# Capturing biodiversity using molecular data

GBIF Impact and Action
9th December 2021

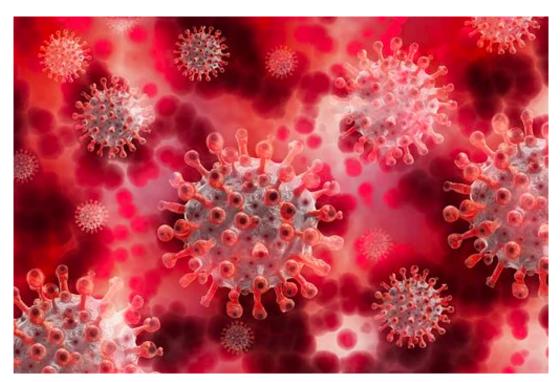
Rob Finn (rdf@ebi.ac.uk, @robdfinn)

European Molecular Biology Laboratory

European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI)



## DNA sequencing and biodiversity

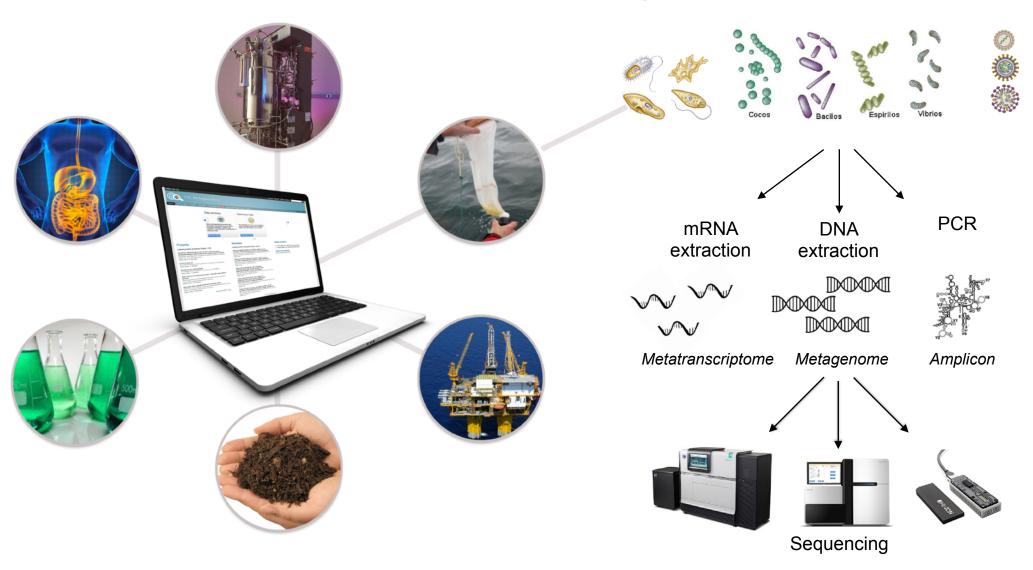




• PCR and whole genome sequencing in surveillance of SARS-CoV-2



## Similar approached used to study microbiomes





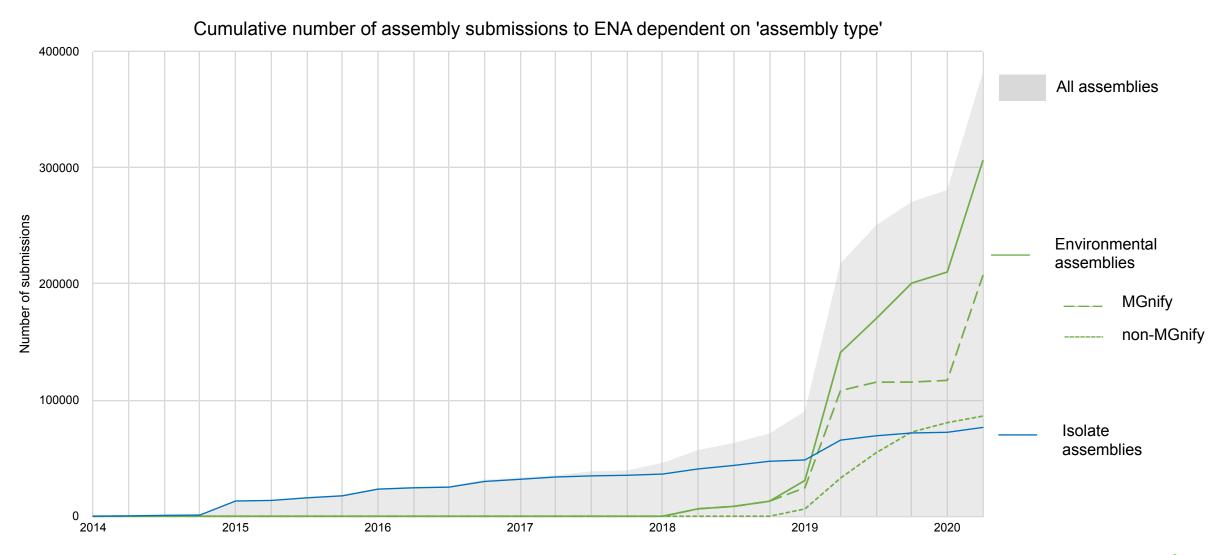
## New sequencing technologies facilitating in field sequencing







## Growth of environmental assemblies







A *free* to use resource for the archiving, assembly, analysis, & browsing of microbiome data

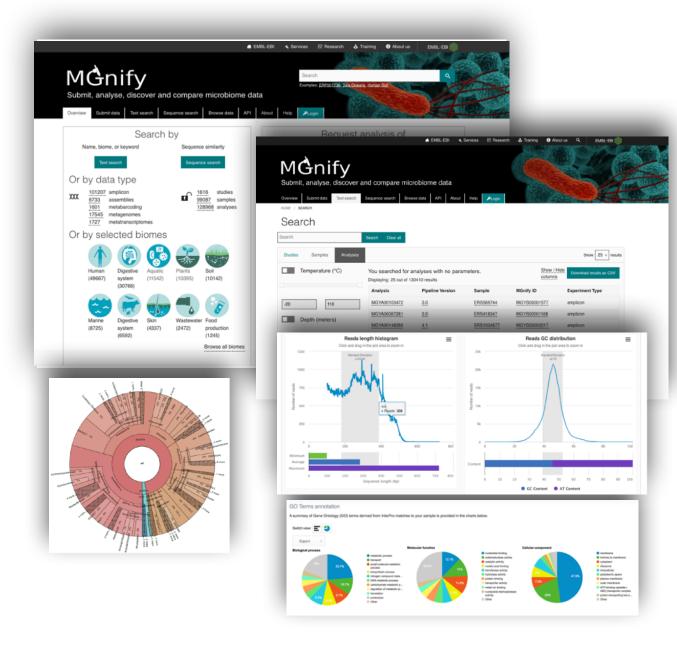
Data archiving



Assembly



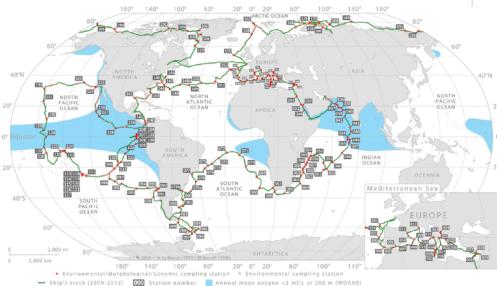


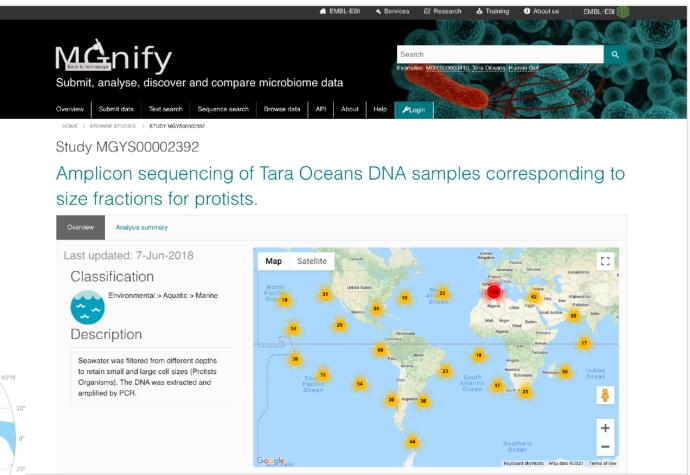




## Tara Oceans in MGnify

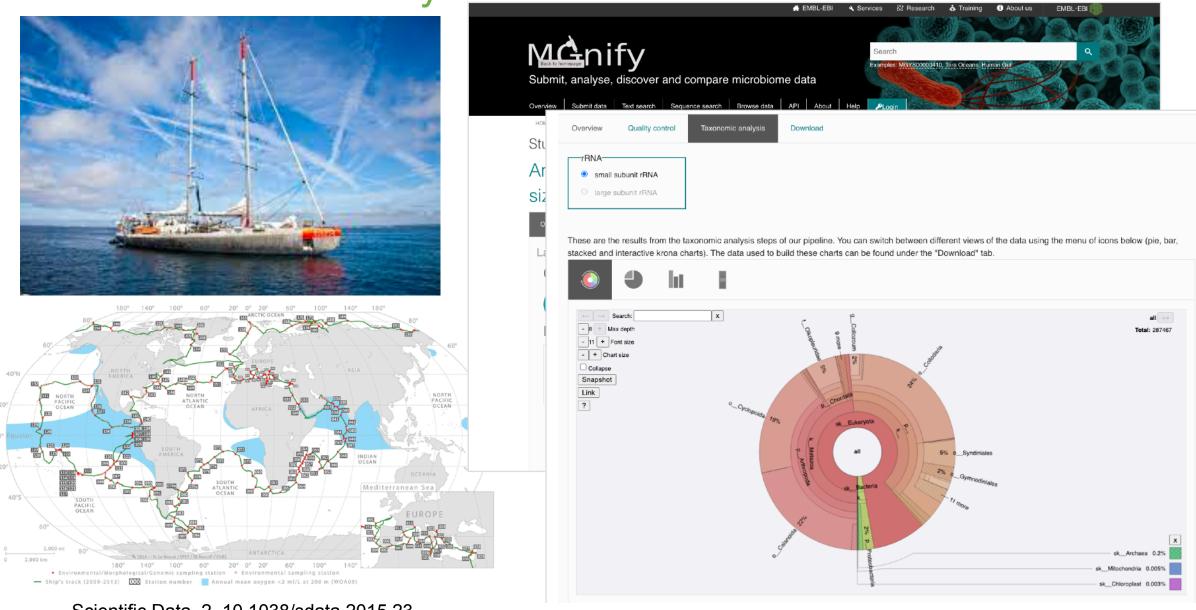








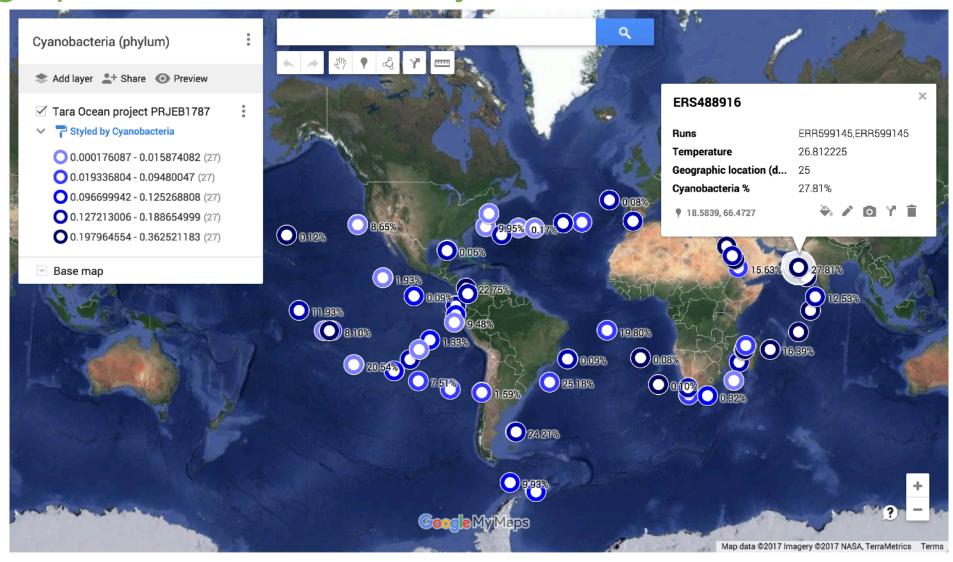
## Tara Oceans in MGnify



Scientific Data. 2. 10.1038/sdata.2015.23.

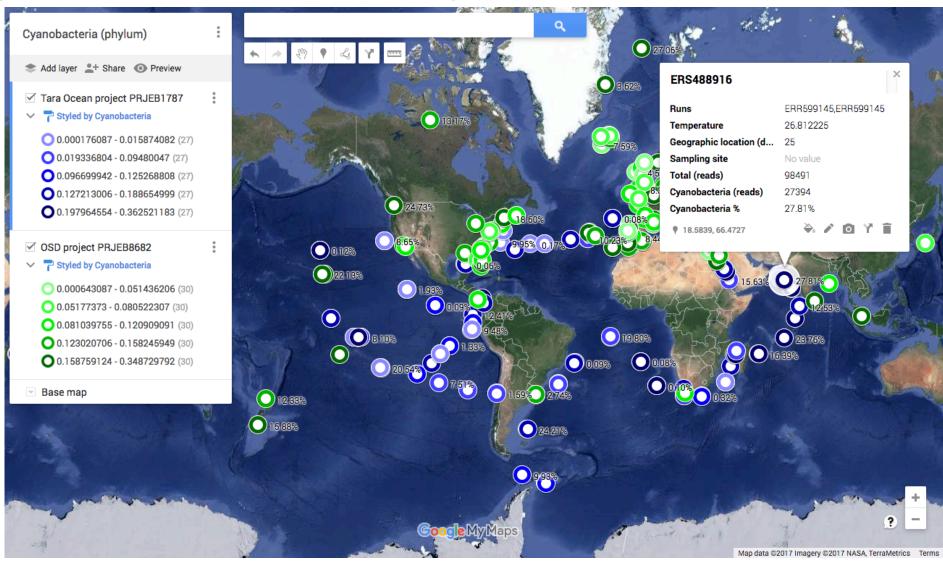
287K, 955 taxonomic assertions, >437 analyses

## Geographic distribution of Cyanobacteria





## Geographic distribution of Cyanobacteria





# COMMON WORKFLOWWorkflow Descriptions LANGUAGE

```
cwlVersion: v1.0
class: Workflow

inputs:
input_fasta_file: # input assembly

type: File
virsorter_virome:
type: boolean
default: false
doc: |
Set this parameter if the input fasta is mostly viral.
See: https://github.com/simroux/VirSorter/issues/50
...
```

```
steps:
 fasta_rename:
                                           Tool
    label: Filter contigs
    run: ./Tools/FastaRename/fasta_rename.cwl
      input: input_fasta_file
    out:
      - renamed_fasta
      name_map
 length_filter:
                                               Tool
    label: Filter condigs
    run: ./Tools/Le/gthFiltering/length_filtering.cwl
    doc: Default lenght 1kb
    in:
     fasta_file: fasta_rename/renamed_fasta
     length:
        default: 1.0
    out:
      - filtered_contigs_fasta
```

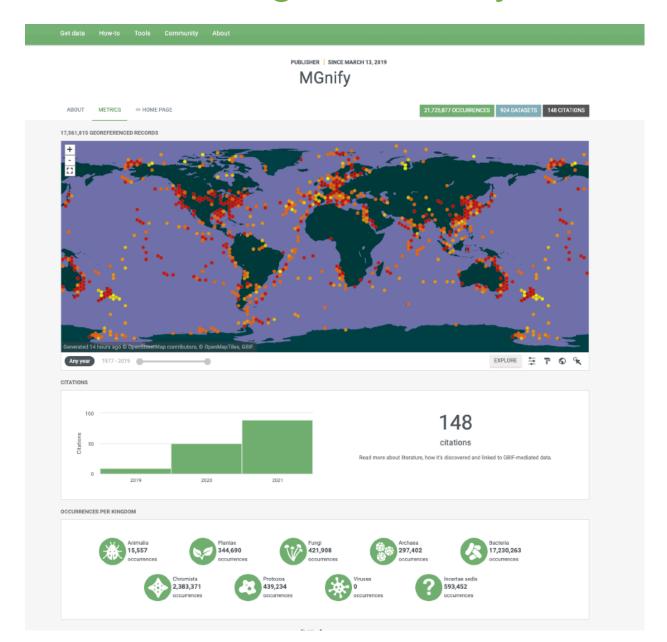
```
37  outputs:
38    filtered_contigs:
39        outputSource: length_filter/filtered_contigs_fasta
40        type: File
41        virfinder_output:
42        outputSource: virfinder/virfinder_output
43        type: File
44        ...
```



MGnify adherence to the FAIR principles, GBIF values



## Disseminating biodiversity information to additional audiences



- GBIF retrieves a subset of MGnify data
- Growing number of citations, both for MGnify and within GBIF
- Different audience
- Solutions allow the data to be consumed in a different way, e.g. taxonomy



### Wider Context

- AtlantECO
  - Templating on MGnify-GBIF for OBIS
- ELIXIR
  - Biodiversity community
  - Standards and infrastructure
- Darwin Tree of Life
  - More Eukaryotes
  - Holobionts
- Climate Change COP26
  - Organisms in context
  - Impact of climate change
  - Natural solutions





#### **Rob Finn: Microbes can help curb climate change**

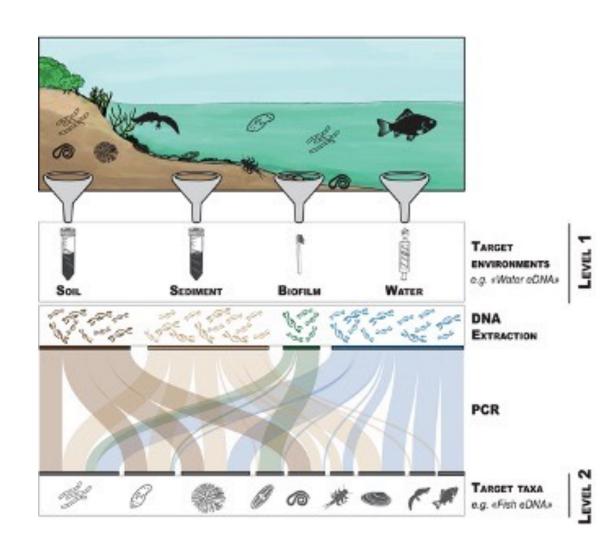
Microorganisms act as tiny chemical reactors: they can emit greenhouse gases such as methane, but also feed on these gases and convert them into useful molecules. Researchers such as Rob Finn want to use microbes to regulate climate change. He is a microbiologist and team leader at the European Bioinformatics Institute in Hinxton, UK – part of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-03029-w



## The Future?

- eDNA contains signature of every thing!
- Additional marker genes in MGnify
  - COX1, animals and protists
- Scaling to deal with volumes of data
- Linking genomic data to barcodes
- Modelling of whole communities
  - Metabolic
  - Ecological



Molecular Ecology, 2020 29(22): 258-4264, DOI: (10.1111/mec.15643)



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## Towards amplicon sequence variants (ASVs)

