml culture was inoculated in 300 ml
386 LB with 100 μ g/ml Ampicillin and grown overnight at 37 °C. On the third day, 10 ml of the
387 secondary culture was inoculated into twenty four of 2L flasks containing 1 L LB with 100
388 μ g/ml Ampicillin, each. The flasks were incubated at 37 °C while shaking at 200 rpm, until the

389 OD600 of the culture reached 0.6. The temperature was then lowered to 30 °C, and the culture
390 was incubated for 8 hrs or overnight.

391 The fully-grown cultures were then pelleted by spinning down at 8000 rpm for 8 minutes,
392 in 500 ml centrifuge bottles. The harvested cells were then resuspended in 100 mM Tris-HCl, 10
393 mM MgSO₄, pH 8 with DNaseI and a protease inhibitor cocktail from Sigma. The cells were
394 then homogenized using a Bamix Homogenizer, and passed through a Microfluidizer cell at 100
395 psi, three times, to lyse the cells. The soluble fraction of the lysate was then separated from the
396 insoluble by spinning down the lysate at 8000 rpm. Membranes were extracted from the soluble
397 fraction by centrifuging the soluble fraction at 42000 rpm for 4 hours.

398 Membranes were resuspended in 20 mM Tris, 300 mM NaCl, pH 8 and then solubilized
399 with 1% DDM or 1% SML. The solubilized membranes were spun down at 42000 rpm for 45
400 minutes to remove unsolubilized membranes. The supernatant was stirred with Ni-NTA resin for
401 1 hr and then loaded onto a column. The flow through was shown to contain the cydAA' because
402 of its poor affinity for the nickel column. The flow through was then diluted in buffer to contain
403 50 mM salt and then loaded onto a DEAE column equilibrated with 20 mM Tris, pH 8, 0.05%
404 DDM. An elution gradient was run between 0-500 mM NaCl and cydAA' was partially purified
405 from the fraction with higher absorbance at A_{412nm}, corresponding to the solet peak for heme *b*
406 and used for assays and spectroscopy. This is similar to the first step for purification of
407 *Escherichia coli*.

408 **UV-visible spectroscopy**

409 Spectra of the protein were obtained using an Agilent DW-2000 Spectrophotometer in the
410 UV-visible region. The cuvette used has a pathlength of 1cm. The oxidized spectrum was taken

411 of the air-oxidized protein. The enzyme was reduced with dithionite to obtain a reduced
412 spectrum.

413 **Collection of Pyridine Hemochrome spectra and Heme Analysis**

414 For the wildtype or mutants enzymes, 35 μ l of the enzyme solution was mixed with an
415 equal volume of 40% pyridine with 200 mM NaOH. The oxidized spectra was measured in the
416 presence of ferricyanide and the reduced in the presence of dithionite. The values of heme *b* were
417 calculated according to the matrix suggested in⁴⁶. The concentration of heme *d* was estimated
418 using the extinction coefficient $\epsilon_{(629-670nm)} = 25 \text{ mM}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

419 **Measurement of oxygen reductase activity**

420 Oxygen reductase activity was measured using the Mitocell Miniature Respirometer
421 MT200A (Harvard Apparatus). 5 mM DTT and 350 μ M Q1 were used as electron donors to
422 measure oxygen reduction by *C.maquilingensis* cydAA' and *E.coli* cytochrome *bd*. 150-250 μ M
423 KCN was used to test the cyanide sensitivity of the enzymes.

424 **Structural modelling of cydAA' from *Caldivirga maquilingensis***

425 Sequences of subunit I from *Geobacillus thermodenitrificans* and *Caldivirga*
426 *maquilingensis* were aligned using a larger alignment comprising many hundreds of *bb'*
427 sequences made with the software MUSCLE. This alignment was used as to create a model of
428 subunit I from *Caldivirga* using the *Geobacillus* subunit I as a template on the Swiss Model
429 server. A model of subunit II was also created using subunit I as a template. (The alignments are
430 provided as Supplementary Figures S4 and S5) The model was then visualized using VMD
431 1.9.2beta1.

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585 **List of Tables**

586 **Table 1. Expression of *cydAA'* in the environment estimated using publicly available**
587 **metatranscriptomes.** *cydA* homologs from the metatranscriptomic data available on the IMG website
588 were extracted using a BLASTP cutoff of 1e-5. The short fragments found in metatranscriptomic data
589 were matched with the full corresponding protein sequence based on the best hit in the NCBI database.

590 **Table 2. Oxygen reduction activity of *E. coli cydAB* and *C. maquilingensis cydAA'* in the presence**
591 **of 350 μ M coenzyme Q1 and 5 mM DTT.**

592 **Supplementary Table 1. Total number of various *cydA* families and subfamilies in the GTDB.** All
593 *cydA* sequences were extracted from GTDB genomes using BLAST with an e-value of 1e-1. The
594 sequences were then filtered to remove *cydA* sequences without characteristics of the quinol binding site
595 and then classified using a Hidden Markov Model (HMM)-based classifier trained to identify the families
596 – qOR1, qOR2, qOR3, qOR4a, OR-C, OR-N. The total number of *cydA* sequences in each of these
597 families and subfamilies were summed to generate this table.

598 **Supplementary Table 2. Distribution of *cydA* subfamilies by genome in GTDB.** All *cydA* sequences
599 were extracted from GTDB genomes using BLAST with an e-value of 1e-1. The sequences were then
600 filtered to remove *cydA* sequences without characteristics of the quinol binding site and then classified
601 using a Hidden Markov Model (HMM)-based classifier trained to identify the families – qOR1, qOR2,
602 qOR3, qOR4a, OR-C, OR-N. Labelled *cydA* sequences were then mapped back to each species to
603 generate this table.

604 **Supplementary Table 3. Distribution of *cydA* subfamilies by phyla in GTDB.** All *cydA* sequences
605 were extracted from GTDB genomes using BLAST with an e-value of 1e-1. The sequences were then
606 filtered to remove *cydA* sequences without characteristics of the quinol binding site and then classified
607 using a Hidden Markov Model (HMM)-based classifier trained to identify the families – qOR1, qOR2,

608 qOR3, qOR4a, OR-C, OR-N. Labelled cydA sequences were then mapped back to each species and the
609 cydA sequences from each family/subfamily were summed across each phyla.

610 **Supplementary Table 4. Distribution of quinol oxidizing cytbD in archaeal genomes found in the**
611 **GTDB.** All cydA sequences were extracted from GTDB genomes using BLAST with an e-value of 1e-1.
612 The sequences were then filtered to remove cydA sequences without characteristics of the quinol binding
613 site and then classified using a Hidden Markov Model (HMM)-based classifier trained to identify the
614 families – qOR1, qOR2, qOR3, qOR4a. Labelled cydA sequences were then mapped back to each species
615 within the domain archaea to generate this table.

616 **Supplementary Table 5. Growth conditions and temperature for organisms containing cydAA’.**
617 Growth conditions, sensitivity to oxygen and temperature are detailed with references in this table to see
618 if there is a pattern to the conditions under which cydAA’ is typically found.

619 **Supplementary Table 6. Conserved features residues identified in cytbD families without quinol**
620 **oxidizing features - qOR4b and subfamilies OR-C1a, OR-N1, OR-N2, OR-N3a, OR-N3b, OR-N4a,**
621 **OR-N4b, OR-N5a and OR-N5b.** Conserved residues were identified using multiple sequence alignments
622 of cydA sequences from the above families. The presence or absence of the conserved residues for the
623 three hemes, proton channel, quinol binding site are marked.

624 **Supplementary Table 7. Number of heme c binding sites in cytbD sequences from OR-C1a/OR-C1b**
625 **subfamilies.** Number of heme c binding sites were counted using a python script that identifies the
626 number of CXXCH motifs in each protein sequence. The OR-C1a sequences from Desulfovibrionia
627 appear to have the greatest number of heme c binding sites – up to 8.

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631 **List of multiple sequence alignments**

632 **Supplementary multiple sequences alignment MSA1.** Multiple sequence alignment of sequences from
633 *cydA* subfamilies qOR1, qOR2, qOR3, qOR4a, qOR4b and families OR-C1a and OR-N. OR-N is not
634 split into subfamilies in this alignment. Various families and subfamilies are grouped when visualized in
635 Jalview and amino acids are colored using a ClustalX algorithm with a greater than 90 % identity. This
636 alignment was manually curated to improve the alignment and reduce the number of gaps.

637 **Supplementary multiple sequences alignment MSA2.** Multiple sequence alignment of sequences from
638 *cydA* subfamilies qOR1, qOR2, qOR3, qOR4a, qOR4b. OR-C1a, OR-N1, OR-N2. OR-N3a/3b, OR-
639 N4a/4b, OR-N5a and OR-N5b. Various families and subfamilies are grouped when visualized in Jalview
640 and amino acids are colored using a ClustalX algorithm with a greater than 90 % identity.

641 **Supplementary multiple sequences alignment MSA3.** Multiple sequence alignment of sequences from
642 all 15 *cydA* subfamilies qOR1, qOR2, qOR3, qOR4a, qOR4b. OR-C1a, OR-C1b OR-N1, OR-N2. OR-
643 N3a/3b, OR-N4a/4b, OR-N5a and OR-N5b.

644

645 **List of Figures**

646 **Figure 1. Families within the cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductase superfamily.** The cytochrome-*bd*
647 type oxygen reductase superfamily is divided into 3 families – qOR, OR-C and OR-N, primarily defined
648 by the presence of the quinol binding site in the first, the presence of heme *c* binding site in the second
649 and the abundance of OR-N enzymes in nitrospirota. The above schematic represents the various
650 subfamilies within each family, which are defined by the phylogenetic clustering shown in Supplementary
651 Figure 1). The operon context and putative complex arrangement of each *cydA*-containing enzyme is also
652 shown with a reference protein accession number and source microorganism. The potential gene

653 duplication events are highlighted in yellow. A legend is also provided to mark the related conserved
654 domains in the same colors and redox co-factors such hemes and iron-sulfur clusters.

655 **Figure 2. Phylogeny of quinol-oxidizing cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases.** Sequences of cytb
656 subunit I, cydA were extracted from a taxonomically diverse set of genomes and metagenomes from
657 IMG, filtered with UCLUST using a percentage identity cut-off of 0.6 and aligned using MUSCLE. The
658 multiple sequence alignment was used to infer a phylogenetic tree using RAxML. The RAxML tree
659 topology was similar to that inferred by PhyML and Mr. Bayes. The cydA sequences which do not
660 contain the quinol binding site, from the OR-C and OR-N families as well as qOR4b, were used as the
661 outgroup. At least four monophyletic clades of typical cydA sequences that contain the O₂- and quinol
662 binding site could be defined – qOR1, qOR2, qOR3 and qOR4a. The long branch within the qOR1 clade
663 comprises a number of cytb which are highly similar to enzymes from this clade but are missing the
664 proton channel. Subunit I of cydAA' is from the qOR4a-family.

665 **Figure 3. Distribution of cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases in Archaea.** Concatenated gene
666 alignments were made from the archaea genomes in GTDB using Anvi'o. A phylogenetic tree was made
667 from the concatenated gene alignments using FastTree. All cydA sequences were extracted from GTDB
668 genomes using BLAST with an e-value of 1e-1. The sequences were then filtered to remove cydA
669 sequences without characteristics of the quinol binding site and then classified using a Hidden Markov
670 Model (HMM)-based classifier trained to identify the families – qOR1, qOR2, qOR3 and qOR4a. cydA
671 sequences from each family were then mapped back to each species, and visualized along with the species
672 tree on the iTOL server. Most phyla of the domain archaea were distinguished by color and a few classes
673 of the phylum *Crenarchaeota* were labelled to emphasize the presence of cydAA'. It is clear that cydAA'
674 is almost exclusive to the order *Thermoproteales* and *Desulfurococcales*.

675 **Figure 4. Biochemical characteristics of cydAA' from *Caldivirga maquilingsis*.** (a and b.) UV-
676 visible spectra of cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductase purified from *Escherichia coli* and *Caldivirga*
677 *maquilingsis*, respectively. C. Pyridine hemochrome spectra of cydAA' from *Caldivirga*

678 *maquilingensis* revealing the absence of heme *d* in the partially purified enzyme. D. Oxygen reductase
679 activity of cydAA' from *C. maquilingensis* shows that it is highly active and cyanide insensitive. It is
680 sensitive to Aurachin C1-10, a quinol binding site inhibitor which also inhibits *E. coli* cytochrome *bd*.

681 **List of supplementary figures**

682 **Supplementary Figure 1. Phylogenetic clustering of all cydA-like sequences.** cydA sequences were
683 extracted from a taxonomically diverse set of genomes and metagenomes from IMG and aligned using
684 MUSCLE. The multiple sequence alignment was used to infer a phylogenetic tree using RAxML. The
685 RAxML tree topology was similar to that inferred by PhyML. The three families, qOR, OR-C and OR-N
686 are clearly separated, and 15 subfamilies were designated based on the clustering observed and
687 identifiable sequence characteristics.

688 **Supplementary Figure 2. Sequence characteristics of qOR4a-cydA.** a. An unrooted phylogenetic tree
689 of cydA sequences from archaea including both qOR4a-type cydA and cydA of the qOR1, qOR2 and
690 qOR3 (in red) types was generated using RaxML. qOR4a type cydA have some internal clusters,
691 identified with a shaded box in green, blue and purple. Characteristics unique to the cluster, when
692 identifiable were indicated. For e.g., the presence of the insertion in the proton channel. b. A multiple
693 sequence alignment of the sequences present in the above clusters, the background of each sequence
694 cluster shaded in red, green, blue and purple according to the colors in the tree in a. Conserved residues
695 corresponding to the ligands, proton channel and a few residues expected to participate in proton-coupled
696 electron transfer are marked. Significantly, several qOR4a-type cydA have a lysine substituted for M393
697 (*E. coli* numbering) in the active site suggesting an alteration of the midpoint potential of heme *b*₅₅₈ in
698 those enzymes.

699 **Supplementary Figure 3. GFP-tagged cydAA' from *Caldivirga maquilingensis*.** The presence of
700 cydAA' during protein purification protocol was verified by looking at elution fractions under UV-light.
701 Three glass vials containing (from leftmost) elution buffer, an elution fraction containing GFP-tagged

702 cydAA' and a fraction without cydAA' are compared. The green fluorescence in the cydAA' containing
703 fraction is easily distinguishable.

704 **Supplementary Figure 4. Mass spectrometric identification of subunit I of cydAA' from *Caldivirga***
705 ***maquilingensis*.** Partially purified cydAA' was digested with Chymotrypsin and the digested peptides
706 were separated by HPLC and infused into a Thermo LTQ Velos ETD Pro Mass Spectrometer. The mass
707 fragments recovered after MS/MS fragmentation were subject to analysis by Mascot Distiller and Mascot
708 version 2.4. The analysis revealed peptides from subunit I of cydAA' in the protein preparation with a
709 MASCOT score of 85.

710 **Supplementary Figure 5. SDS-PAGE gel electrophoresis of partially purified cydAA'.** A. Cell lysate
711 was loaded onto a Ni-NTA column (Lane 1). The flow-through was loaded onto a Q-sepharose column
712 and subject to elution by changing the salt concentration from 0-500 mM NaCl. Three elution peaks
713 (Lanes 2,3,4) which absorbed at 412 nm were pooled, concentrated and diluted to 50 mM NaCl and then
714 loaded onto a DEAE-Sepharose column and subject to elution under a salt gradient from 0-500 mM NaCl.
715 The elution fraction (Lane 6) which absorbed at 412 nm was pooled and concentrated and used to identify
716 electrophoresis patterns. Assays and spectra were obtained with a sample that was subject to a simpler
717 purification protocol – Ni-NTA followed by DEAE-sepharose because the yield was poor from the 3-step
718 purification protocol. Lane 5 was the Precision Plus Dual Color Standard (Bio-Rad). Subunits I and II are
719 similar in size to the subunits from *E.coli* cytbd (B). B. Electrophoresis patterns of purified *E.coli* cytb₃
720 and cytbd.

721 **Supplementary Figure 6. Sequence characteristics of qOR4b-cydA from *Caldivirga maquilingensis***
722 **(also referred to as cydA').** a. A topological representation of cydA' using HMMTOP. The amino acids
723 conserved above 90% identity are shaded in black. b. A multiple sequence alignment of sequences from
724 qOR4a-cydA and qOR4b-cydA family. The former sequences are highlighted with the purple background
725 while the latter are highlighted with a gray background. The absence of the proton channel residues E99
726 and E109 is apparent. The ligand to heme *d*, His19 and the proton channel residue H126 are completely

727 conserved. The ligands to heme b_{558} (H186 and M393) and other amino acids typically associated with the
728 quinol binding site in helices V-VIII are not well conserved. Two threonines Thr71 and Thr74 in
729 *C.maquilingensis* which take the place of Leu71 and Glu74 are completely conserved.

730 **Supplementary Figure 7. Structural model of subunits I from *Geobacillus thermodenitrificans***
731 **and *Caldivirga maquilingensis* respectively.** The homology model of cydA from *Caldivirga*
732 *maquilingensis* was generated using the Swiss PDB viewer and visualized using VMD. The boxed
733 regions reveal more polar residues in *Geobacillus*, represented by red and blue, while aromatic
734 residues are colored in green.

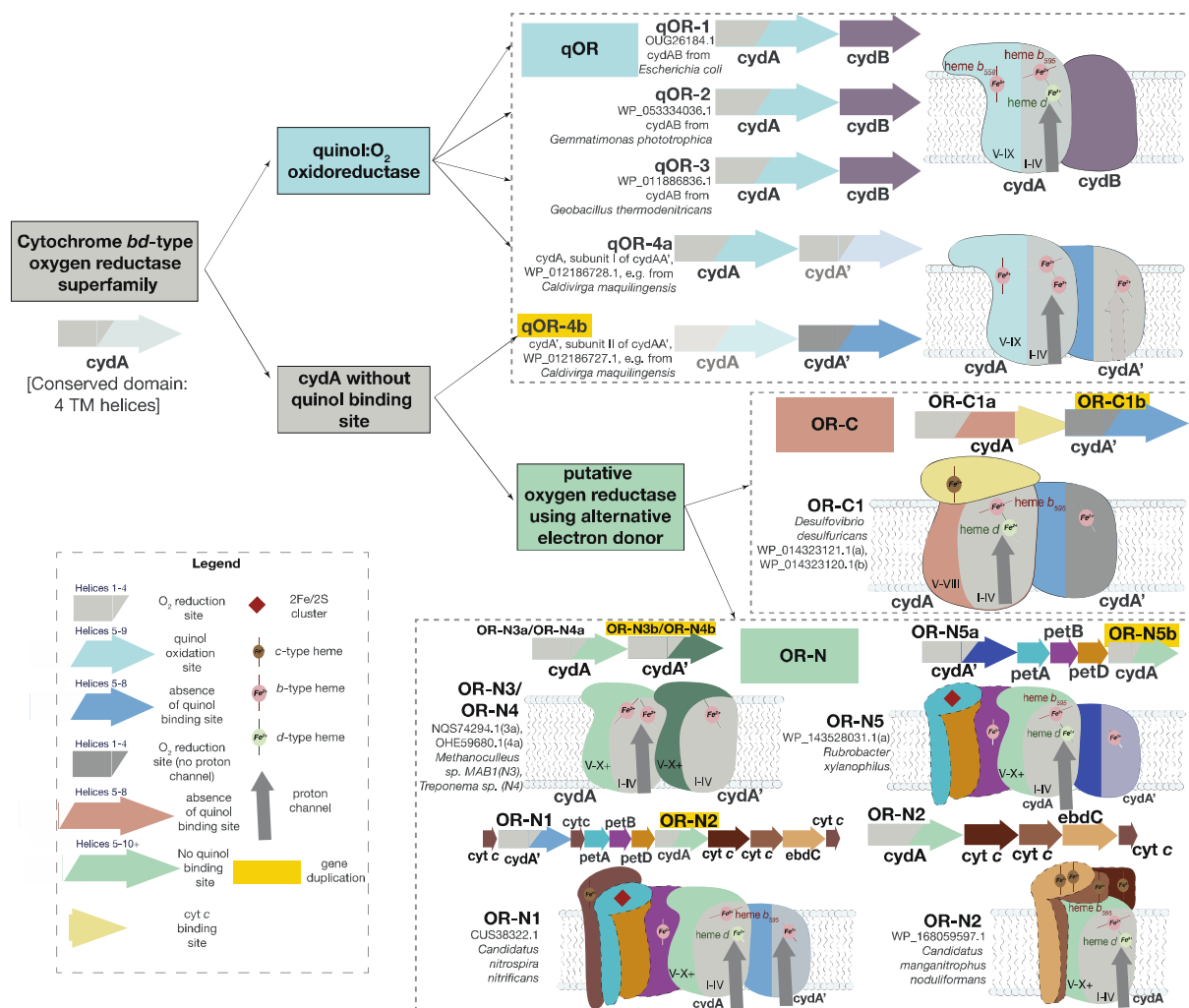


Figure 1. Diversity of the cytochrome *bd* oxygen reductase superfamily. The cytochrome *bd* oxygen reductase superfamily is divided into 3 families based on phylogenetics and structure – qOR, OR-C and OR-N. qOR is defined by the presence of the quinol binding site in subunit I (*cydA*). OR-C is missing the quinol binding site but has a heme *c* binding site in subunit I. OR-N is also missing the quinol binding site and is commonly found in operons containing alternative electron donors. Various subfamilies within each family are also shown (Supplementary Figure 1). The operon context and putative protein complex arrangement of each *cydA*-containing enzyme is also shown with a reference protein accession number and source microorganism. The potential gene duplication events are highlighted in yellow. A legend is also provided to mark the related conserved domains in the same colors and redox co-factors such as hemes and iron-sulfur clusters. A more detailed explanation of the figure including a description of the various subunits and characteristics of the families and subfamilies is provided in **Supplementary Material**.

Phylogeny of *cydA*

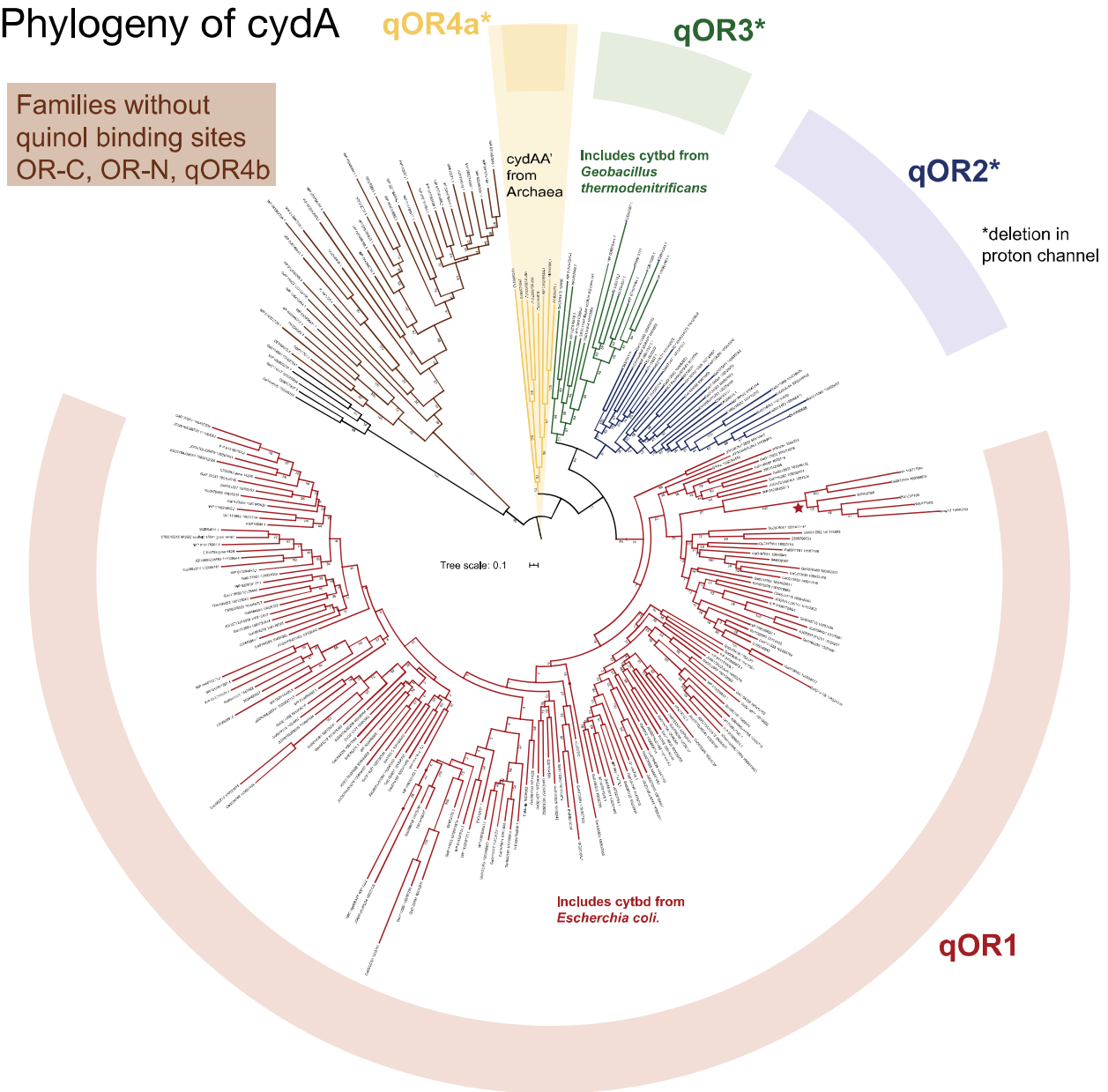


Figure 2. Phylogeny of quinol-oxidizing cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases. At least four clades of quinol-oxidizing cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases could be identified – qOR1, qOR2, qOR-3 and qOR-4a. The long branch within the qOR1 clade (red star) is comprised of sequences missing the proton channel that is conserved in all other quinol-oxidizing cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases. Subunit I of *cydAA'* is from the qOR4a family. The cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases that do not contain the quinol binding site (OR-C, OR-N, and qOR-4b families) were used as the outgroup.

Distribution of cytbd in Archaea

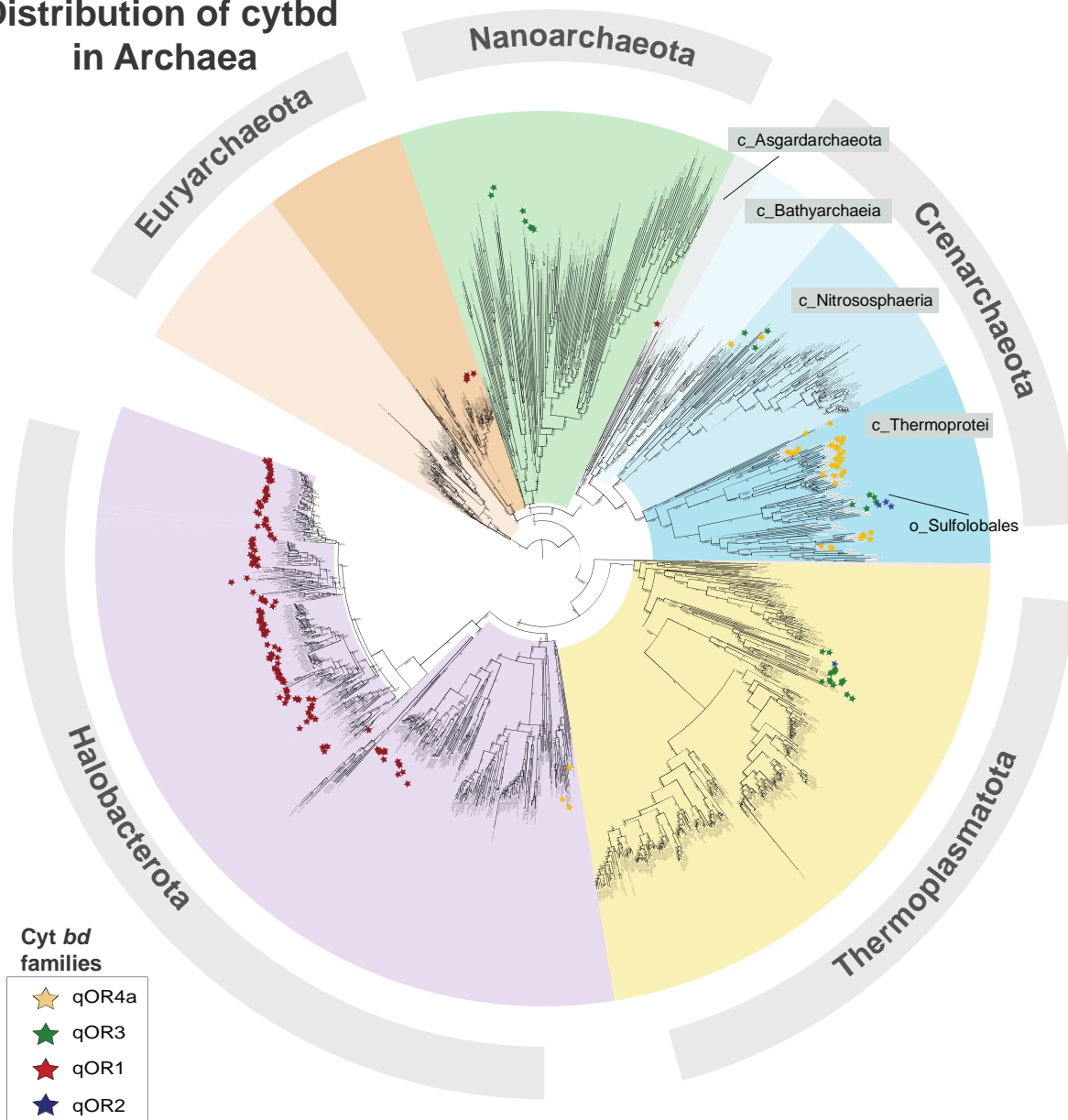


Figure 3. Distribution of cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases in Archaea. Cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases are sporadically distributed throughout the Archaea. The qOR4a family (*cydAA'*) is predominantly found within the *Thermoproteales* and *Desulfurococcales* orders of Crenarchaeota.

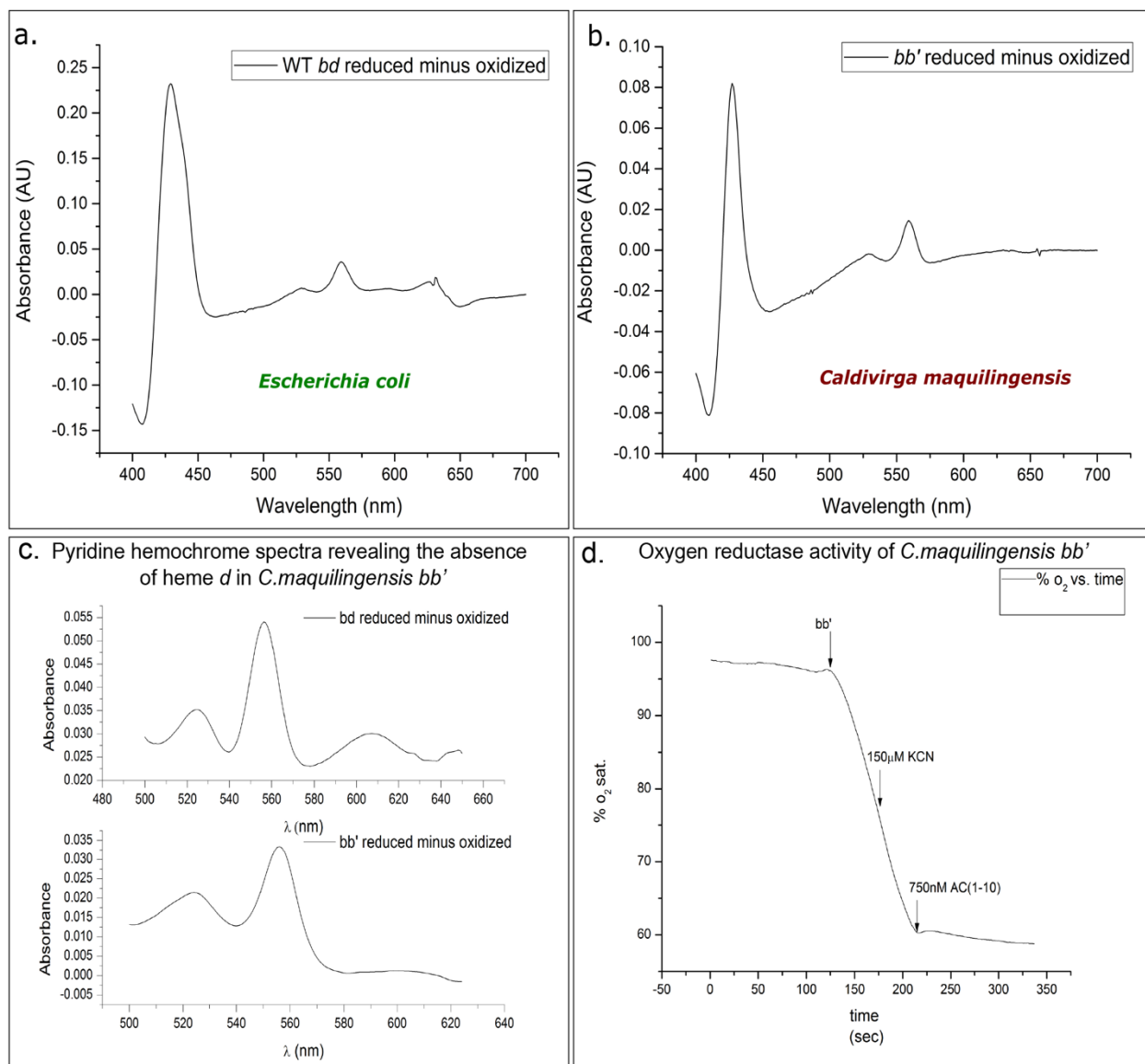


Figure 4. Biochemical characteristics of cytochrome *bb'* (cytbb') from *Caldivirga maquilingensis*.

(A and B.) UV-visible spectra of cytochrome *bd*-type oxygen reductases purified from *Escherichia coli* and *Caldivirga maquilingensis*, respectively. C. Pyridine hemechromes spectra of *Caldivirga maquilingensis cytbb'* reveals the absence of heme *d* in the partially purified enzyme. D. Oxygen reductase activity of cytbb' from *C. maquilingensis* shows that it is highly active and cyanide insensitive. It is sensitive to Aurachin C1-10, a quinol binding site inhibitor which also inhibits *E. coli* cytochrome *bd*.

Table 1. cydAA' is expressed in many environments. Protein expression is estimated based on read counts in metatranscriptomes.

Genome_ID	Genome_Name	Locus_Tag	Reads	Best BLAST Hit NCBI	Organism
3300003719	Ferric microbial mat communities from Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA - One Hundred Spring Plain (OSP_B) (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0040881_1063211	246	ES_Q23817.1	Acidilobus sp. OS P8
		Ga0040881_1110491	106	AMD31390.1	Acidilobus sp. 7A
		Ga0099831_11874701	42		
		Ga0040881_1111231	27	WP_081246098.1	Thermoproteus sp. CP80
		Ga0040881_1134581	25	WP_066793619.1	Caldivirga sp. MU80
		Ga0040881_1142191	2174	NAY81522.1	Thaumarchaeota archaeon
		Ga0040881_1205091	12		
3300003723	Hypersaline microbial mat communities from Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA - Beowulf (BE_B) (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0040873_1002501	4784	AMD31390.1	Acidilobus sp. 7A
		Ga0040873_1003761	1921	EQB65596.1	Thermoplasmales
		Ga0040873_1011521	2174	KUO93148.1	Thermocodium sp. ECH_B
		Ga0040873_1013971	707	PMP91269.1	Caldisphaera sp.
		Ga0040873_1028371	244	NAY81522.1	Thaumarchaeota archaeon
		Ga0040875_1014081	163	AMD31390.1	Acidilobus sp. 7A
		Ga0040875_1034841	11	KUO93148.1	Thermocodium sp. ECH_B
3300007166	Iron oxide microbial mat communities from Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA - BED_top_diel_T=1 metaT (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0099835_1035811	192	NAY81522.1	Thaumarchaeota archaeon
		Ga0099835_1427011	4	KUO93148.1	Thermocodium sp. ECH_B
		Ga0099835_1431661	3		
		Ga0099835_1456681	2	PMP93815.1	Nitrosphaera sp.
3300007164	Iron oxide microbial mat communities from Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA - BED_top_diel_T=3 metaT (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0099835_1510461	17	KUO89797.1	Caldivirga sp. CIS_19
		Ga0099836_1305913	60	NAY81522.1	Thaumarchaeota archaeon
		Ga0099836_1428691	2	WP_066793619.1	Caldivirga sp. MU80
		Ga0099836_1428931	3	KUO93148.1	Thermocodium sp. ECH_B
3300007168	Iron oxide microbial mat communities from Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA - BED_top_diel_T=7 metaT (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0099836_1472421	3		
		Ga0099838_1606901	3	KUO93148.1	Thermocodium sp. ECH_B
		Ga0099838_1754862	40	NAY81522.1	Thaumarchaeota archaeon
3300007161	Iron oxide microbial mat communities from Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA - BED_top_diel_T=8 metaT (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0099839_1320821	2	NAZ28310.1	Caldivirga sp.
		Ga0099839_1444841	19	NAY81522.1	Thaumarchaeota archaeon
		Ga0099839_1444842	4		
		Ga0099839_1513781			
3300007574	Iron oxide microbial mat communities from Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA - ECH_B_top_diel_T=1 metaT (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0099840_1194611	6	KUO93148.1	Thermocodium sp. ECH_B
		Ga0099840_1228901			
		Ga0099840_1208591	29	NAY81522.1	Thaumarchaeota archaeon
		Ga0099840_1293341	27		
		Ga0099840_1307751	7		
3300007486	Iron oxide microbial mat communities from Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA - ECH_B_top_diel_T=5 metaT (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0099840_1212061	16	AMD31390.1	Acidilobus sp. 7A
		Ga0099841_1138611	5	WP_117355195.1	Acidilobus sp. 7A
		Ga0099841_1140711	23	NAY81522.1	Thaumarchaeota archaeon
		Ga0099841_1141101	12		
		Ga0099841_1256151	7	NAZ28310.1	Caldivirga sp.
		Ga0099841_1293981	15	KUO93148.1	Thermocodium sp. ECH_B
3300007575	Iron oxide microbial mat communities from Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA - ECH_C_top_diel_T=7 metaT (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0099844_1215141	10	NAY81522.1	Thaumarchaeota archaeon
		Ga0099844_1308701	10		
3300021851	Metatranscriptome of extremophilic microbial mat communities from Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA - CONBC_RNA (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0187838_10229991	154	WP_014289867.1	Pyrobaculum ferrireducens
		Ga0187838_11515921	155	KU06933.1	Archaeoglobus fulgidus
3300037625	Metatranscriptome of soil microbial communities from Old Woman Creek estuary, Ohio, United States - Aug_M1_C1_D5_B (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0401895_061319_2_361		HGD34321.1	Candidatus Korarchaeota archaeon
3300019273	Metatranscriptome of tropical peat soil microbial communities from peatlands in Department of Meta, Colombia - 0116_SJ02_MP02_20_MT (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0187794_17837561	5	PMP74969.1	Aciduliprofundum sp.
3300019264	Metatranscriptome of tropical peat soil microbial communities from peatlands in Department of Meta, Colombia - 0116_SJ02_MP15_20_MT (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0187796_12966161	31	HNN53578.1	Nitrosphaera archaeon
		Ga0187796_15754521	8	PMP74969.1	Aciduliprofundum sp.
3300019211	Metatranscriptome of tropical peat soil microbial communities from peatlands in Department of Meta, Colombia - 0216_BVO2_MP12_10_MT (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0187799_12787231	6	HNN53578.1	Nitrosphaera archaeon
3300019278	Metatranscriptome of tropical peat soil microbial communities from peatlands in Department of Meta, Colombia - 0216_BVO2_MP12_20_MT (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0187800_11075051	3	PMP74969.1	Aciduliprofundum sp.
3300003730	Thermal spring microbial communities from Beowulf Spring, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, USA - Beowulf (BE_D) (Metagenome Metatranscriptome) (*) (MER-FS) (assembled)	Ga0040879_1097101	63	NAY81522.1	Thaumarchaeota archaeon
		Ga0040879_1273451	7	NAZ28310.1	Caldivirga sp.

Table 2. Oxygen reduction activity of *E. coli* cytbd and *C. maquilingensis* cytbb' in the presence of 350 μ M coenzyme Q1 and 5 mM DTT.

Protein	Oxygen reduction activity (e⁻/s)
<i>Caldivirga maquilingensis</i> cytbb' (cydAA')	333 \pm 20
<i>Escherichia coli</i> cytbd (cydAB)	1065 \pm 73