Inferring phylogeny of Baikal gammarids using transcriptome sequencing

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Gammaridae, a family of Amphipods (Crustaceans subphylum), is a very diverse phylum. Lake Baikal is populated by more than 270 species of Gammaridae. The goal of our project is to create a genomic resource for the study of speciation.

To our knowledge, current genomic resources of Crustaceans are few. Daphnia pulex genome (300 Mbp) and transcriptome [1] could not be used in this research because of large evolutionary distance to Gammaridae. Two transcriptome studies of Parhyale hawaiensis [2,3] provide assembled transcripts with 19,067 and 12,271 protein blast hits respectively.

Transcriptomes of 34 samples of Baikal Gammarids collected by L. Yampolsky and N. Mugue were sequenced at the Laboratory of evolutionary genomics by M. Logacheva and A. Penin.

We assembled transcriptomes of these samples using Agalma [4], Trinity[5], Oases[6] software packages and “Makarich” [7] computer cluster. On average we got 8,000 protein blast hits per sample. We extracted protein coding regions from the assembled transcripts and translated nucleotides to amino acid sequences. Then we found 1:1 orthologies with OrthoMCL [8] and build the phylogenetic tree (figure 1) with RaxML [9]. This tree is in agreement with previous published Gammaridae phylogenetic studies [10].

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Figure 1. Phylogeny of 34 Gammaridae.