

## *Halorubrum halophilum* sp. nov., an extremely halophilic archaeon isolated from a salt-fermented seafood

Kyung June Yim · In-Tae Cha · Hae-Won Lee · Hye Seon Song · Kil-Nam Kim ·  
Sung-Jae Lee · Young-Do Nam · Dong-Wook Hyun · Jin-Woo Bae ·  
Sung-Keun Rhee · Myung-Ji Seo · Jong-Soon Choi · Hak-Jong Choi ·  
Seong Woon Roh · Daekyung Kim

Received: 21 August 2013 / Accepted: 7 January 2014 / Published online: 18 January 2014  
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**Abstract** A novel, red-pigmented, pleomorphic and short rod-shaped haloarchaeon, designated B8<sup>T</sup>, was isolated from a salt-fermented seafood. Strain B8<sup>T</sup> was found to be able to grow at 20–45 °C, in the presence of 15–30 % (w/v) NaCl and at pH 7.0–9.0. The optimum requirements were found to be a temperature range of 35–40 °C, pH 8.0 and the presence of 25 % NaCl. The cells of strain B8<sup>T</sup> were observed to be Gram-staining negative and lysed in distilled water. Anaerobic growth did not occur in the presence of nitrate, L-arginine, dimethyl sulfoxide or trimethylamine N-oxide. The

catalase and oxidase activities were found to be positive and nitrate was reduced in aerobic conditions. Tween 20, 40 and 80 were found to be hydrolyzed, whereas casein, gelatin and starch were not hydrolyzed. Indole or H<sub>2</sub>S was not formed and urease activity was not detected. A phylogenetic analysis based on the 16S rRNA gene sequences indicated that strain B8<sup>T</sup> is most closely related to members of the genus *Halorubrum* in the family *Halobacteriaceae*. Strain B8<sup>T</sup> was found to have three 16S rRNA genes, *rrnA*, *rrnB* and *rrnC*; similarities between the 16S rRNA gene sequences are 99.0–99.8 %. Strain B8<sup>T</sup> shared 99.0 % 16S rRNA gene sequence similarity with *Halorubrum (Hrr.) lipolyticum* JCM 13559<sup>T</sup> and *Hrr. saccharovororum* DSM 1137<sup>T</sup>, 98.8 % with *Hrr. kocurii* JCM 14978<sup>T</sup>, 98.3 % with *Hrr. lacusprofundi* DSM 5036<sup>T</sup>, 98.0 % with *Hrr. arcis* JCM 13916<sup>T</sup>, 97.7 %

Kyung June Yim and In-Tae Cha have contributed equally to this work.

**Electronic supplementary material** The online version of this article (doi:10.1007/s10482-014-0115-6) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

K. J. Yim · I.-T. Cha · H.-W. Lee · H.  
S. Song · K.-N. Kim · S. W. Roh (✉) · D. Kim (✉)  
Jeju Center, Korea Basic Science Institute, Jeju 690-140,  
Republic of Korea  
e-mail: seong18@gmail.com

D. Kim  
e-mail: dkim@kbsi.re.kr

I.-T. Cha · S.-K. Rhee  
Department of Microbiology, Chungbuk National  
University, Cheongju 361-763, Republic of Korea

H.-W. Lee · H.-J. Choi  
World Institute of Kimchi, Gwangju 503-360,  
Republic of Korea

S.-J. Lee · D.-W. Hyun · J.-W. Bae  
Department of Life and Nanopharmaceutical Sciences and  
Department of Biology, Kyung Hee University, Seoul  
130-701, Republic of Korea

Y.-D. Nam  
Fermentation and Functionality Research Group, Korea  
Food Research Institute, Sungnam 463-746,  
Republic of Korea

M.-J. Seo  
Division of Bioengineering, Incheon National University,  
Incheon 406-772, Republic of Korea

with *Hrr. aidingense* JCM 13560<sup>T</sup> and 97.0 % with *Hrr. aquaticum* JCM 14031<sup>T</sup>, as well as 93.7–96.5 % with other type strains in the genus *Halorubrum*. The RNA polymerase subunit B' gene sequence similarity of strain B8<sup>T</sup> with *Hrr. kocurii* JCM 14978<sup>T</sup> is 97.2 % and lower with other members of the genus *Halorubrum*. DNA–DNA hybridization experiments showed that strain B8<sup>T</sup> shared equal or lower than 50 % relatedness with reference species in the genus *Halorubrum*. The genomic DNA G+C content of strain B8<sup>T</sup> was determined to be 64.6 mol%. The major isoprenoid quinone of strain B8<sup>T</sup> was identified as menaquinone-8 and the major polar lipids as phosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylglycerol phosphate methyl ester, phosphatidylglycerol sulfate, sulfated mannosyl glucosyl diether and an unidentified phospholipid. Based on this polyphasic taxonomic study, strain B8<sup>T</sup> is considered to represent a new species in the genus *Halorubrum*, for which the name *Hrr. halophilum* sp. nov. is proposed. The type strain is B8<sup>T</sup> (=JCM 18963<sup>T</sup> = CECT 8278<sup>T</sup>).

**Keywords** Haloarchaea · *Halorubrum halophilum* · Polyphasic taxonomy · Salt-fermented seafood

## Introduction

High salinity is toxic to most cells but many extremely halophilic archaea, i.e. haloarchaea, have been isolated in hypersaline environments (Grant 2004). Well known hypersaline environments for the isolation of haloarchaea are soda lakes, salt lakes and solar salterns, but some haloarchaea have been isolated from a salt-fermented seafood made from shrimp (Roh et al. 2007a, b, 2009; Roh and Bae 2009). All haloarchaea are classified within the family *Halobacteriaceae* in the order *Halobacteriales* of the phylum *Euryarchaeota*. This family currently contains 40 genera based on the List of Prokaryotic Names with Standing in

Nomenclature (Euzéby 1997). In particular, the genus *Halorubrum*, which was proposed formally by McGenity and Grant (1995), currently includes 25 validly named species: *Halorubrum (Hrr.) aidingense* (Cui et al. 2006), *Hrr. alkaliphilum* (Feng et al. 2005), *Hrr. aquaticum* (Gutiérrez et al. 2011), *Hrr. arcis* (Xu et al. 2007), *Hrr. californiense* (Pesenti et al. 2008), *Hrr. chaoviator* (Mancinelli et al. 2009), *Hrr. cibi* (Roh and Bae 2009), *Hrr. coriense* (Oren and Ventosa 1996), *Hrr. distributum* (Oren and Ventosa 1996), *Hrr. ejinorensis* (Castillo et al. 2007), *Hrr. ezzenmoulense* (Kharroub et al. 2006), *Hrr. kocurii* (Gutiérrez et al. 2008), *Hrr. lacusprofundi* (McGenity and Grant 1995), *Hrr. lipolyticum* (Cui et al. 2006), *Hrr. litoreum* (Cui et al. 2007), *Hrr. luteum* (Hu et al. 2008), *Hrr. orientale* (Castillo et al. 2006), *Hrr. saccharovororum* (Tomlinson and Hochstein 1976; McGenity and Grant 1995), *Hrr. sodomense* (McGenity and Grant 1995), *Hrr. tebenquichense* (Lizama et al. 2002), *Hrr. terrestre* (Ventosa et al. 2004), *Hrr. tibetense* (Fan et al. 2004), *Hrr. trapanicum* (McGenity and Grant 1995), *Hrr. vacuolatum* (Mwatha and Grant 1993; Kamekura et al. 1997) and *Hrr. xinjiangense* (Feng et al. 2004). Cells of the genus *Halorubrum* are rods or irregular-shaped, motile or non-motile, strictly aerobic and oxidase and catalase-positive. The major polar lipids are phosphatidylglycerol (PG), phosphatidylglycerol phosphate methyl ester (PGP-Me), phosphatidylglycerol sulfate (PGS) and/or sulfated mannosyl glucosyl diether (S-DGD-3) (McGenity and Grant 1995). The G+C content of the genomic DNA is in the range of 61.7–71.2 mol% (McGenity and Grant 2001; Roh and Bae 2009). The present study characterized a new haloarchaeon, strain B8<sup>T</sup> and determined the taxonomic position of this strain based on phenotypic, phylogenetic and chemotaxonomic analyses, according to the proposed minimal standards for the description of new taxa in the order *Halobacteriales* (Oren et al. 1997). Based on this polyphasic taxonomic study, strain B8<sup>T</sup> is considered to represent a new species in the genus *Halorubrum*, for which the name *Hrr. halophilum* sp. nov. is proposed here.

## Materials and methods

### Archaeal strain and culture conditions

A strain, designated B8<sup>T</sup>, was isolated from a salt-fermented seafood made from shrimp. A sample was

J.-S. Choi  
Division of Life Science, Korea Basic Science Institute,  
Daejeon 305-806, Republic of Korea

J.-S. Choi  
Graduate School of Analytical Science and Technology,  
Chungnam National University, Daejeon 305-764,  
Republic of Korea

serially diluted and spread onto a complex medium (DSM medium no. 954), which was adjusted to pH 7.0 and contained the following ( $l^{-1}$ ): 5 g casamino acids (BD), 5 g yeast extract (BD), 20 g  $MgCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ , 2 g KCl, 12 g Tris, 0.2 g  $CaCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ , and 200 g NaCl. A solid medium was prepared by adding 2 % (w/v) agar. A single colony was streaked repeatedly to obtain a pure culture at 37 °C. For long-term preservation, strain B8<sup>T</sup> was frozen at –80 °C in medium 954 supplemented with 5 % (v/v) dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). *Hrr. lipolyticum* JCM 13559<sup>T</sup>, *Hrr. kocurii* JCM 14978<sup>T</sup>, *Hrr. saccharovororum* DSM 1137<sup>T</sup>, *Hrr. lacusprofundi* DSM 5036<sup>T</sup>, *Hrr. aidingense* JCM 13560<sup>T</sup>, *Hrr. arcis* JCM 13916<sup>T</sup> and *Hrr. aquaticum* JCM 14031<sup>T</sup> were obtained from Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) or Japan Collection of Microorganisms (JCM) and used in the comparative taxonomic analyses.

#### Morphological, physiological and biochemical characterization

All of the phenotypic tests were performed using medium 954 or a halophile medium (HMD) that contained ( $l^{-1}$ ): 20 g  $MgCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ , 5 g  $K_2SO_4$ , 0.1 g  $CaCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ , 0.1 g yeast extract, 0.5 g  $NH_4Cl$ , 0.05 g  $KH_2PO_4$ , 0.5 g casamino acids as a carbon source and 180 g NaCl (Savage et al. 2007), unless indicated otherwise. The cell morphology and size were determined using a transmission electron microscope (SUPRA 55 VP; Carl Zeiss). Gram staining was performed using the published method for haloarchaea (Dussault 1955). Cell lysis in distilled water was tested by incubating cells in distilled water for 1 week before transfer to medium 954. The optimal conditions for growth in medium 954 with various NaCl concentrations were tested using 0–30 % (w/v) NaCl at intervals of 5 %. The optimal pH range for growth was assayed from pH 5.0–11.0 at intervals of 1.0 using HMD with the following buffers: 10 mM 2-(*N*-morpholino) ethanesulfonic acid for pH 5.0 and 6.0, 10 mM bis-Tris propane for pH 7.0–9.0 and 10 mM 3-(cyclohexylamino)-1-propanesulfonic acid for pH 10.0 and 11.0. Growth was also tested at different temperatures, i.e. 5–60 °C at intervals of 5 °C. The standard phenotypic tests for nitrate and nitrite reduction in aerobic conditions, indole formation, urease activity and the hydrolysis of casein and starch were performed as

described by Benson (2002) using medium 954 as the basal medium. The hydrolysis of Tween 20, 40 and 80 were tested as described by González et al. (1978) and the hydrolysis of gelatin was tested according to Smibert and Krieg (1994) using medium 954 as the basal medium. Anaerobic growth was tested in filled, stoppered tubes using medium 954 in the presence of 30 mM nitrate, 5 g *L*-arginine, 5 g DMSO or 5 g trimethylamine *N*-oxide (TMAO) at 37 °C in an anaerobic chamber (Coy), where the atmosphere comprised  $N_2/CO_2/H_2$  (90:5:5, by vol.).  $H_2S$  formation was tested according to Cui et al. (2007). Acid production from *D*-glucose was tested by growing strain B8<sup>T</sup> in HMD supplemented with 1 % *D*-glucose. Methyl red and Voges–Proskauer tests were determined using MR–VP Broth (BD) and Simmon’s citrate test was performed using Simmons citrate agar (DB), for which each medium was supplemented with 20 % (w/v) NaCl. Arginine, lysine and ornithine decarboxylases tests were carried out using Moeller Decarboxylase Broth Base (BD) containing 20 % (w/v) NaCl as the basal medium. To assess the utilization of sole carbon and energy sources, HMD was supplemented with 10 mM bis-Tris propane and 1 % of the following substrates: acetate, *L*-alanine, *L*-arginine, *L*-aspartate, citrate, *D*-fructose, fumarate, *D*-galactose, *D*-glucose, *L*-glutamate, glycerol, glycine, *DL*-lactate, lactose, *L*-lysine, *L*-malate, maltose, mannitol, *D*-mannose, *L*-ornithine, pyruvate, *D*-ribose, sorbitol, *L*-sorbose, starch, succinate, sucrose or *D*-xylose. For testing antibiotic sensitivity, strain B8<sup>T</sup> was inoculated on agar medium plates using antibiotic discs with the following amounts ( $\mu g$  per disc, unless indicated): ampicillin (20), bacitracin (0.1 IU), chloramphenicol (50), ciprofloxacin (10), erythromycin (25), neomycin (50), norfloxacin (20), novobiocin (50), penicillin G (20 IU) and rifampin (10). The strain was incubated for 2 weeks at 37 °C.

#### Determination of the 16S rRNA and RNA polymerase subunit B' (*rpoB'*) gene sequences and phylogenetic analysis

To obtain chromosomal DNA, cells of strain B8<sup>T</sup> were harvested, extracted and purified using a DNA extraction kit (G-spin<sup>TM</sup>; iNtRON Biotechnology). The 16S rRNA gene of strain B8<sup>T</sup> was amplified using a PCR pre-Mix (iNtRON Biotechnology) and the primer set Arch21F and 1492R (DeLong 1992), as

described previously (Roh et al. 2008). To check the heterogeneous 16S rRNA gene sequences, PCR products were ligated and transformed using an All-in PCR cloning kit (BioFact) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Multiple clones were picked randomly and then sequenced. PCR-mediated amplification and sequencing of the *rpoB'* genes were carried out according to Minegishi et al. (2010). The almost full-length 16S rRNA and *rpoB'* gene sequences were determined using SeqMan (DNA-STAR). The phylogenetic neighbours and the pairwise sequence similarities were determined using EzTaxon-e (Kim et al. 2012). The 16S rRNA gene sequences of strain B8<sup>T</sup> and validly named related species were aligned using the SILVA Incremental Aligner (Prusse et al. 2012). The *rpoB'* gene sequences of the related taxa were obtained from GenBank (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>) and multiple sequence alignment was performed using the Clustal\_W program. The phylogenetic trees were constructed using the neighbor-joining (NJ) (Saitou and Nei 1987), minimum-evolution (ME) (Nei et al. 1998) and maximum-likelihood (ML) (Felsenstein 1981) algorithms based on Kimura's two-parameter model (Kimura 1980) with 1,000 randomly selected bootstrap replicates using MEGA5 (Tamura et al. 2011).

Determination of the DNA–DNA hybridization (DDH), DNA G+C content, quinones and polar lipid analysis

The DDH experiments were performed using the fluorometric method with photobiotin-labeled DNA probes and microwell plates (MaxiSorp, FluoroNunc), as described by Ezaki et al. (1989). The genomic DNA G+C content was determined as described by González and Saiz-Jimenez (2002).

Polar lipids were extracted and detected using thin layer chromatography on a silica gel 60 F254 plate (Merck), according to the method of Minnikin et al. (1984). The compositions of the polar lipid spots were determined by spraying each plate with specific detection reagents as follows: sulfuric acid–ethanol (1:2, by vol) for total lipids, molybdenum blue for phospholipids and  $\alpha$ -naphthol-sulfuric acid for glycolipids. The quinones of strain B8<sup>T</sup> were analyzed using an HPLC system (UltiMate 3000; Dionex) coupled to a diode array detector and a single quadrupole mass spectrometer (HCT Ion-Trap MS; Bruker).

## Results and discussion

Cells of strain B8<sup>T</sup> were observed to be Gram-stain negative, pleomorphic, short rod or oval shaped, 0.5–0.6  $\mu\text{m}$  in width and 0.9–1.1  $\mu\text{m}$  in length (Supplementary Fig. S1). The colonies were red with a smooth and rounded shape on solid medium. Strain B8<sup>T</sup> was found to grow in the presence of 15–30 % (w/v) NaCl, at 20–45 °C and at pH 7.0–9.0, with optimum growth in the presence of 25 % NaCl, at 35–40 °C and pH 8.0. The cells of strain B8<sup>T</sup> lysed in distilled water. Strain B8<sup>T</sup> was found to reduce nitrate in aerobic conditions and to be positive for acid production from D-glucose, catalase and oxidase. The novel strain was found to be able to hydrolyze Tween 20, 40 and 80, but not casein, gelatin and starch. H<sub>2</sub>S was not produced from Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>. Indole was not formed and no urease activity was observed. Strain B8<sup>T</sup> could not grow in anaerobic conditions using nitrate, L-arginine, DMSO or TMAO. The Methyl red, Voges-prokauer and Simmon's citrate tests were negative. Strain B8<sup>T</sup> did not produce arginine dihydrolase, lysine decarboxylase or ornithine decarboxylase. Strain B8<sup>T</sup> was found to be sensitive to novobiocin, bacitracin, erythromycin, rifampin, neomycin and ciprofloxacin, but resistant to penicillin G, ampicillin, chloramphenicol and norfloxacin. Detailed results of the phenotypic tests and the nutritional features of this strain are presented in the species description. Table 1 shows the different characteristics of strain B8<sup>T</sup> compared with those of closely related type strains of members of the genus *Halorubrum*, which indicates that strain B8<sup>T</sup> can be distinguished from closely related members of the genus *Halorubrum*.

Sequence comparisons indicated that strain B8<sup>T</sup> has three rRNA genes, *rrnA*, *rrnB* and *rrnC*. The almost complete 16S rRNA of the three rRNA genes and the *rpoB'* gene sequences of strain B8<sup>T</sup> were obtained (1,430, 1,450, 1,450 and 1,830 bp, respectively; GenBank accession numbers EF077637, KF848218, KF848217 and KF700332, respectively). Similarities between the three 16S rRNA gene sequences were 99.0–99.8 %. A comparison with related sequences showed that strain B8<sup>T</sup> (based on the 16S rRNA *rrnA* gene sequence) shares the highest levels of similarity with the following strains with validly published names: *Hrr. lipolyticum* JCM 13559<sup>T</sup> (99.0 % 16S rRNA gene sequence similarity), *Hrr. saccharovorum* DSM 1137<sup>T</sup> (99.0 %), *Hrr. kocurii* JCM 14978<sup>T</sup>

**Table 1** Differential characteristics of strain B8<sup>T</sup> and closely related species in the genus *Halorubrum*

Characteristic	1	2	3	4	5
NaCl range for growth (% w/v)	15–30	15–25	20–25	15–30	20–25
Optimum NaCl (%)	25	20	25	25	25
Optimum temperature (°C)	35–40	25	40	45	35
pH range for growth	7.0–9.0	7.0–9.0	7.0–9.0	7.0–9.0	7.0–8.0
Optimum pH	8.0	7.0	8.0	7.0	8.0
Hydrolysis of Tween 80	+	+	–	–	–
Nitrate reduction	+	+	–	+	+
Carbon and energy source					
Acetate	+	+	+	+	–
L-Aspartate	–	+	–	+	–
Fumarate	+	–	–	–	+
D-Galactose	+	+	–	–	–
Lactose	–	+	–	–	–
L-Malate	–	–	–	–	+
L-Ornithine	+	+	+	–	–
Succinate	+	–	–	–	+
Sucrose	–	–	–	+	–
DNA G+C content	64.6	65.9 <sup>a</sup>	71.2 <sup>b</sup>	69.4 <sup>c</sup>	65.3 <sup>b</sup>

Taxa: 1, *Hrr. halophilum* B8<sup>T</sup> sp. nov.; 2, *Hrr. lipolyticum* JCM 13559<sup>T</sup>; 3, *Hrr. saccharovororum* DSM 1137<sup>T</sup>; 4, *Hrr. kocurii* JCM 14978<sup>T</sup>; 5, *Hrr. lacusprofundi* DSM 5036<sup>T</sup>. All data were from this study, unless otherwise indicated. All strains were found to be positive for catalase and oxidase and utilization of L-arginine, L-glutamate, D-glucose, DL-lactate, D-mannose and pyruvate; negative for hydrolysis of casein, starch, gelatin, indole formation and utilization of L-alanine, citrate, D-fructose, glycerol, glycine, L-lysine, maltose, mannitol, D-ribose, sorbitol, L-sorbose, starch and D-xylose. Symbols: + positive, – negative

<sup>a</sup> Data from Cui et al. (2006)

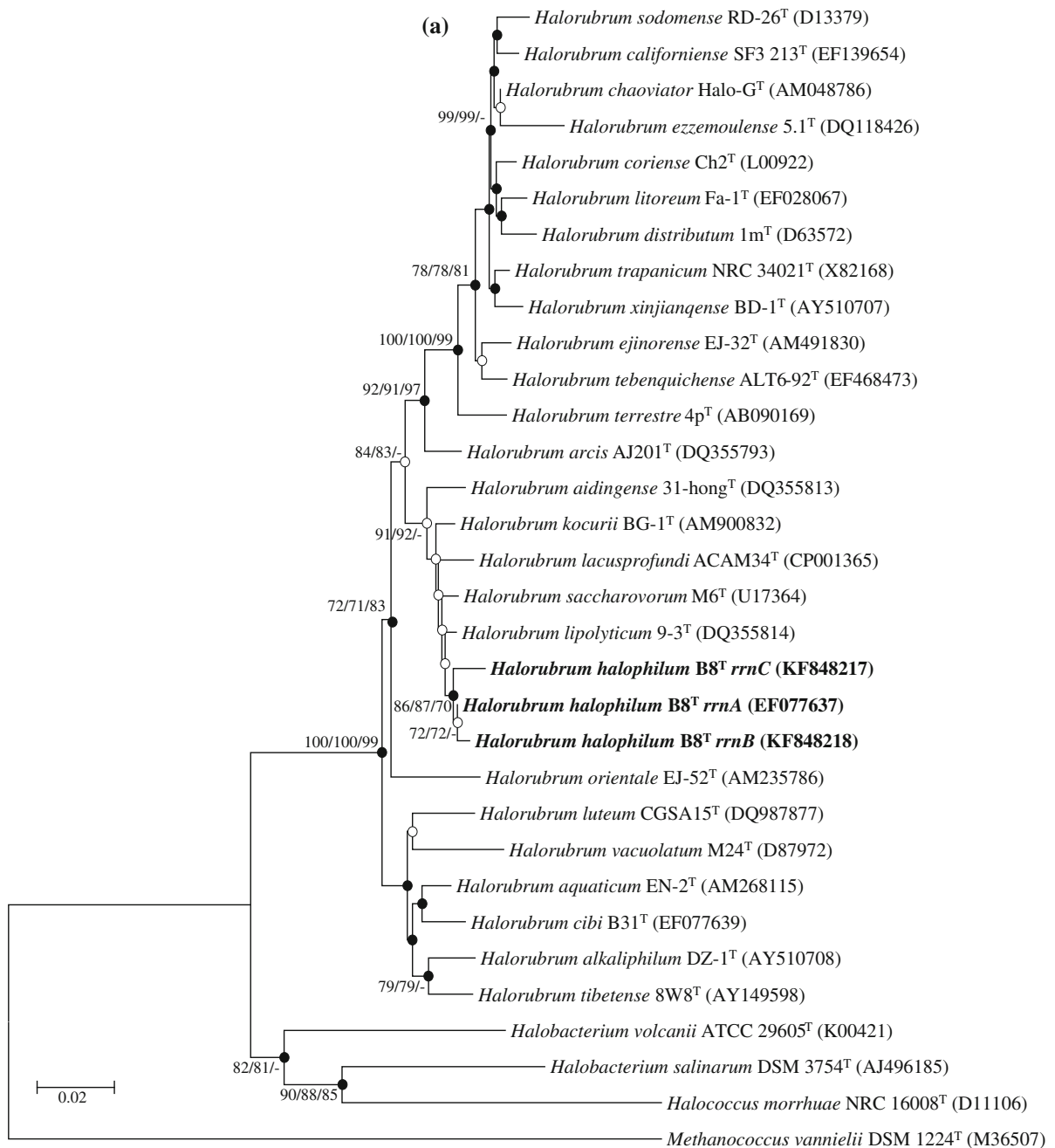
<sup>b</sup> Data from McGenity and Grant (1995)

<sup>c</sup> Data from Gutiérrez et al. (2008)

(98.8 %), *Hrr. lacusprofundi* DSM 5036<sup>T</sup> (98.3 %), *Hrr. arcis* JCM 13916<sup>T</sup> (98.0 %), *Hrr. aidingense* JCM 13560<sup>T</sup> (97.7 %), *Hrr. aquaticum* JCM 14031<sup>T</sup> (97.0 %) and other type strains in the genus *Halorubrum* (93.7–96.5 %). Strain B8<sup>T</sup> clustered with *Hrr. lipolyticum*, *Hrr. saccharovororum*, *Hrr. kocurii*, *Hrr. lacusprofundi* and *Hrr. aidingense* in the phylogenetic trees based on the 16S rRNA gene sequences (Fig. 1). The phylogenetic analyses based on the *rpoB'* gene sequences showed that strain B8<sup>T</sup> is closely related to the following members: *Hrr. kocurii* JCM 14978<sup>T</sup> (97.2 % *rpoB'* gene sequence similarity), *Hrr. saccharovororum* DSM 1137<sup>T</sup> (96.8 %), *Hrr. lipolyticum* JCM 13559<sup>T</sup> (96.3 %), *Hrr. lacusprofundi* DSM 5036<sup>T</sup> (94.9 %), *Hrr. arcis* JCM 13916<sup>T</sup> (94.2 %), *Hrr. aidingense* JCM 13560<sup>T</sup> (93.2 %) and *Hrr. aquaticum* JCM 14031<sup>T</sup> (92.2 %). The phylogenetic trees based on the *rpoB'* gene sequences showed a

similar topology compared with trees of the 16S rRNA gene (Fig. 1b).

The DDH values of strain B8<sup>T</sup> with the type strains of *Hrr. lipolyticum* JCM 13559<sup>T</sup>, *Hrr. saccharovororum* DSM 1137<sup>T</sup>, *Hrr. kocurii* JCM 14978<sup>T</sup>, *Hrr. lacusprofundi* DSM 5036<sup>T</sup>, *Hrr. arcis* JCM 13916<sup>T</sup>, *Hrr. aidingense* JCM 13560<sup>T</sup> and *Hrr. aquaticum* JCM 14031<sup>T</sup> were 50 ± 9, 48 ± 11, 23 ± 2, 17 ± 3, 23 ± 4, 12 ± 2 and 14 ± 6 %, respectively. DDH values of <70 % represent distinct species according to current cut-offs employed in prokaryotic systematics (Wayne et al. 1987; Stackebrandt and Goebel 1994), so strain B8<sup>T</sup> can be considered a distinct genospecies in the genus *Halorubrum*. The DNA G+C content of strain B8<sup>T</sup> was determined to be 64.6 mol% ( $T_m$ ), which is similar to the levels found in the closely related strain *Hrr. lipolyticum* JCM 13559<sup>T</sup> (65.9 mol%) (Cui et al. 2006). The polar lipids



**Fig. 1** Phylogenetic tree based on the neighbour-joining (NJ) algorithm for the 16S rRNA (a) and *rpoB'* (b) gene sequences of strain B8<sup>T</sup> and closely related taxa. The numbers on the nodes indicate the bootstrap values (>70 %), which were calculated using the NJ/minimum-evolution (ME)/maximum-likelihood (ML) probabilities. The closed circles represent the nodes obtained using both the ME and ML methods, whereas the open

circles indicate nodes recovered using either the ME or ML method. *Methanococcus vannielii* DSM 1224<sup>T</sup> and *Haloquadratum walsbyi* DSM 16790 were used as the outgroup for the phylogenetic trees based on the 16S rRNA and *rpoB'* gene sequences, respectively. Bar, 0.02 (a) and 0.05 (b) accumulated changes per nucleotide

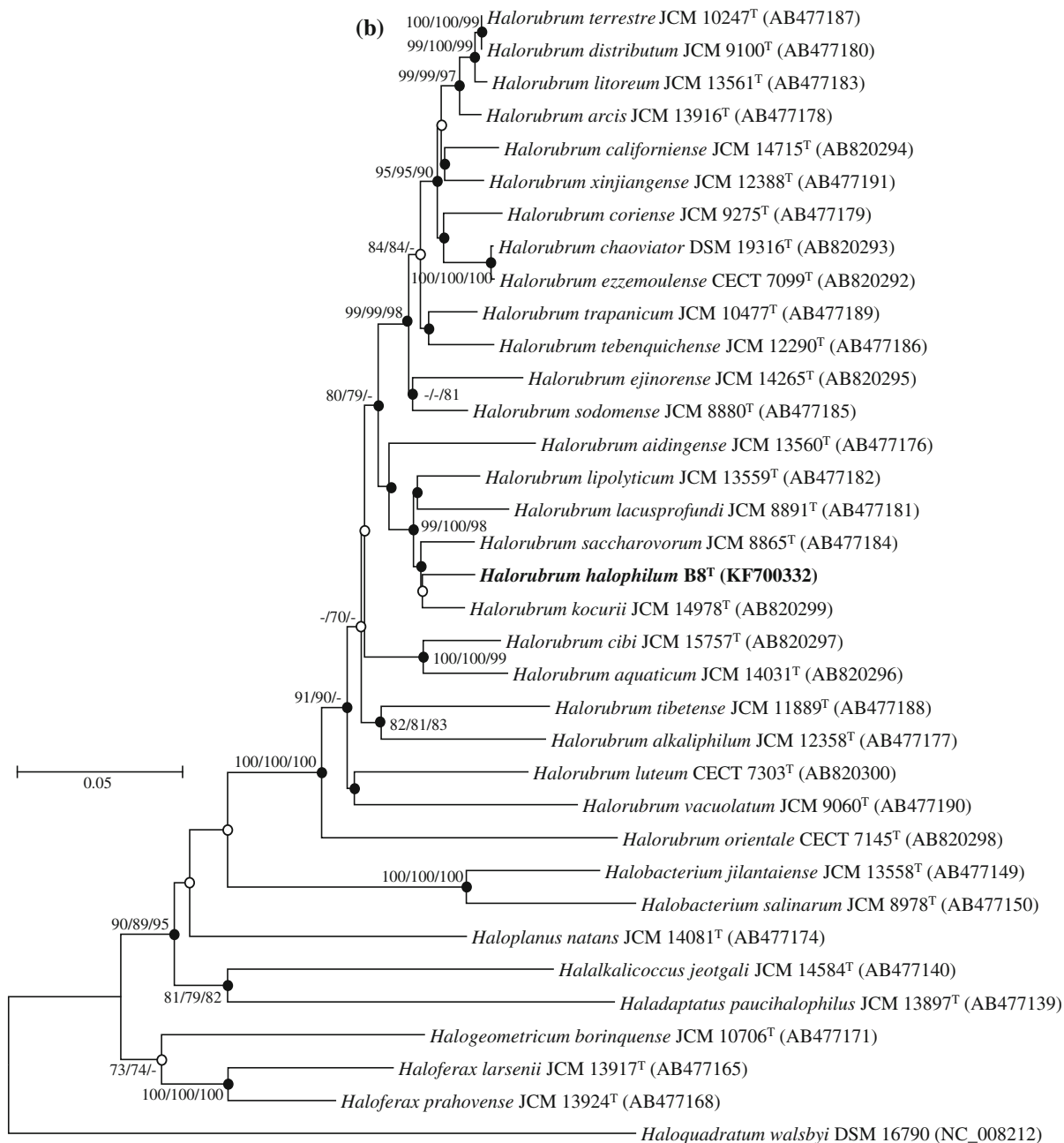


Fig. 1 continued

detected in strain B8<sup>T</sup> comprised PG, PGP-Me, PGS, S-DGD-3 and an unidentified phospholipid (Supplementary Fig. S2). The major polar lipid profile of strain B8<sup>T</sup> resembles that of the closely related *Halorubrum* species *Hrr. lipolyticum*, *Hrr. saccharovororum*, *Hrr. lacusprofundi* and *Hrr. arcis* which

contain PG, PGP-Me, PGS and S-DGD-3 (McGenity and Grant 1995; Cui et al. 2006; Xu et al. 2007). However, the presence of PGS and S-DGD-3 in strain B8<sup>T</sup> help distinguish the strain from *Hrr. kocurii* and *Hrr. aidingense*, respectively (Cui et al. 2006; Gutiérrez et al. 2008). The major isoprenoid quinone

detected in strain B8<sup>T</sup> was menaquinone (MK)-8 and minor ones were MK-7(H<sub>4</sub>) and MK-8(H<sub>2</sub>).

In conclusion, the results of the phenotypic, phylogenetic and chemotaxonomic analyses showed that the haloarchaeal strain B8<sup>T</sup> belongs to the genus *Halorubrum*. Table 1 shows that strain B8<sup>T</sup> exhibits some differences compared with closely related type strains in the genus *Halorubrum*. Thus, based on this polyphasic taxonomic study, strain B8<sup>T</sup> is considered to represent a novel species in the genus *Halorubrum*, for which the name *Hrr. halophilum* nov. is proposed.

### Description of *Halorubrum halophilum* sp. nov.

*Halorubrum halophilum* (ha.lo'phi.lum. Gr. n. *hals, halos*, salt; Gr. adj. *philos*, loving; N.L. neut. adj. *halophilum* salt-loving)

Cells are Gram-stain negative, pleomorphic, short rod or oval shaped and 0.5–0.6 μm in width and 0.9–1.1 μm in length. Colonies are red, smooth and round in shape. Cell lysis occurs in distilled water. Growth occurs in the presence of 15–30 % (w/v) NaCl (optimum, 25 %), at 20–45 °C (optimum, 35–40 °C) and pH 7.0–9.0 (optimum, pH 8.0). Anaerobic growth does not occur in the presence of nitrate, L-arginine, DMSO or TMAO. Cells are positive for nitrate reduction in aerobic conditions, catalase and oxidase activity, acid production from D-glucose and the hydrolysis of Tween 20, 40 and 80, but negative for nitrite reduction in aerobic conditions, indole formation, H<sub>2</sub>S production, urease activity, Methyl red, Voges–Proskauer, Simmon's citrate and the hydrolysis of casein, gelatin or starch. Arginine dihydrolase, lysine decarboxylase and ornithine decarboxylase are not produced. Acetate, L-arginine, fumarate, D-galactose, D-glucose, L-glutamate, DL-lactate, D-mannose, L-ornithine, pyruvate and succinate are utilized as sole carbon and energy sources, whereas L-alanine, L-aspartate, citrate, D-fructose, glycerol, glycine, lactose, L-lysine, L-malate, maltose, mannitol, D-ribose, sorbitol, L-sorbose, starch, sucrose and D-xylose are not utilised. The polar lipids are phosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylglycerol phosphate methyl ester, phosphatidylglycerol sulfate, sulfated mannosyl glucosyl diether and an unidentified phospholipid. The major isoprenoid quinone is MK-8. The DNA G+C content of the type strain is 64.6 mol%.

The type strain, B8<sup>T</sup> (=JCM 18963<sup>T</sup> = CECT 8278<sup>T</sup>), was isolated from a salt-fermented seafood made from shrimp. The GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ accession number for the 16S rRNA *rrnA*, *rrnB* and *rrnC* and *rpoB* gene sequences of strain B8<sup>T</sup> are EF077637, KF848218, KF848217 and KF700332, respectively.

**Acknowledgments** This research was supported by the Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (2012R1A1A2040922) and a project fund (C33730) awarded to J. S. Choi by the Center for Analytical Research of Disaster Science of Korea Basic Science Institute. We thank Dr J. P. Euzéby (École Nationale Vétérinaire, Toulouse, France) for etymological advice.

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