

Title:

De novo transcriptome characterization of a sterilizing trematode parasite (*Microphallus* sp.) from two species of New Zealand snails

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First genomic resources from textbook model for coevolution

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ABSTRACT

1
2 Snail-borne trematodes represent a large, diverse, and evolutionarily, ecologically, and medically
3 important group of parasites, often imposing strong selection on their hosts and causing host morbidity
4 and mortality. Even so, there are very few genomic and transcriptomic resources available for this
5 important animal group. We help to fill this gap by providing transcriptome resources from trematode
6 metacercariae infecting two congeneric snail species, *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* and *P. estuarinus*.
7 This genus of New Zealand snails has gained prominence in large part through the development of *P.*
8 *antipodarum* and its sterilizing trematode parasite *Microphallus livelyi* into a textbook model for host-
9 parasite coevolutionary interactions in nature. By contrast, the interactions between *Microphallus*
10 trematodes and *P. estuarinus*, an estuary-inhabiting species closely related to the freshwater *P.*
11 *antipodarum*, are relatively unstudied. Here, we provide the first annotated transcriptome assemblies
12 from *Microphallus* isolated from *P. antipodarum* and *P. estuarinus*. We also use these transcriptomes
13 to produce genomic resources that will be broadly useful to those interested in host-parasite
14 coevolution, local adaption, and molecular evolution and phylogenetics of this and other snail-
15 trematode systems. Analyses of the two *Microphallus* transcriptomes revealed that the two trematode
16 isolates are more genetically differentiated from one another than are *M. livelyi* infecting different
17 populations of *P. antipodarum*, suggesting that the *Microphallus* infecting *P. estuarinus* represent a
18 distinct lineage. We also provide a promising set of candidate genes likely involved in parasitic
19 infection and response to salinity stress.

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INTRODUCTION

27 Snail-borne trematodes are important sources of morbidity and mortality in animals, including humans
28 (Hotez 2013; Jurberg and Brindley 2015). For example, infections by trematodes in the genus
29 *Schistosoma* affect more than 200 million people in sub-Saharan Africa (Rollinson *et al.* 2013).
30 Trematodes and their mollusk intermediate hosts are also important models for the study of host-
31 parasite coevolutionary interactions (*e.g.*, Lively and Jokela 1996; King *et al.* 2009). While digenetic
32 trematodes (parasitic flatworms) are one of the largest groups of metazoan parasites, with ~18,000
33 species (Cribb *et al.* 2001), the genomic and transcriptomic resources needed to understand trematode
34 evolution, host-parasite coevolution, and the genomic basis of trematode infection are only available
35 for ten of these species (NCBI, October, 2016). Further development of such resources for this
36 medically and scientifically important group of parasites is a necessary component of characterizing
37 the molecular and genomic underpinnings of parasitic infection and host-parasite coevolutionary
38 interactions.

39 New Zealand snails in the genus *Potamopyrgus* are often the intermediate host of sterilizing
40 trematode parasites in the genus *Microphallus* (Winterbourn 1973). Here, we focus on *Microphallus*
41 '*livelyi*' (Hechinger 2012), a species of digenetic trematode that uses *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* as an
42 intermediate host and dabbling ducks (Anatinae) as the final host (Dybdahl and Lively 1996; Lively
43 and Jokela 1996; King *et al.* 2009; Osnas and Lively 2011). Dabbling ducks are infected by *M. livelyi*
44 while foraging, typically consuming infected *P. antipodarum* from submerged rocks and aquatic
45 vegetation. The trematodes lay sexually produced eggs within the ducks, which are excreted with duck
46 feces (Osnas and Lively 2011). The next round of snail infection begins after detritus-feeding *P.*
47 *antipodarum* consume *M. livelyi* eggs while foraging along lake bottoms and aquatic vegetation
48 (Lively and Jokela 1996). Following snail consumption, the *M. livelyi* eggs clonally develop into
49 thousands of encysted larvae (metacercariae) that rapidly sterilize the snail (Winterbourn 1973; King *et*
50 *al.* 2009). Because *M. livelyi* that cannot infect the first snail by which they are ingested die before

51 completing their lifecycle, and because successful infection means that the *M. livelyi* metacercariae
52 sterilize the snail, there is strong reciprocal antagonistic selection pressures between these two species
53 (King *et al.* 2011). The metacercariae life stage thus represents a crucial time point for *Microphallus*
54 both from the perspective of its life cycle and with respect to its coevolutionary interactions with *P.*
55 *antipodarum*.

56 Dabbling ducks carry *M. livelyi* as they migrate between New Zealand lakes, thereby increasing
57 the level of parasite gene flow relative to that of *P. antipodarum* (Dybdahl and Lively 1996).
58 Accordingly, there is very little population structure in *M. livelyi* relative to *P. antipodarum* (Dybdahl
59 and Lively 1996), which itself features marked among-lake genetic structure (Pacziesniak *et al.* 2013).
60 *Microphallus livelyi* is locally adapted to sympatric *P. antipodarum* both among and within lake
61 populations (Lively *et al.* 2004; King *et al.* 2009). Within lake populations, shallow regions tend to
62 show both relatively high infection frequency as well as pronounced local adaptation (King *et al.*
63 2009). Consistent with the expectation of local adaptation, *M. livelyi* infection is associated with
64 population-specific patterns of gene expression and genetic differentiation in *P. antipodarum* (Bankers
65 *et al.* in review).

66 How interactions between *M. livelyi* and *P. antipodarum* play out in *Microphallus* are not well
67 characterized. Some initial insight into the mechanisms underlying *Microphallus* infectivity come from
68 the several studies suggesting that coevolutionary interactions between *P. antipodarum* and *M. livelyi*
69 fit a “matching alleles” infection genetics model, whereby there are no universally infective parasites
70 or resistant hosts (Dybdahl and Krist 2004; Lively *et al.* 2004; King *et al.* 2009). More specifically, *M.*
71 *livelyi* infection success is thought to be determined by whether the *M. livelyi* genotype at the loci
72 involved in mediating infection match the corresponding loci in *P. antipodarum*, enabling successful
73 *M. livelyi* to evade detection by *P. antipodarum* defenses. While matching alleles mechanisms for
74 infection have been demonstrated in several host-parasite interactions, whether these mechanisms are

75 mediated by gene expression and/or by sequence evolution remains unclear in *P. antipodarum* or in
76 any other system (Carmona *et al.* 2015; Routtu and Ebert 2015).

77 The transcriptomic resources described here, the first genomic resources for the *Microphallus*
78 genus of which we are aware, will provide a valuable starting point to characterize the molecular
79 underpinnings of *M. livelyi* infection and the coevolutionary interactions between *M. livelyi* and *P.*
80 *antipodarum*. We present annotated transcriptomes assemblies from *M. livelyi* metacercariae isolated
81 from *P. antipodarum* as well as from *Microphallus* of unknown species isolated from *P. estuarinus*, a
82 closely related species native to New Zealand estuaries. While the coevolutionary interactions between
83 *Microphallus livelyi* and *P. antipodarum* are well characterized, much less is known about the
84 *Microphallus* that infect *P. estuarinus* (Winterbourn 1973; Hechinger 2012). Expanding the genomic
85 resources available for these two closely related types of *Microphallus* will allow for the
86 characterization of genes that contribute broadly to infection processes as well as genes that play
87 species-specific roles in host-parasite interactions.

88 We identified and annotated 7584 pairs of one-to-one orthologs, analyzed levels of genetic
89 variation within and genetic differentiation between the two types of *Microphallus* at these genes, and
90 performed gene ontology-based functional comparisons between the two isolates. We also provide a
91 broad set of genomic resources that set the stage for future studies aimed at characterizing the
92 molecular underpinnings of the coevolutionary interactions between *Microphallus* and *Potamopyrgus*.

93

94 MATERIALS AND METHODS

95 Sample collection and RNA sequencing

96 We isolated *M. livelyi* from four individual adult female *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* (“PA-
97 *Microphallus*”) collected in January of 2013 in shallow regions (<1m lake depth) of each of the two
98 New Zealand lakes Alexandrina and Kaniere, for a total of eight PA-*Microphallus* isolates. We chose
99 these lakes because their *P. antipodarum* populations contain relatively high frequencies of *M. livelyi*

100 infection (10-20%; Vergara *et al.* 2013). We also isolated *Microphallus* from a single adult female
101 *Potamopyrgus estuarinus* (“PE-*Microphallus*”) collected from the Ashley River estuary (near
102 Christchurch, New Zealand) in January of 2015.

103 We dissected individual *Potamopyrgus* snails to determine infection status, and saved parasite
104 tissue from snails containing stage 5 *Microphallus* infections (fully formed metacercariae that fill the
105 entire snail body cavity; http://www.indiana.edu/%7Ecurtweb/trematodes/DATA_KEY.HTM). We
106 separated parasite from snail tissue with a forceps and used a micropipette to isolate metacercariae
107 cysts. We immediately placed the metacercariae in RNAlater® Solution (Life Technologies
108 Corporation) at 4°C for 24 hours and subsequently stored the RNAlater®-submerged metacercariae at -
109 80°C (according to manufacturer protocol) until RNA extraction. The eight PA-*Microphallus*
110 metacercariae isolates were pooled in one tube. We had to use this pooling strategy for the PA-
111 *Microphallus* because at this time (early 2013), pooling of cysts from multiple snails was necessary to
112 obtain a sufficient amount of RNA to perform RNA sequencing. Technological advances in library
113 preparation and RNA sequencing between 2013 and 2015 meant that we were able to obtain a
114 sufficient amount of RNA from the metacercariae isolated from a single *P. estuarinus* individual for
115 RNA sequencing.

116 We extracted RNA from metacercariae following the TRIzol protocol (Chomczynski and
117 Sacchi 1987; Chomczynski 1993). We assessed RNA quantity and quality using a Bio-Rad Experion
118 Automated Electrophoresis Station and Experion RNA analysis kit, requiring an RQI \geq 8 and
119 minimum of 2 μ g of total RNA (following manufacturer protocol). We prepared cDNA libraries
120 following the Illumina Truseq LS protocol (Illumina, San Diego, CA, 2012) for the PA-*Microphallus*
121 and PE-*Microphallus* samples. We barcoded the PA-*Microphallus* library and pooled the barcoded
122 library with 11 other barcoded samples that were part of a different project in one Illumina HiSeq 2000
123 lane in 2013. For the PE-*Microphallus* library, we barcoded the library and pooled the barcoded library
124 with five other samples that were part of a different project in one Illumina HiSeq 2000 lane in 2015.

125 We performed 2x100 bp paired-end RNA sequencing for both *Microphallus* libraries (Illumina, San
126 Diego, CA, 2012). We obtained 31635450 paired-end reads (mean read length = 101 bp) for PA-
127 *Microphallus* and 41615863 paired-end reads for PE-*Microphallus* (mean read length = 126 bp).

128

129 **Transcriptome assembly and annotation**

130 We used FASTQC (Andrews 2010) to assess RNA sequencing quality and the FASTX Toolkit
131 (Gordon and Hannon 2010) to trim adapter sequences and remove poor-quality reads from raw RNA-
132 Seq data, requiring a mean Phred score ≥ 20 . After quality filtering, 31096527 paired-end reads
133 remained for PA-*Microphallus* and 40413790 paired-end reads remained for PE-*Microphallus*. We
134 used these filtered reads to generate *de novo* transcriptome assemblies for each of the two
135 *Microphallus* isolates.

136 We performed the Trinity *in silico* normalization, requiring a minimum Kmer coverage of 2.0x
137 and maximum Kmer coverage of 10x (following Haas *et al.* 2013), and otherwise default parameters
138 (Gabherr *et al.* 2011). We then generated preliminary *de novo* transcriptome assemblies for each
139 isolate using Trinity software with default parameters (Haas *et al.* 2013). Preliminary assemblies
140 contained 65665 contigs and 226896 contigs for PA-*Microphallus* and PE-*Microphallus*, respectively.
141 We used the Trinity plugin TransDecoder with default parameters to annotate likely protein-coding
142 regions, identify long ORFs of putative genes, and filter miscalled isoforms (Haas *et al.* 2013). Next,
143 we used hierarchical clustering based on sequence identity to further reduce redundancy in the
144 transcriptome assemblies, as implemented by CD-HIT-EST (Huang *et al.* 2010). To reduce the
145 likelihood of collapsing truly non-redundant transcripts, we used a sequence identity of 0.95 and word
146 size of eight nucleotides (*e.g.*, Li *et al.* 2002). These steps resulted in assemblies containing 15435
147 contigs for PA-*Microphallus* and 29564 contigs for PE-*Microphallus*. We mapped reads back to their
148 respective filtered transcriptome assemblies using Tophat2 (Trapnell *et al.* 2013) and used Samtools
149 depth (Li *et al.* 2012) to estimate mean per-base coverage (+/- SD) for sites covered by at least 1x.

150 Mean coverage for the transcriptome assemblies were 101.4x (+/- 330.1) for PA-*Microphallus* and
151 147.5x (+/- 437.6) for PE-*Microphallus*. The nearly two-fold higher number of transcripts for PE-
152 *Microphallus* relative to PA-*Microphallus* was likely a combination of advances in sequencing
153 chemistry and technology between 2013 and 2015 as well as higher sequencing depth for PE-
154 *Microphallus*. We annotated the transcriptomes using blastx with an E-value cutoff of 1e-6, followed
155 by Blast2GO (using default parameters) to assign GO terms to blastx-annotated transcripts (Conesa *et*
156 *al.* 2005). For PA-*Microphallus*, we obtained both blastx and GO annotations for 9272 transcripts and
157 only blastx annotations for an additional 3814 transcripts. For PE-*Microphallus* we obtained both
158 blastx and GO annotations for 13778 transcripts and only blastx annotations for an additional 8822
159 transcripts. This analysis revealed 143 transcripts involved in photosynthesis in the PE-*Microphallus*
160 assembly (none in PA-*Microphallus*), representing potential contaminants in the snail gut from which
161 the PE-*Microphallus* was isolated. These 143 transcripts were filtered out of subsequent analyses.
162 Finally, we used BUSCO (Simão *et al.* 2015) to assess the completeness of our transcriptome
163 assemblies. This program uses tblastn to identify conserved single-copy orthologs among groups of
164 organisms. We used the BUSCO OrthoDB Metazoan database to search our assemblies for the
165 presence, absence, duplication, and/or fragmentation of 843 conserved single-copy Metazoan
166 orthologs.

167

168 **Identification of orthologous transcripts**

169 We used “reciprocalblast_allsteps.py” (Warren *et al.* 2014) to identify putative orthologous transcripts
170 between the two *Microphallus* transcriptomes based on one-to-one reciprocal best blastn hits. We
171 performed reciprocal blastn searches between the two transcriptomes with an E-value cutoff of 1e-20
172 and identified pairs of transcripts that were reciprocally one another’s top blastn hit and that occurred
173 once and only once in each transcriptome query. We identified 11160 of such transcript pairs, which
174 we will hereafter refer to as “one-to-one orthologs.” Using a custom python script

175 (github.com/jsharbrough/grabContigs), we extracted the 11060 orthologous sequences from each
176 *Microphallus* transcriptome to generate putative ortholog transcriptomes for each isolate. To improve
177 the accuracy of our ortholog predictions, we then used blastx against the NCBI nr database with an E-
178 value cutoff of 1e-6 (Camacho *et al.* 2009) to annotate the two transcriptomes and filter out putative
179 orthologs that were annotated as different genes. This step resulted in 7935 remaining putative one-to-
180 one orthologs. To further ensure that we accurately predicted orthologs, we also performed reciprocal
181 shortest molecular distance comparisons between the 7935 pairs of transcripts using
182 “reciprocal_smallest_distance.py” (Wall *et al.* 2003). Here, we inferred orthologs using a combination
183 of global sequence alignments between the two transcriptomes and maximum likelihood-based
184 evolutionary pairwise distances, and identified orthologous pairs of transcripts as those sets of
185 transcripts with the shortest pairwise molecular distance between them relative to their pairwise
186 distances from any of the other 7934 transcripts in the dataset (Wall *et al.* 2003). This filtering step left
187 7584 remaining pairs of one-to-one orthologous transcripts that met all three of our criteria: (1)
188 reciprocal best blastn hits, (2) the same blastx annotation, and (3) shared the shortest pairwise
189 evolutionary distance relative to all other transcripts. There were 7851 and 21980 transcripts for PA-
190 *Microphallus* and PE-*Microphallus*, respectively, that did not meet these three criteria (hereafter, “non-
191 one-to-one orthologs”). We extracted the 7584 orthologous transcripts from each reference
192 transcriptome to generate ortholog transcriptomes for each of the two *Microphallus* datasets.

193

194 **Comparisons of genetic variation and genetic differentiation**

195 To assess levels of genetic differentiation and nucleotide heterozygosity (Watterson’s θ) within and
196 between the two isolates, we used Tophat2 (Trapnell *et al.* 2013) to map *Microphallus* reads to the
197 ortholog transcriptomes. Because we had two different ortholog transcriptomes that represented
198 different numbers of *Microphallus* individuals, we performed four mapping combinations: (1) PA-
199 *Microphallus* reads to the PA-*Microphallus* ortholog transcriptome, (2) PE-*Microphallus* reads to the

200 PE-*Microphallus* ortholog transcriptome, (3) PE-*Microphallus* reads to the PA-*Microphallus* ortholog
201 transcriptome, and (4) PA-*Microphallus* reads to the PE-*Microphallus* ortholog transcriptome. This
202 design allowed us to estimate Watterson's θ within and between the two types of *Microphallus* while
203 accounting for the ortholog transcriptome to which the reads were mapped. Next, we used Picard Tools
204 v.1.119 (<http://picard.sourceforge.net>) to process and filter the bam files. This step included the
205 addition of read groups and removal of duplicate reads from each bam file. We then used GATK
206 (McKenna *et al.* 2010; DePristo *et al.* 2011; Van der Auwera *et al.* 2013) to realign reads around indels
207 and to reassign mapping quality. Finally, we used Samtools (Li *et al.* 2012) to sort each bam file by
208 coordinates relative to the ortholog transcriptome to which they were mapped and to generate
209 mpileups.

210 We generated separate mpileup files for each of the four bam files and used Popoolation
211 (Kofler *et al.* 2011a) for further analyses. Popoolation is a suite of programs designed to handle pooled
212 sequencing data and is able to account for the number of individuals sequenced. First, we used
213 Popoolation's Variation-at-position.pl script (which is not available in newer program versions) to
214 calculate Watterson's θ within and between the two *Microphallus* types, using each of the four bam
215 files to take into account the ortholog transcriptome to which reads were mapped. We compared the
216 medians and distributions of θ for all six possible pairwise comparisons of the four bam files with
217 Bonferroni-corrected Mann-Whitney U-tests and Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests, respectively, as
218 implemented in SPSS Statistics v. 23. We then used the most up-to-date version of Popoolation
219 (Popoolation2) (Kofler *et al.* 2011b) to generate synchronized mpileups (mpileup2sync.pl) for each
220 pair of bam files associated with each ortholog transcriptome (*i.e.*, PA-*Microphallus* and PE-
221 *Microphallus* mapped to the PA-*Microphallus* ortholog transcriptome, and PA-*Microphallus* and PE-
222 *Microphallus* mapped to the PE-*Microphallus* ortholog transcriptome). Next, we used the
223 Popoolation2 fst-sliding.pl to calculate F_{ST} per SNP to assess levels of relative genetic differentiation
224 between the two *Microphallus* types. We used these F_{ST} values to determine mean F_{ST} per SNP

225 between PA-*Microphallus* and PE-*Microphallus* relative to both of the ortholog transcriptomes. We
226 applied outlier analyses within SPSS Statistics v. 23 to identify transcripts containing F_{ST} outlier SNPs,
227 which can be interpreted as representing significant genetic differentiation for these genes between
228 these two types of *Microphallus*. Finally, we used blastx and Blast2GO to annotate F_{ST} outlier-
229 containing transcripts and determine putative functions.

230

231 **GO and KEGG-based functional comparisons of transcriptomes and orthologs**

232 We used blastx (Camacho *et al.* 2009) and Blast2GO (Conesa *et al.* 2005) to annotate the orthologous
233 sequences for both *Microphallus* types. We also annotated the transcripts from each transcriptome that
234 did not fall into orthologous gene sets (“non-one-to-one orthologs”). We then performed GO functional
235 enrichment analyses, using Fisher’s Exact tests as implemented by Blast2GO (Conesa *et al.* 2005), to
236 identify over *vs.* underrepresented functional groups in the set of orthologous transcripts relative to the
237 rest of the transcriptome and for the set of non-one-to-one orthologous transcripts relative to the rest of
238 the transcriptome. All functional enrichment analyses were performed on both *Microphallus* samples.
239 This analysis approach allowed us to compare over *vs.* underrepresented functional groups for
240 orthologous and non-orthologous transcripts between the two types of *Microphallus* in order to
241 identify which functional groups were expressed in both *Microphallus* isolates *vs.* those functional
242 groups that were uniquely enriched in each *Microphallus* type. We also predicted KEGG (Kyoto
243 Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes database) pathways for each transcriptome as implemented by
244 Blast2GO. This analysis allowed us to (1) identify potential among-gene interactions, (2) identify sets
245 of interacting genes of relevance to the *Microphallus* life cycle stage that we sequenced, and (3), assess
246 whether different pathways are being expressed between the two isolates. Finally, we used Blast+ to
247 generate local BLAST databases for both annotated transcriptomes.

248

249 **Microsatellite loci and primer prediction**

250 We used PrimerPro V.1.0 (<https://webdocs.cs.ualberta.ca/~yifeng/primerpro/>) to identify potential
251 microsatellite loci in the two *Microphallus* transcriptomes. We limited these analyses to the ortholog
252 transcriptomes to ensure the transcripts in which we identified microsatellites were distinct loci and to
253 allow future direct comparisons among *Microphallus* isolates. The PrimerPro V.1.0 pipeline first
254 predicts microsatellite loci by identifying simple sequence repeats (SSRs) using MISA (MICroSATellite
255 Identification Tool; <http://pgrc.ipk-gatersleben.de/misa/misa.html>) and then uses Primer3 (Untergasser
256 *et al.* 2012) and BLAST (Camacho *et al.* 2009) to generate primers isolating these loci. After these
257 steps, PrimerPro V.1.0 outputs the putative microsatellites, the primer sequences, their transcriptomic
258 locations, and the primer properties. Following Qiu *et al.* (2016), we allowed for a minimum of ten
259 repeats for mononucleotide repeats, six for dinucleotide repeats, five for trinucleotide repeats, four for
260 tetranucleotide repeats, three for pentanucleotide repeats, and three for hexanucleotide repeats, and
261 identified compound microsatellites as instances where there was more than one microsatellite
262 separated by less than or equal 150 nucleotides.

263

264 **Data Availability**

265 The raw RNA-Seq reads will be deposited on NCBI SRA. The annotated transcriptome assemblies will
266 be deposited on GenBank. Blast databases will be made available at
267 <http://bioweb.biology.uiowa.edu/neiman/Potamomics.php>. VCF-formatted SNP data and microsatellite
268 loci with predicted primer details will be deposited on Dryad. GO annotation, enrichment, and KEGG
269 pathway analyses are provided in the online supplementary information. Custom python script is
270 available at: github.com/jsharbrough/grabContigs.

271

272

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

273 **Transcriptome assembly and annotation**

274 We generated *de novo* transcriptome assemblies for stage 5 *Microphallus* metacercariae isolated from
275 field-collected *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* (PA-*Microphallus*) and *Potamopyrgus estuarinus* (PE-
276 *Microphallus*). Our final transcriptome assemblies contained 15435 and 29564 transcripts for PA-
277 *Microphallus* and PE-*Microphallus*, respectively. The assembly for PE-*Microphallus* contained ~2x as
278 many transcripts and was 33% longer than the assembly for PA-*Microphallus*. The PA-*Microphallus*
279 assembly had, on average, 22% longer transcripts and 23% larger N50 than the PE-*Microphallus*
280 assembly (Table 1). The marked differences in these assembly statistics are at least in part linked to
281 differences in sequencing depth and technological advances between the two rounds of sequencing but
282 could also reflect, for example, biological differences between *Microphallus* found in freshwater
283 (inhabiting *P. antipodarum*) vs. estuarine (inhabiting *P. estuarinus*) habitats.

284 We obtained both blastx and GO annotations for 60.1% and 46.6% of transcripts and only
285 blastx annotations (including those with GO mapping, but not GO annotation) for an additional 24.6%
286 and 29.8% of transcripts for PA-*Microphallus* and PE-*Microphallus*, respectively. There was a mean
287 of ~3.4 (SD) GO annotations per transcripts per transcriptome. The remaining 15.2% of PA-
288 *Microphallus* transcripts and 23.6% of PE-*Microphallus* transcripts were unable to be annotated, which
289 is typical for *de novo* assemblies of non-model taxa (*e.g.*, Guo *et al.* 2015; Theissinger *et al.* 2016).
290 The species that were most frequently the top blast hit for a given transcript were most often other
291 trematodes (10053 transcripts, 77.4% for PA-*Microphallus*; 12342 transcripts, 54.9% for PE-
292 *Microphallus*), or non-trematode members of Platyhelminthes (an additional 332 transcripts, 2.6% for
293 PA-*Microphallus*; 382 transcripts, 1.7% for PE-*Microphallus*) (Table S1).

294 We used BUSCO to estimate the completeness of our transcriptome assemblies based on the
295 presence, absence, duplication, and/or fragmentation of conserved Metazoan genes. Both
296 transcriptomes contain complete transcripts for ~68% of the 843 conserved single-copy Metazoan
297 genes in the BUSCO database. Our transcriptome assemblies contain gene fragments for an additional
298 7.8% (PA-*Microphallus*) and 14.5% (PE-*Microphallus*) of the conserved single-copy Metazoan genes,

299 for a total of 76.5% (PA-*Microphallus*) and 82.4% (PE-*Microphallus*) of the 843 BUSCO genes
300 represented in the transcriptomes (Table 2). Considered together with our assembly statistics (Table 1),
301 these results indicate that our transcriptomes are of good quality, are reasonably complete, and are
302 qualitatively similar to other recently published *de novo* transcriptome assemblies (e.g., Guo *et al.*
303 2015; Hara *et al.* 2015; Tassone *et al.* 2016; Theissinger *et al.* 2016), despite the differences in
304 transcript number, coverage, and N50 between the two transcriptome assemblies. Because we analyzed
305 transcriptomes generated from only one stage of infection from a parasite with a complex life cycle, at
306 least some of the missing BUSCO genes likely represent genes that are not expressed in metacercariae
307 rather than sequencing or assembly limitations. Regardless, because stage 5 metacercariae are ready for
308 transmission to the final host (Levri and Lively 1996), these data provide an excellent first step
309 towards identifying the genes involved in this critical stage of parasite development.

310 We generated local BLAST databases for both annotated *Microphallus* transcriptomes that
311 allow for simple queries of nucleotide and protein sequences. This resource will be broadly useful for
312 future studies geared towards identifying candidate genes from *Microphallus* as well as other related
313 ecologically and/or medically important parasites by providing an easy way to search for genes in a
314 well-characterized host-parasite system. These databases will also be an asset for phylogenetic or
315 molecular evolution-focused studies that would benefit from the addition of data from Trematoda.

316

317 **Ortholog identification and levels of genetic variation within and genetic differentiation between** 318 ***Microphallus* isolates**

319 We identified 7584 pairs of one-to-one orthologous transcripts between the two transcriptomes
320 (Table S2) and 7851 and 21980 non-one-to-one orthologous transcripts for PA-*Microphallus* and PE-
321 *Microphallus*, respectively. The two one-to-one ortholog transcriptomes contain higher mean transcript
322 lengths (18.6% longer for PA-*Microphallus*; 38.7% longer for PE-*Microphallus*) and larger N50 values
323 (11.7% greater N50 for PA-*Microphallus*; 33.9% greater N50 for PE-*Microphallus*) than their

324 corresponding reference transcriptomes (Table S1). The longer transcripts and higher N50 values in the
325 one-to-one ortholog sets relative to the reference transcriptomes indicate that the one-to-one orthologs
326 represent a set of approximately full-length high-quality genes that occur once and only once in both
327 transcriptome assemblies. More than half (PA-*Microphallus*: 51.7%; PE-*Microphallus*: 51.2%) of the
328 BUSCO genes are retained in this reduced gene set, further indicating that our filtering steps likely
329 removed poor-quality transcripts from our ortholog transcriptomes (Table 2). The annotation statistics
330 for the ortholog transcriptomes are broadly similar to the annotation statistics for the reference
331 transcriptomes (Table S1), suggesting the ortholog transcriptomes are likely representative of the
332 reference transcriptomes.

333 Of the 7584 transcripts in the ortholog transcriptomes, a distinct majority received both blastx
334 and GO annotation for PA-*Microphallus* (5746 transcripts, 75.8%) and PE-*Microphallus* (5793
335 transcripts, 76.4%). An additional 15.9% (1211 transcripts) and 15.8% (1203 transcripts) of these
336 transcripts received only blastx annotations for PA-*Microphallus* and PE-*Microphallus*, respectively.
337 The species that were top blast hits most often and the species that were hit most frequently in blastx
338 searches include other trematodes (five species) as well as non-trematode Platyhelminthes (two
339 species) and other metazoans with well-annotated genomic and/or transcriptomic resources (Table S1).
340 Species within Platyhelminthes were the top blastx hit for 90.6% (6337 transcripts) and 90.3% (6356
341 transcripts) of the orthologous transcripts that received blastx hits for PA-*Microphallus* and PE-
342 *Microphallus*, respectively. The remaining 663 annotated orthologs for PA-*Microphallus* received top
343 blast hits from mollusks (393 transcripts, 5.6%), other metazoans (253 transcripts, 3.6%), or non-
344 metazoan taxa (17 transcripts, 0.2%), and the remaining 682 annotated PE-*Microphallus* transcripts
345 received top blast hits from mollusks (418 transcripts, 5.9%), other metazoans (250 transcripts, 3.6%),
346 or non-metazoan taxa (14 transcripts, 0.2%). The relatively small proportion of orthologous transcripts
347 with a mollusk as their top hit could reflect low levels of contamination during the process of isolating

348 metacercariae from snail tissue but is likely also linked in part to availability of well-annotated
349 genomic and/or transcriptomic resources for the specific species that were hit (Table S1).

350 We used Popoolation to calculate nucleotide heterozygosity (Watterson's θ) for each
351 orthologous transcript by mapping PA-*Microphallus* and PE-*Microphallus* reads to their own ortholog
352 transcriptomes and to each other's ortholog transcriptomes, allowing us to account for differences that
353 may result from the reference to which reads were mapped. Mean (\pm SD) θ per transcript for PA-
354 *Microphallus* mapped to the PA-*Microphallus* orthologs was 0.0044 (\pm 0.0039) and was 0.0038 (\pm
355 0.0038) when mapped to the PE-*Microphallus* orthologs. Mean (\pm SD) θ per transcript for PE-
356 *Microphallus* mapped to the PE-*Microphallus* orthologs was 0.0051 (\pm 0.0046) and was 0.0051 (\pm
357 0.0041) when mapped to the PA-*Microphallus* orthologs. These estimates of θ are broadly consistent
358 with observations from a previous allozyme-based estimate of θ (0.001-0.021) in several populations
359 of *P. antipodarum*-infecting *Microphallus* (Dybdahl and Lively 1996). All pairwise comparisons of
360 medians (Mann-Whitney U-test) and distributions of θ (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test) indicate that θ
361 values are significantly different between the two types of *Microphallus* ($p < 0.001$), regardless of
362 which transcriptome reads are mapped. This result provides an initial line of evidence for higher
363 genetic variation in PE-*Microphallus* relative to PA-*Microphallus*. For PE-*Microphallus*, the median
364 ($p = 0.898$) and distribution ($p = 0.578$) of θ were not different from one another when mapped to
365 either reference. By contrast, PA-*Microphallus* median ($p < 0.001$) and distribution ($p < 0.001$) of θ
366 were significantly different when mapped to PA-*Microphallus* vs. PE-*Microphallus*, indicating that
367 different SNPs may be called depending on the reference to which reads are mapped. One caveat to
368 definitive interpretation of these results is the differences in sampling between the two types of
369 *Microphallus* in our study: because the PA-*Microphallus* sample was produced from pooled RNA
370 from multiple individuals, we cannot tie sequence differences back to individual worms. On the other
371 hand, because we only sequenced a single PE-*Microphallus* individual, we can definitively ascribe
372 within-sample variation to individual variation, but are not able to evaluate across-individual

373 polymorphism. Despite these limitations, Popoolation (used to estimate θ) and Popoolation2 (used to
374 estimate F_{ST} , below) are designed to handle pooled sequencing data and take into account the number
375 of pooled individuals sequenced in the analyses.

376 We used Popoolation2 to calculate F_{ST} at each SNP between PA-*Microphallus* and PE-
377 *Microphallus*. In order to account for the ortholog transcriptome to which reads were mapped, we
378 calculated F_{ST} per-SNP between PA-*Microphallus* and PE-*Microphallus* mapped to the PA-
379 *Microphallus* ortholog transcriptome and calculated F_{ST} per-SNP between PA-*Microphallus* and PE-
380 *Microphallus* mapped to the PE-*Microphallus* ortholog transcriptome. We found a mean (+/- SD) F_{ST}
381 per SNP between the two types of *Microphallus* mapped to the PA-*Microphallus* ortholog
382 transcriptome of 0.129 (+/- 0.129) and a mean (+/- SD) F_{ST} per SNP between the two types of
383 *Microphallus* mapped to the PE-*Microphallus* ortholog transcriptome of 0.148 (+/- 0.138). These F_{ST}
384 values provide the first report of which we are aware of patterns of genetic differentiation between *P.*
385 *antipodarum*-infecting and *P. estuarinus*-infecting *Microphallus*. Our F_{ST} estimates are an order of
386 magnitude higher than the F_{ST} values reported in an early allozyme-based study comparing F_{ST} across
387 populations of *Microphallus* infecting *P. antipodarum* (Dybdahl and Lively 1996), which provides an
388 initial line of evidence that there is marked genetic differentiation between these two *Microphallus*
389 types relative to the across-population differentiation observed for *Microphallus* infecting *P.*
390 *antipodarum*.

391 When mapping to the PA-*Microphallus* ortholog transcriptome, we identified 36 F_{ST} outlier-
392 containing transcripts. Of these 36 transcripts, 31 received blastx and GO annotation, one received
393 only blastx annotation, and four were unable to be annotated (Table S3). 31 of the annotated transcripts
394 had top hit blastx hit species within Trematoda (Table S4). Based on Blast2GO annotations, these F_{ST}
395 outlier-containing transcripts appear to be involved in cellular processes, metabolism, biological
396 regulation, and localization (Table S5). When mapping to the PE-*Microphallus* ortholog transcriptome,
397 we identified 30 F_{ST} outlier-containing transcripts. Of these transcripts, 22 received both blastx and GO

398 annotations, three received only blastx annotation, and three were unable to be annotated (Table S3).
399 All 25 of the annotated transcripts received top blastx hit species within Platyhelminthes, 24 of which
400 were within Trematoda (Table S4). The annotated F_{ST} outlier-containing transcripts identified when
401 mapping to the PE-*Microphallus* orthologs appear to be involved in similar biological processes as
402 those identified by mapping to PA-*Microphallus* (Table S5).

403 Only two of the transcripts were identified as F_{ST} outliers in both comparisons. Both of these
404 transcripts could represent genes that are evolving relatively quickly compared to their respective
405 ortholog transcriptome and/or may be potential targets of selection in one or both *Microphallus* types.
406 These candidate genes are N-alpha-acetyltransferase, which is involved in the N-terminal
407 acetyltransferase C (NatC) complex and acetylation of amino acids, and permease 1 heavy chain,
408 which is involved in maltose metabolic processes (Table S3). Genes involved in the NatC pathway
409 have been implicated in modulating stress tolerance in *Caenorhabditis elegans* (Warnhoff and
410 Kornfeld 2015). In schistosomes (Trematoda), permease 1 heavy chain is characterized as playing an
411 important role in nutrient uptake from hosts and is expressed during all major schistosome life stages
412 (Krautz-Peterson *et al.* 2007). This information from a related trematode group with a broadly similar
413 life cycle indicates that permease 1 heavy chain might also play a role in nutrient acquisition in
414 *Microphallus*. More directed study of patterns of molecular evolution and the roles that these two
415 genes play in responses to physiological stresses associated with freshwater *vs.* estuarine environments
416 (N-alpha-acetyltransferase) as well as nutrient uptake by parasites from hosts (permease 1 heavy chain)
417 in *Microphallus* will provide more definitive insights into their functions.

418

419 **GO functional enrichment and KEGG pathway identification**

420 We used Blast2GO to perform functional enrichment analyses comparing our ortholog transcriptomes
421 against their associated reference transcriptomes, to identify over *vs.* underrepresented functional
422 groups that are shared between the two types of *Microphallus*. We also used functional enrichment

423 analyses of our non-one-to-one orthologs against their associated reference transcriptomes to assess the
424 types of genes that are over *vs.* underrepresented among the transcripts that did not represent one-to-
425 one orthologs between PA-*Microphallus* and PE-*Microphallus*. We identified seven GO terms that
426 were significantly underrepresented among orthologous transcripts in PA-*Microphallus* relative to the
427 PA-*Microphallus* reference transcriptome. These same seven functional groups are significantly
428 overrepresented among the non-one-to-one orthologs for PA-*Microphallus* relative to the PA-
429 *Microphallus* reference transcriptome (Table S6). For the PE-*Microphallus* orthologs relative to the
430 PE-*Microphallus* reference, we identified 20 significantly underrepresented and six significantly
431 overrepresented functional groups. There were five underrepresented and 14 overrepresented
432 functional groups among the non-one-to-one PE-*Microphallus* orthologs relative to the PE-
433 *Microphallus* transcriptome. All but four of the functional groups among the PE-*Microphallus*
434 transcripts were only significantly over or underrepresented among either the one-to-one or non-one-
435 to-one orthologs but were never significantly over/underrepresented in both transcript sets (Table S6).

436 There were only two GO categories that were that were over or underrepresented in both types
437 of *Microphallus*. First, genes with functions related to hydrolase activity are underrepresented among
438 one-to-one orthologs and overrepresented among non-one-to-one orthologs for both PA-*Microphallus*
439 and PE-*Microphallus*. The presence of genes involved in hydrolase activity among genes that were
440 significantly functionally enriched is interesting in light of evidence that hydrolases are involved in
441 damaging epithelial lining of the digestive tracts of hosts by the parasitic nematode *Contraeum*
442 *rudolphii* (Dziekonska-Rynko and Rokicki 2005). Second, genes involved in carbohydrate metabolic
443 processes are underrepresented among one-to-one orthologs for both types of *Microphallus* relative to
444 the reference transcriptomes. Evidence that schistosome parasites dynamically shift carbohydrate
445 metabolic processes throughout the course of their life cycle (Horemans *et al.* 1992) hint that these
446 genes could also be of relevance to *Microphallus*. Altogether, both of these functional categories of
447 genes provide a promising set of candidate genes for assessment of the changes in gene expression and

448 physiological responses associated with the infection process in *Microphallus*. The marked differences
449 in functional groups that are significantly over *vs.* underrepresented in the ortholog transcriptomes
450 relative to the reference transcriptomes between the two *Microphallus* types suggests that the types of
451 genes present in the two reference transcriptomes are often different. Whether this result is more a
452 consequence of biological differences between PA-*Microphallus* and PE-*Microphallus* or differences
453 in sequencing coverage cannot be determined at this time but warrants future study.

454 Finally, we performed KEGG analyses as implemented in Blast2GO to identify the types of
455 enzyme pathways that were being expressed in each transcriptome. This analysis identified 123 KEGG
456 pathways in the PA-*Microphallus* transcriptome and 128 KEGG pathways in the PE-*Microphallus*
457 transcriptome (Table S7). All but 11 of the KEGG pathways that we identified were expressed in both
458 transcriptomes. Most of the 122 pathways present in both *Microphallus* transcriptomes are involved in
459 various metabolic processes (49 pathways, 40.2%) or biosynthetic processes (41 pathways, 33.6%). Of
460 the 11 pathways only identified in a single transcriptome, the three pathways identified in only PA-
461 *Microphallus* include the riboflavin metabolic pathway, the penicillin and cephalosporin biosynthesis
462 pathway, and the biosynthesis of siderophore group nonribosomal peptides. The eight pathways that
463 were identified in only PE-*Microphallus* include a variety of biosynthesis and metabolic processes
464 (Table S7). One such pathway, glycosphingolipid biosynthesis, has been implicated in response to
465 salinity stress in *Litopenaeus vannamei*, the Pacific white shrimp (Chen *et al.* 2015). This result is
466 suggestive of a scenario where these genes contribute to the ability of PE-*Microphallus* to tolerate
467 salinity fluctuations associated with estuarine habitats. This important habitat difference between PA-
468 *Microphallus* and PE-*Microphallus* is likely to differentially influence the selective pressures
469 experienced by these two parasites and thus has the potential to influence patterns and rates of
470 molecular evolution (*e.g.*, Mitterboeck *et al.* 2016), making genes involved in salinity tolerance and/or
471 stress particularly interesting candidates for future study.

472

473 **Predictions of microsatellite loci and primers**

474 We used MISA software to identify SSRs within the ortholog transcriptomes and used Primer3 and
475 BLAST to predict primers that could be used for future microsatellite-based analyses of *Microphallus*.
476 We identified 109 SSRs in 100 transcripts for PA-*Microphallus* and 117 SSRs in 107 transcripts for
477 PE-*Microphallus*. We identified all six types of microsatellites for which we searched, with
478 trinucleotide sequences with at least five repeats representing the most common microsatellite type
479 (62.3% of SSRs identified in PA-*Microphallus* and 60.7% of SSRs identified in PE-*Microphallus*)
480 (Table 3; Fig. S1). Eight and four SSRs, respectively, were defined as compound for PA-*Microphallus*
481 and PE-*Microphallus* (Table 3). We also used perl scripts available with MISA ([http://pgrc.ipk-](http://pgrc.ipk-gatersleben.de/misa/)
482 [gatersleben.de/misa/](http://pgrc.ipk-gatersleben.de/misa/)) to compile specific details about the primer sets (*e.g.*, location, size of product,
483 melting temperature). We generated predicted primers for 84 of the PA-*Microphallus* SSRs from 100
484 sequences and for 83 of the PE-*Microphallus* SSRs from 113 sequences (Tables S8, S9).

485 Future studies will be able to use these markers to characterize, for example, population genetic
486 structure within and genetic differentiation between these two types of *Microphallus* isolated from two
487 ecologically distinct snail taxa. Comparing patterns of molecular evolution among these orthologous
488 genes from more *Microphallus* individuals isolated from *P. antipodarum* and *P. estuarinus* will allow
489 for research directed at characterizing the strength and efficacy of selection and the importance of
490 population structure in the context of a prominent model for host-parasite interactions and coevolution.
491 Researchers can also use these resources to perform cost-effective analyses incorporating many
492 *Microphallus* individuals from multiple populations to address key questions regarding the
493 evolutionary connections between these two types of *Microphallus* (*e.g.*, whether there is gene flow
494 between the *Microphallus* infecting *P. antipodarum* and *P. estuarinus* and whether there is similar
495 evidence for local adaptation and coevolution between *P. estuarinus* and *Microphallus* as exists for *P.*
496 *antipodarum* and *Microphallus*).

497

498 **Conclusions**

499 We provide a set of widely useful transcriptomic and genomic resources for an evolutionarily and
500 ecologically important group of parasites. *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* and *Microphallus livelyi* are a
501 textbook system for the study of host-parasite coevolutionary interactions, and the data generated
502 herein represent the first large-scale genome-based resources for *Microphallus*. The annotated
503 transcriptome assemblies, orthologous gene sets, blast databases, SNPs, and microsatellite loci and
504 primers will facilitate research for scientists interested in host-parasite coevolution, local adaption,
505 and/or patterns of molecular evolution and phylogenetics of these and other trematode parasites. Our
506 F_{ST} , functional enrichment, and KEGG pathway analyses provide a promising set of candidate genes
507 and pathways for future study and further characterization for potential roles in physiological and
508 stress responses relevant to organisms inhabiting freshwater vs. estuarine environments, as well as
509 genes involved in parasitic infection of host taxa.

510

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518

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Table 1. Assembly statistics for whole transcriptome assemblies and orthologous transcript assemblies for PA-*Microphallus* and PE-*Microphallus*.

Assembly Statistic	Whole transcriptome		Ortholog transcriptome	
	PA- <i>Microphallus</i>	PE- <i>Microphallus</i>	PA- <i>Microphallus</i>	PE- <i>Microphallus</i>
Number of transcripts	15435	29564	7584	7584
Minimum transcript length	297	297	297	297
Maximum transcript length	10398	13584	9285	12381
Median transcript length	837	585	1173	1191
Mean transcript length (+/- SD)	1225.18 (1102.41)	959.67 (1007.52)	1505.35 (1157.72)	1565.81 (1287.64)
Length of transcriptome (nt)	18910587	28371675	11416539	11875112
N content (%)	0	0	0	0
GC (%)	47.25	48.05	47.22	47.21
N50	1782	1368	2019	2070

Table 2. BUSCO assessment for transcriptome completeness. Includes 843 conserved metazoan genes. Of these 843 genes, we assessed the number of genes that were complete, duplicated, fragmented, and missing among our reference transcriptomes and ortholog transcriptomes.

	Whole transcriptome		Ortholog transcriptome	
	<i>PA-Microphallus</i>	<i>PE-Microphallus</i>	<i>PA-Microphallus</i>	<i>PE-Microphallus</i>
# of complete single-copy genes (%)	579 (68.7)	573 (68.0)	436 (51.7)	432 (51.3)
# of duplicated genes (%)	0 (0)	2 (0.2)	0 (0)	0 (0)
# of fragmented genes (%)	66 (7.8)	122 (14.5)	51 (6.1)	55 (6.5)
# of missing genes (%)	198 (23.5)	146 (17.3)	356 (42.2)	356 (42.2)

Table 3. Summary of potential microsatellite loci for the PA-*Microphallus* and PE-*Microphallus* one-to-one ortholog transcriptome assemblies.

	PA- <i>Microphallus</i>	PE- <i>Microphallus</i>
Total # of sequences examined	7584	7584
Total size of examined sequences (bp)	4868704	4922150
Total # of identified SSRs	109	117
# of SSR-containing sequences	100	107
# of sequences containing more than 1 SSR	9	9
# of SSRs present in compound formation	8	4
# of mononucleotide SSRs (≥ 10 repeats)	4	5
# of dinucleotide SSRs (≥ 6 repeats)	5	11
# of trinucleotide repeats (≥ 5 repeats)	68	71
# of tetranucleotide repeats (≥ 4 repeats)	6	7
# of pentanucleotide repeats (≥ 3 repeats)	8	12
# of hexanucleotide repeats (≥ 3 repeats)	18	11