

SARDI

Winter mortality of Sydney rock oysters

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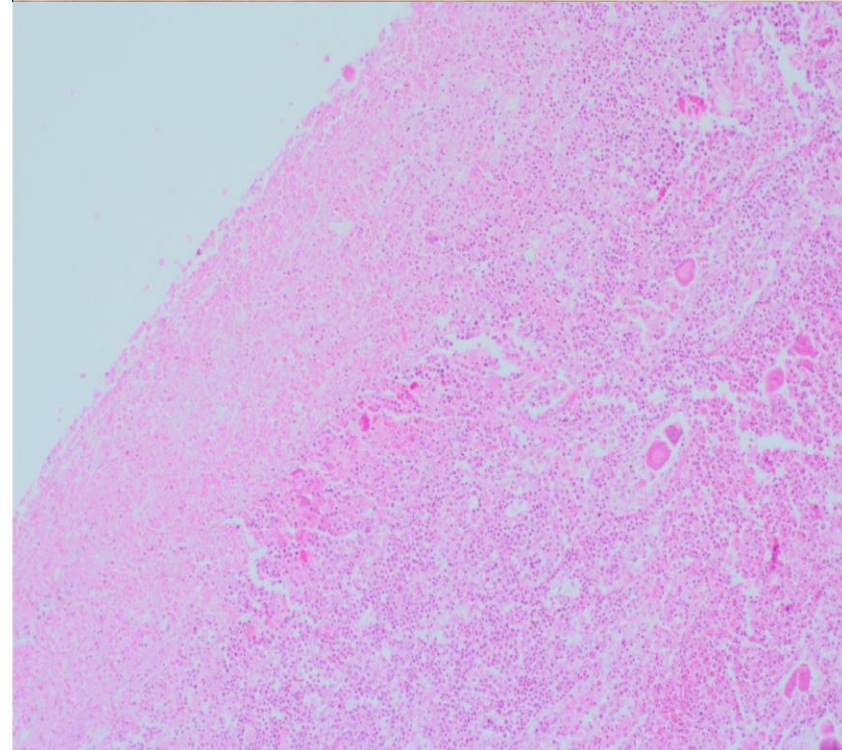
Winter mortality

Case definition

Mortalities in adult *Saccostrea glomerata*
July to November
Port Stephens South
High salinity water
Gross focal lesions

Cause?

Microcells (*Bonamia roughleyi*?)
Bacteria



Cases during CRC-P

Cases

Few (7) submissions
2 meet case definition

Investigations

Histology

Microcells (*Bonamia*,
Mikrocytos, *Perkinsus*)

Bacteria – culture, PCR,
microbiomics

Submission	% mortality	Age	Submitter Comments	Gross lesions present?	Key histological findings	Meets case definition?
1 Crookhaven River	80%	<1.5 yr	Cool and dry conditions	No	No focal lesions.	Wrong age. No lesions.
2 Georges River	10-15%	2 yr	Routine submission	No	Not examined	No. No gross lesions observed.
3 Crookhaven River	80%	<1.5 yr	Cool and dry conditions	No	Not examined	Wrong age. No lesions.
4 Nelsons Lagoon	50%	(Spat) 0.5 yr		No	Alimentary duct hyperplasia. Non-specific infiltration.	Wrong age. No lesions.
5 Clyde River	15-20%	2 yr	No deaths in juvenile oysters on same lease	Yes	Focal lesions.	Yes.
6 Berrys Bay, Shoalhaven River	20%	1.5 yr	Recent frost High salinity	Yes	Focal lesions.	Yes
7 Shoalhaven River	5%	1-2 yr	Routine submission	No	Minimal pathology.	No lesions.

Microcells

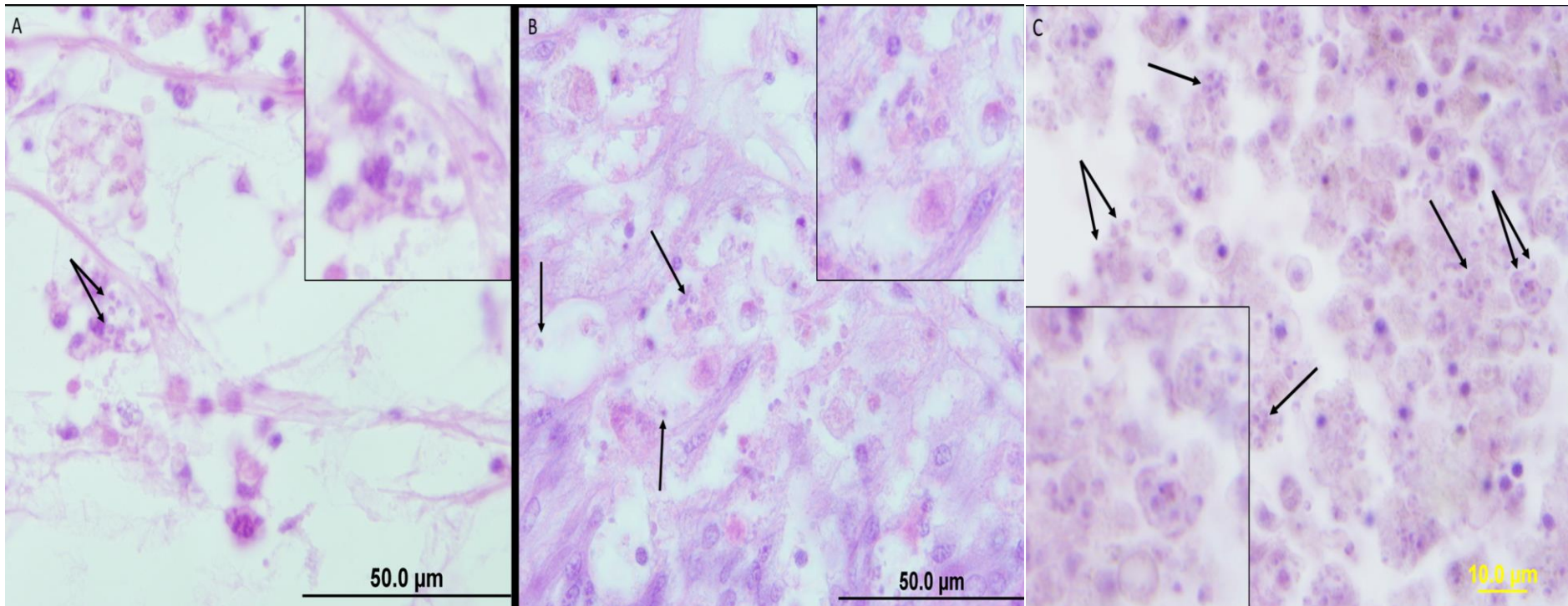
Inconsistent occurrence

PCR negative:

Bonamia assay: Marty et al. 2006

Mikrocytos assay: Garcia et al. 2018

Perkinsus assay: Gauthier et al. 2006



Bacteriology

Species

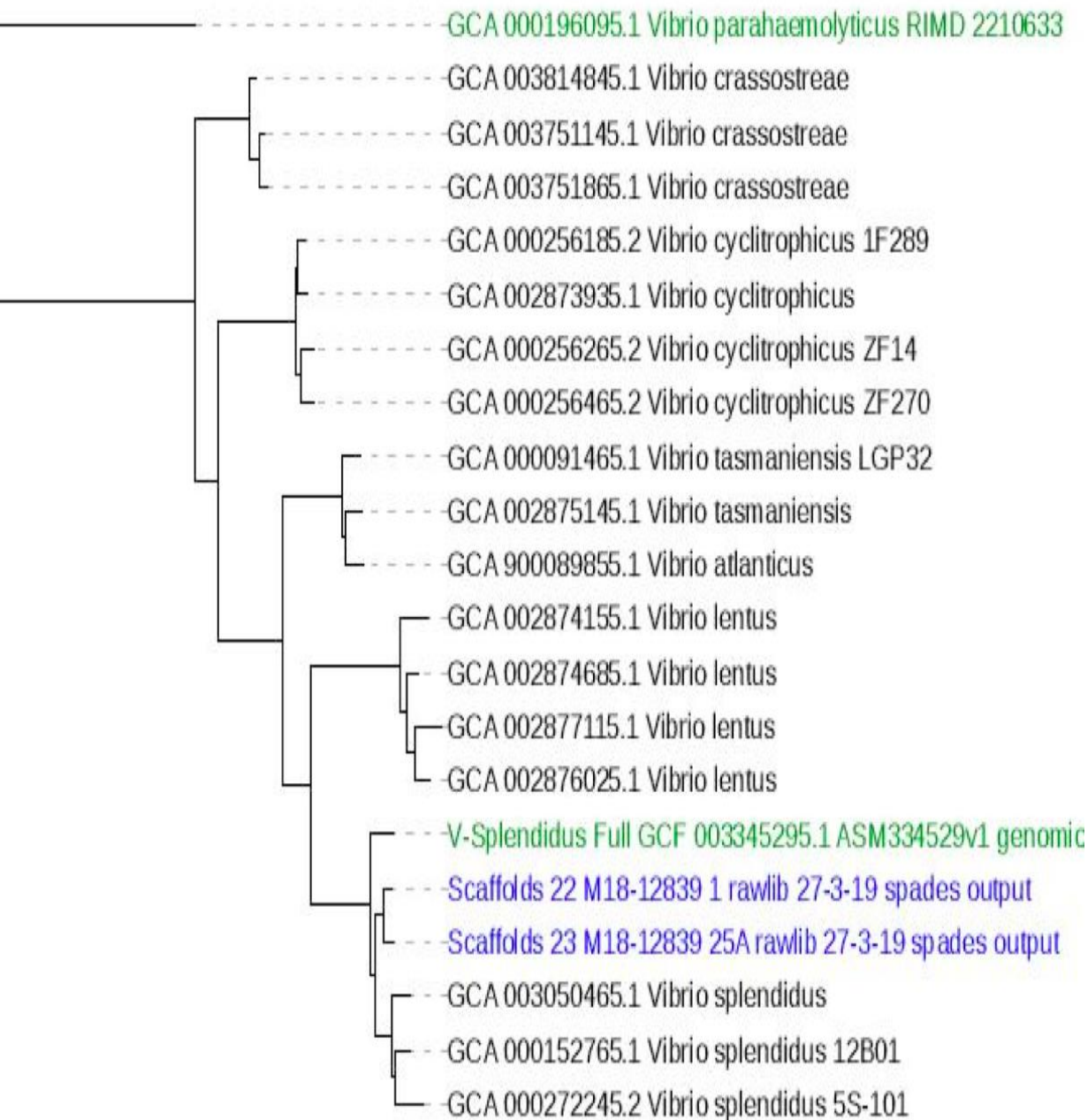
Vibrio splendidus

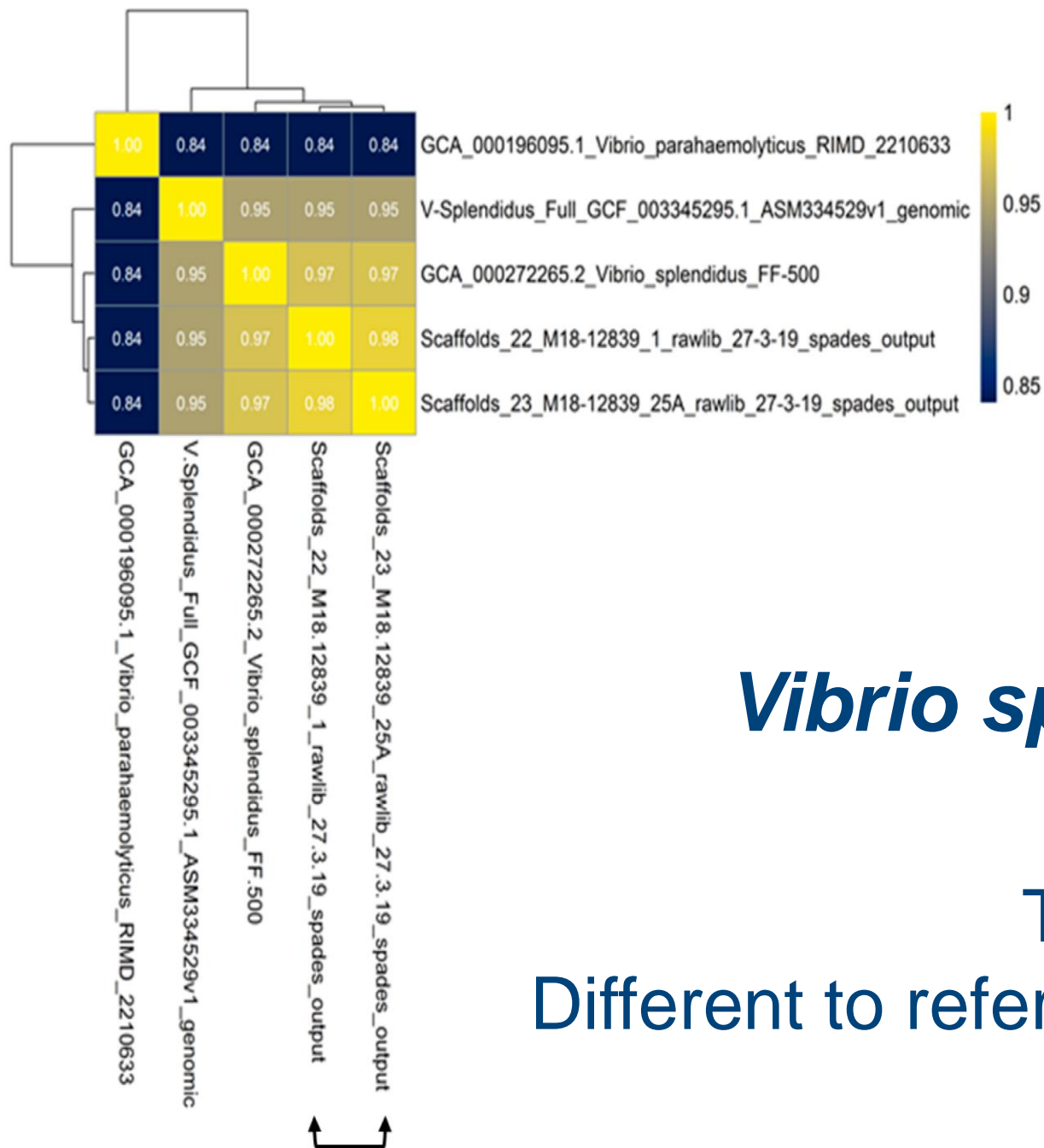
Characteristics

Known pathogen

Toxin-producing genes

Inconsistent presence



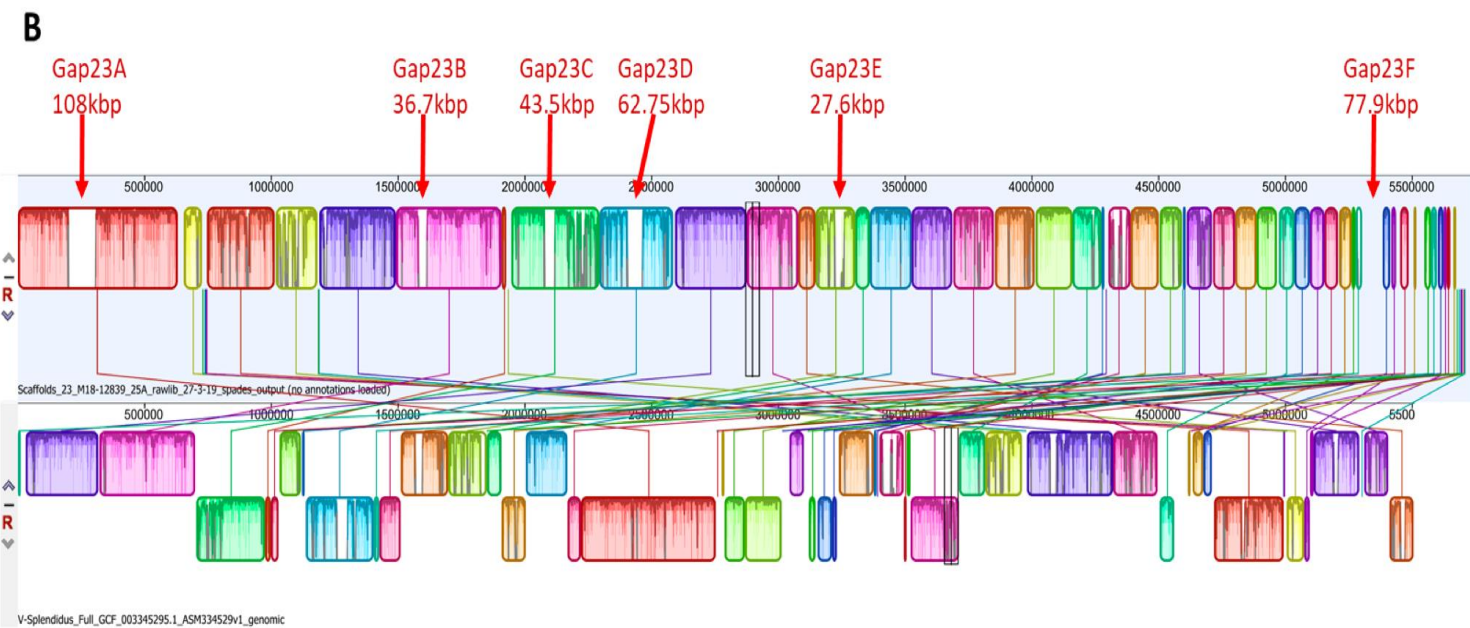
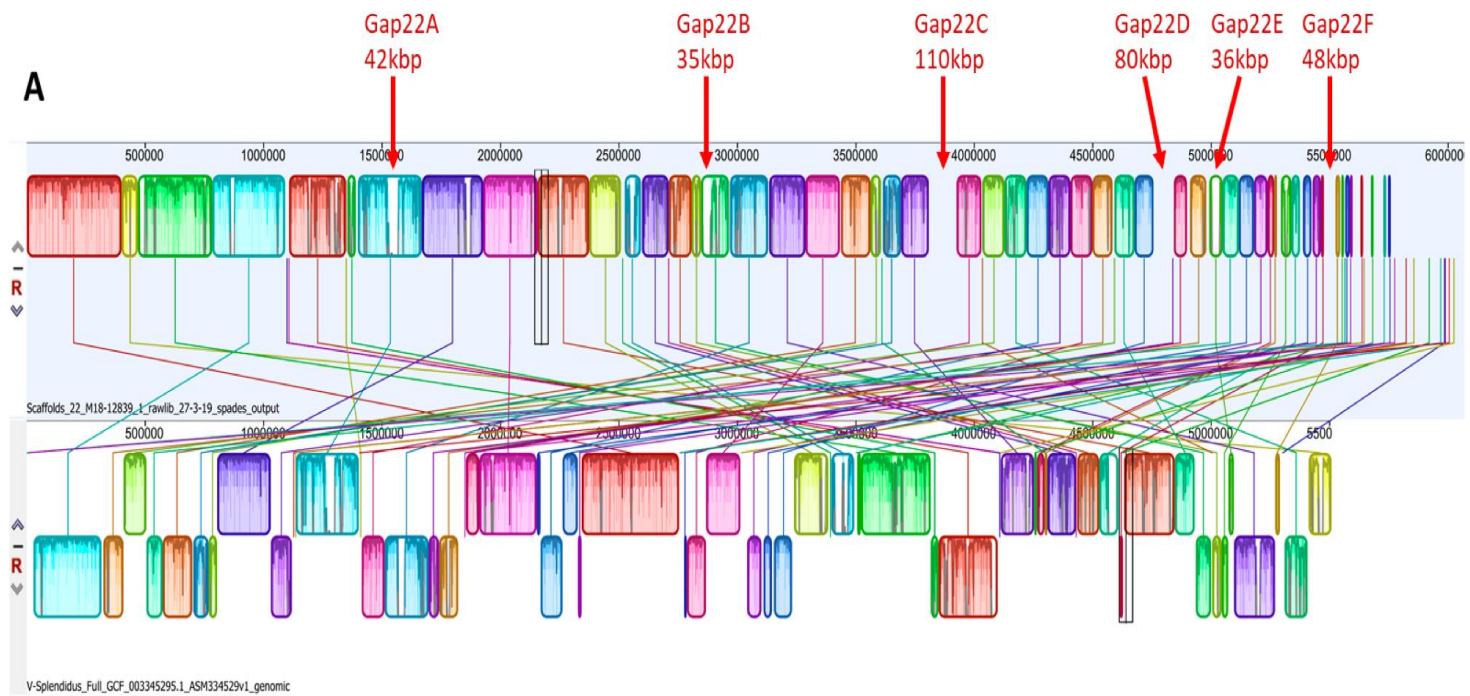


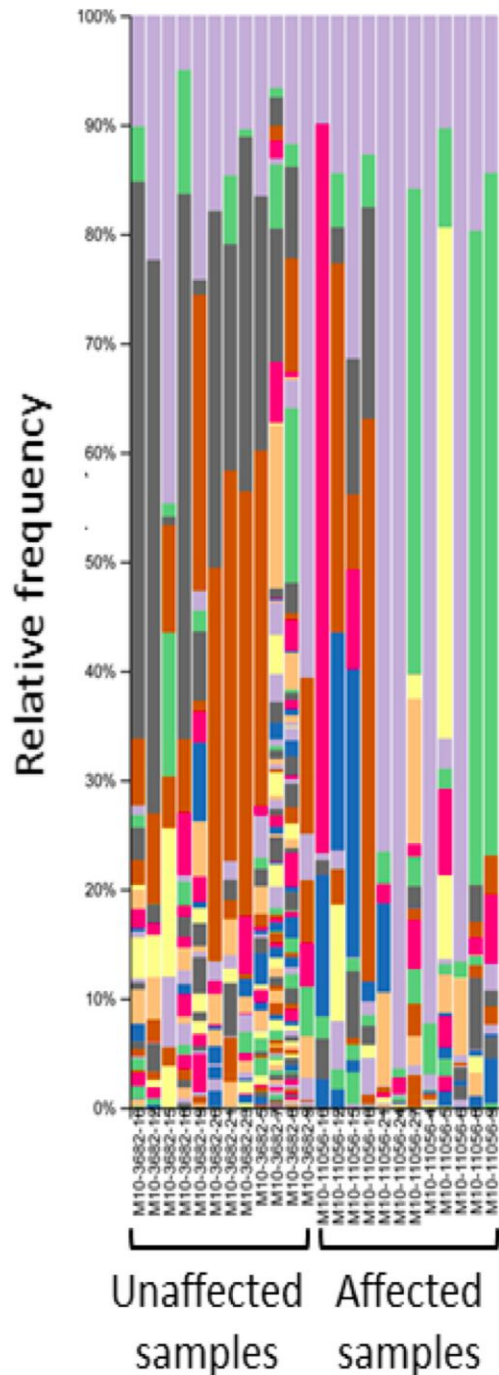
Vibrio splendidus

NGS

Toxin genes

Different to reference strain





Microbiomics

Community diversity loss

Characteristics

Similar communities in WM cases

Axis 2 (5.287 %)

Legions
Present



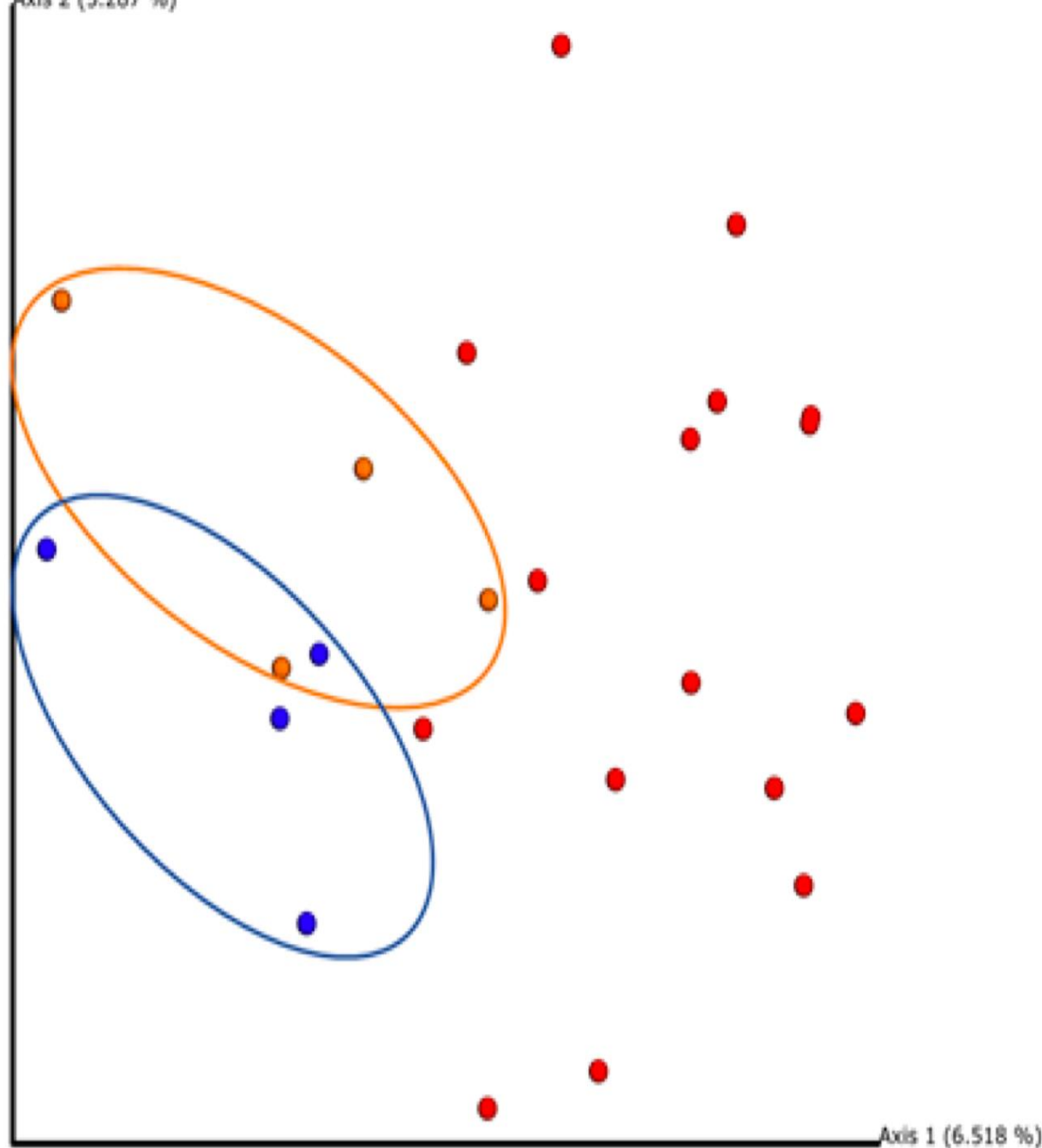
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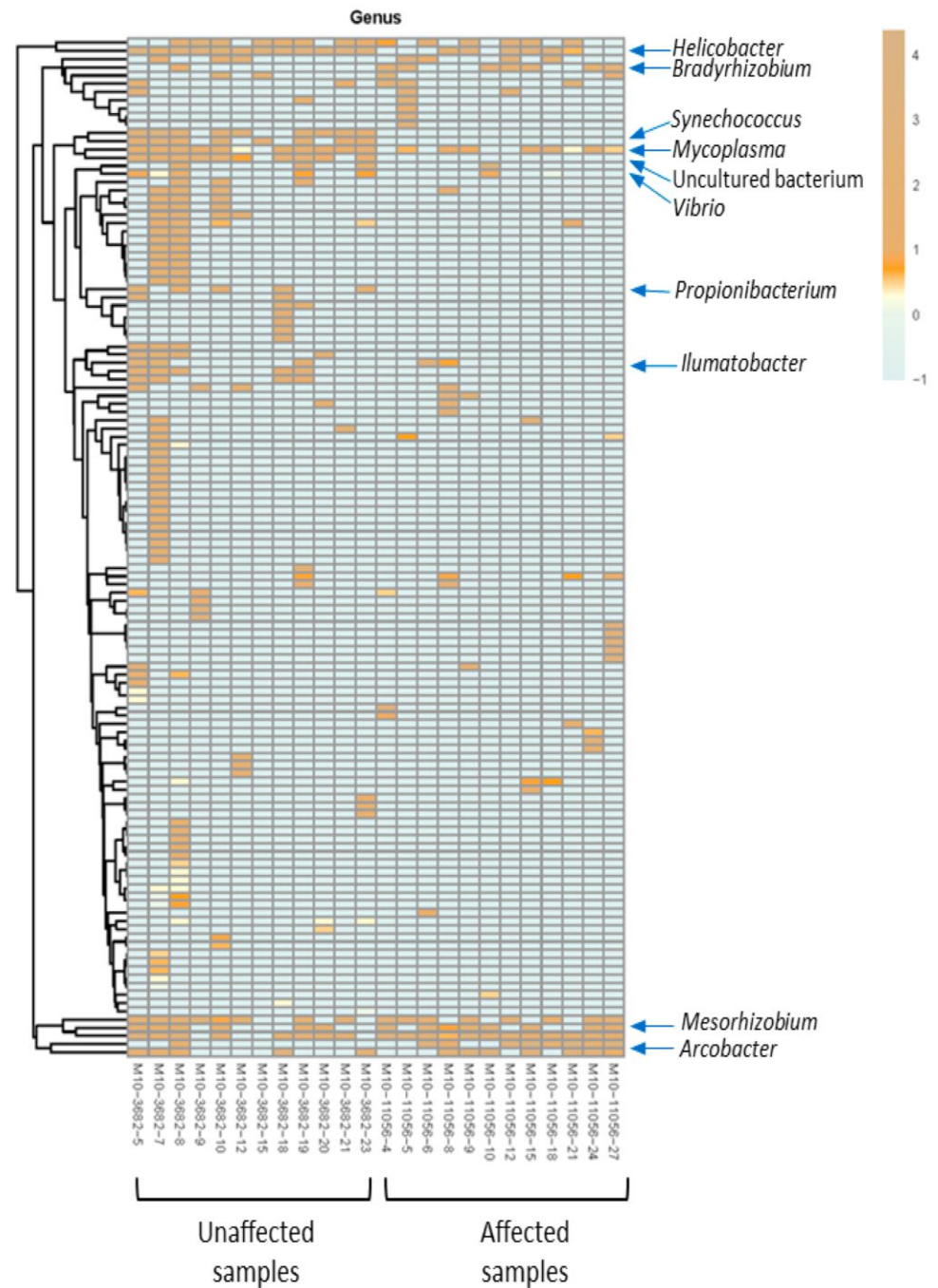


Bacterial community shifts

Taxa

Bradyrhizobium,
Mesorhizobium and
Arcobacter increased

Helicobacter, *Synechococcus*,
Mycoplasma,
Propionibacterium,
Ilumatobacter, *Vibrio* and
unidentified uncultured
bacteria decreased



Conclusions

Developed case definition

Investigated 7 events

2 met case definition

Microcells not causative

Definite shifts in bacterial communities

Cause unclear but multifactorial



Acknowledgements

CRC-P, DIIS, Steven Clarke, Xiaoxu Li, Tim Ward, Gavin Begg

Jessica Buss

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**When
biosecurity
works
nothing
happens**