



Pseudomonas marianensis sp. nov., a marine bacterium isolated from deep-sea sediments of the Mariana Trench

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Abstract

A novel marine Gram-stain-negative, aerobic, rod-shaped bacterium, designated as strain PS1^T, was isolated from the deep-sea sediments of the Mariana Trench and characterized phylogenetically and phenotypically. Bacterial optimal growth occurred at 35 °C (ranging 10–45 °C), pH 6 (ranging pH 5–10) and with 11% (w/v) NaCl (ranging 0–17%). The 16S rRNA gene sequence similarity results revealed that strain PS1^T was most closely related to *Pseudomonas stutzeri* ATCC 17588^T, *Pseudomonas nitrititolerans* GL14^T, *Pseudomonas zhaodongensis* NEAU-ST5-21^T, *Pseudomonas xanthomarina* DSM 18231^T and *Pseudomonas kunmingensis* HL22-2^T with 98.3–98.7%. The digital DNA–DNA hybridization values and the average nucleotide identity between strain PS1^T and the reference strains were 20.4–40.1% and 78.7–79.4%, respectively. The major respiratory quinone is ubiquinone Q-9. The major polar lipids were phosphatidylethanolamine, diphosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylcholine, aminoglycolipid, two unidentified glycolipids and one unidentified lipid. The predominant cellular fatty acids of strain PS1^T were summed feature 8 (C_{18:1}ω7c and/or C_{18:1}ω6c), summed feature 3 (C_{16:1}ω7c and/or C_{16:1}ω6c), C_{16:0} and cyclo-C_{19:0}ω8c. The G + C content of the genomic DNA was 63.0%. The combined genotypic and phenotypic data indicated that strain PS1^T represents a novel species of the genus *Pseudomonas*, for which the name *Pseudomonas marianensis* sp. nov. is proposed, with the type strain PS1^T (= DSM 112238^T = MCCC 1K05112^T).

Keywords 16S rRNA gene sequence · *Pseudomonas marianensis* · Polyphasic taxonomy · Mariana Trench

Abbreviations

ANI Average nucleotide identity
AAI Average amino acid identity
DDH DNA–DNA hybridization
DPG Diphosphatidylglycerol
PG Phosphatidylglycerol

PE Phosphatidylethanolamine
PC Phosphatidylcholine
AGL Aminoglycolipid

Introduction

The genus *Pseudomonas*, first proposed by Migula (1984), represents a group of Gram-stain-negative bacteria that are aerobic, non-spore-forming, catalase-positive, oxidase-positive, motile and rod shaped (Migula 1984; Timmis 2002). Ubiquinone Q-9 is the major respiratory quinone and summed feature 8 (C_{18:1}ω7c and/or C_{18:1}ω6c) is the major fatty acid component in this genus. The DNA G + C content of bacteria of the genus ranges from 58 to 69 mol% (Wei et al. 2018; Garrity et al. 2005). At the time of writing (April 2022), the genus currently comprises more than 299 species (<http://www.bacterio.net/pseudomonas.html>). They play important roles in the different marine environments, including seawater (Pascual et al. 2012; Wang et al. 2016; Yoshida et al. 2015), sediments (Carrión et al. 2021; Tamegai et al. 1997), and marine animals (Romanenko et al.

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The GenBank accession number for the 16S rRNA gene sequence and the genome sequence of strain PS1^T is MZ670768 and JALGRD000000000, respectively. Five supplementary figures and tables are available with the online Supplementary Materials.

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2008). Some of the species have also been isolated from the Challenger Deep of the Mariana Trench (Wei et al. 2018; Tamegai et al. 1997; Quigley and Colwell 1968) and the Japan Trench (Yoshida et al. 2015). Here, we report the taxonomic characteristics of a novel *Pseudomonas* species isolated from deep-sea sediments of the Mariana Trench.

Materials and methods

Isolation and cultivation

Strain PS1^T was isolated from a deep-sea sediment from the Mariana Trench (11.33 °N, 142.2 °E) on January 12, 2020. The sample was serially diluted and spread on marine agar 2216. After incubation for 3 days at 28 °C under aerobic conditions, strain PS1^T was selected, and pure culture was obtained after three successive transfers to fresh medium. The strain was routinely cultivated on marine broth 2216 (MB; Difco) under aerobic conditions and stored at –80 °C in liquid medium supplemented with 20% (v/v) glycerol. *Pseudomonas stutzeri* DSM 5190^T, *Pseudomonas zhaodongensis* DSM 27559^T and *Pseudomonas xanthomarina* DSM 18231^T were obtained from the Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ). *Pseudomonas nitrititolerans* CGMCC 1.13874^T and *Pseudomonas kunmingensis* CGMCC 1.12273^T were obtained from the China General Microbiological Culture Collection Center (CGMCC). All strains were cultured under comparable conditions as experimental control strains.

Phenotypic characteristics

Gram reactions were carried out according to previously established procedures (Wei et al. 2018). Cell morphology, size and the presence of flagella were determined using transmission electron microscopy (TEM-1230, JEOL, Japan). Motility was observed using the hanging-drop method described by Skerman (1967). Anaerobic growth was evaluated in 10% MB in the presence of NaNO₃ (10 mM), prepared with a N₂ gas phase (200 kPa) in sealed sterile vials and incubated at 35 °C for 14 days. The temperature ranges for growth were determined in MB incubated at > 45 °C for 7 days and at 10–45 °C for 3 days. Tolerance to NaCl was evaluated in an artificial marine broth medium according to the MB formula, except for the modification of NaCl concentrations to be 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 or 18% (w/v) (Wei et al. 2018). The pH ranges for growth were evaluated in MB adjusted to pH 2.0–11.0, at 1 pH unit intervals, with citrate/phosphate (pH 2.0–7.0), Tris/HCl (pH 8.0–9.0) or sodium carbonate/sodium bicarbonate (pH 10.0–12.0) buffers. Catalase activity was evaluated by the production of oxygen bubbles in 3% (v/v) H₂O₂

and oxidase activity was determined using oxidase reagent (bioMérieux). Hydrolysis of starch, casein, DNA, gelatin, and Tween 80 was tested according to the methods described by Smibert and Krieg (1994). Production of fluorescent pigments was tested on King B medium (King et al. 1954). Other phenotypic characteristics, such as the hydrolysis of starch were determined according to the methods described by Tindall et al. (2007). Other biochemical tests were carried out using API 20NE, API ZYM (both from bioMérieux) and GEN III MicroPlate kit (Biolog) according to the manufacturer's instructions, except for adjusting the NaCl concentration in all tests to 3.0%.

Molecular analysis

Genomic DNA was extracted using the Fast DNA SPIN Kit for Soil (Qbiogene, MP Biomedicals, Illkirch, France) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The 16S rRNA gene was amplified by PCR using universal primer pair 27F (5'-GAGAGTTTGATCCTGGCTCAG-3')/1492R (5'-GTC GTAACAAGGTAGCCGT A-3'). Purified PCR product was ligated to pUCm-T Vector (Sangon Biotech) and cloned according to the manufacturer's instructions. Sequence similarity was determined using the EzTaxon-e server (<http://www.ezbiocloud.net/>) (Kim et al. 2012). Phylogenetic trees based on 16S rRNA gene sequences were constructed using MEGA version X (Kumar et al. 2018). Distances were calculated using the Kimura two-parameter model and clustering was performed with the neighbor-joining (NJ) (Saitou and Nei 1987) and maximum likelihood (ML) (Felsenstein 1981). Bootstrap analysis based on 1000 replications was used to estimate the confidence level of tree topologies and the complete deletion option was implemented.

DNA–DNA relatedness

The draft genome sequence of strain PS1^T was sequenced at Shanghai Majorbio Bio-pharm Technology (Shanghai, China) using Solexa paired-end (500 bp library) sequencing technology. The de novo assembly of the reads was performed using SOAPdenovo v2.04. The genome sequences of *P. stutzeri* ATCC 17588^T (CP002881), *P. nitrititolerans* GL14^T (RFFL01000000), *P. zhaodongensis* NEAU-ST5-21^T (RFFM00000000), *P. xanthomarina* DSM 18231^T (FQXA00000000) and *P. kunmingensis* HL22-2^T (FORS00000000) were obtained from the NCBI database. The DNA–DNA hybridization (DDH) estimate value was analyzed using the genome to genome distance calculator (GGDC2.0) (Goris et al. 2007; Meier-Kolthoff et al. 2013). The average nucleotide identity (ANI) among the three genomes was calculated using JSpecies (V1.2.1) as described by Richter and Rosselló-Móra (2009). The G + C content of the genomic DNA was determined from the draft

genome sequence. A whole-genome-based phylogenomic tree was also reconstructed based on the whole-genome nucleotide sequences using the Type (Strain) Genome Server (TYGS) (Meier-Kolthoff and Göker 2019).

Chemotaxonomy

For cellular fatty acid analysis, strains PS1^T and the reference strains were cultured in MB for 3 days at 35 °C. Fatty acids were saponified, methylated and extracted using the standard protocol of MIDI (Sherlock Microbial Identification System, version 6.0) and identified by using the RTSBA6.0 database of the Microbial Identification System (Sasser 1990). Polar lipids of strain PS1^T were extracted and separated on silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ aluminium-backed thin-layer plates (10 × 10 cm; Merk 5554) which had dried for 30 min at 55 °C and further analyzed according to Minnikin et al. (1984). The first dimension of the solvent system was chloroform/methanol/water (65:24:4, by vol.) and the second dimension was chloroform/glacial acetic acid/methanol/water (80:15:12:4, by vol.). Then the plates were sprayed with 5% phosphomolybdic acid (*w/v*, dissolved in alcohol) and heated at 160 °C for 10–15 min to reveal total lipids. Other reagents such as *a*-naphthol, ninhydrin and molybdenum blue (sigma) were used to detect glycolipids, aminolipids and phospholipids according to Tindall (1990). The respiratory quinones were extracted using the method described by Minnikin et al. (1984) and analyzed by HPLC as described by Tindall (1990).

Results and discussion

Morphological and physiological characteristics

Cells of strain PS1^T were Gram-stain-negative, motile by single polar flagellum, rod-shaped, non-pigmented, 0.4–0.5 µm in width and 1.0–1.9 µm in length (Supplementary Fig. S1). Cells grow in the presence of 0–17% (*w/v*) (11% optimum) NaCl, at 10–45 °C (35 °C optimum) and pH 5–10 (pH 6 optimum). Differentiating phenotypic characteristics of strain PS1^T from its closest phylogenetic neighbours are given in Table 1. All negative phenotypic traits of strain PS1^T are given in Supplementary Tab. S1.

Molecular analysis

The nearly complete 16S rRNA gene sequence (1483 nt) of strain PS1^T was obtained. As shown in Fig. 1, strain PS1^T, *P. stutzeri* ATCC 17588^T and *P. nitrititolerans* GL14^T formed an independent monophyletic cluster. High sequence similarities were observed between the isolate and its closest relatives, *P. stutzeri* ATCC 17588^T (98.7%), followed by

P. nitrititolerans GL14^T (98.6%), *P. zhaodongensis* NEAU-ST5-21^T (98.5%), *P. xanthomarina* DSM 18231^T (98.3%) and *P. kunmingensis* HL22-2^T (98.3%). Sequence similarities between strain PS1^T and other type strains were less than 98.0%. The high similarity of the 16S rRNA gene sequence to those of the nearest related type strains confirms that strain PS1^T belongs to the genus *Pseudomonas*. The whole-genome-based phylogenomic tree showed that strain PS1^T, *P. zhaodongensis* NEAU-ST5-21^T and *P. xanthomarina* DSM 18231^T formed a tight cluster to its most closely related strains within the genus *Pseudomonas* (Supplementary Fig. S2).

The genomic DNA G + C content of strain PS1^T was 63.0% according to its draft genome sequence. The genomic G + C content of members of the genus is 58–69% (Wei et al. 2018; Garrity et al. 2005). The DDH estimate values between strain PS1^T and its most closely related strains were below 35%, which are far below the cutoff values recommended for bacterial species delineation (Thompson et al. 2013; Wayne et al. 1987). The ANI values between strain PS1^T and its most closely related strains were below 80%, which are below the standard criteria for classifying strains as the same species (95–96%) (Richter and Rosselló-Móra 2009). Thus, DDH and ANI both confirm that strain PS1^T represents a novel species.

Chemotaxonomic characteristics

The major cellular fatty acids of strain PS1^T were summed feature 8 (C_{18:1}ω7c and/or C_{18:1}ω6c) (23.5%), C_{16:0} (21.8%), summed feature 3 (C_{16:1}ω7c and/or C_{16:1}ω6c) (15.4%) and cyclo-C_{19:0}ω8c (12.4%) (Supplementary Tab. S2). In strain PS1^T, C_{10:0} 3-OH (3.4%), C_{11:0} 3-OH (0.7%) and C_{12:0} 3-OH (3.6%) were present, which are the common characteristics of the genus *Pseudomonas* (Timmis 2002; Wei et al. 2018). Strain PS1^T could be differentiated from its five closest phylogenetic type strains by fatty acid compositions, as detailed in Supplementary Tab. S2, such as the much larger amount of cyclo-C_{19:0}ω8c (12.4%).

The major polar lipids found in strain PS1^T were phosphatidylethanolamine, diphosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylcholine, aminoglycolipid, two unidentified glycolipids and one unidentified lipid (Supplementary Fig. S3). Menaquinone was extracted using the method described by Minnikin et al. (1984) and analyzed by HPLC as described by Tindall (1990). The major respiratory quinone is ubiquinone Q-9, which was consistent with other species of the genus *Pseudomonas* (Wei et al. 2018).

On the basis of phylogenetic, phenotypic and chemotaxonomic characterization, strain PS1^T shares many common characteristics with the closely related species. However, there are some the differences in physiological, biochemical and chemotaxonomic characteristics among them (Table 1),

Table 1 Differential phenotypic characteristics between strain PS1^T, and the type strains of its phylogenetically closest related species

Characteristic	1	2	3	4	5	6
Temperature range for growth (°C)	10–45	4–42	4–42	20–40	4–37	4–41
Optimal temperature for growth (°C)	35	32	30–37	28	28	30
NaCl tolerance for growth (% w/v)	0–17	0–7	0–9	0–5	0–8	0–6
<i>API ZYM</i>						
Lipase (C14)	+	+	w	+	+	+
Cystine aminopeptidase	w	–	–	w	+	–
Trypsin	–	–	+	w	+	+
α-Chymotrypsin	–	–	–	–	+	–
Acid phosphatase	+	w	+	+	+	+
<i>API 20NE</i>						
L-Arabinose	+	–	–	+	–	–
D-Mannose	–	–	+	w	–	+
<i>Biolog GEN III microplate</i>						
α-Cyclodextrin	+	+	–	+	–	+
D-Mannose	–	+	–	w	–	+
D-Melibiose	+	+	–	w	+	+
Mono-methyl-succinate	+	+	–	w	+	w
<i>cis</i> -Aconitic acid, D-gluconic acid, α-keto valeric acid, γ-Hydroxy butyric acid, bromo succinic acid, glucuronamide, L-alanyl-glycine, L-aspartic acid, L-serine, D,L-lactic acid, 2-aminoethanol	+	w	W	–	w	–
Succinamic acid	+	+	W	–	+	w
Glycyl-L-aspartic acid	–	+	+	–	–	+
Glycyl-L-glutamic acid	w	+	+	–	–	+
Hydroxy-L-proline	+	–	–	w	+	w
L-Threonine	w	+	+	–	w	w
D,L-Carnitine	+	–	W	+	–	+
γ-Amino butyric acid	+	+	–	w	–	+
Urocanic acid	+	+	–	w	+	w
Thymidine	+	w	W	–	+	w
DNA G + C content (mol %)	63.0	61–66	63.1	65	59.1	60.3

Strains—1: PS1^T; 2: *P. stutzeri* ATCC 17588^T [values were obtained with buoyant density of DNA (Mandel 1966) and ranges of DNA G + C content are results for multiple strains]; 3: *P. nitritolerans* GL14^T (data from Peng et al. 2019); 4: *P. zhaodongensis* NEAU-ST5-21^T (data from Zhang et al. 2015); 5: *P. xanthomarina* DSM 18231^T (data from Romanenko et al. 2005); 6: *P. kunmingensis* HL22-2^T (data from Xie et al. 2014). + Positive; – negative; w weakly positive

as well as low values of DDH and ANI. It is proposed that strain PS1^T is classified as a novel species of the genus *Pseudomonas*, for which the name *Pseudomonas marianensis* sp. nov. is proposed.

Description of *Pseudomonas marianensis* sp. nov.

Pseudomonas marianensis (ma.ri.an.en'sis. N.L. fem. adj. *marianensis* pertaining to the Mariana Trench, the source of the type strain).

Cells are Gram-stain-negative, rod-shaped, non-pigmented, 0.4–0.5 μm in width and 1.0–1.9 μm in length and are motile by single polar flagellum. Colonies are circular, smooth, non-pigmented, whitish and transparent when incubated on MA. Fluorescent pigment production was not

observed on King B media. The cells grow in the presence of 0–17% (w/v) (11% optimum) NaCl and at 10–45 °C, pH 5–10. The genomic DNA G + C content of the type strain is 63.0%. Positive for oxidase and catalase activities; negative for nitrate reduction and hydrolysis of Tweens 40, 80, gelatin and starch; positive for arginine dihydrolase and urease. Assimilates D-glucose, L-arabinose, D-mannitol, D-maltose, potassium gluconate, capric acid, malic acid and trisodium citrate. In the API ZYM strip, positive for alkaline phosphatase, esterase (C4), esterase lipase (C8), lipase (C14), leucine arylamidase, valine arylamidase, acid phosphatase and naphthol-AS-BI-phosphohydrolase. When assayed with the GEN III MicroPlate kit, positive for utilization of α-cyclodextrin, L-arabinose, D-arabitol, maltose, D-melibiose, xylitol, mono-methyl-succinate,

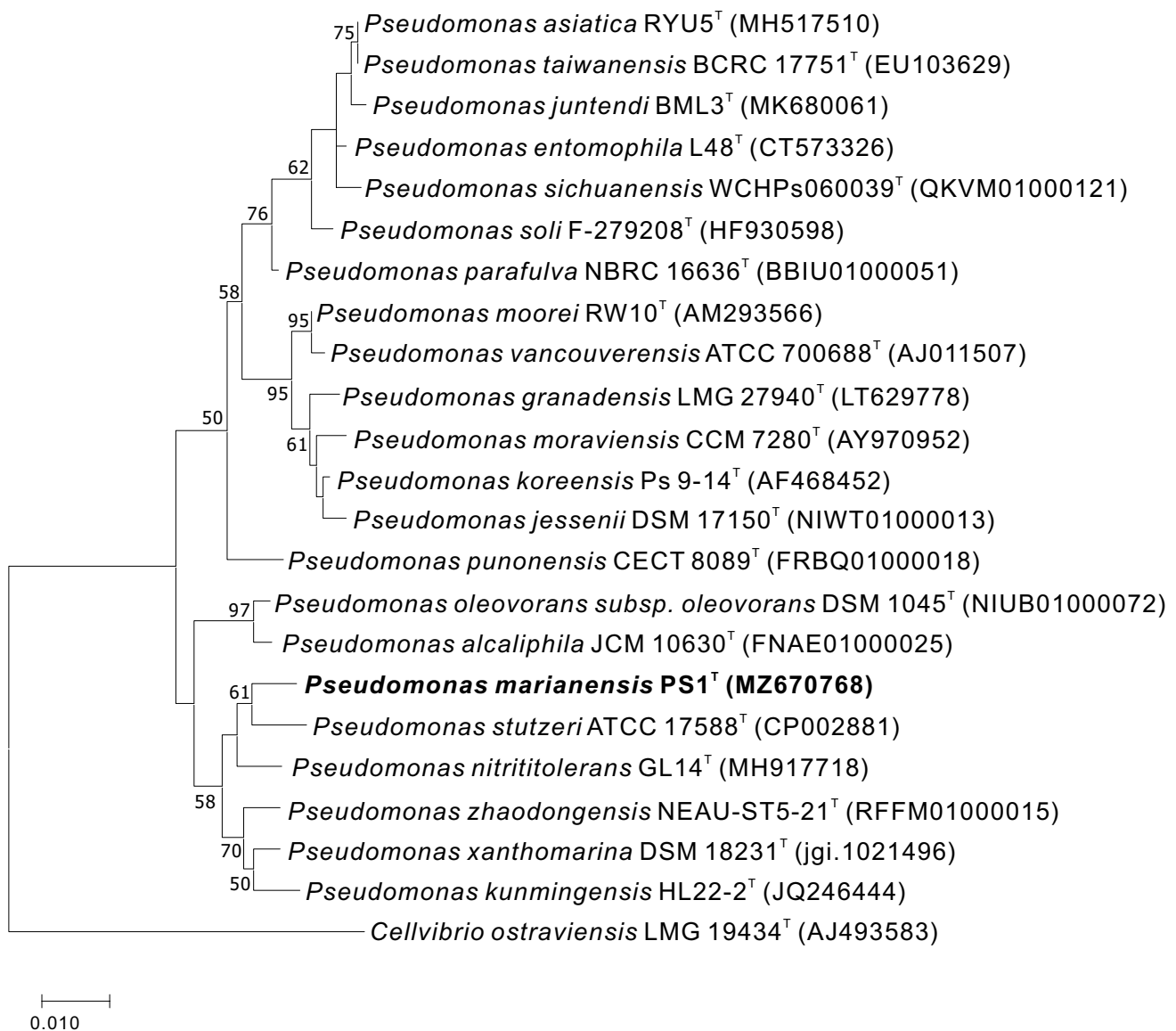


Fig. 1 Neighbour-joining tree based on 16S rRNA gene sequences, showing the phylogenetic position of strain PS1^T and related members within the genus *Pseudomonas*. Solid circles indicate that the corresponding nodes (groupings) are also recovered in maximum-likelihood trees. *Cellvibrio ostraviensis* LMG 19434^T (GenBank

accession number: AJ493583) was used as an outgroup. Bootstrap values (expressed as percentages of 1000 replications) of above 50% are shown at the branch points. Bar, 0.01 substitutions per nucleotide position (MEGA X)

cis-aconitic acid, D-gluconic acid, α -hydroxy butyric acid, β -hydroxy butyric acid, α -keto valeric acid, D,L-lactic acid, propionic acid, D-saccharic acid, sebacic acid, succinic acid, succinamic acid, glucuronamide, D-alanine, L-alanine, L-alanyl-glycine, L-aspartic acid, L-glutamic acid, hydroxy-L-proline, L-ornithine, L-phenylalanine, D-serine, L-serine, D,L-carnitine, γ -amino butyric acid, urocanic acid, thymidine, 2-aminoethanol, 2,3-butanediol, D,L- α -glycerol phosphate and glucose-1-phosphate; weakly positive or negative utilization of the other substrates.

The major fatty acids of strain PS1^T were summed feature 8 (C_{18:1} ω 7c and/or C_{18:1} ω 6c), C_{16:0}, summed feature 3 (C_{16:1} ω 7c and/or C_{16:1} ω 6c) and cyclo-C_{19:0} ω 8c. The major polar lipids found in strain PS1^T were phosphatidylethanolamine, diphosphatidylglycerol and phosphatidylglycerol.

The type strain is PS1^T (= DSM 112238^T = MCCC 1K05112^T), isolated from deep-sea sediments of the Mariana Trench.

Supplementary Information The online version contains supplementary material available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00203-022-03250-9>.

Author contributions YLW drafted the manuscript. YXY, YL, DW and YXG performed isolation, deposition, identification and genome analysis. YLW, BLL and YPX designed all the experiments and supervised the manuscript.

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Data availability All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article, its supplementary information files and GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ. The Gen-Bank/EMBL/DDBJ accession number for the 16S rRNA gene sequence of strain PS1^T is MZ670768 and the number for the whole genome sequence is JALGRD000000000. Two supplementary figures are available with the online version of this paper.

Declarations

Competing interests The authors declare no competing interests.

Conflict of interest The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

Ethics statement This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

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