

1 ***Vibrio bivalvicida* sp. nov., a novel larval pathogen for bivalve molluscs reared in hatchery.**

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25 **ABSTRACT**

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27 Three isolates were obtained in cultures of carpet shell clam (*Ruditapes decussatus*), reared in a bivalve hatchery
28 (Galicia, NW Spain), from different sources: healthy broodstock, moribund larvae and the seawater corresponding
29 to that larval tank. All isolates were studied by a polyphasic approach, including a phylogenetic analysis based on
30 concatenated sequences of the five housekeeping genes *ftsZ*, *gyrB*, *pyrH*, *recA* and *rpoA*, that supported their
31 inclusion into the Orientalis clade of the genus *Vibrio*, forming a tight group separated from the closest relatives:
32 *V. tubiashii* subsp. *europaensis*, *V. tubiashii* subsp. *tubiashii* and *V. orientalis*. Percentages of genomic
33 resemblance, including average nucleotide identity, DNA–DNA hybridization and *in silico* genome–to–genome
34 comparison, between the type strain and the closest relatives were below values for species delineation and
35 confirmed the taxonomic position of the new species, which could be differentiated from the related taxa on the
36 basis of several phenotypic and chemotaxonomic features including FAME and MALDI–TOF–MS. The
37 pathogenicity of the new species was demonstrated in larvae of *Ruditapes decussatus*, *R. philippinarum*, *Ostrea*
38 *edulis* and *Donax trunculus*. Results demonstrated that strains analysed represent a novel species into the Orientalis
39 clade of the genus *Vibrio*, for which the name *Vibrio bivalvicida* sp. nov. is proposed. with 605^T (= CECT 8855^T=
40 CAIM 1904^T) as the type strain.

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43 **Keywords:** *Vibrio bivalvicida* sp. nov.; Orientalis clade; Bivalve hatchery; Larval pathogen; ANI, DDH.

44 The genus *Vibrio* is the largest member of the family *Vibrionaceae* and comprises more than 123 bacterial species
45 (<http://www.bacterio.net/vibrio.html>) clustered in different clades [21]. Vibriosis caused by some *Vibrio* species
46 represents the main bottleneck of the production process on bivalve hatcheries leading to high larval mortality
47 rates and the rapid loss of production batches [15, 17]. Orientalis clade has a relevant significance for bivalve
48 aquaculture since it includes some of the most well-known larval pathogens, such as *V. tubiashii* subsp. *tubiashii*
49 or the recently described *V. tubiashii* subsp. *europaensis*, whose broad action range was reported in larvae of
50 different species and even in ten to twelve-month-old spat *Crassostrea gigas* [15, 29]. The remainder species of
51 the Orientalis clade, including *V. brasiliensis*, *V. caribbeanicus*, *V. hepatarius*, *V. orientalis*, *V. sinaloensis* and *V.*
52 *rosai*, were also isolated from aquatic environments [5, 6, 8, 26, 27, 31].

53 In this study, we report a detailed taxonomic characterization of three isolates obtained from cultures of carpet
54 shell clam (*Ruditapes decussatus*) reared in a bivalve hatchery (Galicia, NW Spain). Results have demonstrated
55 that they constitute a new species within the genus *Vibrio*, namely into the Orientalis clade, with special
56 significance for shellfish aquaculture because its pathogenicity was demonstrated in larvae of several bivalve
57 species.

58 Microbiological samples were obtained from cultures of carpet shell clam carried out in a bivalve hatchery located
59 in Galicia (NW Spain) and they were processed following Prado et al. [16]. Strain 194 (= CECT 8856= CAIM
60 1905) was isolated from healthy broodstock. Isolates 605^T (= CECT 8855^T= CAIM 1904^T) and 603 were obtained
61 from a culture tank affected by an episode of mortality larval, namely 605^T was isolated from *R. decussatus* larvae
62 and 603 from seawater used in the same culture tank. All isolates were cultured in Marine Agar (MA; Difco) for
63 24 h at 25°C and they were analysed for their phenotypic properties. Phenotypic profiles were obtained using a set
64 of tests [15, 16, 17] that comprised classical procedures, including the utilization of 46 sole carbon sources, as well
65 as the miniaturized systems API ZYM, API 20E and API 50CH (bioMérieux) to determine the enzymatic activities,
66 additional phenotypic features and the fermentation of carbon sources respectively. Antibigrams were carried out
67 by disc diffusion method on Müller–Hinton Agar (Oxoid) supplemented with 1% NaCl (MHA–1) using antibiotic
68 impregnated discs (Oxoid) with: florfenicol (FFC, 30 µg), flumequine (UB30, 30 µg),
69 sulphamethoxazole/trimethoprim (SXT25, 25 µg), ampicillin (AMP10, 10 µg), amoxicillin (AML25, 25 µg),
70 chloramphenicol (C30, 30 µg), tetracycline (TE30, 30 µg), erythromycin (E15, 15 µg), enrofloxacin (ENR5, 5µg),
71 cephalotin (KF30, 30 µg) and nitrofurantoin (F300, 300 µg). After incubation (24 h and 25°C) the zones of
72 inhibition around the disc were measured and compared against recognised zone size ranges established by the
73 manufacturer for specific antimicrobial agents.

74 The three isolates shared the main properties of the genus *Vibrio* [12]. They were motile rods, facultative anaerobic,
75 Gram-negative and oxidase positive, susceptible to the vibriostatic agent O/129, capable of reducing nitrates to
76 nitrites, and to grow on TCBS forming yellow colonies. These isolates showed high phenotypical homogeneity,
77 although variable reactions (Table 1) were observed for hydrolysis of esculine, activity N-acetyl- β -
78 glucosaminidase, utilization of salicine, and fermentation of gentiobiose and arbutine (positive for isolates 605^T
79 and 603). They were susceptible to FFC30, UB30, SXT25, TE30, F300 and C30 whereas they showed resistance
80 to E15, KF30, AMP10, AML25 and ENR5.

81 Repetitive extragenic palindromic (REP-PCR) and enterobacterial repetitive intergenic consensus (ERIC-PCR)
82 techniques were used to discriminate bacterial strains. For genotyping, the three isolates and the related species
83 were amplified by ERIC-PCR and REP-PCR, as previously described Rodríguez et al. [19]. On the basis of the
84 results obtained, including their DNA fingerprints (Fig. S1) and phenotypic profiles, isolates 605^T and 603 were
85 considered as clones of the same strain, which have sense since they were isolated in the same sampling day but
86 from differences sources in the same tank (larvae and seawater). Therefore, only the isolates 605^T and 194 were
87 selected as the representative strains in the description of the new taxon.

88 Genomic DNA extraction, PCR amplification and sequencing of the 16S rRNA gene, amplification of the
89 housekeeping genes *recA* (RNA recombinase alpha subunit), *rpoA* (RNA polymerase alpha subunit), *pyrH*
90 (uridine monophosphate kinase), *gyrB* (gyrase beta subunit) and *ftsZ* (cell-division protein) used for the multilocus
91 sequence analysis (MLSA) were performed following Prado et al. [15]. Sequences were analysed with the
92 Lasergene Seqman (DNASTar) and identified using the EzTaxon-e server [9] and FASTA [14]. Phylogenetic
93 analysis based on the individual and concatenated sequences were performed using MEGA 5.2 software [23] and
94 the distance matrices were calculated using Lasergene MegAlign (DNASTar) after multiple alignment of data by
95 ClustalW [28]. Distances and clustering with the Neighbour Joining (NJ) and Maximum Likelihood (ML)
96 algorithms were determined using bootstrap values based on 1000 replications. The sequences of the closest *Vibrio*
97 species were obtained from GenBank. Sequences were deposited in the DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank database and the
98 accession numbers are listed in Table S1.

99 Phylogenetic analysis based on the 16S rRNA gene sequences (>1459 bp) using the NJ and ML algorithms (Fig.
100 S2) indicated that strains 605^T and 194 constituted an independent and tight group within the genus *Vibrio*. On the
101 basis of these 16S rDNA sequences, both strains showed 100% similarity among them and the closest species were
102 *V. tubiashii* subsp. *europaensis* PP-638^T (98.80%), *V. crosai* CAIM 1437^T (98.79–98.77%), *V. inhibens* BFLP-
103 10^T (98.22–98.20%), *V. tubiashii* subsp. *tubiashii* ATCC 19109^T (98.22–98.19%), *V. sagamiensis* LC2-047^T

104 (98.15%), *V. owensii* DY05^T (98.10%) and *V. orientalis* CIP102891^T (98.05–98.01%). Most of the percentages
105 were below than the threshold value (98.70%) proposed by Stackebrandt and Ebers [22].

106 Partial sequences of the housekeeping genes *ftsZ* (566–599 bp), *gyrB* (1059–1077 bp), *pyrH* (497–537 bp), *recA*
107 (791–823 bp) and *rpoA* (874–879 bp) demonstrated the strength of the new cluster in the phylogenetic tree of each
108 individual gene (Fig. S3). In all cases the bivalve pathogens *V. tubiashii* subsp. *europaensis* PP-638^T and *V.*
109 *tubiashii* subsp. *tubiashii* ATCC 19109^T were the closest relatives according to the phylogenetic analysis.

110 Phylogenetic trees based on concatenated sequences (3077 bp) of the five housekeeping genes (*recA*, *rpoA*, *pyrH*,
111 *gyrB* and *ftsZ*) were constructed using the NJ and ML methods (Fig. 1). Results supported the tight of the new
112 group and clustered the new species into the Orientalis clade. Moreover, MLSA confirmed the close relationship
113 between the two strains and the type strains of the related subspecies of *V. tubiashii*. Indeed, the highest range of
114 similarities between the strains of the new species and the closest relatives using the alignment corresponding to
115 the concatenated sequences were 94.20% with *V. tubiashii* subsp. *europaensis*, 94.10% for *V. tubiashii* subsp.
116 *tubiashii* and 90.60% with *V. orientalis*. Although some recombination events were detected in different
117 housekeeping genes (data not shown) these percentages were lower than the value proposed by Thompson et al.
118 [25] for species delimitation within the genus *Vibrio* (95%).

119 The DNA–DNA hybridization (DDH) experiments were carried out by the hydroxyapatite method in microtiter
120 plates following Ziemke et al. [32] with a hybridization temperature of 60°C. Strain 605^T was hybridized with 194,
121 and the degree of the homology was 87.76%. DDH values between 605^T and the closest relatives *V. tubiashii*
122 subsp. *tubiashii* CECT 4196^T, *V. tubiashii* subsp. *europaensis* PP-638^T and *V. orientalis* CECT 629^T were 60.33%,
123 59.64% and 45.96% respectively. All values were clearly below 70% DNA–DNA reassociation proposed by
124 Wayne et al. [30] as the limit for species definition.

125 The genome of the type strain 605^T was sequenced in an Illumina MiSeq sequencer by Sistemas Genómicos
126 (Valencia, Spain) with a 100X coverage. Genome assembly was performed using SPAdes 3.6 [13]. The resulting
127 draft genome sequence was annotated with the Rapid Annotations using Subsystems Technology (RAST Server)
128 [1]. The subsequent assembly produced 139 contigs (N50= 192254 bp, G+C: 42.29%), 4554 coding sequences
129 (cds) from 4947346 bp genome length. The genome sequence data of the type strain 605^T has been deposited at
130 DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank under the accession number LLEI00000000.

131 DDH was also calculated *in silico* by the Genome-to-Genome Distance Calculator (GGDC 2.0) using the
132 BLAST+ method [11]. Results were based on recommended formula 2 (identities/HSP length), which is
133 independent of genome length and is thus robust against the use of incomplete draft genomes. Comparison with

134 the draft genome of the type strain 605^T yielded percentages of 29.90±2.45 with *V. tubiashii* subsp. *tubiashii* ATCC
135 19109^T (CP009354, CP009355) and 21.60±2.34 with *V. orientalis* CIP 102891^T (ACZV00000000). According to
136 Thompson et al. [24], strains from the same species share 70% *in silico* GGDC, confirming the taxonomic position
137 of the new species observed above.

138 Calculation of ANI according to MUMmer (ANIm) and BLAST (ANiB) was performed in JSpeciesWS [18] with
139 the genome sequences used previously for *in silico* DDH. We have determined that the ANiB and ANIm between
140 the type strain 605^T and *V. tubiashii* ATCC 19109^T was 85.21% and 87.70% respectively, and 77.35% and 84.64%
141 with *V. orientalis* CIP 102891^T. In all cases these values were clearly below the 95% threshold proposed [18, 24].
142 Several differentiating phenotypic features were found between the novel species and the closest relatives (Table
143 1). They can be differentiated from *V. tubiashii* subsp. *tubiashii* CECT 4196^T, *V. tubiashii* subsp. *europaensis* PP–
144 638^T and *V. orientalis* CECT 629^T by the negative results obtained for fermentation of D–mannitol and the
145 utilization of gluconic acid and D–mannitol whereas the closest relatives were sensitive to AMP10 and did not
146 ferment the D–raffinose. Moreover, the ONPG test and fermentation of arbutine was negative for *V. tubiashii*
147 subsp. *tubiashii* CECT 4196^T and *V. tubiashii* subsp. *europaensis* PP–638^T.

148 MALDI–TOF profile of the type strain 605^T was obtained at CECT (Spanish Type Culture Collection) following
149 the method proposed by Maier et al. [10]. The protein analysis of 605^T confirmed the distance from the closest
150 species *V. tubiashii* subsp. *europaensis* PP–638^T (score=2.394), *V. tubiashii* subsp. *tubiashii* CECT 4196^T
151 (score=2.263) and *V. orientalis* CECT 629^T (score=2.249) in the database.

152 Fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) were identified according to the Microbial Identifications Systems (MIDI), as
153 described by Sasser [20], using 24 hours cultures from Trypticase Soy Agar (Pronadisa, Lab Conda) supplemented
154 with 0.5% (w/v) NaCl incubated at 25°C. The majority fatty acids were similar in all cases although differences in
155 their percentages were observed (Table 2). Indeed, the type strain 605^T showed higher values than the closest
156 relatives for C_{16:0}, C_{12:0} and Summed Feature 8 (C_{18:1ω7c} and/or C_{18:1ω6c}) and lower for Summed feature 2 (C_{14:0} 3–
157 OH and/or iso–C_{16:1} I) and Summed feature 3 (C_{16:1ω7c} and/or C_{16:1ω6c}).

158 Biofilm formation as measured putative pathogenicity was assessed using the crystal violet (CV) staining method
159 [2]. Strains 605^T and *V. tubiashii* subsp. *europaensis* PP–638^T were grown in Marine Broth (MB, Difco) and
160 transferred (0.1%, v/v) into borosilicate (Pyrex) glass, polypropylene and polystyrene tubes and incubated 24 h at
161 25°C. The biofilm attached to the test tube wall was stained with CV (0.2% v/v) and the bound dye was eluted
162 with 95% ethanol (v/v) and measured by spectroscopy at 580 nm. An average of the biofilm quantification was
163 obtained from two independent experiments per strain with three replicates each one. Strain 605^T formed a stronger

164 biofilm and on all surfaces in comparison with *V. tubiashii* subsp. *europaensis* PP-638^T (Fig. 2). Moreover, the
165 biofilm of the strain 605^T attached to the wall of polystyrene and glass tubes was higher than polypropylene.
166 Biofilm formation has been related with the survival, virulence and stress resistance of *Vibrio* spp. [4]. Biofilm
167 formation constitutes an important risk for the hatchery environment since results demonstrated that the new
168 species is an effective colonizer on different surfaces.

169 The pathogenic activity of the strains 605^T and 194 was evaluated as previously described Prado et al. [15]. Larvae
170 (10 to 15 days old) of flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), Manila clam (*R. philippinarum*), wedge-shell clam (*Donax*
171 *trunculus*) and the original host, carpet shell clam were inoculated individually at a final concentration of 10⁶ CFU
172 ml⁻¹. Challenges were performed in triplicate and wells without bacteria were included as negative control in all
173 experiments. Larvae were checked by inverted microscopy (Olympus CK40, Japan) and most of them showed the
174 typical signs of disease after 48 h i.e. an important reduction in the larval motility, erratic swimming or closing of
175 the valves and even a few larvae were dead (data not shown). Bacterial infections led to high mortality rates (>96%)
176 at 72 h (Table S2) in all experimental challenges. In the negative controls, mortalities were lower than 3.3% (Table
177 S2). Strains were re-isolated from inoculated wells after each challenge. Virulence assays demonstrated the
178 pathogenic potential of the new taxon for the larvae regardless of the bivalve species analysed. Similar results were
179 obtained in other larval pathogens belonging to Orientalis clade, as *V. tubiashii* subsp. *tubiashii* or *V. tubiashii*
180 subsp. *europaensis* [3, 7, 15, 29], supporting the broad action range to kill the larvae of different bivalve species.
181 The genotypic analyses showed that these strains form a stable group into the Orientalis clade and they can be
182 differentiated from the related species according to their phenotypic and genotypic traits. Results obtained from
183 the polyphasic analysis, including MLSA, DDH, ANI, chemotaxonomic techniques (MALDI-TOF-MS and
184 FAME) and phenotypic tests have demonstrated that the strains analysed constituted a novel species within the
185 genus *Vibrio*, for which the name *Vibrio bivalvicida* sp. nov. is proposed with 605^T (= CECT 8855^T= CAIM 1904^T)
186 as the type strain.

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188 **Description of *Vibrio bivalvicida* sp. nov.**

189 *Vibrio bivalvicida* [bi.val.vi.ci'da. N.L. pl. neut. n. *Bivalvia*, scientific name of a class of molluscs; L. suff. *-cida*
190 (from L. v. *caedo* to cut or kill) murderer, killer; N.L. n. *bivalvicida* bivalve-killer].

191

192 Cell are Gram-negative rods, motile and facultative anaerobic. Colonies are round with smooth margins, greenish
193 in color and nonswarming on MA plates. Strains grow on TCBS and form yellow colonies after 24 h at 25 °C.

194 Growth occurs between 15–35 °C from 1 to 6% NaCl (optimum conditions 25°C at 3% NaCl) but not at 0.5% or
195 8% NaCl. Glucose metabolism is fermentative without gas production. Strains reduce nitrates to nitrites and
196 oxidase – catalase – tests are positive. Isolates are sensitive to the vibriostatic agent O/129 (150 µg) and they are
197 arginine dihydrolase positive and negative for lysine and ornithine decarboxylases, production of H₂S, urease and
198 acid production from inositol, sorbitol, rhamnose, melibiose and arabinose. All strains are positive for indole
199 production, methyl red, Simmon’s citrate, acid production from sucrose and hydrolyse gelatin, Tween 80, DNA
200 and starch.

201 All strains can use as sole carbon source glutamic acid, D–ribose, L–serine, glucose, β–hydroxybutyric acid, lactic
202 acid, succinic acid, propionic acid, malic acid, glycerol, L–threonine, D–galactose, fumaric acid, D–alanine,
203 sodium acetate, maltose, D–fructose, piruvate, L–histidine, N–acetylglucosamine, glicine, ornithine, D–mannose,
204 L–citruline, L–arginine, citric acid and tyrosine. Isolates do not able to use the following carbon sources: melibiose,
205 gluconic acid, aspartic acid, sucrose, D–mannitol, lactose, D–sacarinic acid, amygdalin, D–sorbitol, arabinose,
206 myoinositol, trans aconitic acid, putrescine, L–leucine, D–xylose, lysine, γ–aminobutyric acid and L–rhamnose.

207 All strains ferment D–ribose, D–galactose, D–glucose, D–fructose, D–mannose, N–acetylglucosamine, esculin,
208 salicin, D–cellobiose, D–maltose, D–melibiose, sucrose, D–trehalose, D–raffinose, starch, glycogen and
209 potassium 2–keto–gluconate. None of the strains ferment glycerol, erythritol, D–arabinose, L–arabinose, D–
210 xylose, L–xylose, D–adonitol, methyl–βD–xylopyranoside, L–sorbose, L–rhamnose, dulcitol, inositol, D–
211 mannitol, D–sorbitol, methyl–αD–mannopyranoside, methyl–αD–glucopyranoside, amygdalin, D–lactose, inulin,
212 D–melezitose, xylitol, D–turanose, D–lyxose, D–tagatose, D–fucose, L–fucose, D–arabitol, L–arabitol, potassium
213 gluconate and potassium 5–ketogluconate.

214 Enzymatic activity is positive to alkaline phosphatase, esterase lipase (C 8), lipase (C 14), leucine arylamidase and
215 negative to esterase (C 4), valine arylamidase, cystine arylamidase, trypsin, α–chymotrypsin, acid phosphatase,
216 naphthol–AS–β1–phosphohydrolase, α–galactosidase, β–galactosidase, β–glucuronidase, α–glucosidase, β–
217 glucosidase, α–mannosidase and α–fucosidase.

218 The major cellular fatty acids are summed feature 3 (comprising C_{16:1ω7c} and/or C_{16:1ω6c}), C_{16:0}, summed feature
219 8 (C_{18:1ω7c} and/or C_{18:1ω6c}), C_{14:0}, C_{12:0}, C_{12:0} 3–OH and Summed feature 2 (C_{14:0} 3–OH and/or iso–C_{16:1} I).

220 The type strain 605^T (= CECT 8855^T= CAIM 1904^T) was isolated during episodes of mortality affecting larval
221 cultures of carpet shell clam in a shellfish hatchery located in Galicia (NW Spain) (43°32’14’’ N / 7°2’35’’ O).

222 The isolate 194 (= CECT 8856= CAIM 1905) was obtained from gonad samples of a healthy breeder taken in the
223 same hatchery

224

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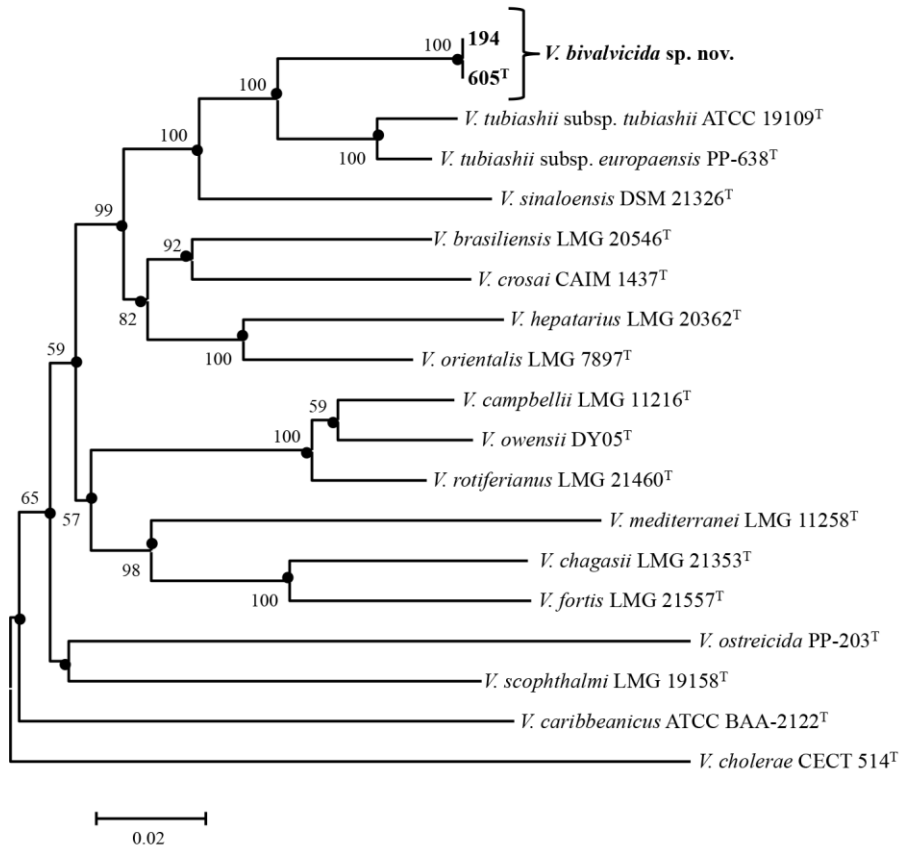
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- 321

322 **Figure legends.**



323

324 **Fig. 1.** Phylogenetic tree based on concatenated sequences of five housekeeping genes *ftsZ*, *gyrB*, *pyrH*, *recA* and
 325 *rpoA* obtained by NJ method. *Vibrio cholerae* CECT 514^T was used as outgroup. Sequence data are given in
 326 Supplementary Table S1. Horizontal branch lengths are proportional to evolutionary divergence. Bootstrap (\geq
 327 50%) from 1000 replicates appears next to the corresponding branch. Circles indicate that corresponding nodes
 328 were coincident in tree generated with ML algorithm. Bar, 0.02 substitutions per nucleotide position.

329

330

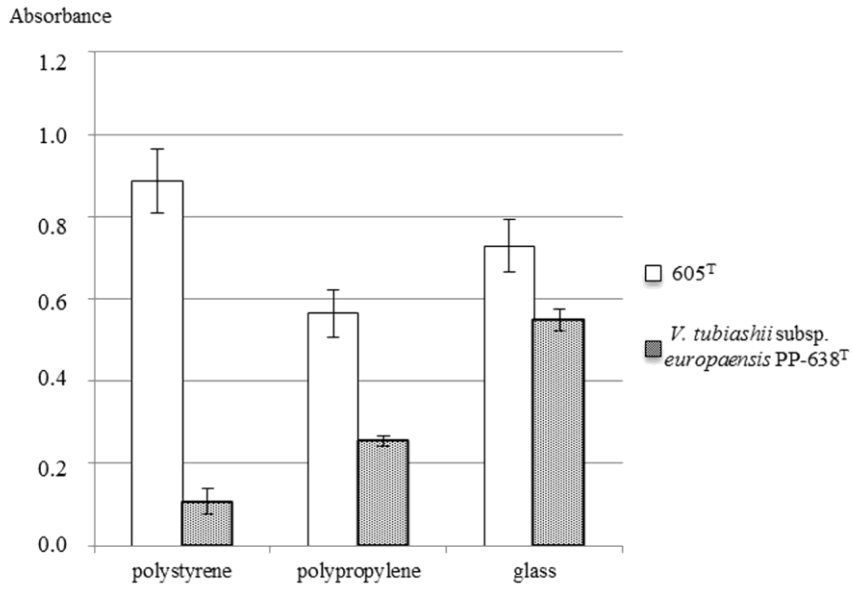


Fig. 2.

331

332 Quantification of biofilm formed by the type strain 605^T and the closest relative *V. tubiashii* subsp. *europaensis*

333 PP-638^T on different materials.

334 **Table 1.** Phenotypic features for distinguishing *V. bivalvicida* sp. nov. from related *Vibrio* species.
 335 Taxa are indicated as: 1, *V. bivalvicida* sp. nov. (3 isolates); 2, *V. tubiashii* subsp. *europaensis* PP-638^T; 3, *V.*
 336 *tubiashii* subsp. *tubiashii* CECT 4196^T; 4, *V. orientalis* CECT 629^T. All data were obtained in this study.

| 337 | Characteristics: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 338 | Arginine dihydrolase | + | + | + | - |
| 339 | Lysine decarboxylase | - | - | - | + |
| 340 | ONPG | - | + | + | - |
| 341 | AMP10 | R | S | S | S |
| 342 | Growth at: | | | | |
| 342 | 4°C | - | - | - | + |
| 343 | 35°C | + | - | + | + |
| 344 | 8% NaCl | - | - | - | + |
| 345 | Enzymatic activities: | | | | |
| 346 | Esterase lipase (C8) | + | + | + | - |
| 347 | Lipase (C14) | + | + | - | - |
| 348 | Valine arylamidase | - | - | + | + |
| 349 | Cystine arylamidase | - | - | + | - |
| 350 | Acid phosphatase | - | - | - | + |
| 351 | Naphthol-AS-β1-phosphohydrolase | - | - | + | + |
| 352 | β-galactosidase | - | - | + | - |
| 353 | Fermentation of: | | | | |
| 354 | D-mannitol | - | + | + | + |
| 355 | D-raffinose | + | - | - | - |
| 356 | Utilization of: | | | | |
| 357 | Glutamic acid | + | + | + | - |
| 358 | Glucose | + | + | - | + |
| 359 | Melibiose | - | + | - | - |
| 360 | Gluconic acid | - | + | + | + |
| 361 | D-galactose | + | + | + | - |
| 362 | Aspartic acid | - | - | + | + |
| 363 | Sacarose | - | + | - | + |
| 364 | D-manitol | - | + | + | + |
| 365 | Glycine | + | + | + | - |
| 366 | D-mannose | + | + | - | + |
| 367 | L-citruline | + | + | + | - |
| 368 | Citric acid | + | + | + | - |
| | Myoinositol | - | - | - | + |
| | Putrescine | - | - | - | + |
| | γ-aminobutyric acid | - | - | - | + |
| | Tyrosine | + | + | + | - |

368 +, positive; -, negative; R, resistant; S, susceptible.

369

370 **Table 2.** Fatty acid composition (%) of *V. bivalvicida* sp. nov. and the related *Vibrio* species.

371 All data were obtained in this study.

| Major fatty Acids | <i>V. bivalvicida</i> sp. nov. | | <i>V. tubiashii</i> subsp. <i>tubiashii</i> CECT 4196 ^T | <i>V. tubiashii</i> subsp. <i>europaensis</i> PP-638 ^T | <i>V. orientalis</i> CECT 629 ^T |
|--|--------------------------------|------|--|---|--|
| | 605 ^T | 194 | | | |
| C_{16:0} | 23.0 | 20.9 | 15.8 | 17.4 | 19.9 |
| C_{14:0} | 7.0 | 5.2 | 6.3 | 5.7 | 8.7 |
| C_{12:0} | 3.6 | 2.0 | 2.8 | 2.1 | 3.4 |
| C_{18:0} | tr | 1.2 | tr | tr | 2.1 |
| C_{12:0} 3-OH | 1.9 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| iso-C_{16:0} | tr | 1.6 | 4.5 | 4.2 | tr |
| C_{17:1ω8c} | tr | 1.7 | tr | 1.1 | tr |
| iso-C_{13:0} | tr | 1.1 | tr | 1.2 | tr |
| iso-C_{17:0} | tr | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.4 | tr |
| iso-C_{15:0} | tr | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.3 | ND |
| iso-C_{14:0} | tr | tr | 1.2 | 1.0 | tr |
| anteiso-C_{15:0} | tr | tr | tr | 1.0 | tr |
| Summed features*: | | | | | |
| 2 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 2.5 |
| 3 | 37.4 | 38.0 | 40.0 | 38.0 | 41.7 |
| 8 | 17.8 | 13.3 | 16.2 | 14.5 | 14.2 |

372

373 tr: trace quantities (≤ 1.00 %); ND, not detected.

374 *Summed features represent two or three fatty acids that cannot be separated by the Microbial Identification System. Summed feature 2

375 consisted of C_{14:0} 3-OH and/or iso-C_{16:1} I; Summed feature 3 consisted of C_{16:1 ω 7c} and/or C_{16:1 ω 6c} and Summed feature 8 consisted of C_{18:1 ω 7c}

376 and/or C_{18:1 ω 6c}.

377