

1 **Title:** *Expression of Microcystis biosynthetic gene clusters in natural populations suggests*
2 *temporally dynamic synthesis of novel and known secondary metabolites in western Lake Erie*

3 **Running Title:** *Novel & known Microcystis biosynthetic genes*

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24 **Abstract**

25 *Microcystis* spp. produces diverse secondary metabolites within freshwater cyanoHABs
26 around the world. In addition to the biosynthetic gene clusters (BGCs) encoding known
27 compounds, *Microcystis* genomes harbor numerous BGCs of unknown function, indicating a
28 poorly understood chemical repertoire. While recent studies show that *Microcystis* produces
29 several metabolites in the lab and field, little work has focused on analyzing the abundance and
30 expression of its broader suite of BGCs during cyanoHAB events. Here, we use metagenomic
31 and metatranscriptomic approaches to track the relative abundance of *Microcystis* BGCs and
32 their transcripts throughout the 2014 western Lake Erie cyanoHAB. Results indicate the presence
33 of several transcriptionally active BGCs that are predicted to synthesize both known and novel
34 secondary metabolites. The abundance and expression of these BGCs shifted throughout the
35 bloom, with transcript abundance levels correlating with temperature, nitrate, and phosphorus
36 concentrations, and the abundance of co-occurring predatory and competitive eukaryotic
37 microorganisms, suggesting the importance of both abiotic and biotic controls in regulating
38 expression. This work highlights the need for understanding the chemical ecology and potential
39 risks to human and environmental health posed by secondary metabolites that are produced but
40 often unmonitored. It also indicates the prospects for identifying pharmaceutical-like molecules
41 from cyanoHAB-derived BGCs.

42 **Importance**

43 *Microcystis* spp. dominate cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms (cyanoHABs) worldwide
44 and pose significant threats to water quality through the production of secondary metabolites,
45 many of which are toxic. While the toxicity and biochemistry of microcystins and several other
46 compounds have been studied, the broader suite of secondary metabolites produced by

47 *Microcystis* remains poorly understood, leaving gaps in our understanding of their impacts on
48 human and ecosystem health. We use community DNA and RNA sequences to track the
49 diversity of genes encoding synthesis of secondary metabolites in natural *Microcystis*
50 populations and assess patterns of transcription in western Lake Erie cyanoHABs. Our results
51 reveal the presence of both known gene clusters that encode toxic secondary metabolites as well
52 as novel ones that may encode cryptic compounds. This research highlights the need for targeted
53 studies of the secondary metabolite diversity in western Lake Erie, a vital freshwater source to
54 the United States and Canada.

55 **Introduction**

56 CyanoHABs, which are dense proliferations of cyanobacteria that can discolor water and
57 produce toxins, occur annually and globally, and are expected to increase in severity with climate
58 change (1–3). These blooms, which can persist through the early summer into late fall in
59 temperate environments, produce a range of secondary metabolites that can be deleterious to
60 ecosystem function and human health (4–6). CyanoHABs result largely from anthropogenic
61 eutrophication via nutrient runoff (2, 7, 8) and are expected to become more toxic with
62 increasing nutrient loading and continued, intensifying, climate change (2, 9, 10).

63 *Microcystis* is a non-N-fixing, potentially toxic cyanobacterium that often dominates
64 freshwater cyanoHABs on every continent except Antarctica (5). Blooms made up of largely
65 *Microcystis* are expected to expand and increase in severity over the next several years (2, 6).
66 This expansion is a concern because *Microcystis* produces diverse bioactive secondary
67 metabolites with an array of ecological and physiological functionalities (11–13). Many
68 *Microcystis* secondary metabolites possess toxic or inhibitory properties toward diverse cell
69 types (13–15) and/or antibiotic, antifungal, or cytotoxic properties that may be useful in

70 pharmaceutical discovery (16–18). Secondary metabolites likely provide *Microcystis* with
71 ecological advantages such as grazer defense, allelopathy, quorum sensing, and/or protection
72 against reactive oxygen species (ROS) and may influence cyanoHAB community composition
73 (17–20). Despite their significance to ecology, human, and ecosystem health, the physiological
74 and environmental controls on biosynthesis of *Microcystis* secondary metabolites remain poorly
75 understood.

76 Microcystins, the most extensively studied family of secondary metabolites produced by
77 *Microcystis* (21–23), are structurally related hepatotoxins that are responsible for several
78 drinking crises (4, 24, 25) and livestock poisoning events (26) around the world. However,
79 *Microcystis* genomes also contain additional BGCs (18, 20, 27) encoding secondary metabolites
80 such as aeruginosins, anabaenopeptins, cyanobactins, cyanopeptolins, microginins, and
81 microviridins (11, 13), which can be toxic and may occur in the environment and drinking water
82 treatment plants at frequencies and concentrations that equal or exceed those of microcystins
83 (28–30). In addition, many BGCs identified from *Microcystis* genomes do not have associated
84 products, and thus have been designated “orphan” clusters (12, 31), highlighting the need to
85 identify and determine the structural characteristics and biological properties of these unknown
86 compounds. While *Microcystis* genomes harbor a diverse and variable suite of BGCs (19, 20)
87 and some metabolites have been shown to be expressed and produced in culture (18), little is
88 known about the occurrence or expression of these *Microcystis* BGCs in natural environments.
89 Understanding their distribution and expression in relation to the biotic and abiotic environment
90 may shed light on the ecological role of these molecules and inform risks to public health.

91 In this study we used metagenomics and metatranscriptomics to assess the abundance,
92 diversity, and expression of BGCs in *Microcystis* populations in a time series at three stations

93 during the 2014 western Lake Erie bloom, which show a succession of *Microcystis* strains
94 alongside changing nutrient availability, microcystin concentrations, and microbial communities
95 (32, 33). Western Lake Erie is subject to annual cyanoHABs that have intensified in recent
96 decades (6, 34), and the 2014 bloom caused a drinking water crisis in which Toledo residents lost
97 access to potable water due to dangerously high levels of microcystins (4). While microcystins
98 are heavily monitored and studied in these waters, monitoring of “other” secondary metabolites
99 has been limited to saxitoxin, anatoxin, and cylindrospermopsin (35). Motivated by the known
100 diversity of *Microcystis* BGCs and the influence of nutrient stoichiometry on biosynthesis of
101 secondary metabolites (36, 37), we hypothesized that the relative abundance and transcription of
102 BGCs would vary across the bloom season as nutrient availability changes.

103 **Results**

104 *The 2014 Western Lake Erie cyanoHAB*

105 The 2014 western Lake Erie cyanoHAB was notable due to high levels of microcystins at
106 station WE12, the Toledo Drinking water crib, which led to a drinking water crisis event in
107 Toledo, OH, USA. This study used samples and data collected and described previously (32, 33,
108 38, 39). Briefly, samples were collected from three core stations as part of greater sampling
109 efforts performed by the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) to
110 monitor cyanoHAB development in the western basin of Lake Erie. WE2 and WE12 are close to
111 the Ohio coast and Maumee River inlet and are considered nearshore stations. WE4 is located
112 more centrally in the basin and is considered offshore (Fig 1A).

113 The 2014 bloom consisted of high levels of nitrate, particulate microcystin, and
114 cyanobacteria biomass in August at the nearshore stations WE2 and WE12. A secondary peak in

115 cyanobacteria biomass, where microcystin concentrations were low, was observed in late
116 September at WE12 and WE2. The trends at the nearshore stations suggest that high nitrate
117 concentrations may support initial bloom development, proliferation, and/or production of
118 microcystin, but that biomass and microcystin production decreases as nitrate is being depleted.
119 At the offshore station, WE4, microcystin concentrations were considerably lower (Fig 1B).
120 Soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP) and nitrate concentrations (NO_3^-) were also variable across
121 stations and sampling times, with marked decreases in nitrate as the bloom persisted at stations
122 WE2 and WE12 from 4 August, onwards. Notably, at all three sampling stations, the lowest
123 measurement of nitrate occurred one sampling point before the lowest measurement of
124 particulate microcystin (Fig 1B).

125 *Microcystis* MAG Generation

126 Ten *Microcystis* metagenome-assembled genomes (MAGs) were generated from fifteen
127 metagenomic samples from the 2014 western Lake Erie cyanoHAB (Table 1). Samples that
128 failed to generate a *Microcystis* MAG were likely due to low abundance of the organism as seen
129 in early phases of the bloom (early July), or poor assembly of *Microcystis* contiguous sequences
130 due to high strain heterogeneity (40). Most MAGs had high completion (above 90%) and
131 variable redundancy given the high strain heterogeneity observed (41), except for the MAG
132 generated from August 4th, at Station 12, at 40% completion (Table 1). This MAG was kept for
133 further analysis as this sample was taken directly during the time of the Toledo Drinking Water
134 Crisis. Five fragmented BGCs (<5kb) identified in this MAG were removed from further
135 analysis due to incompleteness, while one complete BGC (T1PKS) was identified and used for
136 subsequent analysis. Fragmented BGCs were determined to be incomplete due to the
137 fragmentation or contiguous sequence breaks present within gene open reading frames.

138 *BGC Diversity and Abundance*

139 Nineteen distinct BGCs, representing multiple classes of putative secondary metabolite
140 synthesis, were identified (Table 2, Fig. 2). Of the nineteen BGCs, eleven clusters are thought to
141 putatively encode known synthesis products, while eight are considered cryptic (Table 2). Within
142 the cryptic clusters, PKS-M 1 and 2 appear to be fragmented or incomplete microginin encoding
143 BGCs, four have been identified in previous work as “orphan clusters” (31), and two are novel,
144 and to our knowledge, have not been previously discussed in the literature (Table 2).

145 The relative abundance of these BGCs, which was estimated by quantifying metagenomic
146 reads mapped to assembled BGCs and normalized to reads mapped to *Microcystis* 16S rRNA
147 genes, showed differences across stations and sampling dates (Fig 2). The relative abundance of
148 the complete *mcy* operon, which was previously analyzed (33) is included for reference as well.
149 Relative abundances of identified BGCs, which putatively produce aeruginosins,
150 anabaenopeptin, cyclophane-like 1, cyanopeptolin 3, and microviridin B, and a cyclophane-like
151 molecule (PKSmod-NRSlike-T3PKS), increased at station WE12 in late September through
152 October, during later phases of the bloom. BGCs predicted to putatively encode aeruginosins,
153 cyanobactins (58-75% similarity to piricyclamides encoding clusters), microviridins, and
154 cyanopeptolins each yielded multiple distinct clusters with conserved gene content, but gene
155 rearrangements, insertions, and duplications were observed within these clusters (Fig. S1). Gene
156 order and orientation of BGCs encoding aeruginosin and microviridin were more conserved (Fig
157 S1A & S1C), while rearrangements, insertions, and deletions were more common in the
158 cyanobactin and cyanopeptolin BGCs (Fig S1B & S1D). Deeper annotations for clusters thought
159 to encode anabaenopeptin, microviridin, aeruginosin, and a piricyclamide-like cyanobactin as
160 well as chemical structures of potential congeners produced are shown in Fig. S2. Some clusters,

161 such as the PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS 1, which may encode a cyclophane-like metabolite, were
162 rare at most sampling times and stations, except on 20 October when it was one of the most
163 abundant clusters. The cyanobactin clusters, which encode ribosomally synthesized
164 cyanobacterial derived macrocyclic metabolites (42), shifted in relative abundance during the
165 bloom with 2 and 3 being more abundant early, and 1 being the most abundant during late phases
166 (Fig. 2).

167 Two gene clusters, PKS-M 1 and 2, are believed to be part of the microginin synthesis
168 pathway, which was recently confirmed to be present in *Microcystis* (43); however, both clusters
169 contain a fragmented hybrid NRPS-PKS encoding gene and lack the additional two NRPS
170 encoding genes required for microginin synthesis (Fig 3A). When compared to the microginin
171 pathway in *Microcystis aeruginosa* LEGE 91341 (43), PKS-M 1 is shown to contain additional
172 synthesis genes thought to encode a fatty acyl-AMP ligase and acyl carrier protein, as well as a
173 hypothetical protein. PKS-M 2, however, lacks these putatively identified genes, and contains a
174 putative endonuclease (Fig. 3A). Both core biosynthesis genes present in both PKS-M clusters
175 contain domains for ketosynthase, acyltransferase, PP-binding, and aminotransferase activity, but
176 lack the condensation, AMP binding, and peptidyl-carrier protein domains observed in the
177 complete clusters (Fig. 3A). To determine if these incomplete clusters were a result of natural
178 pathway truncations or poor metagenomic assembly, mapping of western Lake Erie (WLE)
179 metagenomic reads against the reference microginin BGC from LEGE 91341 was completed.
180 Mapping revealed read coverage across the entire length of the BGC, suggesting the presence of
181 this complete BGC in natural populations, although there are some notable variations in
182 sequence similarity and regions of non-uniform coverage (Fig 3B). These gene clusters were
183 most abundant at nearshore stations in later phases of the bloom (Fig. 2).

184 Three cryptic polyketide synthase (PKS) or hybrid nonribosomal peptide synthetase
185 (NRPS)-PKS cluster classes were also identified and varied greatly in abundance (Fig. 2,4).
186 These systems putatively encode unknown metabolites and have either very low percent
187 similarities ($\leq 40\%$; Table S1) or no similarity at all to previously described clusters in the
188 MiBIG database, suggesting high potential for biosynthesis of unique structures. The cryptic type
189 III polyketide synthase (T3PKS) identified reached peak relative abundance at the nearshore
190 stations on 4 August (Fig. 2) and contains a putative naringenin-chalone synthase (Fig 4A). The
191 cluster encoding a predicted iterative PKS was greatest in relative abundance on 20 October at
192 nearshore stations and contains a PKS encoding a putative enediyne biosynthesis system (Fig. 2,
193 4A). MIC 1 was previously described in *Microcystis aeruginosa* NIES-843 (31), and putatively
194 encodes two modular T1PKSs, an NRPS like enzyme, an additional PKS, and a halogenase (Fig.
195 4C). Deeper annotations for genes identified in the MIC 1 cluster are described in Table S2.

196 *Protein Phylogenetics for Biosynthesis Genes*

197 Phylogenetic trees of various predicted proteins from PKS-containing clusters were analyzed
198 for potential insights into the corresponding biosynthetic pathways. The enediyne biosynthesis
199 protein sequence (PKSE) from the PKS iterative cluster, which was initially identified in
200 *Microcystis aeruginosa* strain PCC 7806 (31), was investigated more deeply as enediyne
201 synthesis is a critical step in the formation of anticancer compounds such as calicheamicin (44).
202 While there were no closely related homologous sequences from known biosynthesis pathways,
203 the enediyne protein sequence had over 97% identity and 100% alignment to a putatively
204 identified PKSE in *Microcystis aeruginosa* strain NIES-843 (45), with a bootstrap of 1 (Fig 5).
205 Other putative PKSE enzymes identified from a variety of cyanobacteria (45), formed a subclade
206 with the PKSE identified in W. Lake Erie MAGs (Fig 5). These protein sequences form a larger

207 clade with known PKSE enzyme sequences that generate a variety of enediyne-containing
208 metabolites with pharmaceutical relevance (bootstrap=0.81, Fig. 5).

209 Protein sequences from the T3PKS gene cluster (Fig. 3B), also provided clues into potential
210 functions of biosynthesis enzymes. An exporter protein sequence shared high sequence similarity
211 to proteins involved in siderophore-like export from other *Microcystis* strains (~95-97% identity,
212 bootstrap = 1, Fig S3A). Distantly related clades contained protein sequences with annotations
213 for export of siderophores and/or cyclic peptides from a variety of cyanobacteria including
214 benthic *Leptolyngbya* sp. (bootstrap = 0.894, ~63% identity, Fig S3A). The core synthesis
215 enzyme within this cluster, annotated by antiSMASH as naringenin-chalcone synthase, was most
216 closely related to other *Microcystis* naringenin-chalcone synthase and T3PKS enzymes (~98%
217 identity, bootstrap = 0.877, Fig. S3B) as well as naringenin-chalcone synthases from
218 *Chamaesiphon* sp. from the cyanobacteria Order *Synechococcales* (bootstrap = 0.688, 57-62%
219 identity, Fig. S3B), none of which are linked to a known synthesized compound. Its protein
220 sequence was also similar to an experimentally confirmed α -pyrone synthesis polyketide
221 synthase (PKS18) (Fig. S3B) from the actinobacterium *Nocardia seriolae* (50.6% identity, 97%
222 alignment length).

223 *Transcriptional activity of BGCs*

224 Quantification of relative abundances of metatranscriptomic sequences, which were
225 available for seven of the 15 samples analyzed, revealed that BGC clusters were differentially
226 expressed across stations and sampling times (Fig. 6). During early phases of the bloom, there
227 was little expression of BGCs as observed on 21 July at WE2 and 29 July at WE4, likely due to
228 low biomass of *Microcystis*. At WE12 during the peak bloom phase (4 August), clusters T3PKS,
229 PKS-M 1, and *mcn 2* increased in relative transcript abundance compared to other clusters (Fig.

230 6). While the relative abundance of transcripts for *mcy* genes encoding microcystin (33) was
231 highest at WE12 during August, other BGCs had similar, and in some cases greater, relative
232 transcript abundances than the microcystin encoding gene cluster during other phases of the
233 bloom (Fig. 6). The relative abundance of BGC transcripts shifted and greatly increased,
234 especially in comparison to the *mcy* operon, at all three stations during middle and late phases of
235 the bloom, with high relative abundance of transcripts for T3PKS and MIC1 at WE12 on 25
236 August, WE2 on 6 October, and 8 September at WE4. On 23 September at WE12, the PKSmod-
237 NRPS-T3PKS 1 gene cluster had the highest relative transcript abundance compared to other
238 gene clusters. There was also a marked increase in relative transcript abundance of *mcn 2* during
239 later phases of the bloom at both WE2 and WE4. Greater transcriptional abundance at WE2 was
240 also observed for clusters PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS 1 and *aer 2* on 6 October as well. (Fig. 6).

241 *Correlation Analysis between transcript abundance and both abiotic and biotic variables*

242 To explore potential controls on the expression of BGCs, we performed correlational
243 analysis of BGC transcript abundance with a variety of available abiotic conditions and relative
244 abundances of known *Microcystis* predators and competitors in metagenomic data. Relative
245 abundances of BGC transcripts were significantly correlated with both abiotic conditions (Table
246 3) and relative abundance of predatory and competitive organisms (Table 4). The transcript
247 abundance of all BGC classes examined was significantly and negatively correlated with nitrate
248 concentration while the transcript abundances of genes for cyanobactins (Pearson's $R=-0.531$,
249 $p=0.029$), PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS (Pearson's $R=0.598$, $p=0.040$), and *mcn* (cyanopeptolin)
250 (Pearson's $R=-0.412$, $p=0.089$) BGCs were negatively correlated to temperature. Transcript
251 abundances for *aer*, *mcn*, *mdn*, and PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS clusters had positive and

252 significant or near significant correlations with both soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP) and total
253 phosphorus (TP) concentrations (Table 3).

254 The relative metagenomic abundance of ciliates and diatoms exhibited some of the
255 strongest positive correlations with relative transcript abundance of BGCs, including those
256 predicted for *aer*, *mdn*, and PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS clusters (Pearson's $R=0.653$, $p=0.041$ to
257 Pearson's $R=0.517$, $p=0.003$, Table 4). Cyanobactin BGC expression was significantly and
258 positively correlated with the relative abundance of the diatom *Skeletonema* (Pearson's $R=$
259 0.617 , $p=0.033$). Cyanopeptolin encoding BGC expression was also significantly and positively
260 correlated with the abundance of *Skeletonema* (Pearson's $R= 0.741$, $p=0.006$) as well as the
261 betaproteobacterium, *Paraburkholderia* (Pearson's $R= 0.488$, $p= 0.025$). All other biotic
262 correlations are summarized in Table S4. Taken together, these results suggest that both abiotic
263 and biotic variables may be important in stimulating biosynthesis in natural cyanoHAB
264 *Microcystis* populations.

265 **Discussion**

266 *Microcystis* blooms are renowned for their production of microcystins, toxins that
267 threaten drinking water supplies (46–48). However, *Microcystis* genomes contain many other
268 BGCs that encode known and unknown products, and their genetic diversity, biosynthesis, and
269 ecological functions in the environment are poorly understood. In this study, we tracked spatial
270 and temporal shifts in BGC abundance and transcriptional activity through seasonal changes in
271 the biotic and abiotic environment of the 2014 western Lake Erie bloom, providing insights into
272 the biosynthetic potential and expression of diverse *Microcystis* populations in their natural
273 habitat. Our results demonstrate that *Microcystis* contains a diverse and highly dynamic suite of
274 BGCs that putatively encode both known cyanotoxins and cryptic compounds and are

275 transcriptionally active in natural blooms. The transcriptional activity of these putative BGCs is
276 related to both abiotic conditions (nutrients, temperature) as well as the composition of the
277 biological community. While previous studies have identified BGCs in *Microcystis* isolates (20,
278 27, 31) or described metabolomic profiles in both field and culture studies (12, 30), our work
279 focused on the relative abundance, diversity, and drivers of transcriptional activity of BGCs
280 within natural populations as they occur *in situ*.

281 *Microcystis* MAGs displayed extensive genetic diversity at the sub-species level, which is
282 increasingly recognized to be prevalent in natural blooms (32, 33, 38), and encodes important
283 biosynthetic and physiological diversity (4, 20, 33). Although these MAGs contained some
284 redundancy and short contiguous sequences due to high strain heterogeneity present in natural
285 populations (19, 33), they were sufficient to track spatial and temporal shifts in *Microcystis* gene
286 content. Our approach to estimating relative abundance of BGCs also had limitations. It was
287 based on normalization of BGC abundance to *Microcystis* 16S rRNA abundance. In some
288 instances, the estimated relative abundance of some BGCs was greater than 1, implying multiple
289 copies of a BGC per cell. We discussed potential explanations for this observation previously
290 (33), including uncertainty of 16S rRNA gene and BGC gene copies per *Microcystis* genome
291 (49, 50) in natural populations, presence of multiple copies of BGCs per cell due to replication of
292 genes near the origin of replication during rapid growth (51–53), or non-specific mapping of 16S
293 rRNA and/or BGC genes. In addition, BGCs may be present on plasmids (54), highlighting the
294 potential for multiple copies of these genes per genome. Our previous analysis showed that non-
295 specific mapping of metagenomic sequence reads to *Microcystis* 16S rRNA and BGC genes was
296 not a substantial issue under the stringent thresholds that we used here (33), but the current data
297 is not sufficient to assess other potential issues. Regardless of these caveats, the results of this

298 study do not depend on absolute calculations but rather relative differences, highlighting
299 dynamics in time and space.

300 The diversity of BGCs we observed, and their spatiotemporal shift in abundance, reflects the
301 presence and shifting abundance of diverse *Microcystis* strains with varying BGC content in their
302 genomes (19, 20, 55). Whereas we identified and deeply analyzed nineteen BGCs, *Microcystis*
303 typically has only 5-7 NRPS, PKS, or hybrid NRPS/PKS BGCs per genome (20, 56), and BGC
304 content varies across clades (20). Western Lake Erie *Microcystis* populations contain multiple
305 strains in varying abundance (33, 38, 57), often with microcystin producing strains dominating in
306 early and peak bloom phases and non-microcystin producing strains dominating later phases of
307 blooms (32, 33). Our results show that the “non-toxic” phases of the bloom, so-called because of
308 low concentrations of microcystins, can be enriched in other BGCs (Fig. 2, Table 2) that are
309 transcriptionally active, including those that putatively encode anabaenopeptin, aeruginosin,
310 aeruginoguanidine, cyanopeptolin, and cyanobactins (Fig. 6). Even more striking is the pervasive
311 abundance and transcriptional activity of cryptic, putative, BGCs containing PKS modules with
312 unknown products (Figs. 2,4,6). BGCs with the highest transcript abundance included those
313 encoding unknown compounds such as T3PKS, PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS 1 (thought to
314 putatively synthesize a cyclophane-like product), and MIC 1 (Fig. 6), indicating that they may be
315 functionally and ecologically important. The lack of functional knowledge of these abundant and
316 transcriptionally active PKS containing clusters highlights the need to investigate further their
317 potential for generating unique metabolites.

318 The apparent “replacement” of *mcy* genes by other BGCs that we observed from early to late
319 blooms in the field is consistent with studies of cultured *Microcystis* strains showing that non-
320 microcystin producing strains often contain other BGCs in their place (20). Our finding of a

321 strong temporal shift in *Microcystis* BGC content and expression suggests environmental drivers
322 of BGC content and expression. Strains containing other BGCs instead of those encoding
323 nitrogen-rich microcystins may be more fit during nitrogen deplete phases of the bloom that
324 occur later in the season (Fig. 1B). For example, cyclophane-like molecules, which may be
325 encoded by cryptic PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS clusters, are nitrogen poor, in many cases
326 lacking N atoms altogether (Table 3, (58)). Strains with BGCs that putatively encode such
327 molecules may have a competitive advantage over microcystin producers with higher N demands
328 (36, 37, 59). However, inconsistent with this conclusion is the increase in abundance of BGCs
329 putatively encoding other N-rich molecules, such as aeruginosin (Table 3), while nitrate
330 concentrations decrease. These results suggest that the different secondary metabolites may have
331 different fitness tradeoffs and/or environmental/physiological controls on gene expression. The
332 high potential for biosynthesis of other secondary metabolites when microcystins are at low
333 concentrations suggests functionally redundancy or niche differentiation among secondary
334 metabolites.

335 BGCs that were more highly expressed in later bloom phases included *apn* (anabaenopeptin),
336 *aer* (aeruginosin), *mcn* (cyanopeptolin), and cyanobactin classes, which have inhibitory and toxic
337 effects towards eukaryotes (13, 60–62). The T1PKS-M BGCs likely represent poorly assembled
338 microginin synthesis pathways, which, when synthesized, have inhibitory properties against
339 angiotensin-converting enzymes (63, 64). Other transcriptionally active BGCs encode unknown
340 compounds with unknown toxicology. Given the continued emergence and discovery of novel
341 cyanotoxins and their underpinning BGCs (65, 66), and the potential for toxicological synergism
342 between multiple compounds (67, 68), these results underscore the need to assess potential
343 threats to human and ecosystem health.

344 In addition to potential risks of unmonitored, toxic, cyanobacteria secondary metabolites,
345 these molecules may be an untapped source for drug discovery (69). For example, the T3PKS
346 BGC was one of the most abundant and transcriptionally active PKSs during early phases of the
347 bloom (Fig. 2,6) and contained a putative naringenin-chalcone synthase encoding gene (Fig. 4),
348 which may have the potential to generate antibiotics or other compounds with wide ranges of
349 biological activity and pharmaceutical relevance (70, 71). The cluster bearing an iterative PKS
350 (Fig 4A, 5) is predicted to encode biosynthesis of an enediyne-containing molecule, which are
351 excellent candidate antibiotics and anticancer compounds with rare structural characteristics (72,
352 73). Previous work has shown that enediyne gene clusters usually contain a set of five conserved
353 biosynthetic genes included the enediyne PKS, a thioesterase, and three other genes that encode
354 proteins of unknown function (73). The iterative PKS cluster contains a putative enediyne PKS,
355 thioesterase, and two of the three genes of unknown function that are part of the enediyne
356 biosynthesis cassette (Fig 4A). This, taken together with the presence of a putative enediyne
357 cluster identified in *Microcystis* strain NIES-843 (45), which shares 97% identity with our
358 cluster, supports the conclusion that *Microcystis* are capable of synthesizing uncharacterized
359 enediyne metabolites. Finally, the presence of a halogenase encoding gene within the MIC1
360 cluster (Fig. 3D) is noteworthy due to the broad pharmaceutical application of halogenated
361 compounds, which have largely been studied in marine organisms (74).

362 Correlation of transcript abundance with abiotic and biotic factors provided insights into
363 environmental conditions that may influence expression of BGCs in natural environments.
364 Negative correlations between relative abundance of transcripts and nitrate and temperature
365 suggest a functional need for synthesized compounds in conditions of lower nitrate
366 concentrations and temperature (Table 3). Positive correlations of BGC transcript abundance

367 with abundances of known eukaryotic predators (Table 4) are consistent with the hypothesis that
368 BGC products may deter grazers (ciliates) that commonly feed on cyanobacteria in aquatic
369 systems (75, 76). Of the cyanobacteria commonly found in western Lake Erie cyanoHABs,
370 *Microcystis* are the most resistant to grazing by both daphnid and protozoan microorganisms (77)
371 consistent with findings that *Microcystis* is resistant to grazing due to production of secondary
372 metabolites (78–80). Likewise, significant correlations between expression of BGCs and
373 abundance of photosynthetic competitors (diatoms) is consistent with a role of secondary
374 metabolites in allelopathic interactions (81, 82). Overall, these results are also consistent with
375 recent findings that community composition and interspecies interactions influence expression of
376 BGCs and secondary metabolites affect interspecies interaction networks (83). *Microcystis*
377 secondary metabolites are likely multi-functional and may serve as nitrogen storage compounds
378 (84, 85), aid in grazer defense (14, 80, 86), protection from reactive oxygen species (87, 88),
379 and/or cell communication/phycosphere recruitment (89, 90). While correlations uncovered here
380 cannot determine true drivers of BGC abundance or expression, they provide hypotheses that can
381 be tested with targeted experiments on the ecological and cellular role of the diversity of
382 secondary metabolites encoded in *Microcystis* genomes.

383 This study shows that natural populations of *Microcystis* within blooms contain and
384 express a diverse and dynamic suite of genes encoding secondary metabolites. Several of these
385 BGCs have no known products and are expressed most highly during the late phases of the
386 bloom, which is dominated by “nontoxigenic” *Microcystis* strains that are incapable of producing
387 microcystins. These results suggest the potential for diverse metabolite production beyond
388 microcystins in western Lake Erie, with implications for understanding *Microcystis* physiology
389 and diversity, community ecology, and water quality. Seasonal shifts in the abundance and

390 expression of BGCs along with correlations with both abiotic and biotic variables suggest that
391 the BGCs underpin adaptations to changing environmental conditions and may encode important
392 niche differentiation among *Microcystis* strains. Several clusters identified may encode toxic
393 compounds while others putatively encode cryptic compounds that may be toxic, highlighting
394 the need to identify their products, determine their bioactivities, and assess potential threats to
395 human and ecosystem health. Others show the potential to produce metabolites with interesting
396 chemical features that suggest avenues for exploring biotechnological and medicinal
397 applications. Finally, the abundant environmental expression of BGCs encoding secondary
398 metabolites that are of unknown function, and their correlation with biotic and abiotic conditions,
399 suggest that the BGCs may play important roles in supporting the dominance of *Microcystis* over
400 a wide range of conditions, underscoring the need to understand the functioning of these putative
401 secondary metabolites in the ecophysiology and community interactions of *Microcystis* blooms.

402 **Materials and Methods**

403 *Study Site and Sample Collection*

404 Samples were collected weekly from various NOAA Great Lakes Environmental
405 Research Laboratory (GLERL) sampling stations throughout the western Basin of Lake Erie
406 from mid-June through late October 2014 (91). The long-term NOAA GLERL stations selected
407 for sampling were WE2, WE4, and WE12. WE2 is close to the inlet for the Maumee River inlet
408 (41° 45.743'N, 83° 19.874' W), WE4 is considered an offshore site closer to the center of the
409 basin (41° 49.595'N, 83° 11.698'W), and WE12 is proximal to the Toledo drinking water inlet
410 (41° 42.535'N, 83° 14.989'W) (Fig. 1A).

411 Twenty liters of depth integrated samples were collected from each station for biological
412 and chemical analysis. Integrated depths were defined as the surface of the water to 1m above
413 the lake floor. While samples were collected, measurements of pH and water temperature were
414 performed as well. To capture *Microcystis* aggregates, 2L of integrated depth collected water
415 were filtered through a 100 µm polycarbonate mesh filter. The biomass on the filter was then
416 collected and filtered through a 0.22 µm filter. The filter-bound biomass was preserved in 1 mL
417 of RNALater™ (Invitrogen™, Ambion™) and placed on ice. Upon arrival to the lab, samples
418 were stored in the -80°C freezer until DNA and RNA extractions could be completed.

419 *Sample Processing and Sequencing*

420 Processing and sequencing of these samples was described previously (33). Briefly, DNA
421 was extracted with the Qiagen DNeasy Blood and Tissue Extraction Kit (Qiagen, Hilden,
422 Germany) and quantified with the Quant-iT™ PicoGreen™ dsDNA Assay Kit (Eugene, OR,
423 USA). The Qiagen RNeasy Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) was used to complete RNA
424 extraction. Shotgun DNA and RNA sequencing was conducted at the University of Michigan
425 DNA Sequencing Core on the Illumina® HiSeq™ platform (2000 PE 100, Illumina, Inc., San
426 Diego, CA, USA).

427 *Bioinformatic Analysis*

428 Shotgun reads were assembled *de novo* to recover *Microcystis* Metagenome Assembled
429 Genomes (MAGs). Metagenomic raw read sequences obtained from the University of Michigan
430 Omics Core were analyzed and processed through the following metagenomic workflow. Raw
431 reads for metagenomic analysis can be found at NCBI BioProject Accession: PRJNA464361.

432 The IMG-JGI supported software, BBTools was used to complete trimming, adaptor
433 removal, and quality check of raw reads. Quality checked (QC) reads were normalized to 100x
434 coverage using bbnorm from the BBTools package (92). 100x coverage was chosen based on the
435 assembly quality of the following housekeeping genes: a global nitrogen regulator *ntcA*, the beta
436 subunit phycocyanin gene *cpcB*, the photosystem I P700 chlorophyll apoprotein *psaB*, the
437 photosystem II P680 reaction center D1 protein *psbA2*, as well as the assembly quality of the
438 *mcy* operon. Assembly quality was assessed based on contiguous sequence length, and De Bruijn
439 Graph assembly visualized in Bandage (93).

440 *De novo* assemblies were generated for each sample using MEGAHIT (94). To obtain
441 differential coverage for binning software, mapping of QC reads was completed using Bowtie2
442 (95). A multiple binning approach was used in which bins generated from Concoct, Metabat,
443 Tetra ESOM, and Vizbin were assessed and chosen with DASTool (96–100). To improve
444 accuracy of binning software, differential coverage of all 15 samples was used by mapping reads
445 from each sample to each assembly using Bowtie2. The minimum cut off for contiguous
446 sequence length was 1 kb for Concoct, 1.5 kb for Metabat, and 3.5 kb for Tetra ESOM and
447 Vizbin. The cut off for Metabat was selected based on minimum cut off length the program
448 required and that for ESOM and Vizbin was selected based on clarity of maps. *Microcystis*
449 MAGs were assessed and manually refined using Anvi'o v. 5, "Margaret" (101). Completion and
450 strain heterogeneity of each MAG was assessed using CheckM with default parameters (102) as
451 well as metrics generated through Anvi'o outputs. MAGs were mined for BGCs with
452 antiSMASH 6.0 using a full Hidden Markov Modelled search, orthologous gene prediction, gene
453 border prediction, PFAM analysis, and COG identification (42). For further BGC annotation,

454 identified BGC sequences from all *Microcystis* MAGs found by antiSMASH were run through
455 PRISM (103) software as well.

456 For downstream analysis, BGC sequences identified by antiSMASH from all *Microcystis*
457 MAGs were pooled together and deduplicated using the dedupe tool from the BBTools package
458 (92). Dedupe was set to deduplicate sequences that were at least 95% identical and had no more
459 than 10 substitutions or deletions. This deduplicated set of BGC clusters was used for subsequent
460 analysis with special attention to specific clusters discussed in greater detail. BGC sequences
461 longer than 10,000 bp were saved for future gene and expression quantification calculations. In
462 addition to these BGCs we also closely examined three identified cyanobactin BGC clusters that
463 were ~7 kb in length. To compare the similarities between clusters of the same class or
464 identification, the clinker software (104) was used to generate gene maps to visually inspect for
465 similarities and differences in gene cluster structure. In addition to using annotations provided by
466 antiSMASH, we aligned our BGCs to a previously described gene clusters found in *Microcystis*
467 (31, 43, 105) to assess the presence of BGCs known to be present in *Microcystis* genomes but are
468 not deposited in the MiBIG database. BGC identified from w. Lake Erie that shared $\geq 95\%$
469 identity to previously described clusters they were annotated as such.

470 Two of the clusters identified from w. Lake Erie MAGs, PKS-M 1 &2, were shown to have
471 57% similarity to the recently characterized microginin biosynthesis pathway from *Microcystis*
472 *aeruginosa* LEGE 91341 (43), but were incomplete as they lacked two core NRPS encoding
473 genes, and the hybrid PKS-NRPS encoding gene was shown to be fragmented. To assess if these
474 patterns reflect truncated microginin pathways observed in natural populations, or are a result of
475 poor assembly, metagenomic reads were mapped to the microginin biosynthesis pathway found
476 in LEGE 91341 to assess the completion and presence of this cluster. Read mapping and

477 coverage plots were then used to visualize and assess the completeness of this pathway and
478 microginin producing potential.

479 *BGC Cluster Quantification*

480 To estimate the relative abundance of BGC clusters the following steps were completed.
481 QC metagenomic reads were aligned to all identified BGC clusters found in any cyanobacterial
482 MAG (including *Microcystis*, *Anabaena*, *Pseudanabaena*, and *Cyanobium*) generated from this
483 sample set using Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) v. 2.8.1 (106). Using all
484 identified BGC clusters expanded our database of biosynthetic genes to allow for competitive
485 mapping. Reads were kept for quantification if they were 95% identical to the query sequence,
486 and at least 80% in alignment length. If reads identically mapped to more than one sequence, i.e.,
487 they had identical bit scores, the read count was divided among the total number of ambiguously
488 mapped regions using the `blast_hit_counts.sh` script found at [https://github.com/Geo-](https://github.com/Geo-omics/scripts/tree/master/scripts)
489 [omics/scripts/tree/master/scripts](https://github.com/Geo-omics/scripts/tree/master/scripts). Reads mapped to a BGC were then normalized by BGC length.

490 To compare across samples, reads were also normalized by the 16S rRNA gene V4
491 variable region. This is based on the common assumption that all *Microcystis* cells contain one
492 16S rRNA gene, but do not contain all BGCs; therefore, we used this ratio to estimate the
493 relative abundance of BGCs in *Microcystis* populations. All V4 regions for the entire Phylum of
494 Cyanobacteria were used in the mapping databases to ensure competitive, sensitive, and accurate
495 mapping. These sequences were pulled from the SILVA v.1381.1 database (107) accessed in
496 February 2021. This database can be found at: [https://github.com/ceyancey/mcyGenotypes-](https://github.com/ceyancey/mcyGenotypes-databases)
497 [databases](https://github.com/ceyancey/mcyGenotypes-databases). QC metagenomic reads were aligned to this database using BLAST and kept for
498 downstream analysis if they met the same parameters listed above. These alignment parameters,
499 databases, and mapping tool quality were tested in full to ensure specificity and sensitivity.

500 Reads were then quantified in the same fashion described above and normalized by 16S rRNA
501 V4 region length. The equation below summarizes how relative BGC cluster abundance was
502 calculated:

Coverage ratio (Microcystis BGC: 16s):

$$= \frac{\text{Reads mapped to BGC} \div \text{length of BGC (bp)}}{\text{Reads mapped to V4 region} \div \text{length of V4 region (bp)}} = \frac{\text{BGC coverage}}{16s \text{ V4 coverage}}$$

503 To assess the completeness of cryptic PKS-containing clusters across sampling points,
504 which have not been extensively characterized previously, we additionally calculated the
505 coverage and percentage of nucleotides with reads mapped within a cluster. If at least 80% of the
506 nucleotides within a BGC were covered, it was considered complete for that sampling point. If
507 the percentage of nucleotides within gene clusters were less than 80%, they were considered
508 absent or incomplete, and relative abundance was not calculated. A summary of coverage and
509 completeness for gene clusters MIC 1, iterative PKS, and T3PKS is observed in Table S5.

510 *Biosynthesis Gene Protein Phylogenies*

511 To explore the novelty and relatedness of coarsely annotated PKS clusters from our
512 *Microcystis* MAGs to previously identified biosynthesis pathways, protein phylogenies were
513 generated. For the iterative PKS gene cluster, we assessed phylogenetic relationships for the
514 PKSE gene, believed to be critical in enediyne biosynthesis. To generate a phylogenetic tree, we
515 used PKSE amino acid sequences from biosynthesis pathways known to encode enediyne-
516 containing metabolites in addition to sequences that have been putatively identified as PKSEs in
517 various cyanobacterial taxa (45, 73). The AufC amino acid sequence from aurafuron biosynthesis
518 was used as an outgroup. For the T3PKS cluster, the core T3PKS and a transport related gene
519 were selected for analysis. To find related protein sequences, these sequences were searched

520 against the nonredundant protein database on NCBI (accessed July 2022) using BLASTP (108).
521 Protein sequences were used to build phylogenetic trees if they had at least a 70% alignment
522 length and at least 30% identity to the target sequences. Protein sequences were aligned using
523 MUSCLE (109) and FastTree (110) was used to construct phylogenetic trees. Bootstrap values
524 equal to or greater than 0.5 were reported. PaperBLAST ([https://papers.genomics.lbl.gov/cgi-](https://papers.genomics.lbl.gov/cgi-bin/litSearch.cgi)
525 [bin/litSearch.cgi](https://papers.genomics.lbl.gov/cgi-bin/litSearch.cgi)) was used to query published manuscripts to investigate whether these protein
526 sequences had been investigated previously.

527 *BGC Cluster Transcript Abundance*

528 The relative transcript abundance of BGCs *in situ* was also determined.
529 Metatranscriptomic raw reads can be accessed at NCBI under BioProject Accession:
530 PRJNA370007. Alignments were completed using BLAST with identical parameters mentioned
531 previously. However, to normalize gene expression, reads were mapped to reference genome
532 *Microcystis aeruginosa* PCC 7806SL (Accession: CP020771.1, GI: 1181755937) instead of the
533 V4 region. Competitive genome mapping was achieved by creating a database that contains
534 reference genomes for other common cyanobacteria found in western Lake Erie cyanoHABs:
535 *Anabaena* sp. 90 (GCA_000312705.1), *Cyanobium* sp. NIES-981 (GCA_900088535.1), and
536 *Pseudanabaena* sp. PCC 7367 (GCA_000317065.1). The following equation summarizes
537 calculations completed to relatively quantify BGC expression:

$$\text{Relative Transcript Abundance} = \frac{\text{reads mapped to BGC} \div \text{length of BGC (bp)}}{\text{reads mapped to PCC 7806SL} \div \text{length of PCC 7806 SL (bp)}}$$

538 *BGC Expression Correlation Analysis*

539 To assess the relationships between expression and 1) abiotic environmental conditions
540 and 2) abundance of known competitors and predators of *Microcystis*, simple linear regressions

541 were generated. Correlations were generated for all abiotic variables, and for all organisms
542 identified in each metagenome that had at least 200 genes assigned to their taxonomic
543 identification. Organism abundance and analysis was completed at the genus level. Pearson's
544 correlation coefficient, R, as well as p-values were determined to assess the strength of
545 correlation and the significance of individual variables, respectively. Abiotic environmental
546 condition data was provided by CIGLR and can be found in Table S6. The relative abundance of
547 organisms was determined by aligning QC reads to the UniRef100 database using DIAMOND
548 (111). Relative abundance of each organism was then determine by calculating RPKM of all
549 genes assigned to the taxa using the AnnotateContigs.pl script found at
550 [https://github.com/TealFurnholm/Strain-Level_Metagenome_Analysis/wiki/Step-2.-Gene-](https://github.com/TealFurnholm/Strain-Level_Metagenome_Analysis/wiki/Step-2.-Gene-Annotation-and-Community-Analysis)
551 [Annotation-and-Community-Analysis](https://github.com/TealFurnholm/Strain-Level_Metagenome_Analysis/wiki/Step-2.-Gene-Annotation-and-Community-Analysis) which summarizes the complete community analysis
552 workflow and outputs.

553 *Data Visualization*

554 All figures were generated using R and R Studio v. 3.5.1 (112). Packages used for data
555 visualization included ggplot2 (113), ggthemes (114), and ggpubr (115). To generate the map in
556 Figure 1, QGIS was used using the Quick Map Services Plugin (QGIS Development Team,
557 2020). The base map used is an open-source resource, the Open Street Map (OSM,
558 https://wiki.osmfoundation.org/wiki/Main_Page). Clinker (104) software was used to generate
559 BGC comparison figures observed in Figure S1. Metagenomic and metatranscriptomic raw reads
560 can be found on NCBI under the BioProject Accessions PRJNA464361 and PRJNA370007,
561 respectively.

562 **Conflict of Interest**

563 The authors state no conflict of interest.

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574 **Data availability**

575 All data pertinent to this manuscript is accessible for review within the manuscript. Metagenomic
576 and metatranscriptomic raw reads can be found on NCBI under the BioProject Accessions
577 PRJNA464361 and PRJNA370007, respectively.

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- 878

879 Tables and Figure Captions

880 **Table 1:** Summary and Statistics of *Microcystis* MAGs

Station	Date	Completion (%)	Redundancy (%)	N50	Size (Mbp)	Number of contigs	GC Content (%)
WE12	4-Aug	40.29	2.16	2907	0.816	335	39.67
	25-Aug	89.21	35.25	2353	5.99	2767	43.17
	23-Sep	100	4.32	8601	5.31	903	42.79
	29-Sep	93.53	10.23	2548	4.27	1888	43.4
	20-Oct	96.4	12.95	4155	4.92	1461	42.83
WE2	21-Jul	97.84	4.32	5000	4.27	1102	42.9
	6-Oct	97.12	10.07	5061	5.39	1404	43.28
	20-Oct	99.28	5.76	5472	4.69	1108	42.8
WE4	29-Jul	92.81	20.86	1786	3.93	2234	43.53
	8-Sep	94.96	9.67	2668	4.29	1797	43.49

881

882

883 **Table 2:** Summary of Identified BGCs and putative synthesis products from WLE MAGs.

BGC name	Putative synthesis product	Described in
<i>aer 1</i>	aeruginosin	Ishida et al., 1999; Ishida et al., 2009; Cadel-Six et al., 2008, Humbert et al., 2013 (31, 117–119)
<i>aer 2</i>	aeruginosin	
<i>agd</i>	aeruginoguanidine	Panrace et al., 2019 (105)
<i>apn</i>	anabaenopeptin	Welker and Dohren 2006; Humbert et al., 2013 (13, 31)
cyanobactin 1	piricyclamide	

cyanobactin 2	piricyclamide	Leikoski et al., 2012 (62)
cyanobactin 3	piricyclamide	
<i>mcn</i> 1	cyanopeptolin	Tooming-Klunderud et al., 2007; Nishizawa et al., 2011, Humbert et al., 2013 (31, 120, 121)
<i>mcn</i> 2	cyanopeptolin	
<i>mdn</i> 1	microviridin	Ziemert et al., 2008; Humbert et al., 2013 (31, 122)
<i>mdn</i> 2	microviridin	
MIC1 (T1PKS-NRPS-hgIEKS)	unknown	Humbert et. al., 2013 (31)
Iterative PKS	unknown, possible enediyne	Humbert et. al., 2013 (31)
PKS-M 1	microginin	Humbert et al., 2013; Eusébio et al., 2022 (31, 43)
PKS-M 2	microginin	
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS 1	cyclophane-like	Humbert et. al., 2013 (31)
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS 2	cyclophane-like	
T1PKS 1	unknown	Novel
T3PKS	unknown	Novel

884

885 **Table 3:** Abiotic and BGC expression Correlations.

C:N ratio	T1PKSmod-NRPSlike T3PKS (cyclophane-like)		cyanobactin		<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)		<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)		<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	
	~0	C-rich	3-6	N-rich	4.7	N-rich	5.25	N-rich	~6	N-rich
	R-squared	p-value	R-squared	p-value	R-squared	p-value	R-squared	p-value	R-squared	p-value
NO₃	-0.551	0.041	-0.418	0.06	-0.434	0.049	-0.749	0.002	-0.48	0.028
Temperature	-0.598	0.04	-0.531	0.029	-0.412	0.089	-0.423	0.17	-0.375	0.1249
SRP	0.769	0.0013	0.251	0.27	0.216	0.35	0.358	0.21	0.364	0.1
TP	0.601	0.023	0.114	0.62	0.227	0.32	0.537	0.048	0.449	0.04

886

887 **Table 4:** Pearson's correlations for BGC expression and selected organism abundance

Genus	<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)		cyanobactin		<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)		<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)		T1PKSmod-NRPSlike T3PKS (cyclophane-like)		
	R	p-value	R	p-value	R	p-value	R	p-value	R	p-value	
Ciliates	<i>ICHTHYOPHTHIRIUS</i>	0.553	0.03	0.245	0.378	0.336	0.221	0.653	0.041	0.79	0.00

	<i>PARAMECIUM</i>	0.562	0.029	0.256	0.379	0.340	0.215	0.657	0.039	0.810	0.005
	<i>PSEUDOCOHNILEMBUS</i>	0.549	0.034	0.230	0.410	0.326	0.236	0.641	0.046	0.803	0.005
	<i>TETRAHYMENA</i>	0.563	0.029	0.238	0.393	0.335	0.222	0.659	0.038	0.817	0.004
Diatoms	<i>CRASPEDOSTAUROS</i>	0.567	0.054	0.298	0.347	0.436	0.156	0.414	0.308	0.853	0.007
	<i>SKELETONEMA</i>	0.630	0.028	0.617	0.033	0.741	0.006	0.832	0.010	0.031	0.941
Beta-proteobacteria	<i>PARABURKHOLDERIA</i>	0.296	0.285	0.081	0.773	0.117	0.678	0.380	0.279	0.640	0.046
	<i>RHODOFERAX</i>	0.409	0.066	0.419	0.059	0.488	0.025	0.669	0.009	0.171	0.559
Proteobacteria	<i>OLIGOFLEXUS</i>	0.505	0.094	0.057	0.860	0.191	0.553	0.530	0.177	0.828	0.011
Cytophagia	<i>CHRYSEOTALEA</i>	0.405	0.096	0.149	0.555	0.276	0.030	0.360	0.250	0.448	0.144

888

889 **Figure 1:** Overview of the 2014 W. Lake Erie cyanoHAB. A) Map of western Lake Erie and the
890 sampling sites used for this study. WE2 and WE12 are close to the Ohio coast and Maumee
891 River and are considered nearshore stations, while WE4 is located more centrally in the basin
892 and considered offshore. B) Various bloom metrics for the 2014 bloom including cyanobacterial
893 biomass as measured by both chlorophyll α (blue) and phycoerythrin (green) concentrations, as
894 well as measured concentrations of particulate microcystins, soluble reactive phosphorus, and
895 nitrate. Figure 1A was generated via QGIS using the Open Street Map (OSM)
896 (https://wiki.osmfoundation.org/wiki/Main_Page).

897 **Figure 2:** Relative abundance of biosynthetic gene clusters (BGCs), including the complete *mcy*
898 operon described previously (33). Relative abundance is presented as estimated relative
899 proportion of the *Microcystis* population containing the BGC (see methods). Predicted secondary
900 metabolites are indicated on the right vertical axis) and in the legend. On 4 August at WE2, the
901 *mcy* operon and T3PKS gene clusters had a relative proportion greater than 1, indicating more
902 copies of BGC genes than 16S rRNA genes.

903 **Figure 3:** Comparison of PKS-M BGCs identified in WLE MAGs to the known microginins
904 encoding BGC from *Microcystis aeruginosa* LEGE 91341. A) Both PKS-M gene clusters are
905 incomplete/fragmented compared to the complete cluster where PKS-M contains conserved
906 additional synthesis and hypothetical protein encoding genes while PKS-M 2 lacks these genes
907 and contains a putative nuclease. Both PKS-M clusters contain a fragmented hybrid NRPS-PKS
908 encoding gene found in the microginin encoding pathway. B) Read mapping from a sample
909 collected on 4-August at WE2 against the complete microginin biosynthesis pathway in LEGE
910 91341. Coverage is observed throughout with notable variation in sequence identity and
911 evenness.

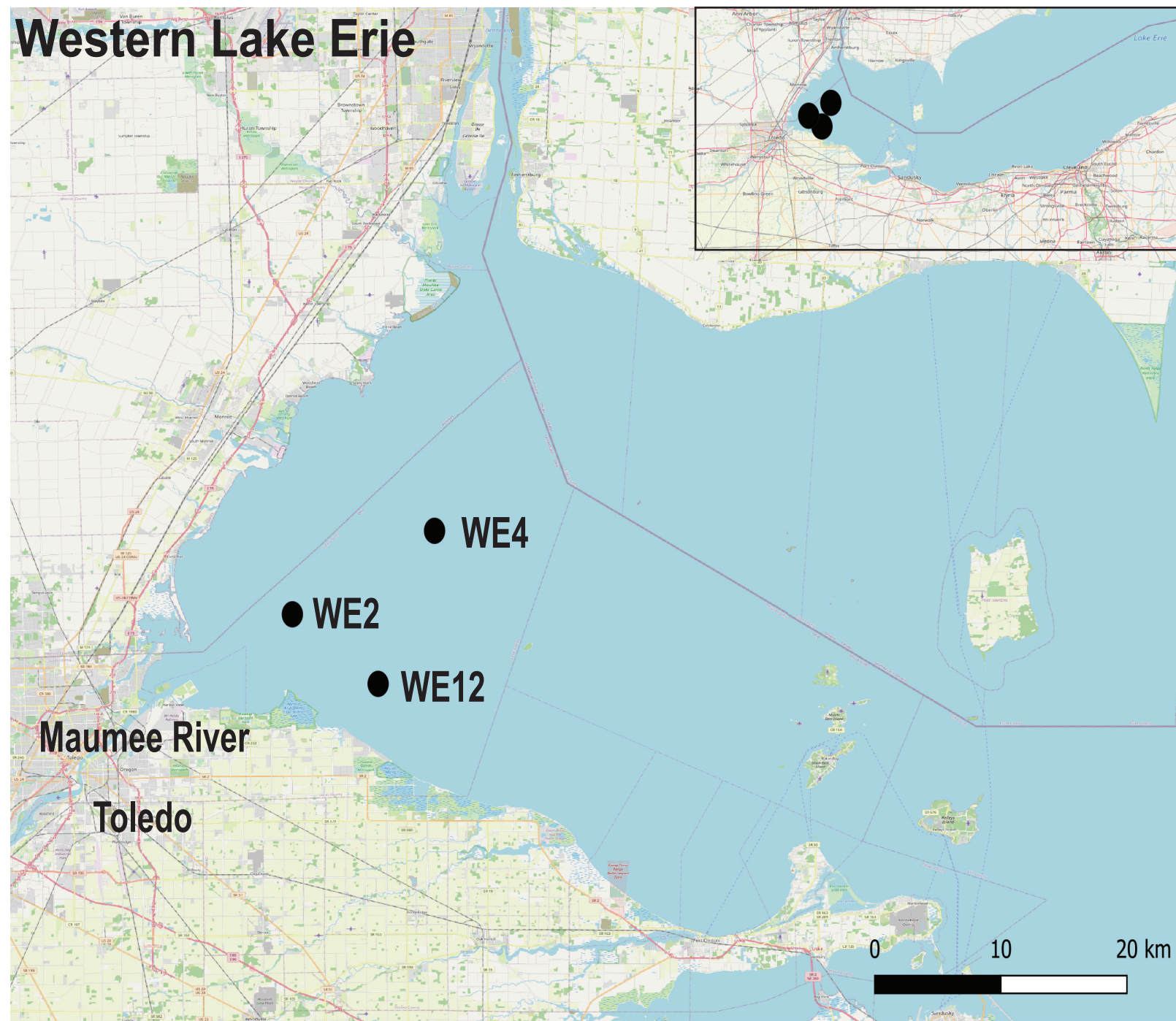
912 **Figure 4:** Gene schematics for select cryptically annotated PKS-containing gene clusters. A) The
913 iterative PKS gene cluster contains transport genes, a putative enediyne biosynthesis gene, a
914 thioesterase, 2/3 genes of unknown function that are part of the enediyne biosynthesis cassette,
915 and a putative nucleases B) The T3PKS cluster contains several transport genes and a
916 cytochrome B5 binding gene. C) The MIC cluster contains several core biosynthesis and
917 transport genes, and a tryptophan halogenase.

918 **Figure 5:** Phylogenetic tree consisting of protein sequences from the putatively identified PKSE
919 from the WLE MAGs, putatively identified PKSEs from previous studies (45, 73), and PKSEs
920 from known biosynthesis pathways that synthesize enediyne containing molecules. The PKSE
921 from the WLE MAGs is colored red, the putative PKSEs identified in other cyanobacteria are
922 colored in green, and a black circle indicates a known synthesized product associated with the
923 PKSE enzyme.

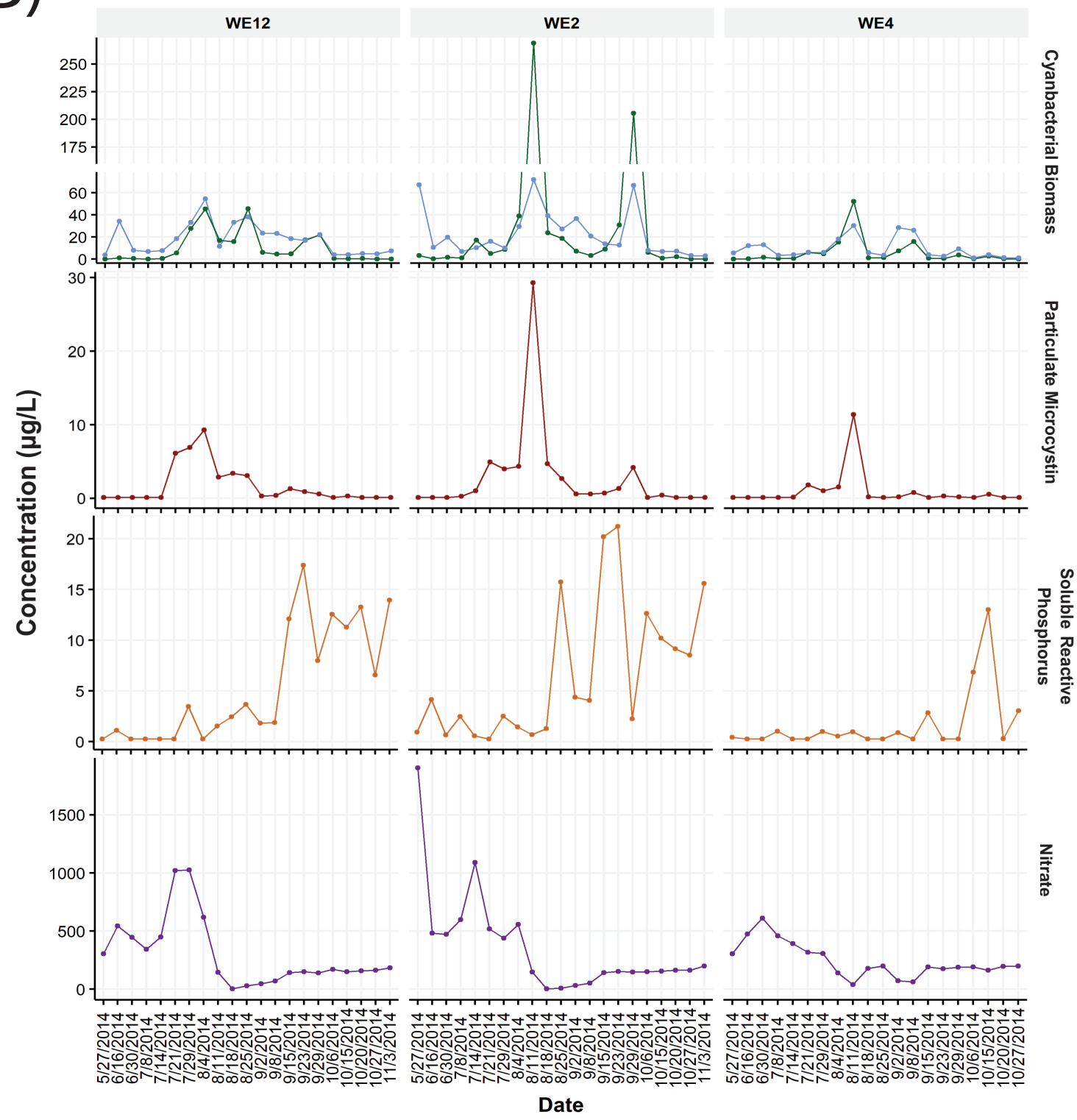
924 **Figure 6:** Relative abundance of transcripts from BGCs throughout the 2014 Bloom separated
925 by sampling station. Relative transcript abundance was calculated by determining the number of

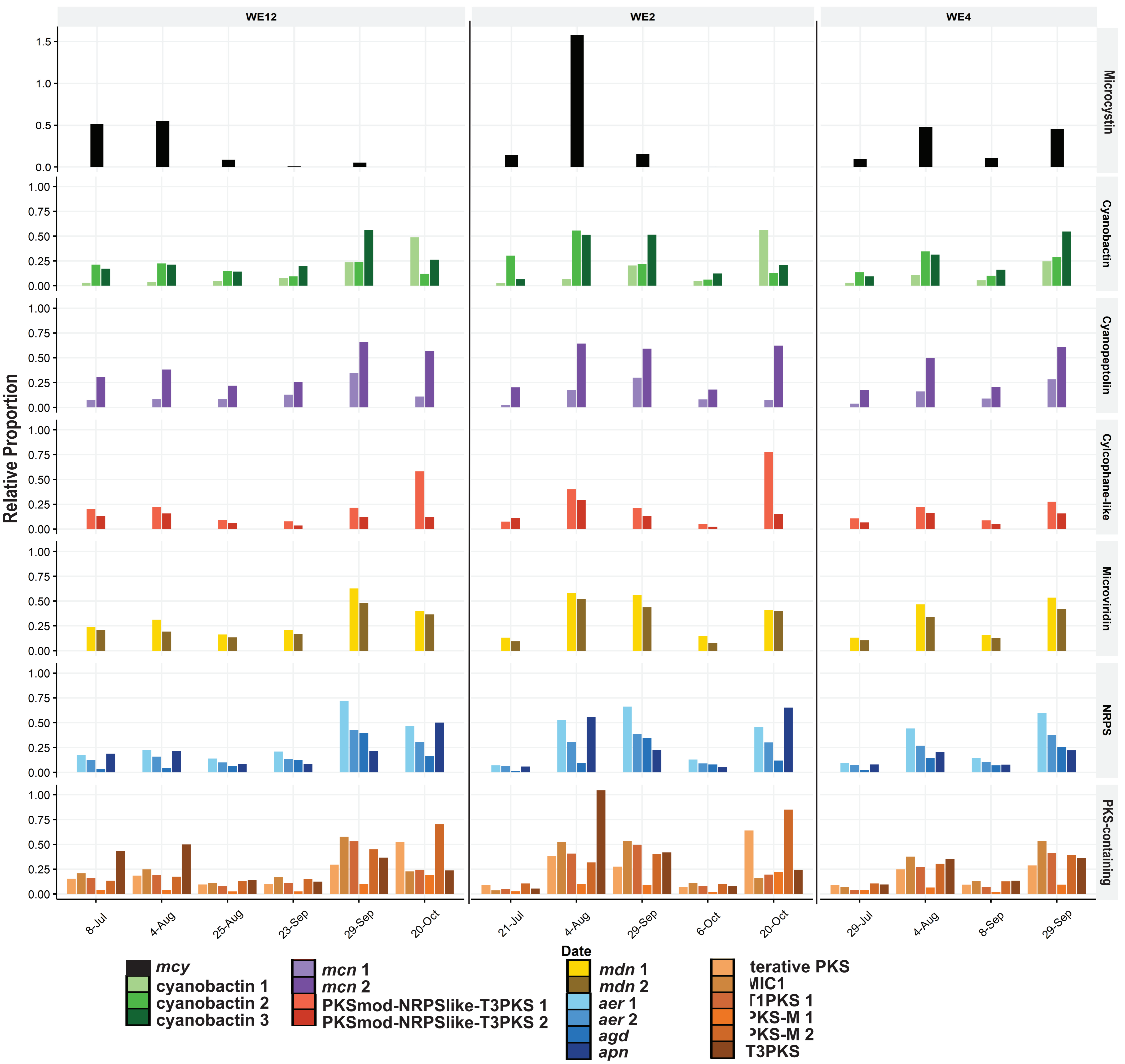
926 reads mapped to a BGC via specific cut off parameters, normalized to the number of reads
927 mapped to an entire reference *Microcystis* genome to determine “expression effort” (see
928 Experimental Procedure).

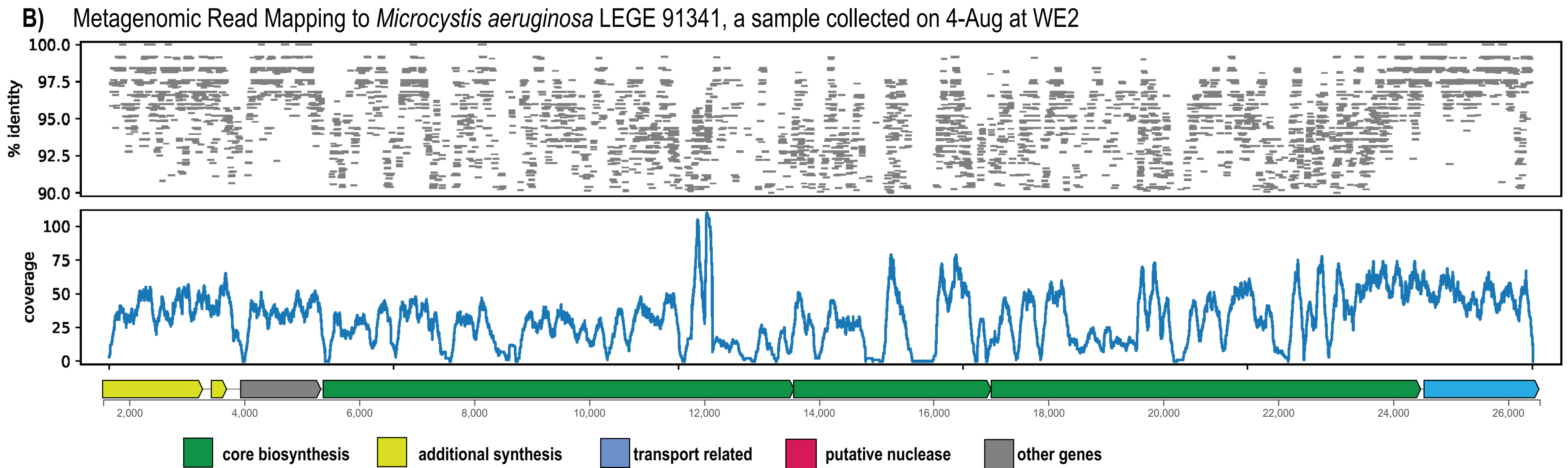
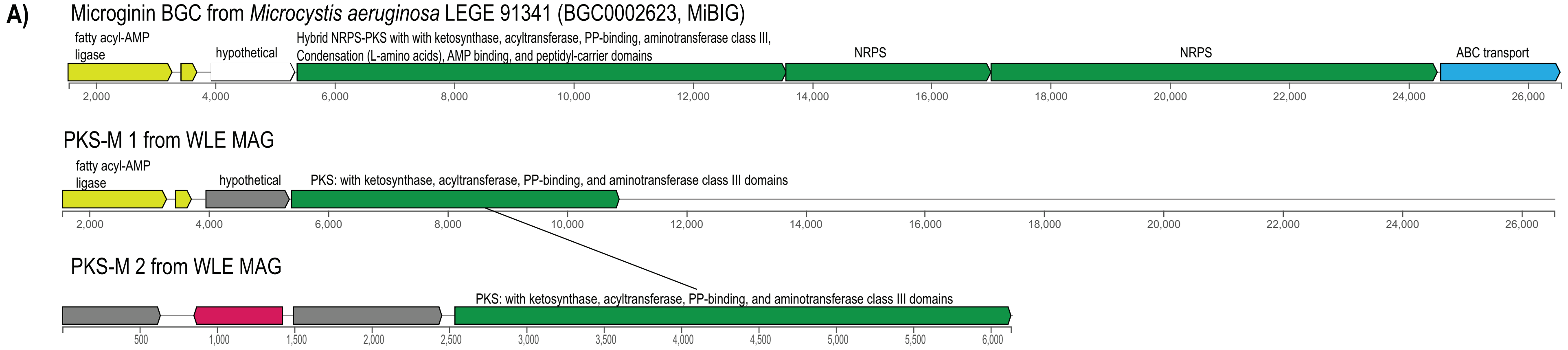
A)



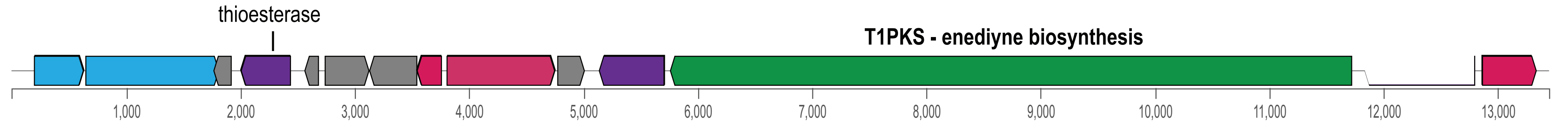
B)



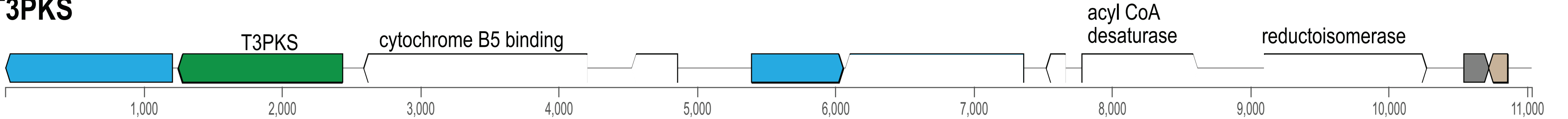




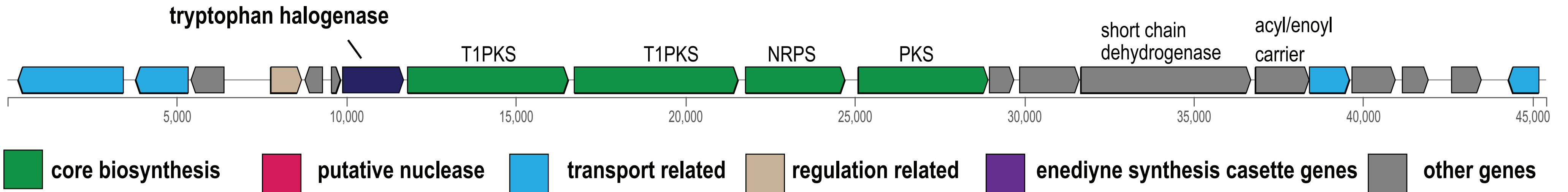
A) iterative PKS

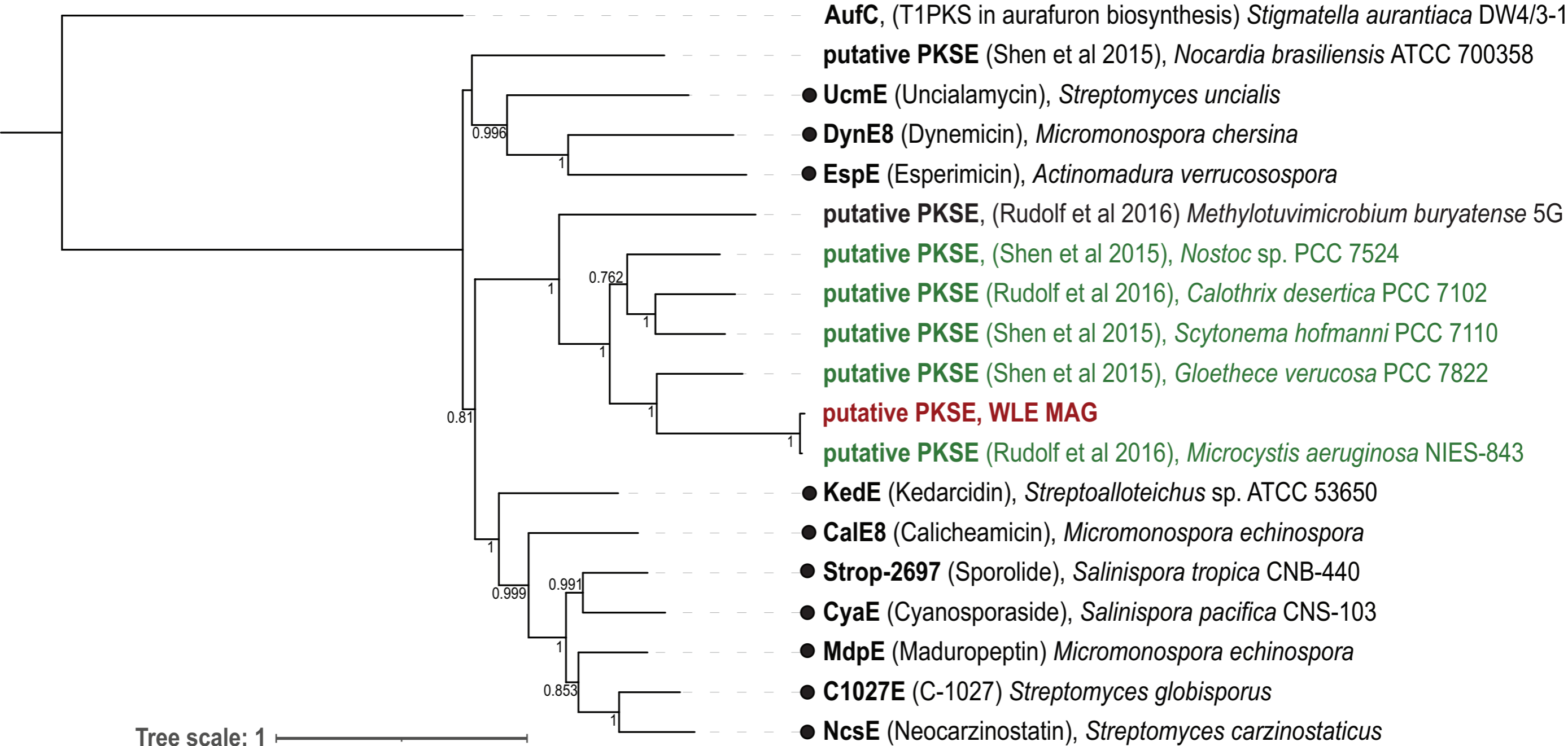


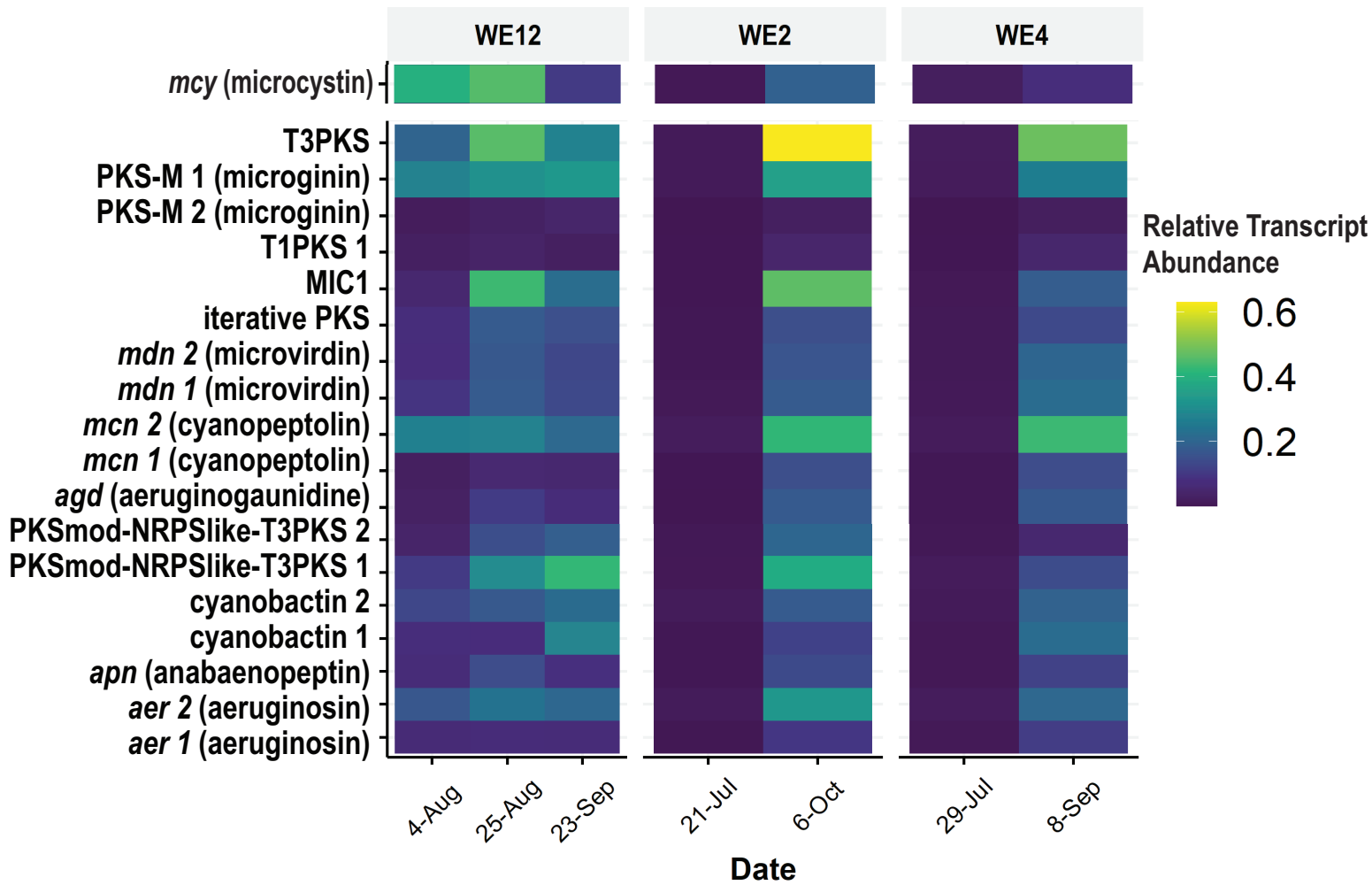
B) T3PKS



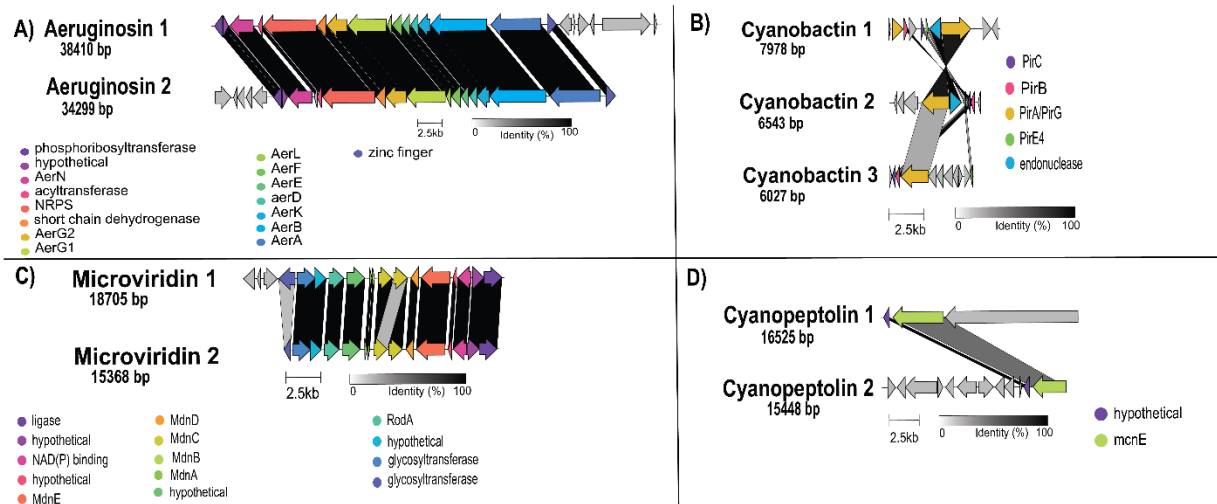
C) MIC 1



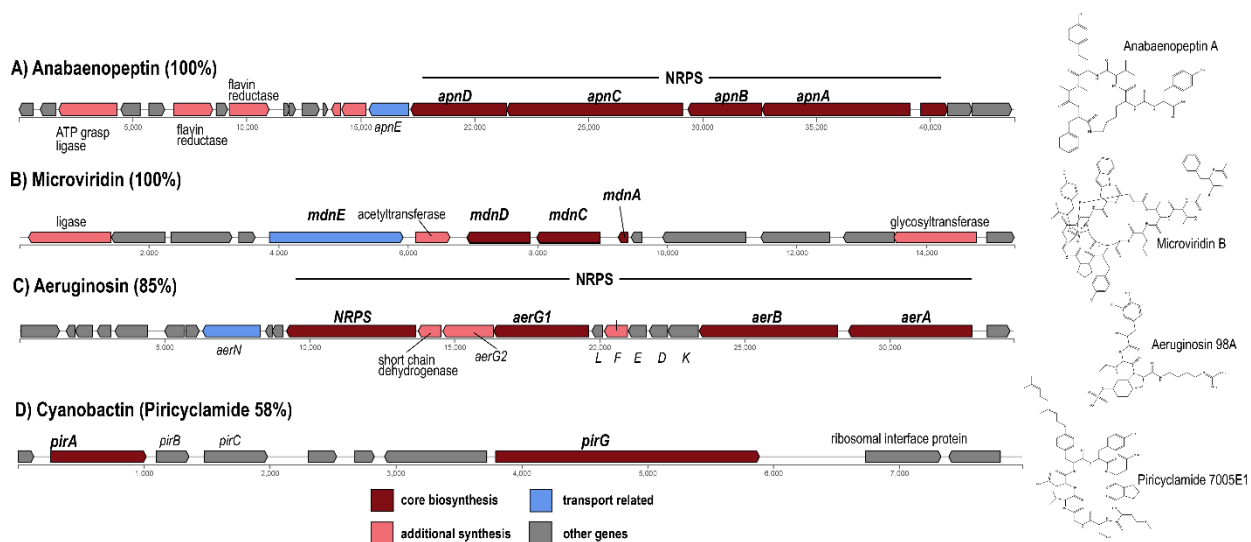




SUPPLEMENTALS

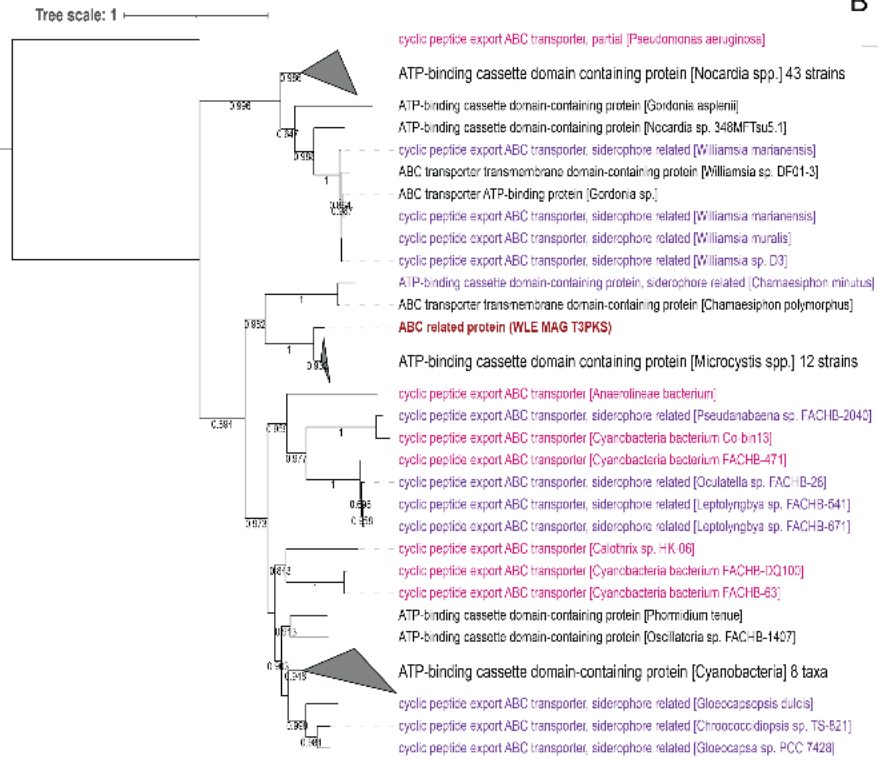


Supplemental Figure 1: Comparison of gene order, orientation, and sequence similarity between distinct BGCs from different *Microcystis* MAGs. Clinker was used to visually compare similarities and differences of the A) aeruginosin, B) cyanobactin, C) microviridin B, and D) micropeptin BGC classes. Homologous genes are the same color and percent similarity between genes is shown via a bar connecting homologous genes.

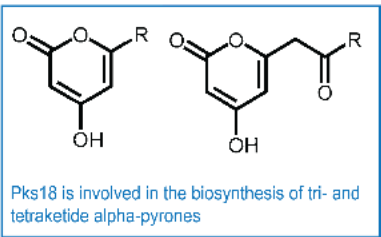
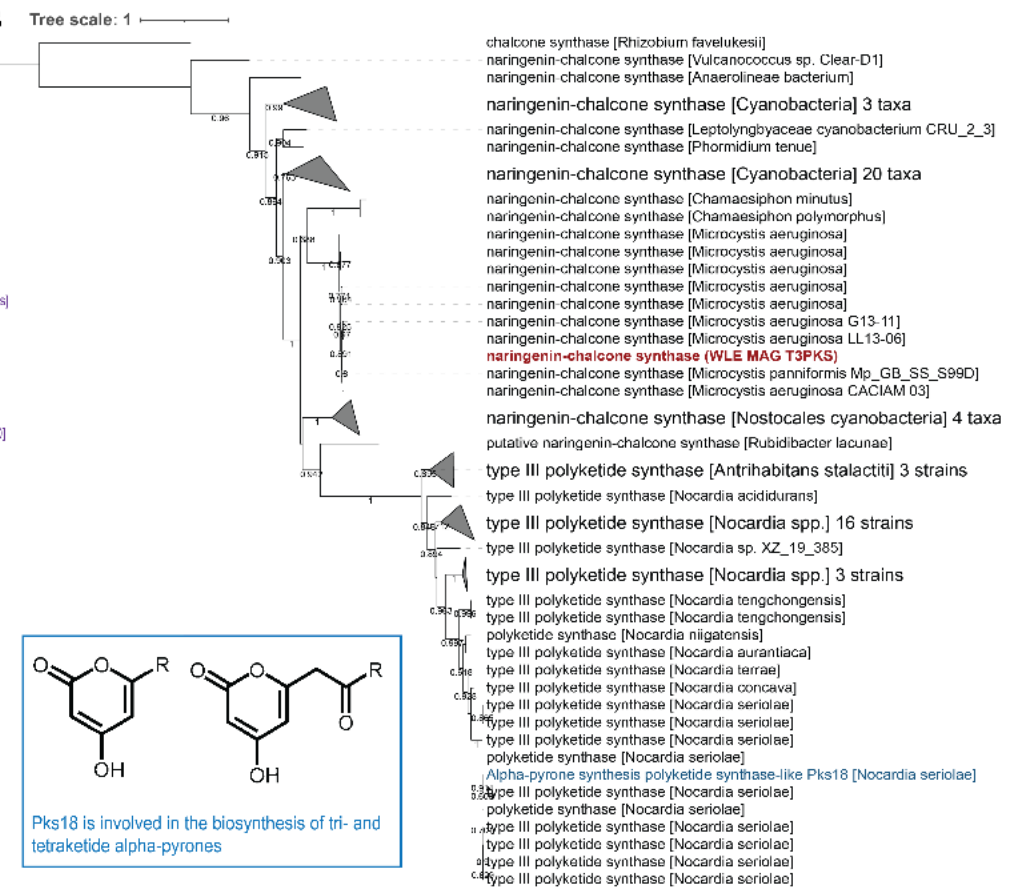


Supplemental Figure 2: Gene Schematics for identified BGC clusters including A) anabaenoceptin, B) microviridin B, C) aeruginosin, and D) a cyanobactin with 58% similarity to piricyclamide. Gene schematics were rendered through AntiSMASH v.6. Examples of chemical congeners that may be synthesized by these BGCs are shown. Percent similarity represents the percentage of genes within the closest known compound on the MiBIG database that have a significant BLAST hit

A



B



Supplemental Figure 3: Phylogenies for A) a transport protein and B) core biosynthesis naringenin-chalcone synthase from the T3PKS gene cluster. The transport protein has high homology to proteins involved in siderophore transport while the naringenin chalcone synthase is similar to cyanobacterial naringenin chalcone synthases. Bootstrap values are included at nodes where values are greater than 0.5. Proteins that share the same functional annotation of interest are colored. Dark red and bolded protein sequences are from the W. Lake Erie cyanoHAB as identified through antiSMASH.

Table S1: PKS Cluster Similarities to known compounds as identified via antiSMASH.

Cluster ID	Known Compound Cluster Hit	Similarity (%)
T1Iterative PKS	Calicheamicin	4
T3PKS	NA	NA
MIC 1	Phenalamide	40

Table S2: Annotations for genes identified in the MIC BGC. NRPS/PKS domains are provided when applicable as well as proposed functions. DCL = Condensation linking L-amino acids to a peptide ending with a D-amino acid. LCL = Condensation linking L-amino acid to a peptide ending with an L-amino acid as described via antiSMASH output.

Gene	Length (bp)	Function	Domains	Proposed Function
1	3099	Transport-related	---	Permease, efflux RND
2	1545	Transport-related	---	Periplasmic adapter, efflux RND
3	975	Other/Hypothetical	---	Unknown/Hypothetical
4	903	Regulatory	---	Transcriptional Regulator
5	519	Other/Hypothetical	---	Unknown/Hypothetical
6	261	Additional Biosynthesis	Acyl Carrier	Acyl Carrier Protein
7	1797	Additional Biosynthesis	---	Halogenase
8	4734	Core - T1PKS	Hybrid Ketosynthase, Acyltransferase, Ketoreductase, PP-binding	T1PKS
9	4824	Core - T1PKS	Hybrid Ketosynthase, Acyltransferase, PP-binding, Condensation DCL, PP-binding	T1PKS
10	2925	Core - NRPS	AMP-binding, Condensation LCL	NRPS
11	3822	Core - PKS	Hybrid Ketosynthase, Acyltransferase, PP-binding	PKS
12	720	Other/Hypothetical	---	Unknown/Hypothetical
13	1758	Additional Biosynthesis	Ketoreductase	Short chain Dehydrogenase/Reductase

14	5004	Additional Biosynthesis	Acyltransferase	Short chain Dehydrogenase/Reductase
15	1575	Additional Biosynthesis	---	Enoyl reductase
16	1173	Transport-related	---	MFS transporter
17	1278	Other	---	FAD-dependent oxidoreductase
18	765	Other/Hypothetical	---	Unknown/Hypothetical
19	876	Other/Hypothetical	---	Unknown/Hypothetical
20	894	Transport-related	---	ABC transporter

Table S3: Correlations of BGC relative transcript abundance and available abiotic variables

Variable	R-squared	p-value
NO3	-0.418	0.59
NH4	0.188	0.41
Temperature	-0.514	0.029
pH	-0.129	0.58
SRP	0.251	0.27
TP	0.114	0.62
PC	-0.0536	0.82
chlA	-0.0603	0.8

Aeruginosins (<i>aer</i>)		
Variable	R-squared	p-value
NO3	-0.48	0.028
NH4	0.0988	0.67
Temperature	-0.375	0.1249
pH	0.0413	0.859
SRP	0.364	0.1
TP	0.449	0.04
PC	0.252	0.27
chlA	0.162	0.48

PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS

Variable	R-squared	p-value
NO3	-0.551	0.041
NH4	0.0802	0.79
Temperature	-0.598	0.04
pH	-0.238	0.41
SRP	0.769	0.0013
TP	0.601	0.023
PC	0.129	0.66
chlA	-0.0753	0.8

**Cyanopeptolin
(mcn)**

Variable	R-squared	p-value
NO3	-0.434	0.049
NH4	0.178	0.44
Temperature	-0.412	0.089
pH	-0.00607	0.98
SRP	0.216	0.35
TP	0.227	0.32
PC	0.0991	0.669
chlA	0.0839	0.72

Microviridin (mdn)

Variable	R-squared	p-value
NO3	-0.749	0.002
NH4	0.00647	0.98
Temperature	-0.423	0.17
pH	0.144	0.62
SRP	0.358	0.21
TP	0.537	0.048
PC	0.312	0.28
chlA	0.218	0.45

Table S4: Correlations of BGC relative transcript abundance and relative abundance of select organisms

BGC Class	Organism Genus	R-squared	p-value
Cyanobactin	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_GEMMATIMONADACEAE_GENUS</i>	0.532002	0.023055
Cyanobactin	<i>HERBASPIRILLUM</i>	-0.64425	0.023743
Cyanobactin	<i>WOLBACHIA</i>	-0.52319	0.025879
Cyanobactin	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_CYTOPHAGALES_GENUS</i>	0.444163	0.04368

Cyanobactin	<i>RHODOFERAX</i>	0.418508	0.059008
Cyanobactin	<i>GEMMATIMONAS</i>	-0.41654	0.060332
Cyanobactin	<i>ROSEOMONAS</i>	-0.4043	0.069096
Cyanobactin	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_VERRUCOMICROBIACEAE_GENUS</i>	-0.45766	0.086274
Cyanobactin	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_ARMATIMONADETES_GENUS</i>	-0.378	0.09112
Cyanobactin	<i>ACINETOBACTER</i>	-0.50547	0.093656
Cyanobactin	<i>NOVIHERBASPIRILLUM</i>	-0.48984	0.105981
Cyanobactin	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_GEMMATIMONADETES_GENUS</i>	0.352644	0.116898
Cyanobactin	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_SYNECHOCOCCALES_GENUS</i>	-0.41704	0.121975
Cyanobactin	<i>BREVUNDIMONAS</i>	-0.34195	0.129211
Cyanobactin	<i>PIRELLULA</i>	-0.35852	0.144021
Cyanobactin	<i>BDELLOVIBRIO</i>	-0.35723	0.145583
Cyanobactin	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_PHYCISPHAERAE_GENUS</i>	-0.35563	0.147523
Cyanobactin	<i>SKELETONEMA</i>	0.617171	0.03252
Cyanobactin	<i>APOSTICHOPUS</i>	-0.51817	0.08438
Cyanobactin	<i>PHYTOPHTHORA</i>	0.372823	0.12757
Cyanobactin	<i>EURYTEMORA</i>	0.32275	0.153585
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_BATHYARCHAEOTA_GENUS</i>	-0.54321	0.010932
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_EURYARCHAEOTA_GENUS</i>	-0.5217	0.081919
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>WOLBACHIA</i>	-0.68302	0.001783
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_VERRUCOMICROBIACEAE_GENUS</i>	-0.71213	0.002897
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>GEMMATIMONAS</i>	-0.56891	0.007115
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>ACINETOBACTER</i>	-0.72704	0.007383
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>PAUCIBACTER</i>	-0.71693	0.008691
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_ARMATIMONADETES_GENUS</i>	-0.54466	0.010681
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_SYNECHOCOCCALES_GENUS</i>	-0.62251	0.013194
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_CHLOROFLEXI_GENUS</i>	-0.50549	0.019408
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>BRYOBACTER</i>	-0.58735	0.021321
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_VERRUCOMICROBIALES_GENUS</i>	-0.49482	0.02258
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_VERRUCOMICROBIA_GENUS</i>	-0.49006	0.024122
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>ROSEOMONAS</i>	-0.48363	0.026336
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>POLYNUCLEOBACTER</i>	-0.56913	0.02681
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>METHYLOBACTERIUM</i>	-0.47444	0.029776
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_ACTINOMYCETIA_GENUS</i>	-0.47312	0.0303
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>RUNELLA</i>	-0.62123	0.031077
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_GEMMATIMONADACEAE_GENUS</i>	0.497769	0.035545
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_RHODOBACTERACEAE_GENUS</i>	-0.49136	0.03837
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>SYNECHOCOCCUS</i>	-0.53619	0.03936
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>LIMNOHABITANS</i>	-0.43737	0.047397
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_OPITUTAE_GENUS</i>	-0.51859	0.047632
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>GEMMOBACTER</i>	-0.43359	0.049571
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>BREVUNDIMONAS</i>	-0.43254	0.050189

<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_FLAVOBACTERIACEAE_GENUS</i>	-0.50918	0.052554
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>HERBASPIRILLUM</i>	-0.5664	0.054859
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>PLANKTOPHILA</i>	-0.55568	0.060676
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_PELAGIBACTERALES_GENUS</i>	-0.54773	0.065257
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>RHODOFERAX</i>	0.408822	0.065753
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>BELNAPIA</i>	-0.48663	0.065843
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_BRYOBACTERALES_GENUS</i>	-0.46307	0.082158
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>TABRIZICOLA</i>	-0.37622	0.092781
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>OLIGOFLEXUS</i>	0.504783	0.094177
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>CHRYSEOTALEA</i>	0.404708	0.095728
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_PHYCISPHAERAE_GENUS</i>	-0.39564	0.104123
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>SICCIRUBRICOCCUS</i>	-0.43209	0.10774
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>AQUINCOLA</i>	-0.36081	0.108089
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_CYTOPHAGALES_GENUS</i>	0.360119	0.108811
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>ROSEOCOCCUS</i>	-0.42753	0.111925
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>BOSEA</i>	0.381182	0.118589
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>ALGORIPHAGUS</i>	-0.47269	0.120699
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>PARACRAUROCOCCUS</i>	-0.41354	0.125466
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>DERXIA</i>	-0.40095	0.138566
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>NOVIHERBASPIRILLUM</i>	-0.44759	0.144545
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>CHITINOPHAGA</i>	-0.32747	0.147314
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>PIRELLULA</i>	-0.35561	0.147549
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>APOSTICHOPUS</i>	-0.70705	0.010128
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>SKELETONEMA</i>	0.630377	0.027992
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>TETRAHYMENA</i>	0.562994	0.028878
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>PARAMECIUM</i>	0.561877	0.029267
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>TIGRIOPUS</i>	-0.46945	0.031789
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>PARAMURICEA</i>	-0.46756	0.032577
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>ICHTHYOPHTHIRIUS</i>	0.552709	0.032614
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>PSEUDOCOHNILEMBUS</i>	0.549228	0.033957
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>NYMPHAEA</i>	0.544111	0.036006
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>LEPEOPHTHEIRUS</i>	-0.46573	0.051427
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>CRASPEDOSTAUROS</i>	0.567259	0.054411
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>ATTHEYA</i>	-0.38152	0.087909
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>STYLONYCHIA</i>	-0.50671	0.092719
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>CHAETOCEROS</i>	-0.50033	0.097601
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>NOCCAIA</i>	0.440112	0.100646
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>DITYLUM</i>	-0.36555	0.103194
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_SIPHOVIRIDAE_GENUS</i>	-0.58451	0.022115
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>CYANOPHAGE</i>	-0.44199	0.044845
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_CAUDOVIRALES_GENUS</i>	-0.42915	0.052221
<i>aer</i> (aeruginosin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_PODOVIRIDAE_GENUS</i>	-0.39876	0.101175

<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_BATHYARCHAEOTA_GENUS</i>	-0.38504	0.084774
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_GEMMATIMONADACEAE_GENUS</i>	0.625287	0.00552
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>WOLBACHIA</i>	-0.62255	0.005792
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>HERBASPIRILLUM</i>	-0.69002	0.013013
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>GEMMATIMONAS</i>	-0.49778	0.021662
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>ACINETOBACTER</i>	-0.64436	0.023713
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>RHODOFERAX</i>	0.488081	0.024786
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>PAUCIBACTER</i>	-0.61405	0.033661
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_VERRUCOMICROBIACEAE_GENUS</i>	-0.54704	0.03482
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_ARMATIMONADETES_GENUS</i>	-0.45981	0.035975
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>ROSEOMONAS</i>	-0.44897	0.04119
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>POLYNUCLEOBACTER</i>	-0.51391	0.050033
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_CYTOPHAGALES_GENUS</i>	0.427287	0.053361
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>PLANKTOPHILA</i>	-0.54341	0.067844
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_CHLOROFLEXI_GENUS</i>	-0.40392	0.06938
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>BREVUNDIMONAS</i>	-0.4015	0.071227
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_PHYCISPHAERAE_GENUS</i>	-0.43177	0.073576
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_PELAGIBACTERALES_GENUS</i>	-0.52941	0.076714
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>NOVIHERBASPIRILLUM</i>	-0.52646	0.078678
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>BELNAPIA</i>	-0.45468	0.088609
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_SYNECHOCOCCALES_GENUS</i>	-0.45449	0.088754
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>ROSEOCOCCUS</i>	-0.44649	0.095243
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_ACTINOMYCETIA_GENUS</i>	-0.36592	0.102817
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>SICCIRUBRICOCCUS</i>	-0.43354	0.106437
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_OPITUTAE_GENUS</i>	-0.42291	0.116282
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>PARACRAUROCOCCUS</i>	-0.41768	0.121342
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>METHYLOBACTERIUM</i>	-0.33637	0.135985
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>SKELETONEMA</i>	0.741023	0.005825
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>APOSTICHOPUS</i>	-0.68998	0.01302
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>TIGRIOPUS</i>	-0.37636	0.092651
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>PARAMURICEA</i>	-0.36919	0.09955
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>PSEUDO</i>	0.346343	0.124046
<i>mcn</i> (cyanopeptolin)	<i>CYANOPHAGE</i>	-0.34948	0.120445
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_BATHYARCHAEOTA_GENUS</i>	-0.56172	0.036579
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>WOLBACHIA</i>	-0.76316	0.003881
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>OLIGOFLEXUS</i>	0.827902	0.011155
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_SYNECHOCOCCALES_GENUS</i>	-0.73805	0.014805
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>PAUCIBACTER</i>	-0.80483	0.015971
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_BDELLOVIBRIONALES_GENUS</i>	0.710863	0.021193

PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_VERRUCOMICROBIALES_GENUS</i>	-0.6066	0.021449
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_VERRUCOMICROBIA_GENUS</i>	-0.60468	0.021977
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>METHYLOBACTERIUM</i>	-0.59006	0.026336
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>BOSEA</i>	0.628276	0.02868
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_XANTHOMONADALES_GENUS</i>	0.754947	0.030359
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_VERRUCOMICROBIACEAE_GENUS</i>	-0.6773	0.031427
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_ARMATIMONADETES_GENUS</i>	-0.56951	0.033514
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>GEMMATIMONAS</i>	-0.55262	0.040423
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>PARABURKHOLDERIA</i>	0.639625	0.046424
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>OHTAEKWANGIA</i>	0.629832	0.050985
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_HYPHOMICROBIALES_GENUS</i>	-0.53039	0.05104
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>ROSEOMONAS</i>	-0.50999	0.062449
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_PLANCTOMYCETACEAE_GENUS</i>	0.50495	0.065528
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_OPITUTAE_GENUS</i>	-0.57355	0.083004
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_CHLOROFLEXI_GENUS</i>	-0.46759	0.091806
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>SYNECHOCOCCUS</i>	-0.55893	0.093031
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_ACTINOMYCETIA_GENUS</i>	-0.46576	0.093257
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>ACINETOBACTER</i>	-0.62657	0.096445
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>RHODOPIRELLULA</i>	0.624078	0.098181
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>POLYNUCLEOBACTER</i>	-0.54784	0.10113
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>VAMPIROVIBRIO</i>	0.61026	0.108112
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_FLAVOBACTERIACEAE_GENUS</i>	-0.53047	0.114691
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>CYANOBIUM</i>	-0.51312	0.129322
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>LIMNOHABITANS</i>	-0.42267	0.132157
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>CHRYSEOTALEA</i>	0.447747	0.14439
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>TETRAHYMENA</i>	0.817487	0.00387
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>PARAMECIUM</i>	0.809702	0.004528
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>PSEUDOCOHNILEMBUS</i>	0.803325	0.005124

PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>ICHTHYOPHTHIRIUS</i>	0.799409	0.005517
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>NYMPHAEA</i>	0.787085	0.006891
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>CRASPEDOSTAUROS</i>	0.853161	0.007069
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>CHAETOCEROS</i>	-0.78724	0.020399
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>ATTHEYA</i>	-0.58158	0.029142
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>DITYLUM</i>	-0.57856	0.030194
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>NOCCAIA</i>	0.673847	0.032641
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>PHAEODACTYLUM</i>	-0.55405	0.0398
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>ODONTELLA</i>	-0.5466	0.065931
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>GRAMMATOPHORA</i>	-0.45155	0.140597
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>PARAMURICEA</i>	-0.41046	0.144905
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>FISTULIFERA</i>	-0.4076	0.148004
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>TIGRIOPUS</i>	-0.40737	0.148253
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_SIPHOVIRIDAE_GENUS</i>	-0.5798	0.078941
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_PODOVIRIDAE_GENUS</i>	-0.525	0.079661
PKSmod-NRPSlike-T3PKS	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_CAUDOVIRALES_GENUS</i>	-0.43758	0.117642
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_BATHYARCHAEOTA_GENUS</i>	-0.54366	0.044485
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_EURYARCHAEOTA_GENUS</i>	-0.58147	0.130566
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>WOLBACHIA</i>	-0.80994	0.001406
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_VERRUCOMICROBIACEAE_GENUS</i>	-0.82399	0.003375
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>PAUCIBACTER</i>	-0.87028	0.00494
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>GEMMATIMONAS</i>	-0.68815	0.006514
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>ACINETOBACTER</i>	-0.84757	0.007873
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>RHODOFERAX</i>	0.66903	0.008884
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_ARMATIMONADETES_GENUS</i>	-0.64982	0.011887
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_CHLOROFLEXI_GENUS</i>	-0.63376	0.014948
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>POLYNUCLEOBACTER</i>	-0.71234	0.020805
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_SYNECHOCOCCALES_GENUS</i>	-0.70906	0.021674
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>ROSEOMONAS</i>	-0.59088	0.026076
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>HERBASPIRILLUM</i>	-0.75803	0.029302
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_ACTINOMYCETIA_GENUS</i>	-0.56311	0.036019
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_GEMMATIMONADACEAE_GENUS</i>	0.601612	0.038501
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>LIMNOHABITANS</i>	-0.54686	0.043
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>BRYOBACTER</i>	-0.64031	0.046116

<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>BREVUNDIMONAS</i>	-0.51833	0.057584
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>PLANKTOPHILA</i>	-0.67286	0.067456
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_OPITUTAE_GENUS</i>	-0.59786	0.067924
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>SYNECHOCOCCUS</i>	-0.59707	0.06838
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>METHYLOBACTERIUM</i>	-0.48917	0.075866
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_VERRUCOMICROBIALES_GENUS</i>	-0.48596	0.078103
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_PELAGIBACTERALES_GENUS</i>	-0.64992	0.081073
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_VERRUCOMICROBIA_GENUS</i>	-0.47108	0.089076
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_FLAVOBACTERIACEAE_GENUS</i>	-0.55257	0.097624
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>RUNELLA</i>	-0.6133	0.105882
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_CYTOPHAGALES_GENUS</i>	0.440241	0.11517
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>BELNAPIA</i>	-0.52926	0.115681
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>NOVIHERBASPIRILLUM</i>	-0.58682	0.126215
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>VAMPIROVIBRIO</i>	-0.57153	0.13887
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_RHODOBACTERACEAE_GENUS</i>	-0.4489	0.143238
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>APOSTICHOPUS</i>	-0.97738	2.84E-05
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>SKELETONEMA</i>	0.831539	0.010493
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>PARAMECIUM</i>	0.659467	0.038036
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>TETRAHYMENA</i>	0.656704	0.039138
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>TIGRIOPUS</i>	-0.55241	0.040515
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>ICHTHYOPHTHIRIUS</i>	0.653081	0.040614
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>NYMPHAEA</i>	0.651423	0.041302
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>PSEUDOCOHNILEMBUS</i>	0.641096	0.045763
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>NOCCAEA</i>	0.588531	0.073478
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>PARAMURICEA</i>	-0.49062	0.07487
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>LEPEOPHTHEIRUS</i>	-0.49739	0.099902
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>EURYTEMORA</i>	0.442545	0.113059
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>CYANOPHAGE</i>	-0.53873	0.046846
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_CAUDOVIRALES_GENUS</i>	-0.48634	0.077838
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_SIPHOVIRIDAE_GENUS</i>	-0.54786	0.101118
<i>mdn</i> (microviridin)	<i>UNCLASSIFIED_PODOVIRIDAE_GENUS</i>	-0.45023	0.141909

Table S5: Coverage and Completeness metrics for cryptic PKS containing cluster T3PKS, MIC 1 and Iterative PKS.

Station	Date	BGC Name	Bases with Coverage	Average Coverage	Status
WE12	7/8/2014	T3PKS	83.798	6	Complete
	7/8/2014	MIC 1	81.36	5.96	Complete
	7/8/2014	Iterative PKS	28.455	1.647	Absent
	8/4/2014	T3PKS	100	2431	Complete
	8/4/2014	MIC 1	100	28.85	Complete
	8/4/2014	Iterative PKS	100	923.7	Complete
	8/25/2014	T3PKS	100	110.9	Complete
	8/25/2014	MIC 1	100	239.2	Complete
	8/25/2014	Iterative PKS	100	83.51	Complete
	9/23/2014	T3PKS	87.26	64.67	Complete
	9/23/2014	MIC 1	100	339.4	Complete
	9/23/2014	Iterative PKS	57.053	62.49	Absent
	9/29/2014	T3PKS	100	188.5	Complete
	9/29/2014	MIC 1	100	827.3	Complete
	9/29/2014	Iterative PKS	100	170.6	Complete
	10/20/2014	T3PKS	79.603	21.62	Complete
	10/20/2014	MIC 1	98.53	28.11	Complete
	10/20/2014	Iterative PKS	100	57.804	Complete
WE2	7/21/2014	T3PKS	47.75	9.126	Absent
	7/21/2014	MIC 1	100	11.089	Complete
	7/21/2014	Iterative PKS	91.82	16.79	Complete
	8/4/2014	T3PKS	100	1217	Complete
	8/4/2014	MIC 1	100	1275	Complete
	8/4/2014	Iterative PKS	100	303.4	Complete
	9/29/2014	T3PKS	100	521.4	Complete
	9/29/2014	MIC 1	100	1599	Complete
	9/29/2014	Iterative PKS	100	312.9	Complete
	10/6/2014	T3PKS	85.303	167.1	Complete
	10/6/2014	MIC 1	100	49.09	Complete

	10/6/2014	Iterative PKS	100	214.4	Complete
	10/20/2014	T3PKS	93.98	81.19	Complete
	10/20/2014	MIC 1	100	53.84	Complete
	10/20/2014	Iterative PKS	100	230.2	Complete
WE4	7/29/2014	T3PKS	98.85	31.6	Complete
	7/29/2014	MIC 1	100	52.59	Complete
	7/29/2014	Iterative PKS	98.75	33.4	Complete
	8/4/2014	T3PKS	100	29.42	Complete
	8/4/2014	MIC 1	100	70.94	Complete
	8/4/2014	Iterative PKS	100	21.82	Complete
	9/8/2014	T3PKS	97.49	28.78	Complete
	9/8/2014	MIC 1	100	71.88	Complete
	9/8/2014	Iterative PKS	94.43	23.79	Complete
	9/29/2014	T3PKS	99.6	24.26	Complete
	9/29/2014	MIC 1	100	89.52	Complete
	9/29/2014	Iterative PKS	100	19.56	Complete

Table S6: Paired environmental variables for the 2014 cyanoHAB.

Station	Date	NO3 (mg/L)	NH4 (ug/L)	Temperat ure (°C)	Latitude	Longitudue	Distance to Maumee River (km)	Shore	pH	Particulat e_Microcy stins (ug/L)	Phycoy anin (ug/L)	CHLa (ug/L)	SRP (ug/L)	TP (ug/L)	DOC (uM)
WE12	8-Jul-14	0.34	16.16	23.5	NA	NA	17.44	Near	8.33	NA	0.12	6.98	0.2	34	214
WE12	4-Aug-14	0.62	3.25	24.6	41 42.157	83 15.781	16.35	Near	9.29	9.28	45.43	54.46	0.1	44.4	384
WE12	25-Aug-14	0.03	2.58	25	41 42.298	83 15.377	16.88	Near	9.29	3.1	45.72	38.28	3.68	98.1	415
WE12	23-Sep-14	0.15	3.14	17.9	41 42.196	83 15.499	16.72	Near	8.33	0.9	17.55	16.97	17.39	60.3	495
WE12	29-Sep-14	0.14	0.44	19.5	41 42.185	83 15.546	16.7	Near	8.74	0.6	21.87	22.25	7.98	69.2	398
WE12	20-Oct-14	0.16	5.18	13	41 42.269	83 15.663	16.54	Near	7.98	NA	0.54	5	13.27	45.2	419
WE2	21-Jul-14	0.52	2.93	23.5	41 45.873	83 19.849	12.23	Near	8.38	4.94	5.13	16.26	0.1	32.1	311
WE2	4-Aug-14	0.56	3.03	23.1	41 45.912	83 19.835	12.3	Near	9.2	4.33	39.01	29.44	1.45	32	462
WE2	29-Sep-14	0.15	0.1	19.4	41 45.884	83 20.107	11.95	Near	8.84	4.2	205.5	66.63	21.22	65.3	601
WE2	6-Oct-14	0.15	11.18	15.3	41 45.795	83 19.942	12.08	Near	8.04	NA	6.24	8.06	12.65	53	502
WE2	20-Oct-14	0.16	6.57	12.5	41 45.827	83 19.855	12.2	Near	8.04	NA	2.12	7.23	9.16	44.3	287
WE4	29-Jul-14	0.31	9.39	22.6	41 49.637	83 11.713	25.53	Off	8.59	1.01	4.77	6.12	1.01	16.5	328
WE4	4-Aug-14	0.14	1.64	24.6	41 49.714	83 11.654	25.64	Off	9.02	1.54	15.38	18.11	0.55	22.1	332
WE4	8-Sep-14	0.07	5.28	NA	41 49.585	83 11.629	25.55	Off	8.86	0.8	15.81	26.24	0.27	30.6	328
WE4	29-Sep-14	0.19	0.33	19.9	41 49.608	83 11.684	25.44	Off	8.58	0.2	3.65	9.21	0.1	17.7	464