



Genomic Analyses of Halioticoli Clade Species in *Vibrionaceae* Reveal Genome Expansion With More Carbohydrate Metabolism Genes During Symbiotic to Planktonic Lifestyle Transition

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Vibrionaceae is one of the most diverse bacterial families and is currently classified into over 50 clades, some members of which play an important role in the symbiotic relationships with humans and animals. Halioticoli clade, which currently consists of 10 species: 8 species associated with the gut of abalone (symbiotic), 1 species (*V. breoganii*) from bivalves, and 1 species (*V. ishigakensis*) from subtropical seawater (planktonic). To accelerate studies in the evolution, ecogenomics, and biotechnology of Halioticoli clade species, the genomic backbones and pangenome analyses based on complete genome sequences are needed. Genome sizes of Halioticoli clade species ranged from 3.5 Mb to 4.8 Mb, with *V. ishigakensis* the biggest. The evolutionary relationships using multilocus sequence analysis based on eight housekeeping genes and 125 single-copy core genes revealed a division of five sub-clades in this clade; 1) *V. breoganii*, *V. comitans*, *V. inusitatus* and *V. superstes*, 2) *V. ezuriae*, *V. neonatus*, and *V. halioticoli*, 3) *V. rarus*, 4) *V. gallicus*, and 5) *V. ishigakensis*. The pan-genomic analysis combined with function and metabolism estimations showed that the planktonic group (sub-clade 5) contained the greatest number of specific genes, and more genes responsible for carbohydrate metabolisms, especially the genes encoding D-galactonate degradation. These results demonstrated that the genome expanded by acquiring more abilities for utilizing various carbohydrates during the evolution from symbiotic to a planktonic lifestyle. Moreover, according to Carbohydrate-Active enZymes (CAZy) profiling, genes encoding alginate degrading enzymes (*aly*), classified into PL6, PL7, PL15, and PL17 were common in the ten genomes, but sub-clade 1 had the most. Meanwhile, sub-clade 1 and 5 also possessed abundant genes related to macroalgae substrates degradation (GHs), which are also responsible for the genome expansion of sub-clade 1 and 5.

Keywords: *vibrionaceae*, marine invertebrate, symbiosis, planktonic, halioticoli clade, complete genome

INTRODUCTION

Currently, over 190 species consisting of 9 genera have been accurately described in the family *Vibrionaceae* (Parte et al., 2020), which is one of the most diverse bacterial families, play an important role in geochemistry, pathogenicity, ecology, and systematics (Thompson et al., 2004; Gomez-Gil et al., 2014; Lee and Raghunath, 2018). *Vibrios* were further classified into 51 clades by multilocus sequence analysis (MLSA) in the most recent description of “*Vibrio* clade 3.0” (Jiang et al., 2022). Members of these clades have continued to be of great interest because of their symbiotic relationships with humans and animals, which can be referred to as parasitism, mutualism or commensalism (Moya et al., 2008). Representatively, *Vibrio cholerae*, the causative agent of the potent diarrheal disease cholera, is one of the most notorious human pathogens (Orata et al., 2015). The pathogenicity of members in the *Cholerae* clade has also been discovered although they were first described as non-pathogenic environmental strains (Kirchberger et al., 2014; Guardiola-Avila et al., 2021). On the other hand, the mutualism symbiosis between Hawaiian bobtail squid *Euprymna scolopes* and the bioluminescent bacteria *Vibrio fischeri* has been studied for decades because this model is uniquely suited to the investigation of symbiosis from both host and bacterial perspectives, putting the *Vibrio*-squid symbiosis at the forefront of host-microbe interactions (Nyholm and McFall-Ngai, 2004; Septer, 2019). Moreover, the recent rapid expansion in bacterial genome data has provided insights into the adaptive, diversifying and reductive evolutionary processes that occur in host-microbe interactions (Toft and Andersson, 2010). It has been reported about the general feature of genome-size reduction and AT content increase in endosymbiont genomes than free-living relatives, and the degree of them was related to the age of association (Wernegreen, 2002; Moya et al., 2008).

V. halioticoli was originally isolated from the gut of abalone *Haliotis discus hannai* as a non-motile alginolytic vibrio in 1998 (Sawabe et al., 1998). The dominance in the gut of Japanese abalone and the acetic acid production by *V. halioticoli* via fermentation of alginate, which is major components of ingested kelps, suggested a mutual relationship between *V. halioticoli* and abalones (Tanaka et al., 2002; Sawabe, 2006). The *Halioticoli* clade was first proposed in 2007 (Sawabe et al., 2007b), and most of the species have been discovered associated with abalone, particular in the guts (**Table 1**). Currently, ten species, *V. breoganii*, *V. comitans*,

V. ezurae, *V. gallicus*, *V. halioticoli*, *V. inusitatus*, *V. ishigakensis*, *V. neonatus*, *V. rarus*, and *V. superstes*, have been described. *Halioticoli* clade species were discovered not only in Japanese abalone but also major abalone species outside Japan; *V. neonatus* (*H. discus discus*), *V. ezurae* (*H. diversicolor diversicolor*), *V. comitans* (*H. gigantea*), *V. rarus* (*H. madaka*) and *V. inusitatus* (*H. rufescens*) were isolated from the gut of Japanese abalone (Sawabe et al., 2004a; Sawabe et al., 2007a). *V. superstes* was isolated from the gut of Australian abalone *H. laevigata* and *H. rubra* (Hayashi et al., 2003), and *V. gallicus* was isolated from the gut of the French abalone *H. tuberculata* (Sawabe et al., 2004b). In 2009, the first non-abalone associated *Halioticoli* clade species, *V. breoganii*, was discovered from Spanish clams *Ruditapes philippinarum* and *Ruditapes decussatus* (Beaz Hidalgo et al., 2009). Nevertheless, draft genomes of *V. halioticoli*, *V. superstes*, were reported in 2014, but not much genome characterization has been completed yet. Recently, a genome of a reference strain of *V. breoganii* was completed, and the genome was rich in genes responsible for degrading macroalgal carbohydrates, which is likely to be characterized as a vegetarian vibrio compared to *V. halioticoli* genome (Corzett et al., 2018).

More interestingly, a first planktonic *Halioticoli* clade species, *V. ishigakensis*, was isolated from seawater taken in the Okinawa coral reef area, Japan (Gao et al., 2016). Rather different phenotypes (**Table S1**) of the non-motile *Halioticoli* species could be a key reference species to elucidate evolutionary processes from symbiotic to planktonic or vice versa in the *Halioticoli* clade species. However, the lack of genome sequences limits our knowledge of this clade. Here, we present the complete genome sequences of type strains of all current *Halioticoli* clade species and performed the first genomic analyses for this clade to evaluate their ecogenomics, evolutionary history, and possible biotechnology applications.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Genome Sequencing, Assembly, and Annotation

DNA extraction was performed using Wizard genomic DNA purification kit (Promega, USA) following the manufacturer's instructions. The Nanopore sequencing library was prepared using the Rapid Barcoding Kit (SQK-RBK004) and sequenced

TABLE 1 | Isolation information of *Halioticoli* clade species.

<i>Halioticoli</i> species	Year	Sample	Host	Country	16S rRNA accession
<i>V. breoganii</i>	2009	–	<i>Ruditapes philippinarum</i> and <i>R. decussatus</i>	Spain	EF599161
<i>V. comitans</i>	2007	Gut	<i>Haliotis discus discus</i> , <i>H. gigantea</i> and <i>H. madaka</i>	Japan	DQ922915
<i>V. ezurae</i>	2004	Gut	<i>H. diversicolor aquatilis</i> and <i>H. diversicolor diversicolor</i>	Japan	AY426980
<i>V. gallicus</i>	2004	Gut	<i>H. tuberculata</i>	France	AJ440009
<i>V. halioticoli</i>	1998	Gut	<i>H. discus hannai</i>	Japan	AB000390
<i>V. inusitatus</i>	2007	Gut	<i>H. rufescens</i>	USA	DQ922920
<i>V. ishigakensis</i>	2016	–	Seawater of Okinawa in coral reef areas	Japan	KP790249
<i>V. neonatus</i>	2004	Gut	<i>H. discus discus</i>	Japan	AY426979
<i>V. rarus</i>	2007	Gut	<i>H. rufescens</i>	USA	DQ914239
<i>V. superstes</i>	2003	Gut	<i>H. laevigata</i> and <i>H. rubra</i>	Australia	AY155585

using MinION device (Oxford Nanopore Technologies, Oxford, UK). Raw reads were basecalled using Guppy 1.1. The Illumina DNA library was prepared using Nextera XT DNA Library Preparation Kit (Illumina) and sequenced with the Illumina MiSeq platform. Then, the complete genome sequences of *Halioticoli* clade type strains were assembled by means of the hybrid assembly approach using both Nanopore and Illumina reads by Unicycler 0.4.7 (Tanaka et al., 2018; Jiang et al., 2022). Finally, the genome sequences were annotated using DDBJ Fast Annotation and Submission Tool (DFAST) (Tanizawa et al., 2018) and deposited in the DDBJ/GenBank/ENA under BioProject PRJDB11924 with accession numbers as **Table 2**.

Multilocus Sequence Analysis (MLSA)

MLSA was performed according to the previous description (Sawabe et al., 2013). Briefly, the entire nucleotide sequences of the eight housekeeping genes (*ftsZ*, *gapA*, *gyrB*, *mreB*, *pyrH*, *recA*, *rpoA*, and *topA*) were obtained after genome annotation. The sequences were aligned using MUSCLE (Edgar, 2004). Split decomposition analysis using the concatenated sequence was performed using SplitsTree 4.14.8 with a neighbor net drawing and a Jukes-Cantor correction. Phylogenetic analysis using the same concatenated sequence was constructed using Maximum Likelihood (ML), Neighbor-Joining (NJ), and Minimum-Evolution (ME) methods with 500 bootstraps by MEGA-X v10.1.8 (Kumar et al., 2018).

General Genomic Comparisons

Genomic comparisons were performed based on chromosomes. The ten genomes from the *Halioticoli* clade were compared with the genome of *V. ishigakensis* JCM 19231^T by BLASTn and visualized using BRIG v.0.95 (Alikhan et al., 2011). Synteny

between the same genomes was analyzed using the Artemis Comparison Tool (ACT) v.18.1.0 (Carver et al., 2005).

Core/Accessory/Specific Gene Identification in Pan-Genome Analysis

Pan-genome analysis was performed using *Halioticoli* clade genomes by the Anvi'o program ver. 7 (Eren et al., 2015). Firstly, each genome sequence file was converted to an anvi'o contigs database (anvi-gen-contigs-database) using Prodigal (Hyatt et al., 2010), these contigs databases were decorated with hits from HMM models (anvi-run-hmms). An anvi'o genome storage was generated (anvi-gen-genomes-storage) using prepared contigs databases, and then, the pan-genome was analyzed (anvi-pan-genome) using NCBI's blastp for amino acid sequence similarity search and the MCL algorithm (Van Dongen and Abreu-Goodger, 2012) for cluster identification in amino acid sequence similarity search results. In addition, Average Nucleotide Identity (ANI) values were calculated using the PyANI with ANIb method (anvi-compute-genome-similarity) (Pritchard et al., 2016). Finally, it was visualized and decorated (anvi-display-pan). Core genes were filtered (anvi-get-sequences-for-gene-clusters) and extracted in fasta files (anvi-get-sequences-for-gene-clusters) for further analysis.

Function/Metabolism Estimation and Enrichment Analysis

Gene annotation was performed using Clusters of Orthologous Groups 2020 (COG20) (Galperin et al., 2021) for function estimation (anvi-run-ncbi-cogs), and Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) (Aramaki et al., 2020) for metabolism estimation (anvi-estimate-metabolism) (Muto et al., 2013). In addition, the enrichment scores of function/

TABLE 2 | General genomic characteristics of *Halioticoli* clade species.

Sub clade	Halioticoli clade species	Size (bp)			Total size (bp)	GC Content (%)	Number					Accession number
		Chr1	Chr2	Plasmid			CDSs	tRNA	5S rRNA	16S rRNA	23S rRNA	
1	<i>V. breoganii</i> CAIM 1829 ^T	2,855,070	1,381,607	–	4,236,677	45.1	3,726	103	10	9	9	AP024864-AP024865
1	<i>V. comitans</i> LMG 23416 ^T	3,011,658	1,500,259	5,386	4,517,303	44.1	3,963	102	10	9	9	AP024866-AP024868
1	<i>V. inusitatus</i> LMG 23434 ^T	2,861,464	1,547,609	5,386	4,414,459	43.0	3,852	102	10	9	9	AP024878-AP024880
1	<i>V. superstes</i> JCM 21480 ^T	3,070,129	1,667,808	–	4,737,937	44.6	4,148	102	10	9	9	AP024909-AP024910
2	<i>V. ezuræ</i> JCM 21522 ^T	2,753,547	1,009,479	–	3,763,026	43.4	3,251	105	10	9	9	AP024869-AP024870
2	<i>V. halioticoli</i> IAM 14596 ^T	2,785,698	1,098,310	244,363	4,128,371	42.9	3,586	105	9	8	8	AP024875-AP024877
2	<i>V. neonatus</i> JCM 21521 ^T	2,746,110	1,094,535	–	3,840,645	43.2	3,317	103	10	9	9	AP024885-AP024886
3	<i>V. rarus</i> LMG 23674 ^T	2,846,978	1,007,363	22,852	3,877,193	43.0	3,386	107	11	10	10	AP024900-AP024902
4	<i>V. gallicus</i> LMG 21878 ^T	2,528,163	989,994	–	3,518,157	43.8	3,101	95	10	9	9	AP024871-AP024872
5	<i>V. ishigakensis</i> JCM 19231 ^T	2,969,692	1,816,305	–	4,785,997	46.2	4,318	97	9	8	8	AP024881-AP024882

metabolism in different groups were identified using an R script developed by Amy Willis (anvi-compute-functional-enrichment) (Shaiber et al., 2020).

CAZy Annotation and Genomic Islands (GEIs) Prediction

Carbohydrate-Active enZymes (CAZy) were annotated using the dbCAN2 meta server (HMMdb v9) with HMMER, DIAMOND, and eCAMI tools (Zhang et al., 2018), and domains supported by more than two tools were used in this study. Genomic islands (GEIs) predictions were calculated by IslandViewer4 with IslandPick, IslandPath-DIMOB, and SIGI-HMM methods (Bertelli et al., 2017) using the GenBank files after DFAST annotation, predictions supported by at least one method were used in this study. Results were visualized using ggplot2.

RESULTS

General Genomic Characteristics of the Halioticoli Clade Species

Genomes of all species consisted of two chromosomes and four of them (*V. comitans* LMG 23416^T, *V. halioticoli* IAM 14596^T, *V. inusitatus* LMG 23434^T, and *V. rarus* LMG 23674^T) had one plasmid (Table 2). The genome sizes of Chromosome 1 (Chr. 1) ranged from 2,528,163 to 3,070,129 bp, and those of Chromosome 2 (Chr. 2) ranged from 989,994 to 1,816,305 bp. These genomes showed 42.9–46.2% GC content, identified 3,101–4,318 CDS, 25–31 rRNA, and 95–107 tRNA. *V. ishigakensis* JCM 19231^T had the biggest genome with the highest GC content,

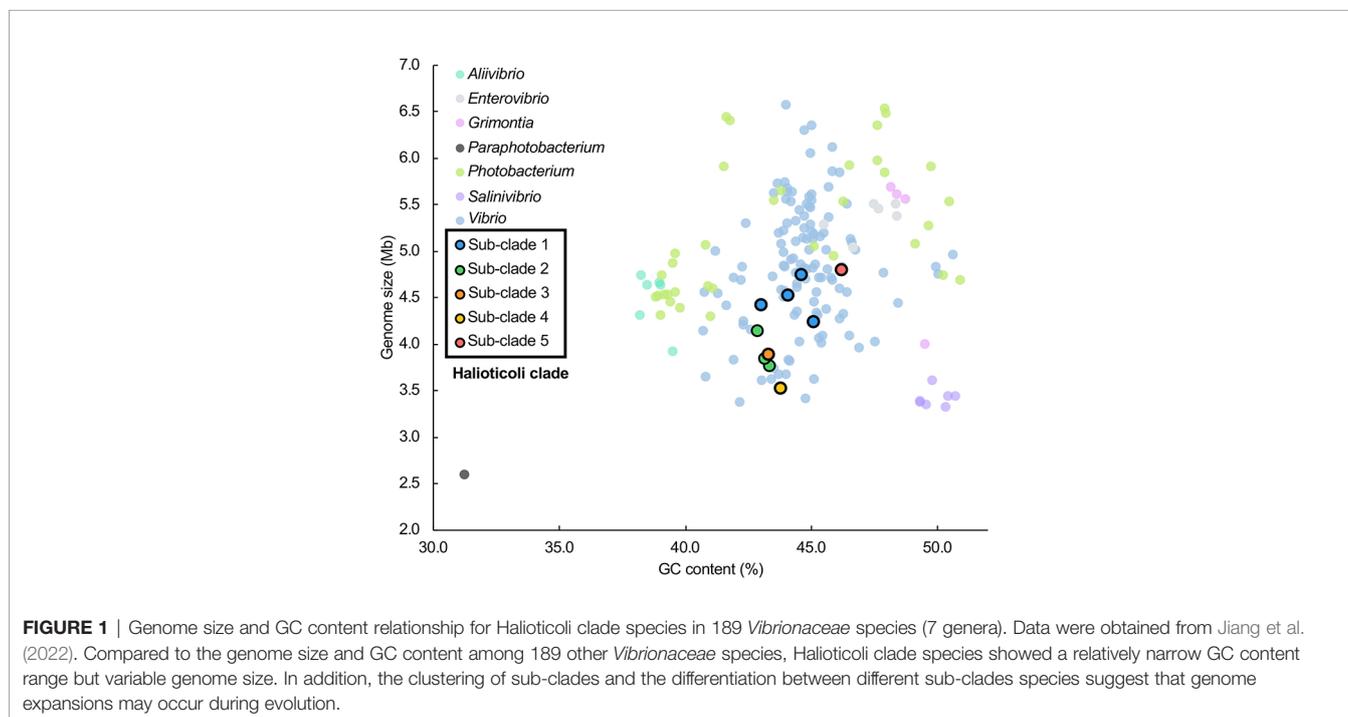
the largest numbers of CDS, rRNA, and tRNA. In contrast, *V. gallicus* LMG 21878^T had the smallest genome with the lowest GC content and the smallest numbers of CDS and tRNA. Compared to the genome size and GC content among 189 other *Vibrionaceae* species, Halioticoli clade species showed a relatively narrow GC content range but variable genome size (Figure 1).

Evolutionary Relationships of the Halioticoli Clade

To explore the evolutionary history of Halioticoli clade species, the MLSA network and phylogenetic tree using concatenated eight house-keeping genes with *V. cholerae* ATCC 14035^T and *E. coli* K-12 MG1655 as outgroups were constructed (Figures 2, S1). Both methods indicated five evolutionary directions in the Halioticoli clade: sub-clade 1) *V. breoganii*, *V. comitans*, *V. inusitatus*, and *V. superstes*, sub-clade 2) *V. ezurae*, *V. neonatus*, and *V. halioticoli*, sub-clade 3) *V. rarus*, sub-clade 4) *V. gallicus*, and sub-clade 5) *V. ishigakensis*. In which, sub-clade 1 to 4 consist of symbiotic species, and sub-clade 5 consists of the only one planktonic species. In addition, genome size and GC content relationship also showed the clustering of sub-clades and the differentiation between symbiotic and planktonic species (Figure 1), suggesting that genome expansions may occur during evolution.

Comparative Genomics of the Halioticoli Clade

Analyses of homologous gene conservation and gene order across two or more genomes of different species play a vital role in comparative genomics since they can provide further



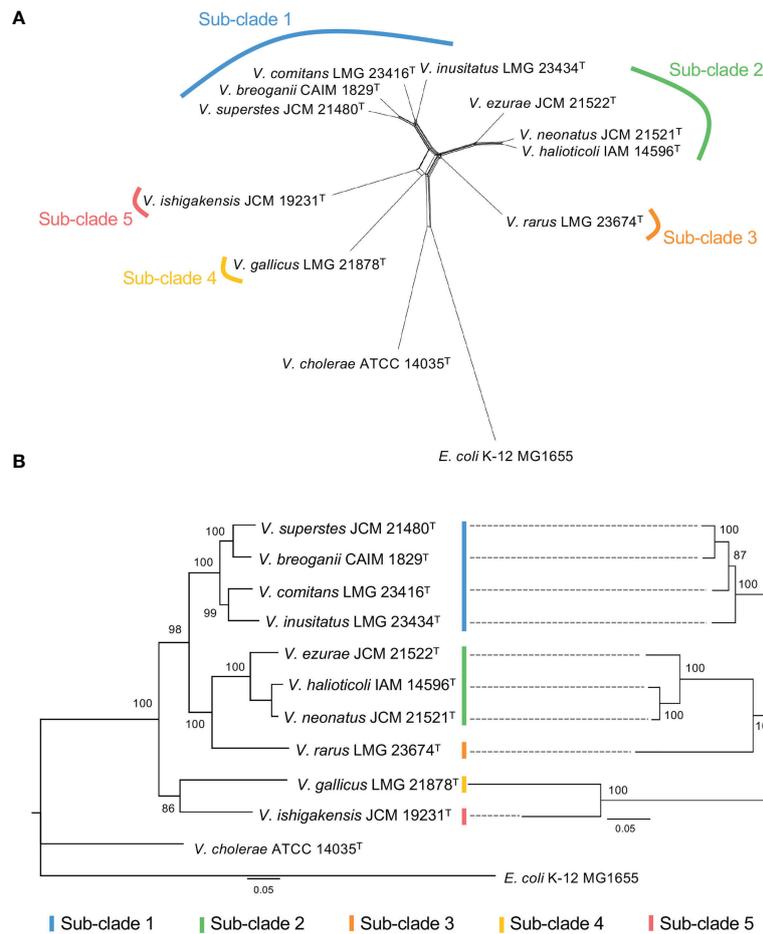


FIGURE 2 | (A) Split network of Halioticoli clade based on concatenated sequences of eight protein coding genes (*ftsZ*, *gapA*, *gyrB*, *mreB*, *pyrH*, *recA*, *rpoA*, and *topA*). **(B)** Phylogenetic analysis of Halioticoli clade based on 8 eight protein coding genes (Left) and 125 single copy core genes (Right) using Maximum Likelihood (ML) method and General Time Reversible model with 500 bootstraps. Bootstrap values are shown at the branch points. All branches were both recovered in Neighbor-Joining (NJ) and Minimum-Evolution (ME) trees.

insights into evolutionary processes that contribute to diversity, chromosomal dynamics, and interspecies rearrangement rates (Bhutkar et al., 2006; Lee et al., 2018; de la Haba et al., 2019). The nucleotide identity comparison using BLASTn of both chromosomes (Chr. 1 and Chr. 2) for Halioticoli clade species was performed using *V. ishigakensis* JCM 19231^T as the reference genome (Figure 3A). The analysis revealed a higher nucleotide similarity in Chr. 1 but a lower similarity in Chr. 2, which indicates the genomes of Chr. 1 were highly conserved but those of Chr. 2 was relatively varied. Intra-sub-clade and inter-sub-clade genome rearrangement mappings of both chromosomes demonstrated that 1) similar gene arrangements amongst genomes of intra-subclade species in sub-clades 1 and 2, and 2) less similar of those arrangements among those of inter-subclade species (Figures 3B, S2).

Relatively more GEIs and transposase/integrase were predicted in sub-clades 2 and 3, which were likely to be shared common ancestry (Figures 2, S1, S3). The lowest number of

GEIs and transposase/integrase were found in *V. gallicus* (sub-clade 4) and *V. comitans* (sub-clade 1), respectively. Interestingly, *V. ishigakensis* showed opposite results that much higher GEIs numbers but much lower transposase/integrase numbers.

Pangenomic Analysis of the Halioticoli Clade

Pan-genomics is capable of investigating the relationships between a given group of genomes by means of characterizing the core and accessory genes, providing a unique insight in the phylogeny and taxonomy analysis (Eren et al., 2015; Delmont and Eren, 2018). The ten genomes of Halioticoli clade species were used for pan-genome analysis using Anvi'o v7. In the Halioticoli clade pan-genome (Figure 4), a total of 8,062 gene clusters (GCs) with 36,612 genes were defined, in which 2,130 GCs with 22,123 genes (60%) were recognized in the core-genome (1,973 GCs with 19,730 genes were recognized as the

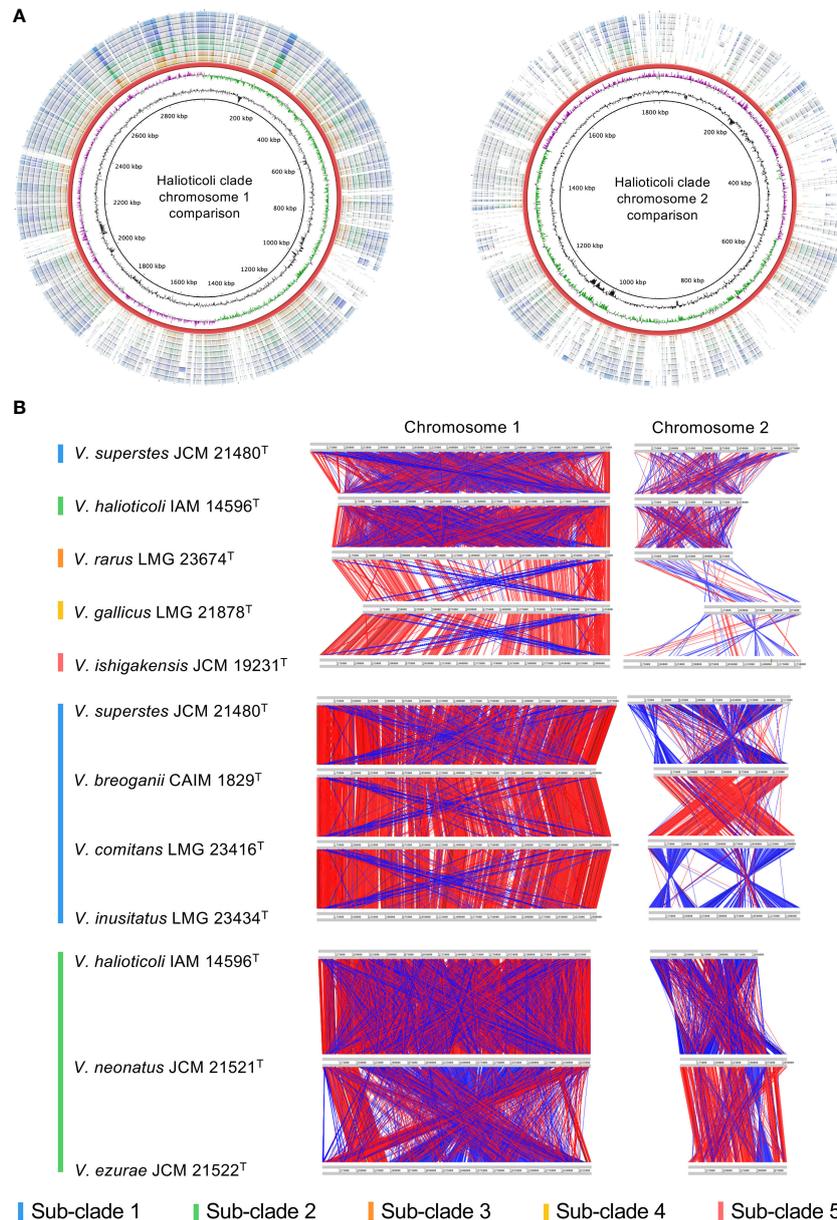


FIGURE 3 | Genomic comparison in Halioticoli clade. **(A)** Circular map designed to compare the nucleotide identity of all genomes against *V. ishigakensis* JCM 19231^T. The genomes were compared by BLASTn, and the percent identity between them was determined by the intensity of color in each ring. The rings from inner to outer are presented as follows: the GC content and CG skew of *V. ishigakensis* JCM 19231^T, the genomes of *V. ishigakensis* JCM 19231^T, *V. gallicus* LMG 21878^T, *V. rarus* LMG 23674^T, *V. halioticoli* IAM 14596^T, *V. neonatus* JCM 21521^T, *V. ezurae* JCM 21522^T, *V. inusitatus* LMG 23434^T, *V. comitans* LMG 23416^T, *V. breoganii* CAIM 1829^T, and *V. superstes* JCM 21480^T, respectively. **(B)** Genomic synteny plots were analyzed using Artemis Comparison Tool. Gray lines indicate each genome size. Red bars indicate the conserved genomic regions, and blue bars indicate genomic inversions. A bigger and clearer plot is available in **Figure S1**.

single-copy core-genome), and 2,456 GCs with 10,881 genes (30%) were recognized in the accessory-genome. The remaining genes were recognized as species-specific genes as in **Figure 4**, among which, *V. ishigakensis* (sub-clade 5) possessed the most specific genes (922), 2-5 times more than other species. In addition, gene cluster analysis also showed that sub-clade 5 gained the highest number of GCs (4134), followed by sub-

clade 1 (3,732 in average), sub-clade 2 (3,250 in average), sub-clade 3 (3193), and sub-clade 4 (2987). These results showed positive relationships with genome size.

Due to the difficulty to use a large number of single-copy genes (SCGs), a set of 125 better-SCGs was filtered using a custom setting (-min-geometric-homogeneity-index 1, -max-functional-homogeneity-index 0.9). The concatenated amino

acid sequence of the 125 better-SCGs was used for constructing a more accurate phylogenetic tree, and the result showed that the topology was congruent with the one constructed by eight house-keeping genes (Figures 2B, 4), the five sub-clades could be identified as well. Moreover, the five sub-clades could also be illustrated by clustering in the ANI matrix, and sub-clade species showed at least 85.5% intra ANI similarity.

Function Estimation and Metabolism Reconstruction of the Halioticoli Clade

The Clusters of Orthologous Genes (COGs) database has been a popular tool for functional and comparative genomics of bacteria and archaea in recent decades with the newest update of COG20 (Galperin et al., 2021). COG20 function estimation for each genome of Halioticoli clade species showed that the same function structure was shared among the species, as well as in the core-genome (Figure S4A). However, the result in the species-specific genomes was diverse in some aspects (Figure 5A). Despite the poorly characterized and unknown functions, the planktonic species, *V. ishigakensis*-specific genome had the most diverse and abundant gene sets in each function category. Among them, *V. ishigakensis* showed more abundant in the metabolism functions, in particular in the “Carbohydrate transport and metabolism” function. In addition, the functions of “Transcription”, “Signal transduction mechanisms”, and “Cell wall membrane envelope biogenesis” were also abundant. It is likely that these functions were an adaptation for survival in planktonic environments. The symbiotic species-specific genomes showed poorer ability in metabolizing, with the *V. superstes*-specific one being the most powerful. To further investigate the metabolism functions in the Halioticoli clade, metabolism pathway modules were reconstructed using the KEGG database. As in the function structure, the Halioticoli clade species shared the common metabolism structure in complete genomes (Figure S4B), but different structures in species-specific genomes (Figure 5B). A wide range of genes responsible for diverse metabolism pathways was only detected in the *V. ishigakensis*-specific genome, in particular carbohydrate metabolism genes were highly detected. On the other hand, other species-specific genomes, demonstrated their advantages, such as a remarkable detection for “cofactor and vitamin metabolism” in the *V. rarus*-specific genome. In addition, the enrichment analyses of metabolism pathway modules indicated that the *V. ishigakensis* shared almost all enriched modules with other species with the exception of D-galactonate degradation (M00552), which is exclusively and most enriched in itself (Figure 6).

Furthermore, the COG20 and KEGG annotations were also performed for gene clusters (GCs) of each Halioticoli clade species. Same COG20 functions were shared among the clade but with different abundance. *V. ishigakensis*, which has the biggest genome size, gained the highest number of GCs with a wide range of COG functions, in particular GCs classified into “Transcription (K)”, “Cell wall/membrane/envelope biogenesis (M)”, and “Carbohydrate transport and metabolism (G)”. In more detail, numbers of GCs were 1.2, 1.6, 1.7, and 1.7 folds in K,

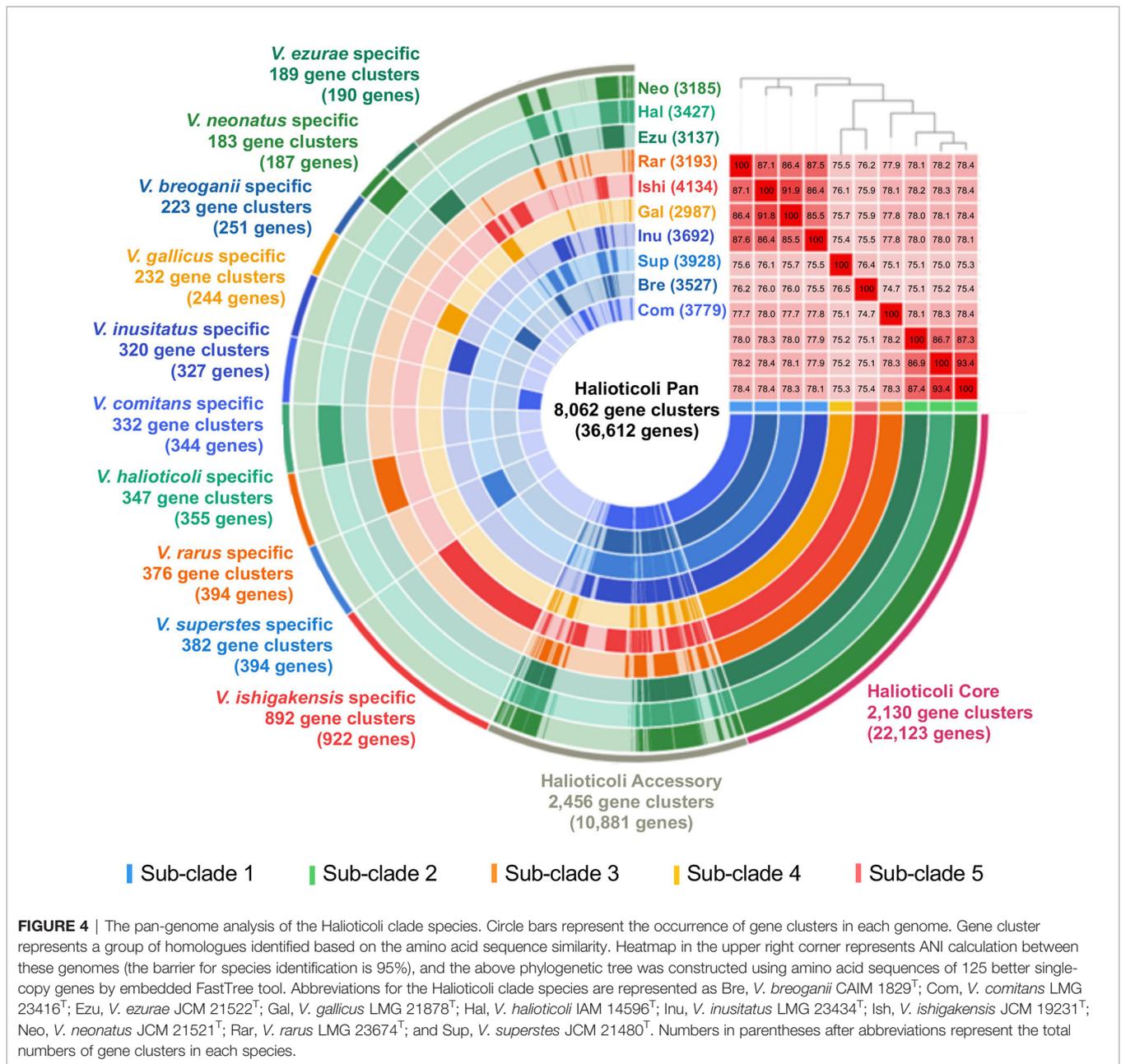
1.1, 1.3, 1.3, and 1.4 folds in M, and 1.4, 1.9, 2.3, and 1.9 folds in G, compared with those numbers of sub-clades 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively. On the contrary, the lowest number of GCs were observed in *V. gallicus*, numbers of GCs classified to “Cell cycle control, cell division, chromosome partitioning (D)”, “Posttranslational modification, protein turnover, chaperones (O)”, and “Defense mechanisms (V)” were reduced (Figure 7A). KEGG annotation of GCs which were lost or gained showed “Polyamine biosynthesis” (E6, in Figures 7B, S5) were gained in sub-clades 1, 3, and 5 but lost in sub-clades 2 and 4, and GCs encoded trans-2,3-dihydro-3-hydroxyanthranilate isomerase [EC:5.3.3.17] in “Biosynthesis of other bacterial compounds (I5)” were gained in sub-clades 1 and 5 but lost in other sub-clades. In more details, glycine/D-amino acid oxidase (deaminating) (*dadA*) (PDB:3AWI) and acyl-CoA reductase or other NAD-dependent aldehyde dehydrogenase (*adhE*) (PDB:1A4S), both of which can use putrescine to produce GABA (M00136), were gained in the sub-clades 1 and 3; and genes (*rfbB*, *rfbC*, *rfbD*, and *rmlA1*) involved in the biosynthesis of the dTDP-L-rhamnose (M00793) were lost in the sub-clade4 (Figure S6).

More Abundant CAZy Were Predicted in the Planktonic Species

Carbohydrate-Active enZYmes (CAZy) were predicted for each genome to describe the catalytic modules (enzymes) encoded in these genomes. Generally, each genome of the Halioticoli clade species contained 4 main enzymes classes: Carbohydrate Esterases (CEs), Glycoside Hydrolases (GHs), GlycosylTransferases (GTs), and Polysaccharide Lyases (PLs); and one associated module: Carbohydrate-Binding Modules (CBMs); only some of them contained few Auxiliary Activities (AAs) class enzymes (Figure 8E). Among them, Sub-clade 5 (*V. ishigakensis*) had the most CAZy (120), followed by sub-clade 1 (95-109), as a result of the abundance of GHs in these sub-clades (Figure 8A). Meanwhile, kinds of polysaccharide lyases (PL6, PL7, PL15, and P17) involved in alginate degradation were found enriched in the Halioticoli clade species, while *V. ishigakensis* had fewer numbers (15) than most symbiotic species (19-21) (Figure 8C). Compared to the planktonic sub-clade, symbiotic sub-clades showed higher ability on alginate degradation but with different advantages, which is a higher capacity of intracellular degradation (PL15 and PL17) in sub-clade 1, but a higher capacity of extracellular degradation (PL6 and PL7) in sub-clade 2 and 3. These finds indicate that *V. ishigakensis* obtained a powerful ability for degrading diverse glycosidic bonds but became weaker in degrading polysaccharides during the evolution from the gut environment to the planktonic environment.

DISCUSSION

Ten species in the Halioticoli clade, including the first described species of *V. halioticoli* (Sawabe et al., 1998) and the most recently described one of *V. ishigakensis* (Gao et al., 2016), have been found to date, making the clade robust in the family *Vibrionaceae* (Jiang et al., 2022). However, the evolutionary



history of them remains unknown due to the lack of complete genome sequence comparisons. We succeeded in getting all complete genomes, and it showed that all of them were composed of two chromosomes while part of them with one additional plasmid, in which, the planktonic species, *V. ishigakensis* had the biggest genome size and highest GC content (Table 2). On the basis of the genome sequences, phylogenetic analyses using three methods all clearly showed the five evolutionary directions (Figures 2, S1). *V. gallicus* were deeply branched, followed to *V. ishigakensis* in this clade.

Comparative genomic analyses have been widely employed to explore the diversity, evolution, and chromosomal dynamics between given genomes, such as *Methylophilaceae* (Jimenez-

Infante et al., 2016), *Salinivibrio* (de la Haba et al., 2019), and *Erysipelothrix* (Grazziotin et al., 2021). Here, we utilized the complete genomes of Halioticoli clade species to construct a circular map of nucleotide identity comparison and a linear synteny comparison for both chromosomes (Chr. 1 and Chr. 2). As with previous studies (Okada et al., 2005; Kirkup et al., 2010), the results showed that the structure of Chr. 1 was more stable and conserved than Chr. 2 during the evolution (more gaps could be found), and it was more evident in the intra-subclades species than inter-subclades species (Figure 3). This may be explained by the mutations, rearrangements or horizontal gene transfer (HGT) of genomes, in which, HGT is an important mechanism for the evolution of microbial genomes, enabling the bacteria to

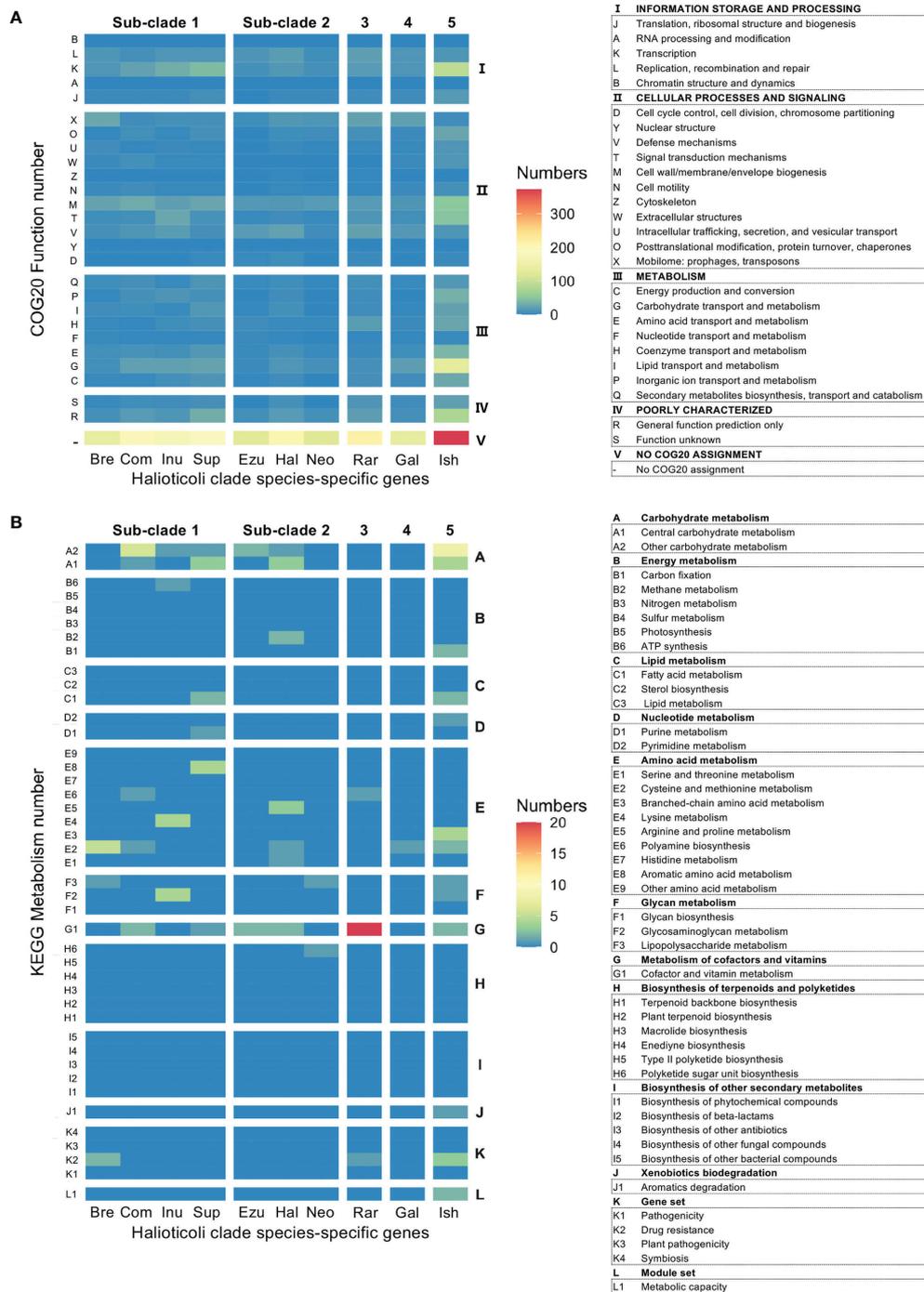


FIGURE 5 | Heatmap representation based on the number of hits in specific genes for each Halioticioli clade species, **(A)** COG20 function prediction, and **(B)** KEGG metabolism prediction. The left and right axis ticks represent different subcategories and categories, respectively. Abbreviations for the Halioticioli clade species are represented as **Figure 4**.

adapt to the environment (Dobrindt et al., 2004). A significant part of the HGT has been facilitated by genomic islands (GEIs), which plays an important role in promoting the adaptive evolution of commensal, symbiotic and environmental bacteria

(Dobrindt et al., 2004; Juhas et al., 2009). Results showed that *V. gallicus* contained the least number of GEIs. The numbers of GEIs predicted on Chr. 2 were higher than those on Chr. 1 in most species while the opposite occurred in the sub-clade

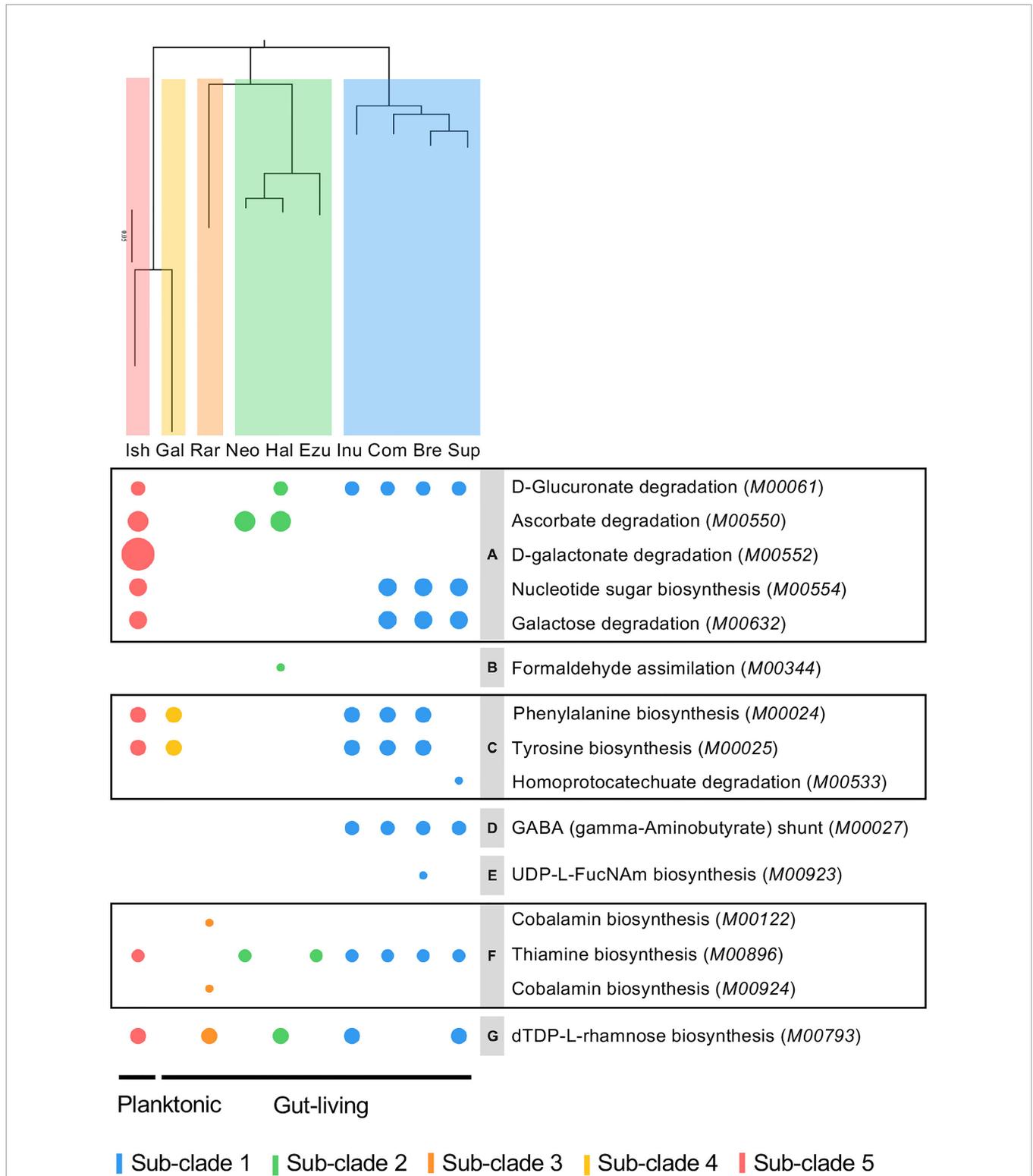


FIGURE 6 | Bubble plot based on enrichment of KEGG pathway modules in Halioticoli clade. Bubble size represents the enrichment score, colour represents different groups. Phylogenetic tree was constructed accordingly to **Figure 2B**. The italic contents of parentheses represent the module accession numbers in the KEGG database. Gray parts indicate the secondary category of the KEGG module as follows, **(A)** Other carbohydrate metabolism, **(B)** Methane metabolism, **(C)** Aromatic amino acid metabolism, **(D)** Other amino acid metabolism, **(E)** Lipopolysaccharide metabolism, **(F)** Cofactor and vitamin metabolism, **(G)** Polyketide sugar unit biosynthesis. Related genes were listed in **Table S2**.

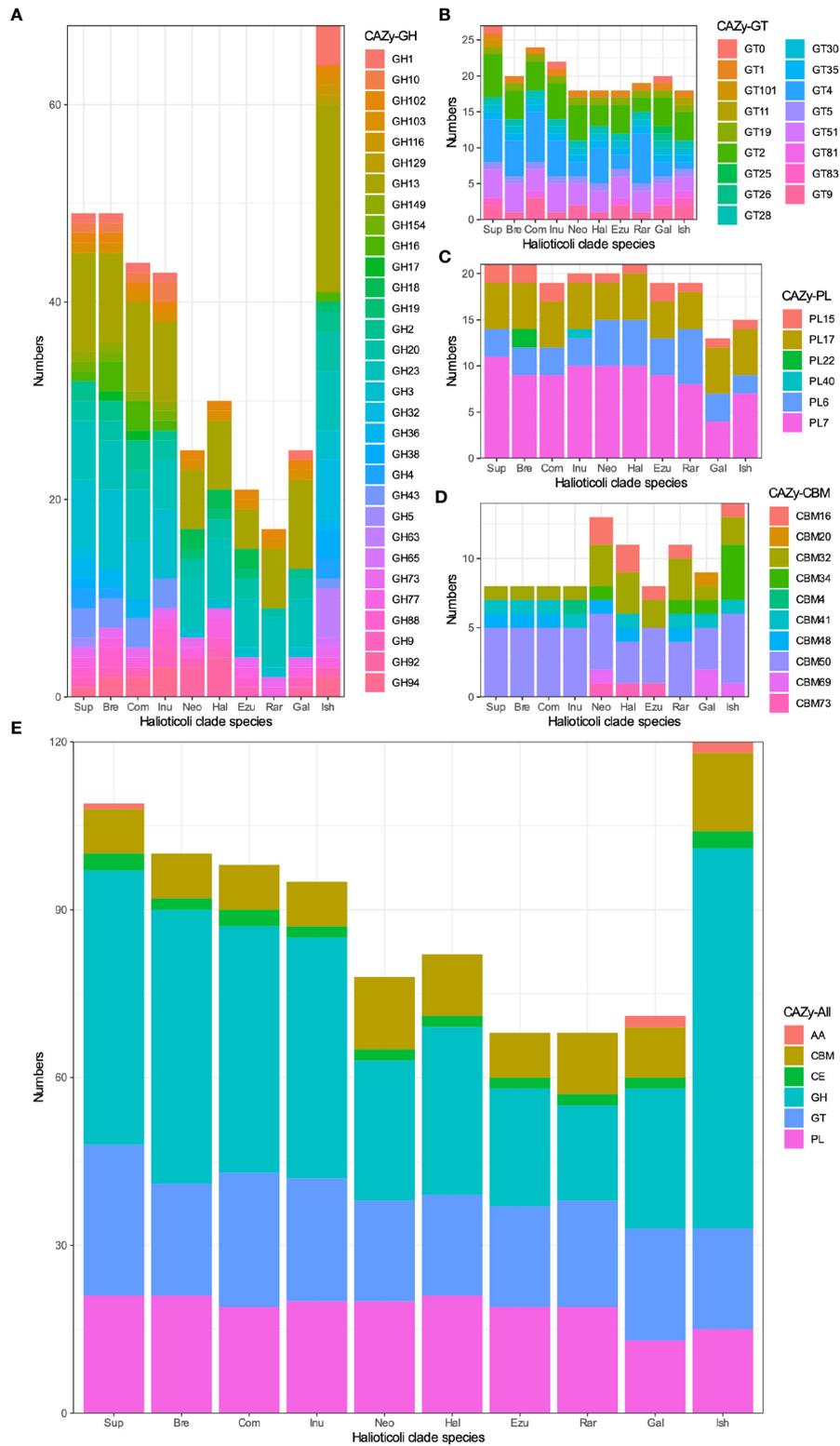


FIGURE 8 | The numbers of Carbohydrate-active enzyme (CAZy) predicted in each Halioticoli clade species, annotated by dbCAN2 meta server. **(A)** Glycoside Hydrolases (GH), **(B)** Glycosyl/Transferases (GT), **(C)** Polysaccharide Lyases (PL), **(D)** Carbohydrate-Binding Modules (CBM), and **(E)** The total CAZy numbers. Abbreviations for the Halioticoli clade species are represented as **Figure 4**.

genomes, due to the related genes of cobalamin/B12 biosynthesis. Furthermore, the enrichment scores of metabolism pathway modules between different groups showed that almost all enriched pathway modules in the planktonic group (sub-clade 5, *V. ishigakensis*) were shared with other groups, except the D-galactonate degradation (M00552) was enriched exclusively in itself and was the most enriched module (Figure 6). This module has been reported involved in the catabolism of carrageenan, which is one of main components of red algal cell walls (Gobet et al., 2018; Schultz-Johansen et al., 2018). For the symbiotic group, most enriched modules were detected in the sub-clade 1, and subclade-specific enriched modules could be found as well, for example, GABA (γ -aminobutyrate) shunt (M00027) in sub-clade 1 and cobalamin biosynthesis (M00122 and M00924) in sub-clade 3 (*V. rarus*). The γ -aminobutyrate (GABA) shunt is a metabolic pathway that bypasses two steps of the tricarboxylic-acid (TCA) cycle to produce succinate, as an alternative route in plants and mammals, while it has not been extensively studied in bacteria but is thought to play a role in glutamate metabolism, anaplerosis, and antioxidant defense (Bouche et al., 2003; Feehily et al., 2013). In addition, GABA has also been found abundant in many algae species (Belghit et al., 2017), the enrichment of related modules could be caused by algae associations in the gut of algae-eating animals.

Prediction of Carbohydrate-Active enZymes (CAZy) showed a subclade-based grouping as well. *V. ishigakensis* contained the most CAZy, which was due to the abundance of GHs (Figure 8). The significant presence (19) of GH13, which is a main α -amylase family (van der Maarel et al., 2002; Janeček and Zámocká, 2020), was likely responsible for the diversity and abundance of carbohydrate metabolisms detected above for *V. ishigakensis*. Sub-clade 1 and 5 species are likely capable of utilizing a variety of β -glucans, which are an important group of glucose-based polysaccharides composed of β -glycosidic bonds found primarily in algal cell walls (Corzett et al., 2018), due to the possesses of enzymes identified in GH3 and GH16. We also found other enzymes involved in algal carbohydrates (Mann et al., 2013) exclusively in these two sub-clades, including GH 36 and GH43, which is related to breaking down carrageenans/carbohydrates and cell wall-degrading, respectively (Tang et al., 2017). Furthermore, genes encoding alginate degrading enzymes (*aly*), classified into PL6, PL7, PL15, and PL17 were commonly found in the genomes of Halioticoli clade species, but the number in *V. ishigakensis* was relatively smaller. A similar signature of GH and PL CAZy has been described in *V. breoganii*, indicating the evolution of specialization for macroalgal substrates (Corzett et al., 2018). As a result of the above results, it appears that all species of sub-clade 1 have evolved to specialize in macroalgae, which could function as alternative sources for bioenergy production using macroalgae. In addition, chitin utilization is a conservative function in the family *Vibrionaceae* except for *V. breoganii* (Hunt et al., 2008; Corzett et al., 2018), but it has not been mentioned in other Halioticoli clade species. In our study, same as *V. breoganii*, members of sub-clade 1, sub-clade 3, and sub-clade 4 lacked any domain of GH18, GH19, GH116, and GH129, or motif of CBM5,

CBM14, and CBM73, which are implicated in chitin utilization (Figure S7). However, two chitinase (ChiA, GH18 family), one chitodextrinase (GH19) and one motif (CBM73) were found distributed among the members of sub-clade 2. These results indicate that species of sub-clade 2 were likely to be able to utilize chitin while that of sub-clade 1, sub-clade 3, and sub-clade 4 were not.

CONCLUSION

In this study, the first pan-genomic analysis of the Halioticoli clade was completed thanks to the complete genomes of the type strains of this clade. The results obtained regarding the phylogenetic analysis and pan-genome analysis, as well as function and metabolism estimation, will help us to elucidate the evolutionary processes of these species from symbiotic to planktonic lifestyle. It appears that genome expansion encoding more carbohydrate metabolism occurred during symbiotic as a gut-living to free-living environments, planktonic species acquired more abilities to utilize a variety of carbohydrates for surviving in the environment while symbiotic species were evolved to specialize in macroalgae utilization. These generic backbones could contribute to developing bioenergy potential using macroalgae as biocatalysts.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The datasets presented in this study can be found in online repositories. The names of the repository/repositories and accession number(s) can be found below: DDBJ [accession: PRJDB11924].

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

CJ conceived, designed and performed the experiments, analyzed the data, visualized the data, and drafted and reviewed the manuscript. SM analyzed the data and reviewed the manuscript. TS conceived and designed the experiments and reviewed the manuscript. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2022.844983/full#supplementary-material>

Supplementary Figure 1 | The concatenated split network based on nucleotide sequences of eight housekeeping genes retrieved from 191 *Vibrionaceae* species. The *ftsZ*, *gapA*, *gyrB*, *mreB*, *pyrH*, *recA*, *rpoA*, and *topA* gene sequences were concatenated and the tree was reconstructed using the SplitsTree4 ver. 4.14.8. Sequence data was obtained from Jiang et al., 2022.

Supplementary Figure 2 | Genomic synteny plots were analyzed using Artemis Comparison Tool. Gray lines indicate each genome size. Red bars indicate the conserved genomic regions, and blue bars indicate genomic inversions.

Supplementary Figure 3 | (A) The numbers of Genomic island (GEI) predicted of both chromosomes in each Halioticoli clade species, annotated by IslandViewer 4. (B) The numbers of transposase and integrase related genes predicted in each Halioticoli clade species. Abbreviations for the Halioticoli clade species are represented as Bre, *V. breoganii* CAIM 1829^T; Com, *V. comitans* LMG 23416^T; Ezu, *V. ezurae* JCM 21522^T; Gal, *V. gallicus* LMG 21878^T; Hal, *V. halioticoli* IAM 14596^T; Inu, *V. inusitatus* LMG 23434^T; Ish, *V. ishigakensis* JCM 19231^T; Neo, *V. neonatus* JCM 21521^T; Rar, *V. rarus* LMG 23674^T; and Sup, *V. superstes* JCM 21480^T.

Supplementary Figure 4 | Distribution of (A) COG20 function and (B) KEGG metabolism predication across the accessory-genome, core-genome, and each complete genome of Halioticoli clade species. Abbreviations for the Halioticoli clade species are represented as Bre, *V. breoganii* CAIM 1829^T; Com, *V. comitans* LMG 23416^T; Ezu, *V. ezurae* JCM 21522^T; Gal, *V. gallicus* LMG 21878^T; Hal, *V. halioticoli*

IAM 14596^T; Inu, *V. inusitatus* LMG 23434^T; Ish, *V. ishigakensis* JCM 19231^T; Neo, *V. neonatus* JCM 21521^T; Rar, *V. rarus* LMG 23674^T; and Sup, *V. superstes* JCM 21480^T.

Supplementary Figure 5 | Numbers of gene clusters (GCs) for each KEGG category. The Abbreviations for the Halioticoli clade species are represented as Bre, *V. breoganii* CAIM 1829^T; Com, *V. comitans* LMG 23416^T; Ezu, *V. ezurae* JCM 21522^T; Gal, *V. gallicus* LMG 21878^T; Hal, *V. halioticoli* IAM 14596^T; Inu, *V. inusitatus* LMG 23434^T; Ish, *V. ishigakensis* JCM 19231^T; Neo, *V. neonatus* JCM 21521^T; Rar, *V. rarus* LMG 23674^T; and Sup, *V. superstes* JCM 21480^T.

Supplementary Figure 6 | Gene loci mapping of Halioticoli clade. (A) Circular map of CDS comparison between all genomes against *V. ishigakensis* JCM 19231^T, performed by CGView Server (cgview.ca). (B) Gene loci of gained or lost gene clusters.

Supplementary Figure 7 | Prediction of chitin utilization related genes in each Halioticoli clade species. Abbreviations for the Halioticoli clade species are represented as Bre, *V. breoganii* CAIM 1829^T; Com, *V. comitans* LMG 23416^T; Ezu, *V. ezurae* JCM 21522^T; Gal, *V. gallicus* LMG 21878^T; Hal, *V. halioticoli* IAM 14596^T; Inu, *V. inusitatus* LMG 23434^T; Ish, *V. ishigakensis* JCM 19231^T; Neo, *V. neonatus* JCM 21521^T; Rar, *V. rarus* LMG 23674^T; and Sup, *V. superstes* JCM 21480^T. Members of sub-clade 1, sub-clade 3, and sub-clade 4 lacked any domain of GH18, GH19, GH116, and GH129, or motif of CBM5, CBM14, and CBM73, which are implicated in chitin utilization.

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