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1 Evolution of single-domain globins in hydrothermal vent scale-worms

2
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35 Abstract

36 Hypoxia at deep-sea hydrothermal vents represents one of the most basic challenges
37 for metazoans, which then requires specific adaptations to acquire oxygen to meet their
38 metabolic needs. Hydrothermal vent scale-worms (Polychaeta; Polynoidae) express large
39 amounts of extracellular single- and multi-domain hemoglobins, in contrast with their
40 shallow-water relatives that only possess intracellular globins in their nervous system
41 (neuroglobins). We sequenced the gene encoding the single-domain (SD) globin from nine
42 species of polynoids found in various vent and deep-sea reduced microhabitats (and
43 associated constraints) to determine if the Polynoidae SD globins have been the targets of
44 diversifying selection.

45 Although extracellular, all the SD globins (and multi-domain ones) form a monophyletic
46 clade that clusters within the intracellular globin group of other annelids, indicating that
47 these hemoglobins have evolved from an intracellular myoglobin-like form. Positive
48 selection could not be detected at the major ecological changes that the colonization of the
49 deep-sea and hydrothermal vents represents. This suggests that no major structural
50 modification was necessary to allow the globins to function under these conditions. The
51 mere expression of these globins extracellularly may have been sufficiently advantageous
52 for the polynoids living in hypoxic hydrothermal vents. Among hydrothermal vent species,
53 positively selected amino acids were only detected in the phylogenetic lineage leading to
54 the two mussel-commensal species (*Branchipolynoe*). In this lineage, the multiplicity of
55 hemoglobins could have lessened the selective pressure on the SD hemoglobin, allowing
56 the acquisition of novel functions by positive Darwinian selection. Conversely, the
57 colonization of hotter environments (species of *Branchinotogluma*) does not seem to have
58 required additional modifications.

59

60 **Introduction**

61 Hydrothermal vents are located along oceanic ridges or active convergent margins on
62 the ocean floor. These areas are characterized by harsh and challenging conditions for
63 metazoans because of the presence of heavy metals and sulfide (both toxic compounds),
64 low availability of oxygen (hypoxia), high temperatures, and low pH (Childress and Fisher
65 1992; Tunnicliffe 1991). Despite such harsh conditions, hydrothermal vent communities
66 are characterized by both a high abundance of specialized fauna (mostly endemic), and a
67 low species richness. This low and specialized biodiversity mainly results from the strong
68 selective constraints that act as a filter to species not adapted to cope with these conditions.
69 The adaptive peculiarities developed by hydrothermal species can be observed at several
70 levels: trophic ability, organ morphology, enzyme activity, respiratory pigment affinity,
71 and ATP synthesis (Childress and Fisher 1992). In particular, response to hypoxia is
72 possibly the most basic challenge that metazoans must overcome to thrive and reap the
73 benefits of the local primary production (Hourdez and Lallier 2007).

74 As an example, respiratory adaptations found in hydrothermal vent species can affect
75 different organizational levels. They can affect the animal behavior (avoidance of some
76 areas, variations in ventilation), the morphology (increased gills surface areas, reduced
77 diffusion distances), the biochemistry (metabolism, presence of respiratory pigments), and
78 the molecule itself (properties of the respiratory pigments) (for a review, see Hourdez and
79 Lallier 2007). In particular, respiratory pigments usually exhibit high oxygen affinities
80 when compared to littoral species that live in well-oxygenated environments (Hourdez and
81 Weber 2005; Hourdez and Lallier 2007). In some annelids, extracellular hemoglobins that
82 circulate at high concentrations represent a significant form of oxygen storage. In addition,
83 their high oxygen affinity allows oxygen uptake from the environment even when its
84 partial pressure is low. Finally, some hemoglobins have the capacity to reversibly bind
85 both O₂ and sulfide, an ability that is essential for the functioning of the symbiosis in the
86 vestimentiferan tubeworm *Riftia pachyptila* (Arp and Childress 1983; Childress and Fisher
87 1992; Weber and Vinogradov 2001).

88 The Polynoidae scale-worms are very diverse in the hydrothermal ecosystem,
89 representing ~10% of all invertebrate species (Tunnicliffe 1991). Different species occupy
90 all the available hydrothermal habitats where metazoa are found, ranging from the coldest
91 areas (~2°C) to the warmest -and most hypoxic- areas near venting fluids (~40°C). Before
92 the discovery of hydrothermal vent species, scaleworms (annelids that include Polynoidae)

93 were thought to only possess intracellular globins, in the muscles (myoglobin) and
94 particularly in the nerve cord (neuroglobin) (Weber 1978; Dewilde et al. 1996).
95 Interestingly, all hydrothermal polynoid species possess red-colored coelomic fluid, due to
96 the presence of extracellular hemoglobins (Hourdez et al. 1999a; Hourdez unpub. data). In
97 the genus *Branchipolynoe* two basic types of extracellular hemoglobins exist, a single-
98 domain and a tetra-domain globin. This latter type was shown to likely be the result of
99 evolutionary tinkering based on the tandem duplication of an ancestral single-domain
100 intracellular globin (Projecto-Garcia et al. 2010). Although tetra-domain hemoglobins are
101 so far only restricted to the genera *Branchipolynoe* (Hourdez et al. 1999a) and
102 *Branchinotogluma* (Hourdez, unpub. data), all the other endemic vent polynoids possess at
103 least single-domain extracellular hemoglobins on which we focused our attention for the
104 present study of their adaptive evolution.

105 Hypoxic vent environments led to functional innovations in respiratory pigments
106 essential for the survival of species (Bailly et al. 2002, 2003; Projecto-Garcia et al. 2010).
107 Detection of adaptive molecular signatures and of the action of positive selection at the
108 amino acid level can be performed by looking at the variations of the non-
109 synonymous/synonymous substitution rate ratio ($\omega = d_N/d_S$) between either closely-related
110 evolutionary lineages or between codon sites along the coding sequence of a given gene
111 (Yang 1998; Yang and Nielsen 2002). Using this phylogenetic tool, we investigated the
112 possible adaptive role of some amino-acid changes during the evolution of the single-
113 domain extracellular globin in hydrothermal-vent scale worms from a wide range of
114 contrasted conditions and life-styles (and thus different selective constraints), including
115 hydrothermal vents, shallow-water and a non-vent abyssal polynoid species. We were
116 especially interested in testing different lineages, between different ecological groups, for
117 signatures of selection that could be relevant to hemoglobin (Hb) evolution in these
118 contrasted environments: *i*) shallow water vs deep-sea; *ii*) deep-sea vs hydrothermal vents;
119 *iii*) hydrothermal vents vs acquisition of gills and multidomain Hb and finally, within this
120 last group, *iv*) commensal vs free-living species.

121

122 Materials and methods

123 **Animal collection**

124 The collected species, sampling area, and habitat are detailed in Fig. 1 and Table 1. All
125 the deep-sea specimens were identified on board the research vessel, and immediately
126 frozen and stored at -80°C until used in the laboratory. The species were chosen to
127 represent various microhabitats at hydrothermal vents, from the coldest with the least
128 hydrothermal influence, to the warmest on the chimney walls (closest to the vent fluid),
129 with temperatures reaching 40°C near the animals. The pure hydrothermal fluid is anoxic,
130 and its mixing in variable proportions will not only affect temperature but also oxygen
131 contents: the warmer the area, the lower the oxygen concentration. *Branchinotogluma*
132 *segonzaci* is a representative of the warmest habitat, on the chimney wall (20-40°C). *B.*
133 *trifurcus* and *Branchiplicatus cupreus* are usually found in colder areas (10-20°C for the
134 former, and 2-10°C for the latter), farther away from the source of the fluid. A still-
135 undescribed species of *Branchinotogluma* sp. inhabits the periphery of the vents, in water
136 at a stable 2-3°C. *Branchipolynoe seepensis* and *B. symmytilida* live in the mantle cavity of
137 mussels symbiotic with thioautotrophic bacteria (obligatory commensalism: Van Dover et
138 al 1999; Jollivet et al 2000), with temperatures usually ranging between 4 and 10°C.
139 Besides all these species with gills, *Lepidonotopodium williamsae* represents a free-living,
140 non-branchiate endemic hydrothermal species, collected among mussels, and experiences
141 temperatures in the same range as *Branchipolynoe* spp., and possibly slightly higher. In
142 addition to these vent-endemic species, a deep-sea species of the subfamily Eulagiscinae
143 was captured on bare rocks near hydrothermal vents but was not exposed to any vent
144 influence (stable temperature, around 2-3°C). *Harmothoe extenuata* is a temperate,
145 shallow-water species, and was collected on the rocky shore in Roscoff, France. *Sthenelais*
146 *boa* (Sigalionidae), a littoral scale-worm species closely related to polynoids (Norlinder et
147 al 2012) was used as an outgroup. These three latter species do not possess extracellular
148 single- or multi-domain hemoglobins but do have an intracellular globin in their nervous
149 system (neuroglobin) (Weber 1978; Hourdez pers. obs.).

150

151 **Nucleic acids extraction and cDNA synthesis**

152 A standard phenol/chloroform protocol following proteinase K digestion (Sambrook et
153 al. 1989) was used to extract genomic DNA (gDNA) from *Branchipolynoe symmytilida*, *B.*
154 *seepensis*, *Branchiplicatus cupreus*, and *Lepidonotopodium williamsae*. For

155 *Branchinotogluma segonzaci*, *B. trifurcus*, and the Eulagiscinae, gDNA was isolated
156 following a CTAB + PVPP extraction protocol (Doyle and Doyle 1987). For all species,
157 total RNA was extracted from the anterior part of the worm's body using TRI Reagent[®]
158 (Sigma) and following the manufacturer's protocol and, cDNA was then synthesized by
159 reverse transcription using MMLV-Reverse Transcriptase with an oligo(dT)₁₈ or an
160 anchored oligo(dT) primer (see Table S1 and S2).

161

162 **cDNA and gene sequencing**

163 Sequences were obtained following two different strategies: amplification by PCR on
164 genomic or cDNA, and search in assembled transcriptomes obtained by assembly of
165 Illumina HiSeq data.

166 For PCR amplification, degenerate primers were designed based on previous globin
167 sequences from the Polynoidae *Branchipolynoe symmytilida* and *B. seepensis*, as well as
168 neuroglobin from the Aphroditidae *Aphrodita aculeata*. The PCR conditions and the type
169 of template (cDNA or gDNA) differed according to the species used for amplification (see
170 Table S1). The PCR products were visualized on a 1.5% agarose gel containing ethidium
171 bromide under UV light, and cloned with the TOPO TA Cloning kit (Invitrogen). The
172 positive clones were sequenced, and the sequences were used to produce specific primers
173 for all the species (Table S1 and S2). Directional chromosome walking on gDNA (see
174 Projecto-Garcia et al. 2010 for details) was used to sequence the missing parts of the
175 coding sequences, the 5' UTR, and the promoter region of the globin genes for some
176 species. When the sequences were obtained in several fragments, sufficient overlap regions
177 were used to assemble the various fragments into a full-length sequence.

178 For the two non-vent species (the deep-sea Eulagiscinae and the shallow water species
179 *H. extenuata*), the intracellular globin sequence, was retrieved from RNA-Seq data (unpub.
180 data). Briefly, total RNA was extracted as described above, checked for quality and sent
181 for sequencing. The sequencing was performed at the McGill University platform with the
182 Illumina HiSeq2000 technology. One lane per species was used and provided 80 million,
183 paired-end, 108-base long sequences. For each species, the fragments were assembled with
184 Velvet/Oases, using a Kmer length of 51. The globin sequences were recovered by tblastx
185 on the assembled sequences using a vent species globin sequence as the query.

186

187 **Protein sequence and phylogenetic analyses**

188 The nucleotide sequences obtained by Sanger sequencing were assembled, checked and,
189 edited based on their chromatograms with CodonCode Aligner 2.0.6
190 (<http://www.codoncode.com/aligner/index.htm>). All cDNA sequences were translated into
191 amino acid sequences using the universal genetic code. The obtained sequences have been
192 submitted to GenBank (accession numbers GU121978-GU121983; KJ756506, KJ756507
193 and KP984527). Multiple nucleotide and amino-acid sequence alignments were performed
194 with multiple sequence alignment algorithm MUSCLE (Edgar 2004, part of software
195 Geneious 7.0.3, created by Biomatters). The optimization was based on minimizing the
196 number of indels, by adjusting the codon alignment to the amino acid sequences alignment
197 using the invariant residue positions associated with the globin fold/heme pocket. This
198 optimization was confirmed by the GUIDANCE filter (Penn et al. 2010), and all regions
199 that were not highly supported (low GUIDANCE scores) were removed before subsequent
200 analyses.

201

202 Tree reconstruction

203 A Bayesian reconstruction of the globin tree (Fig. 2) was performed with the software
204 MrBayes (Huelsenbeck and Ronquist 2001; Ronquist and Huelsenbeck 2003) using all the
205 Polynoidae globin sequences obtained and other extracellular and intracellular annelid
206 amino acid globin sequences (Fig. 3). We used the WAG+I+G+F model of amino acid
207 substitutions (ProtTest 3.0, Durrant et al. 2011) run for 4 000 000 generations, sampling
208 every 10 000 generations and using default priors.

209 A maximum likelihood (ML) tree (Fig. 4) with the single-domain globin sequences
210 from all the polynoid species was constructed using the PhyML package (Guidon and
211 Gascuel 2003) in Geneious 7.0.3 (Biomatters), using the GTR+I+G model (jModelTest
212 2.0, Durrant et al. 2012) for nucleotide substitution and NNI for topology search. Prior to
213 this analysis the sequences were analyzed by Gblocks v0.91b
214 (<http://molevol.cmima.csic.es/castresana/Gblocks.html>) and Gap Strip/Squeeze v2.1.0
215 (<http://www.hiv.lanl.gov/content/sequence/GAPSTREEZE/gap.html>) to evaluate which
216 gaps to retain/delete for further analyses. The bootstraps from the trees issued from the
217 output alignments of those programs were considerably lower (data not shown) and we
218 chose to proceed using the initial alignment (Fig. S1). This tree was used as the
219 phylogenetic context for the positive selection analyses (Fig. 4).

220

221 Positive selection and associated tests (Codeml)

222 The search for potential positive selection among branches and codon sites was
223 performed by maximum likelihood following the procedure described by Nielsen and
224 Yang (1998), Yang (1998), Yang and Nielsen (2002) and the PAML program instructions
225 (Codeml).

226 We used the single-domain globin phylogeny for the Polynoidae species as a framework
227 (Fig. 4), using the *Sthenelais boa* (Sboa) sequence as an outgroup. We first tested whether
228 the d_N/d_S (ω) ratios were different among lineages with a likelihood ratio test ($LRT = 2\Delta\ell$)
229 between the *one-ratio branch model* (same ω for all branches) and the *free-ratio branch*
230 *model* (ω free to vary among branches). The LRT results can be compared to a χ^2
231 distribution, with the number of degrees of freedom equal to the difference in the number
232 of parameters between the two models (Yang 1998). Power and accuracy of the LRT were
233 evaluated by Anisimova et al. (2001), with good results against violation of assumptions.
234 Once the branches with ω values at least twice that of the average value were identified (a
235 possible indication of positive selection), we searched for differences of ω ratio among
236 sites on those specific branches/lineages. Yang and Nielsen (2002) implemented a test that
237 lets the ω ratio vary both among sites and among lineages (branch-site model). We
238 performed a LRT test comparing MA, a combination of the *two-ratio branch model* with
239 the *positive selection site model* (M2a where codons fall in three ω categories ($0 < \omega < 1$,
240 $\omega = 1$, $\omega > 1$), Yang and Nielsen 2002), against the nearly neutral site model (M1a where
241 codons fall in 2 ω categories ($0 < \omega < 1$, $\omega = 1$), Yang and Nielsen 2002). A second test,
242 comparing M1a against a MA with fixed $\omega_2 = 1$ ($MA_{\omega=1}$), allowed us to test whether the
243 site variability was actually due to positive selection rather than genetic drift or relaxed
244 selection (Yang & Nielsen 2002; Wong et al. 2004).

245 Sites under positive selection were identified by a Bayesian analysis, where a posterior
246 probability to belong to a given site class ($0 < \omega < 1$, $\omega = 1$ or $\omega > 1$) is calculated (based
247 on the parameter estimates of the dataset) for each site. By definition sites under positive
248 selection belong to the site class $\omega > 1$. Only sites with posterior probabilities greater than
249 95% were considered (Yang 2008). We used the Bayes Empirical Bayes (BEB) test
250 performed by the Codeml package. This method accounts for the sampling errors in
251 maximum likelihood estimates of model parameters (compared to the earlier Naive
252 Empirical Bayes analysis), more adapted for small data sets like ours (Yang et al. 2005).

253

254 Ancestral sequence reconstruction

255 Using the same globin phylogeny (Fig. 4) as a reference, the ancestral sequences were
256 reconstructed by Maximum Likelihood based on Bayesian statistics (Koshi and Goldstein
257 1996; Yang 2008, and the PAML program instructions), through Codeml (model = 0 and
258 NSsites = 0).

259

260 **Three-dimensional modeling of globins and localization of key amino-acid** 261 **replacements**

262 To construct a 3D homology protein model of some of the polynoid globin sequences,
263 we used the tools available on the SWISS-MODEL website
264 (<https://swissmodel.expasy.org/interactive>), using ProMod3 and MODELLER (Arnold et
265 al. 2006; Biasini et al. 2014; Bordoli et al. 2009). Briefly, this modeling tool allowed us to
266 obtain a 3D model from an amino acid sequence of interest based on the available 3D
267 structure of a PDB template sequence that has the best psi-blast score with our sequence.
268 Atomic energy calculations and minimization of the force fields were optimized.

269 The product of this rough model was visualized using UCSF Chimera package from the
270 Resource for Biocomputing, Visualization, and Informatics at the University of California,
271 San Francisco (Pettersen et al. 2004). This same software was also used to graphically
272 improve the model, to highlight some important residues, and to insert the heme group into
273 the heme pocket of our model. For the insertion of the heme group, we used the
274 coordinates from the template sequence. The analysis of the structural alignment was done
275 using Pymol Molecular Graphics System v1.8.2.1 (DeLano 2008).

276

277 **Recombinant globin expression and oxygen binding properties**

278 The full-length coding sequences of *Branchipolynoe symmytilida*, *Branchinotogluma*
279 *trifurcus*, and the Eulagiscinae globins were cloned into a pET20b vector, preserving the
280 stop codon to prevent fusion with the His-Tag of this vector. Overexpression was
281 performed in BL21 DE3 cells, grown in LB supplemented with ampicillin and in the
282 presence of 1 mM 5-aminolevulinic acid (heme precursor), at 37°C. After 4 hrs of
283 induction with 1 mM IPTG, the cells were pelleted by centrifugation, resuspended in a
284 lysis buffer (25 mM Tris/400 mM NaCl, pH 7.5) and the cells were lysed with a French
285 press. Cellular debris was eliminated by centrifugation and the globin was purified by size
286 exclusion chromatography from the supernatant onto a Superose 12 column with an elution
287 buffer identical to the lysis buffer.

288 Oxygen equilibrium curves were obtained with a modified diffusion chamber (Sick and

289 Gersonde 1969) using a step-by-step procedure as previously described (Weber et al.
290 1976). Briefly, small ($4 \mu\text{l}$) aliquots of purified recombinant globin solution ($\sim 0.3 \text{ mM}$
291 heme final concentration) were equilibrated with mixtures of pure N_2 and O_2 prepared by
292 mass-flow meters and the resulting variations of absorption spectra were followed at 430
293 nm with a diode array spectrophotometer (Ocean Optics). The saturation (S) versus PO_2
294 (partial pressure of oxygen) data were linearized according to the Hill equation, $\log(S/(1-$
295 $S)) = f(\log \text{PO}_2)$, and the values of P_{50} (PO_2 at which the globin is half-saturated with
296 oxygen) and n_{50} (cooperativity at P_{50}) were derived from linear regressions on the data
297 points between 30 and 70% saturation. The sample pH was adjusted by dilution with a
298 buffer solution of greater strength (500 mM Tris/400 mM NaCl).

299

300 Results

301 **Single-Domain gDNA/cDNA amplification and sequencing**

302 Coding sequences

303 In this study, we produced globin sequences for *Branchinotogluma segonzaci*, *B. trifurcus*,
304 *Branchiplicatus cupreus*, *Lepidonotopodium williamsae*, a species of Eulagiscinae, and
305 *Harmothoe extenuata*.

306 For *Branchinotogluma segonzaci*, *B. trifurcus*, *Branchiplicatus cupreus*, and
307 *Lepidonotopodium williamsae*, several slightly different cDNA sequences were obtained,
308 indicating either polymorphism at a single coding locus (*i.e.* alleles) or the presence of
309 different globin loci in these species. For the following analyses, a consensus sequence was
310 produced for all species, considering the most common nucleotides between the sequenced
311 clones and assembling the different parts of the gene where it was possible to align
312 upstream and downstream regions. For *B. cupreus* the sequence differences were such
313 (sequence identity of 90.7% between SD1 and SD2) that we likely have two different loci
314 for each species (transition/transversion rate ratio $\kappa = 2.17$), and only one sequence was
315 considered for the following analyses.

316 For *Branchipolynoe symmytilida*, *Branchipolynoe seepensis*, *B. segonzaci* and *B.*
317 *trifurcus*, the complete cDNA sequences from the single-domain globin have a coding
318 sequence of 417 nucleotides including the stop codon. For *Branchinotogluma* sp. nov. and
319 *B. cupreus* we could only amplify 366 bp (122 codons, including the initial methionine) of
320 the coding sequence, and 385 for *L. williamsae*. These partial sequences correspond to the
321 first two exons, and most of the third (and last) exon. Finally, for the Eulagiscinae and
322 *Harmothoe extenuata* the complete coding sequences comprise 423 bp and 417 bp
323 respectively.

324 Over the shared 354 bp, five indels were found, two common to all Polynoidae species
325 (compared to the Sigalionidae *Sthenelais boa*), the third present in vent species only and
326 the last two solely in *H. extenuata* (Fig. S1). Percentages of nucleotide identity between
327 these single-domain globins is relatively low (37.9%; Fig. S1).

328

329 Promoter regions, and UTRs

330 For *B. symmytilida*, *B. cupreus*, and *L. williamsae*, our sequence covers the full 5'UTR
331 (~68 bp), as well as about 440 bp of the promoter region for *B. symmytilida* and *L.*
332 *williamsae*. For *B. seepensis*, *B. trifurcus*, and *B. segonzaci*, we successfully sequenced 48

333 bp of the 5'UTR (Fig. S2).

334 For *B. symmytilida* and *L. williamsae* the promoter sequences were slightly more
335 conserved than their coding sequences (77.1% and 75.6% of identical sites, respectively).
336 In both sequences the TATA box was located ~30 bp upstream of the beginning of the
337 5'UTR (Fig. S2). The identity between the amplified common parts of the 5'UTR (48 bp)
338 for all vent polynoid species was ~80%. This value however drops drastically (47.1%)
339 when the 5'UTR of *H. extenuata* is included (data not shown).

340

341 Introns

342 Introns were successfully amplified and sequenced in all species but the Eulagiscinae,
343 *H. extenuata*, and intron 2 in *B. trifurcus*. As reported for *B. seepensis* and *B. symmytilida*
344 (Projecto-Garcia et al. 2010), the single-domain genes all exhibit the typical vertebrate
345 globin gene structure with 3 exons separated by 2 introns. The introns are located in the
346 conserved positions B12.2 and G7.0 in reference to the *Physeter catodon* globin fold.

347 Intron sequence length differed considerably, especially for intron 1, which length
348 ranged from 306 bp in *B. symmytilida* to 746 bp in *B. seepensis*. Intron 2 sequence length
349 was also variable but with a more limited range, from 180 bp in *L. williamsae* to 295 bp in
350 *B. seepensis*. The alignment between all orthologous intron sequences revealed limited
351 identity (4.9% for intron 1 and 12% for intron 2). Within each genus for which we have
352 two species (i.e. *Branchipolynoe*, and *Branchinotogluma*), however, the identity is higher
353 (16.2% for intron 1 and 47.8% for intron 2).

354

355 **Amino acid sequences and protein structure**

356 The single-domain (SD) sequences obtained here were aligned with other annelid
357 globins (intra- and extra-cellular), and as a reference we used globin sequences from other
358 representative metazoan groups: invertebrates - two nematode extracellular hemoglobin
359 sequences (*Ascaris suum*, pig intestinal parasite), and a vertebrates myoglobin from sperm
360 whale (*Physeter catodon*) (Fig.2, accession numbers in Fig. 3).

361 In reference to the *Physeter* myoglobin fold, the alignment exhibits two conserved
362 residues: a phenylalanine in the CD corner (CD1F) and the proximal histidine on the F
363 helix, to which the heme is bound (F8H). The tryptophan in position A14 was conserved in
364 nearly all globin sequences except for the nematode *Ascaris*, *Arenicola*, *Riftia* and
365 *Alvinella*. All sequences also have a conserved tryptophan (H7W) that is not found in the
366 *Physeter* myoglobin. Although extracellular, the Polynoidae globins do not possess the two

367 well conserved cysteines involved in a disulfide bridge in the typical extracellular globins
368 from annelids (positions A2 and H10). Over the region for which we have a sequence
369 overlap (118 amino acid residues), the Polynoidae sequences exhibit an amino acid identity
370 of 50%. Several important amino acids in the heme pocket exhibit interesting
371 characteristics. Two important residues that have been identified as key to the very high
372 oxygen affinity in *Ascaris* Hb, tyrosine B10 and glutamine E7, are also present in *S. boa*
373 and in all the Polynoidae sequences except the Eulagiscinae, for which the amino acids at
374 both of these positions are replaced by a leucine. The pogonophoran annelid *O. mashikoi*
375 also possesses a glutamine in E7.

376 Among the polynoid sequences, out of the 30 probable heme contacts (using the sperm
377 whale myoglobin heme contacts as a reference, Fig. 3), only 11 residue positions are
378 affected by changes.

379 No signal peptide for protein export was found in any of the species for which we
380 obtained sequences upstream of the initial methionine.

381

382 **Single-domain globin relationship with other globins**

383 In comparison with the *Ascaris* and sperm whale globins, the annelid globins
384 segregate into two initial lineages that separate the globins that form the typical
385 extracellular hexagonal bilayer hemoglobins (HBL-Hb) from all other annelid globins
386 (Bayesian phylogenetic tree, Fig. 2). The topology of the clade that comprises intracellular
387 annelid globins and extracellular polynoid globins reflects the current knowledge of
388 annelid phylogeny (Weigert and Bleidorn 2016). The Phyllococida include all scaleworms
389 (Aphroditidae, Sigalionidae, and Polynoidae) and Glyceridae in our tree. All the
390 Polynoidae sequences group together, regardless of their extracellular or intracellular state.

391

392 **Variation of d_N/d_S ratios among branches and tests for positive selection**

393 Variations among lineages (branch model)

394 Tests for the past action of positive selection were performed using the Maximum
395 Likelihood tree topology based on the 443 bp alignment of the globin gene (Fig. 4). From
396 the two different single-domain globins SD1 and SD2 obtained for *Branchiplicatus*
397 *cupreus*, only SD1 was used for the following analyses. The same analyses were also
398 performed with SD2 and produced very similar results (data not shown).

399 The LRT between the *one-ratio branch model* and the *free-ratio branch model* was
400 significantly different from zero, indicating that ω (d_N/d_S) ratios vary among lineages (LRT

401 = 28.98, $df = 15$, $p < 0.025$) (Yang 1998). The $\hat{\kappa}$ values (transition/transversion rate ratio)
402 were very similar between the different models, ranging from 1.66 to 1.71. Under the *one*
403 *ratio model* ω_0 is 0.148, indicating an overall moderate purifying selection (Table 2).

404

405 Focus on key evolutionary branches: (branch-site model)

406 We searched for signatures of evolutionary change in branches (Fig. 4) that correspond
407 to ecological transitions (littoral vs deep-sea and deep-sea vs hydrothermal vents),
408 anatomical/physiological transitions (absence of gills and multi domain Hb (hydrothermal
409 vents) vs the presence of gills and multi-domain Hb).

410 For all the ecological transitions, ω did not exceed 0.209, suggesting there was no major
411 non-synonymous substitutions accumulation in this protein to adapt its function between
412 littoral environments and deep-sea environments or the hypoxic habitats such as
413 hydrothermal-vents (Fig. 4). Two branches (**a** and **b** on Fig. 4) exhibit infinite values for ω ,
414 as a result of the absence of synonymous substitutions. For both branch **a**, (genera
415 *Branchipolynoe* and *Branchinotogluma*, a lineage that developed gills and multi-domain
416 Hbs) and branch **b**, we could not find any signature of positive selection (Fig. 4, Table 2).

417 Branch **c**, leading to the two species of the genus *Branchipolynoe* (all commensal
418 species), exhibits a LRT significantly different from zero, indicating that there is a
419 signature of positive selection (Table 2) on this branch. The comparison between M1a and
420 MA showed that the latter best fit the data and additional tests corroborated this result (MA
421 vs $MA_{\omega=1}$, Table 2). The BEB analysis identified two residues significantly affected by
422 positive selection: 56T (position E11) and 82S (position F6).

423

424 **Ancestral globin reconstruction**

425 These analyses were performed to follow the amino acid substitutions that took place at
426 the nodes of each clade. Overall, the accuracy of the reconstruction had values of posterior
427 probability (PB) for codon change higher than 89%, except for the reconstructed node
428 leading to the outgroup *S. boa* (~66%). This latter node was therefore not taken into
429 consideration. *S. boa*, *H. extenuata* and Eulagiscinae exhibited more amino acid
430 substitutions compared to other sequences (Fig. S3). Interestingly several residues are
431 shared by the littoral *H. extenuata* and the deep-sea Eulagiscinae (node PB ~91%). These
432 residues are located in the B, D and G helices and CD and EF corners (Fig. S3). The
433 identity is greater for the species found at hydrothermal vents but the confidence of the

434 reconstruction of this node is below 0.95 (PB ~89%). Curiously, the ancestral node
435 corresponding to branch **b** (PB ~95%) seems to be the departure point for several new
436 residues specific to this clade (44S, 49I, 79T and 116G), with the exception of *B. trifurcus*
437 (Fig. S3). On the lineage leading to *Branchipolynoe* (node PB ~99%), three residues are
438 uniquely shared (23V, 56T and 82S), two of them are the same that were found to be under
439 positive selection (Table 2).

440

441 **Single-domain globin 3D modeling approach**

442 Homology models were created only for species for which we had a complete sequence,
443 *Branchipolynoe symmytilida*, *Branchinotogluma trifurcus* and the Eulagiscinae (Fig. 5).
444 For the first species, the automatically chosen PDB template sequence was the monomer
445 chain of the hemoglobin from *Lumbricus terrestris* (PDB: 1ASH, a high-resolution
446 structure) that had 20% of amino acid identity with our sequences. Although this is close to
447 the ‘twilight zone’ (<20% of amino acid identity), Pascual-García et al. (2010) showed that
448 if two proteins are known to perform the same function, structural prediction is reliable
449 even below this threshold. For *B. trifurcus* and the Eulagiscinae, the automatically chosen
450 template with the highest structural identity was the sequence from the monomeric
451 hemoglobin from *Glycera dibranchiata* (PDB: 1JF4), with 38% and 28% of amino acid
452 identity, respectively.

453 Positively-selected residues in the *Branchipolynoe* lineage (branch **c** in Fig. 4) are
454 highlighted on the *B. trifurcus* and *B. symmytilida* models for comparison (Fig. 5, dotted
455 residues). In *Branchipolynoe* spp. E11T (E11V in *B. trifurcus*) is also located in the distal
456 region of the heme pocket, and points in the same direction as E7Q and B10Y (Fig. 5 *a* and
457 *b*), therefore potentially affecting ligand binding. The last amino acid under positive
458 selection, F6S, in *Branchipolynoe* spp. (F6Q in *B. trifurcus*) is located in a helix region
459 that, in other annelid globins, is important for the formation of oligomers (formation of
460 dimers by interaction of helices E and F; Royer et al. 2001, 2005).

461 The residues highlighted in branches **b** and **c** by the ancestral reconstruction analyses
462 are located in the B, F, and H helices, and in the DE corner. The substitutions in the B
463 helix and DE corner were mostly from polar to non-polar residues (Fig. S4). On the other
464 hand, the substitutions in the F and H helices were from non-polar to polar residues.

465

466 **Oxygen binding properties**

467 The oxygen binding properties of recombinant globins from *Branchipolynoe*

468 *symmytilida*, *Branchinotogluma trifurcus* and the Eulagiscinae were measured after their
469 overexpression (Table 3). None of the cooperativity coefficients significantly differs from
470 1, indicating that, if multimers do form, this association does not allow cooperativity.
471 Elution volumes of the different globins on a size exclusion column do not indicate
472 differences of native mass either, suggesting all globins still remain monomeric (data not
473 shown). As can be expected for globins that lack cooperativity, pH has no significant effect
474 on P₅₀ (data not shown). The two globins with B10Y and E7Q (*B. symmytilida* and *B.*
475 *trifurcus*) both exhibit very similar P₅₀ values that are much lower (*i.e.* greater affinities)
476 than the globin from the Eulagiscinae (B10L and E7L). Amongst the two former species,
477 the globin from *B. trifurcus* has a significantly greater affinity (lower P₅₀) than that of *B.*
478 *symmytilida* (unpaired *t* test p=0.0003).

479

480 **Discussion**

481 Invertebrate hemoglobins exhibit a great structural and functional diversity (Weber
482 and Vinogradov 2001). This diversity results from an early (*i.e.* more than 500 Mya) and
483 complex evolutionary history and specific adaptations at the molecular level to contrasted
484 environmental conditions (*e.g.* levels of oxygen, temperature), and physiological needs.
485 Hydrothermal vents can be very challenging for aerobic organisms, especially in regard to
486 hypoxia and the presence of sulfide (a potent inhibitor of aerobic metabolism) (Carrico
487 1978, Childress and Fisher 1992). The scale-worm species studied here also have adapted
488 to a wide range of marine conditions and represent a very successful lineage that colonized
489 the hydrothermal vent ecosystem (Fig. 4, Table 1), the usual deep-sea and the intertidal
490 zone. Such challenging conditions can lead to functional innovations essential for the
491 survival of the species.

492

493 **Hemoglobin expression in vent species**

494 Endemic hydrothermal vent polynoids typically possess extracellular hemoglobins in
495 their coelomic fluid that confer them their red color (S. Hourdez, unpub. data). The sheer
496 expression of hemoglobins in deep-sea polynoids can be regarded as an adaptation to
497 hypoxic conditions as these proteins represent a form of oxygen storage that buffers
498 variations of external oxygen concentrations (Hourdez et al. 1999b). It was estimated for
499 *Branchipolynoe seepensis* that the amount of oxygen bound on hemoglobins could provide
500 about 90-minute worth of aerobic metabolic needs if the worm is exposed to complete

501 anoxia (Hourdez and Lallier 2007). Although extracellular single-domain globins exist in
502 all hydrothermal vent endemic polynoids, tetra-domain globins were only detected in the
503 genera *Branchipolynoe* (Hourdez et al. 1999a; Zhang et al. 2017) and *Branchinotogluma*
504 (S. Hourdez, unpub. data). The phylogenetic relationships indicate that all the studied
505 polynoid extracellular globins (single- and tetra-domain) all derive from a common
506 ancestral gene, which was probably intracellular (Projecto-Garcia et al. 2010, Fig. 2). The
507 extracellular origin of these globins is distinct from the other annelid extracellular globins
508 that diverged from the intracellular ones about 570 million years ago (Goodman et al.
509 1988).

510 All the globins sequenced here lack a signal peptide. In *Harmothoe extenuata* and the
511 Eulagiscinae, this is not surprising because the globin is not free in the coelomic fluid but
512 rather contained in cells (mostly in the nervous system, and possibly in muscles). The lack
513 of a signal peptide, although surprising for the vent polynoid species, was already observed
514 in the single- and tetra-domain globin from *Branchipolynoe seepensis* and *B. symmytilida*
515 (Projecto-Garcia et al. 2010). In the vent species *Lepidonotopodium piscesae*, mass
516 spectrometry data indicated a perfect match in molecular mass for both the myoglobin and
517 the hemoglobin found in the coelomic fluid (unpub. data). This observation was used as
518 evidence that the sequenced genes in *Branchipolynoe* spp. likely correspond to the
519 hemoglobin found in the coelomic fluid and that it is released by holocrine secretion
520 (Projecto-Garcia et al., 2010). The detection of a TATA box 30-base pair upstream of the
521 5'UTR start position in the promoter supports the absence of alternative splicing variants
522 that would have a signal peptide for excretion.

523 Interestingly, the 5'UTR and the promoter regions are well conserved in most of the
524 vent species. Although this may indicate some structural or regulatory function(s) for these
525 regions, the physiological relevance of the presence of several regulatory motifs (e.g. CAC
526 binding protein and GATA motifs, data not shown) in SD globins is yet to be ascertained.

527

528 **Amino acid positions under positive selection**

529 The heme pocket of all the polynoid single-domain globin sequences, except the
530 Eulagiscinae, exhibit two conserved amino acid residues that are not under positive
531 selection, B10Y and E7Q. These residues are therefore not recent innovations in the
532 Polynoidae family but could be inherited from ancestral species that evolved under
533 hypoxic conditions. B10Y and E7Q have been shown to be responsible for the very high
534 oxygen affinity of the *Ascaris suum* globins (pig intestinal parasite), mostly through the

535 low oxygen dissociation rate that they provide (Davenport 1949 in Peterson et al. 1997; De
536 Baere et al. 1994; Peterson et al. 1997). The replacement of the conserved distal histidine
537 (E7H) by a glutamine (E7Q) and the B10L by a tyrosine (B10Y) seems a common
538 convergent feature in many invertebrate globins (Weber and Vinogradov 2001), and could
539 represent an adaptation to hypoxia. Even so, not all invertebrate globins possess the same
540 high oxygen affinity that is observed in *A. suum*. The following invertebrate species, in
541 terms of oxygen affinity, have values that represent at least 10 times higher P_{50} (i.e. lower
542 Hb-O₂ affinity) than *Ascaris* Hb. This property is mostly dependent on the heme pocket
543 conformation (Peterson et al. 1997).

544 The homology model of the structure of two polynoid globins, *B. symmytilida* and *B.*
545 *trifurcus*, show that the B10Y and E7Q point towards the heme group. It is tempting to
546 suggest that these residues are likely to participate, like in *A. suum*, on the high oxygen
547 affinity measured in *Branchipolynoe* for both tetra-domain hemoglobins found in its
548 coelomic fluid (Hourdez et al. 1999b). But such a residue configuration would be expected
549 since the template used for this analysis also had the same residues pointing to the heme
550 group.

551 However, the data obtained by the functional analyses done with recombinant globins
552 of the vent species show a P_{50} 26-32 times lower than in the Eulagiscinae globin that
553 possesses a leucine at both of these positions. Many other substitutions are found in the
554 Eulagiscinae globin that could participate to the observed difference in affinity, but the two
555 positions discussed have been experimentally shown to most profoundly affect oxygen
556 binding in other invertebrates (extensively reviewed in Weber and Vinogradov 2001). The
557 slight difference between *B. symmytilida* and *B. trifurcus* P_{50} values could be due to the
558 sole replacement of a valine by a threonine in the heme pocket (position E11). Although
559 allotropic effects due to amino-acid changes elsewhere in the molecule cannot be
560 discounted, the E11 position is the only one position of the distal heme contacts that is
561 different between the two species.

562 Despite many substitutions, the branches between the littoral species and the deep-sea
563 species do not exhibit any signature of positive selection, suggesting there is no necessary
564 important change for this protein to function under the high hydrostatic pressure
565 experienced by all the other species in our study. This agrees with the fact that hydrostatic
566 pressure does not induce denaturation or protein structural changes when temperature is
567 constant (Mozhaev et al. 1996), like in deep-sea environments.

568 In the *Branchipolynoe* lineage some important amino acids, 56T (position E11) and 82S

569 (position F6) were found to be under positive selection, suggesting that this lineage
570 experienced a more recent adaptive change. The replacement of 56V for a threonine, a
571 residue similar in size but with a hydroxyl group capable of hydrogen bonds, in the E helix
572 and facing the heme group, could influence O₂ binding. The 82S in the F helix, with a
573 smaller side chain than glutamine and a lesser capability of forming bonds, could affect
574 hydrophobicity around it.

575 Likelihood Ratio Tests can be especially conservative for small-length proteins (~100
576 codons; Anisimova 2003), close to the *ca.* 135 codons of globins. This could explain why
577 the residue at the position B7 was not identified as under positive selection, even though
578 B7V is shared in the *Branchipolynoe* lineage (and found in the Eulagiscinae globin). The
579 substitution from asparagine (position 23), a polar and hydrophilic residue, for a valine,
580 non-polar and with a short side chain, could reinforce the hydrophobic characteristics of
581 the central part of the B helix.

582 Residues located in B7 and F6, could affect subunit interactions between single-domain
583 globins in *Branchipolynoe*. The dimer interactions in *Lumbricus terrestris* hemoglobin are
584 established through residues in the E and F helices (Royer et al. 2000), an interaction in
585 which F6S could participate. In *L. terrestris*, dimers form tetramers mainly by the
586 interaction of the loop formed by the AB corner. B7V is close to the AB corner and could
587 be involved in interactions to form a multimer. The formation of multimeric assemblages
588 may be beneficial as these hemoglobins are extracellular and larger molecular weight
589 minimizes excretion (Weber and Vinogradov 2001). The absence of differences in native
590 mass (as estimated by the elution volume by size-exclusion chromatography) between the
591 recombinant *B. symmytilida* globin and that of the two other species argues against a
592 difference in polymerization state. The absence of homotropic (cooperativity) or
593 heterotropic (*e.g.* Bohr effect) characteristics also argues for an absence of polymerization.
594 Even so, other multimeric globins can also exhibit the absence of these same
595 characteristics (Royer et al. 2001), such as *Branchipolynoe* tetra-domain Hbs (Hourdez et
596 al., 1999b) and *Ascaris* Hb (Gibson and Smith 1965; Okazaki and Wittenberg 1965).

597

598 **Positive selection and molecular innovation**

599 The hydrothermal vent scale-worms studied here are all exposed to generally hypoxic
600 conditions (Hourdez and Lallier 2007). As one gets closer to the source of fluid, its
601 proportion in the mix increases, the temperature rises, and the amount of oxygen decreases.
602 The affinity for oxygen of the globins parallels this oxygen gradient, with the highest P₅₀

603 (i.e. lowest affinity) for the species exposed to the greatest oxygen partial pressure
604 (Eulagiscinae) and the lowest P_{50} (highest affinity) for the species exposed to the lowest
605 average oxygen partial pressure (*B. trifurcus*).

606 Interestingly, the event of positive selection did not take place in any branch
607 representative of major ecological shift. It occurred on the branch that comprises both
608 *Branchipolynoe* species. In this genus, there are two main tetradomain hemoglobins in the
609 coelomic fluid, and these exhibit different sensitivity to CO₂ (Hourdez et al. 1999b). This
610 is reminiscent of ‘class II’ fish in which hemoglobins found in the erythrocytes have
611 different functional properties and sensitivities to effectors that reflect a division of labor
612 (Weber 2000). In *Branchipolynoe*, this division of labor may be extended to the single-
613 domain globins, also found in the coelomic fluid. In the coelomic fluid of
614 *Branchinotogluma* (sister clade of *Branchipolynoe*), there is only one tetradomain
615 hemoglobin (S. Hourdez, unpub. data). The positively selected position in the
616 *Branchipolynoe* clade could correspond to a consequence of the appearance of the second
617 tetradomain globin. Species of this genus live inside the mantle cavity of Bathymodiolin
618 mussels where hypoxia can be severe. Females indeed stay within the valves of the host
619 and are quite territorial while they only tolerate mobile ‘dwarf’ males for reproduction
620 (Jollivet et al. 2000). These mussels rely on symbiotic thioautotrophic and/or
621 methanotrophic bacteria for at least part of their nutrition (Childress and Fisher 1992) and
622 flow water laden with sulfide and/or methane to meet their bacteria’s metabolic needs.
623 This hypoxic water however also surrounds all other vent species, the level of hypoxia
624 depending on the amount of hydrothermal fluid in the mix. When the mussel closes, the
625 worms could be exposed to more severe hypoxic conditions and the modifications found
626 could be involved in dealing with these conditions.

627 The finding of absence of positive selection in branches representing ecological shifts
628 could be due to limitations of the method used. Indeed, globins tend to accumulate
629 substitutions at greater rate than other proteins. If an episode of positive selection
630 happened in much deeper branches, the accumulation of mutations since that time could
631 make the detection of the event more difficult. As we move deeper into the phylogeny of
632 these fast-evolving molecules, our confidence in the reconstruction of the ancestral state of
633 each position also decreases greatly and limits our ability to detect older events of positive
634 selection. However, in the tetradomain hemoglobins from *Branchipolynoe*, a study showed
635 that the initial domain duplication was accompanied by positive selection on amino acids
636 at the interface between two domains, possibly a response to structural constraints

637 (Projecto-Garcia et al. 2015).

638

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786 Tables

787 **Table 1** Sampling areas and habitat of the different Polynoidae species (in alphabetical
788 order).

Species	Sampling area, coordinates, and depth	Habitat
<i>Branchinotogluma segonzaci</i>	Lau Basin 1. ABE (20°46'S, 176°11'W) 2150 m 2. Tow Cam (20°06'S, 176°34'W) 2700 m	Chimney walls, free- living
<i>Branchinotogluma</i> sp. nov.	Lau Basin, Kilo Moana (20°03'S, 176°08'W) 2600 m	Peripheral areas, free- living
<i>Branchinotogluma trifurcus</i>	Lau Basin 1. Kilo Moana (20°03'S, 176°08'W) 2600 m 2. Tu'i Malila (21°59'S, 176°34'W) 1900 m	<i>Ifremeria nautiliei</i> aggregations, free-living
<i>Branchiplicatus cupreus</i>	East Pacific Rise, 9°50'N area (9°46'N, 104°21'W) 2500 m	Mussel beds, free-living
<i>Branchipolynoe symmytilida</i>	East Pacific Rise, 9°50'N area (9°46'N, 104°21'W) 2500 m	Mussel beds (commensal in mussel mantle cavity)
<i>Branchipolynoe seepensis</i>	Mid-Atlantic Ridge Lucky Strike site (37°18'N, 32°16'W) 1700 m	Mussel beds (commensal in mussel mantle cavity)
Eulagiscinae	Lau Basin Kilo Moana (20°03'S, 176°08'W) 2600 m	Peripheral areas
<i>Harmothoe extenuata</i>	Roscoff, France. 4-6 m	Underneath rocks

Lepidonotopodium williamsae East Pacific Rise, 11°N area Mussel beds and
(11°25'N, 103°47'W) 2500 m tubeworm aggregations,
free-living

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791 **Table 2** Codeml parameters obtained under different codon substitution models. lnL=
 792 natural log of likelihood value, κ = transition/transversion rate ratio, LRT = Likelihood
 793 ratio test and degrees of freedom (df), BEB = Bayes Empirical Bayes. NA= Not
 794 Applicable. *p = 0.025, **p = 0.001
 795

Model	lnL	κ	np	Model estimates	LRT (df)	Sites under positive selection (BEB>0.95)
Branch_model						
M0	-2152.58	1.708	18	$\omega = 0.148$		
M1	-2138.09	1.656	33	$0.001 < \omega < \infty$	28.98* (15)	NA
Site_model						
M1a 'nearly neutral'	-2126.42	1.808	19	$\omega_0 = 0.101$ (83.2%) $\omega_1 = 1.000$ (16.8%)		
M2a 'positive selection'	-2126.42	1.808	21	$\omega_0 = 0.101$ (83.2%) $\omega_1 = 1.000$ (8.8%) $\omega_2 = 1.000$ (8%)	0.00 ^{NS} (2)	NA
Branch-site_model						
MA_branch a (BngnovSD + gills and multi-domain Hb)	-2126.25	1.803	21	$\omega_0 = 0.099$ (60.8%) $\omega_1 = 1.000$ (12.5%) $\omega_{2a} = 1.000$ (22.2%) $\omega_{2b} = 1.000$ (4.5%)	0.33 ^{NS} (2)	None
MA_branch b (gills and multi-domain Hb)	-2124.70	1.825	21	$\omega_0 = 1.001$ (80.7%) $\omega_1 = 1.000$ (17.2%) $\omega_{2a} = \infty$ (1.7%) $\omega_{2b} = \infty$ (0.4%)	3.44 ^{NS} (2)	None
MA_branch c (genus)	-2116.77	1.792	21	$\omega_0 = 0.099$ (82%) $\omega_1 = 1.000$ (15.1%)	19.29 ^{**}	56T (E11T) ¹ 82S (F6S) ¹

Model	lnL	κ	np	Model estimates	LRT (df)	Sites under positive selection (BEB>0.95)
<i>Branchipolynoe</i>				$\omega_{2a} = \infty$ (2.5%)		
				$\omega_{2b} = \infty$ (0.4%)		

796 ¹ The position in the protein is given in parentheses as the name of the helix, the amino acid
797 position in that helix, and the identity of the amino acid. This nomenclature is based in the sperm-
798 whale myoglobin structure.

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801
802

803 **Table 3** Oxygen binding properties of the different recombinant globins at 15°C and
 804 *Ascaris* Hb (at 20°C), for comparison. P₅₀: partial pressure of oxygen necessary to reach
 805 50% saturation of the binding sites. n₅₀: cooperativity coefficient at P₅₀. No significant pH
 806 effect was detected, and reported values represent averages and standard deviations for the
 807 different pH values tested. The amino acids at the positions responsible for the *A. suum* Hb
 808 high affinity for O₂ (B10 and E7, shaded in gray) are indicated, along with the residue
 809 positions that were under positive selection in *B. symmytilida*.

	P ₅₀ (mm Hg)	n ₅₀	Amino acid in position			
			B10	E7	E11	F6
<i>Branchipolynoe</i>	0.47±0.02	0.96±0.04	Y	Q	T	S
<i>symmytilida</i>	n=7	n=7				
<i>Branchinotogluma</i>	0.38±0.02	1.02±0.04	Y	Q	V	Q
<i>trifurcus</i>	n=6	n=6				
Eulagiscinae	12.3±1.2	1.01±0.06	L	L	V	Q
	n=8	n=8				
<i>Ascaris</i>	0.001- 0.004 ^a	1.0 ^a	Y	Q	I	D/E ^b

810 ^aGibson and Smith 1965, and Okazaki and Wittenberg 1965.

811 ^bDe Baere et al 1992

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814 Figures

815

816 **Fig. 1** World map showing the locations of sampled species. Lau Basin: ABE (20°46'S,
817 176°11'W) 2150 m depth, Tow Cam (TC, 20°06'S, 176°34'W) 2700 m depth, Kilo Moana
818 (KM, 20°03'S, 176°08'W) 2600 m depth, Tu'i Malila (21°59'S, 176°34'W) 1900 m depth;
819 East Pacific Rise: 9°50'N area (9°46'N, 104°21'W) 2500m depth, 11°N area (11°25'N,
820 103°47'W) 2500 m depth; Mid-Atlantic Rodge: Lucky Strike (LS, 37°18'N, 32°16'W)
821 1700 m depth; Roscoff, France, 4-6 m depth. Map obtained and edited through Ocean
822 View Data 4 (Schlitzer 2015).

823

824 **Fig. 2** Bayesian phylogenetic tree based on annelid globins residues corresponding to the
825 alignment in Fig. 3. The type of each globin sequence is identified in the figure. Zoom area
826 represents the Polynoidae single-domain globins. Posterior probability (PP) values when
827 indicated are near the respective branch or represented as such: ***: ≥ 0.95 , **: ≥ 0.8 , *: ≥ 0.7 . Values below 0.7 were not represented (lowest PP=0.5). The conserved amino acid
828 residues are indicated in each color-coded group; yellow: all sequences, green: all
829 sequences but *Ascaris*, *Arenicola*, *Riftia* and *Alvinella*, salmon: all sequences but sperm-
830 whale (Phyca). See Fig. 3 for abbreviations.

832

833 **Fig. 3** Alignment of globin sequences from annelids, nematodes and a vertebrate (sperm-
834 whale, in bold). Polynoidae single- and tetra-domain globin sequences are shaded in light
835 gray. Conserved residues are shown in bold (CD1F and F8H), heme pocket residues that
836 explain the high O₂ affinity in *Ascaris* where shaded in dark gray in the Polynoidae, and
837 other species. Cysteines forming an intrachain disulfide bridge in typical extracellular
838 annelid globins (A2C and H10C) are underlined. Arrows indicate the residues under
839 positive selection in *Branchyolynoe*. Intron (I1 and I2) conserved positions shown above
840 the sequences. *d* and *p* represent distal and proximal contacts with the heme group, having
841 the Phyca myoglobin as a reference. Polynoidae sequences: Bsy: *B. symmytilida*; Bse: *B.*
842 *seepensis*; Bseg: *B. segonzaci*; Btri: *B. trifurcus*; Bngnov: *Branchinotogluma sp. nov.*;
843 Brcu: *B. cupreus*; Lewi: *L. williamsae*; Eulagisc: Eulagiscinae; Harmoext: *H. extenuata*.
844 Other globin sequences: Sboa: *Sthenelais boa* neuroglobin; Aacu: *Aphrodite aculeata*; Gly:
845 *Glycera sp.*; Tylo: *Tylorhynchus heterochaetus*; Lumt: *Lumbricus terrestris*; Tubifex:
846 *Tubifex tubifex*; Phese: *Pheretima seiboldi*; Rifb: *Riftia pachyptila* HBL-Hb and *Riftia: R.*

847 *pachyptila* intracellular globin; Lam: *Lamellibrachia* sp.; Amarina: *Arenicola marina*;
848 *Alvinella*: *Alvinella pompejana*; *Ophelia*: *Ophelia bicornis*; Asuum: *Ascaris suum*;
849 Omashikoi: *Oligobrachia mashikoi*; Phyca: *Physeter catodon*. SD: single-domain; D1-D4:
850 multi-domain globin type; Ng: neuroglobin; Mb: myoglobin; Hb: hemoglobin.

851

852 **Fig. 4** Maximum likelihood globin tree (443 bp alignment). Bootstrap values are
853 represented on top of each branch; for each lineage ω is represented in bold and ratios
854 indicate the maximum likelihood estimates of the numbers of non-synonymous (d_N) over
855 the synonymous (d_S) substitutions for the entire globin gene ; **a**, **b** and **c** represent the
856 chosen lineages for the *branch-site model* test (see results). In relevant clades, amino acids
857 in blue represent the positions correspondent to B10 and E7 (high O₂ affinity in *Ascaris*),
858 and in red to E11 and F6 (positive selection in the *Branchipolynoe* branch). Species
859 distribution and important characteristics are represented on the right of the tree. Sboa:
860 *Sthenelais boa*, Harmoext: *Harmothoe extenuata*, Lewi: *Lepidonotopodium williamsae*,
861 Brcu: *Branchiplicatus cupreus*, Bngnov: *Branchinotogluma* sp, Btri: *Branchinotogluma*
862 *trifurcus*, Bseg: *B. segonzaci*, Bse: *Branchipolynoe seepensis*, Bsy: *B. symmytilida*. SD:
863 single-domain

864

865 **Fig. 5** 3D structural model of *B. symmytilida* (Bsy), *B. trifurcus* (Btri) and Eulagiscinae
866 single-domain globin. The amino acid residues that are invariant in Fig. 3 in both vent
867 species (B10Y, and E7Q) are represented as sticks, residues target of positive selection in
868 *Branchipolynoe* (E11T and F6S) are represented as rugged spheres (also depicted in the *B.*
869 *trifurcus* and Eulagiscinae 3D models), residues highlighted by the ancestral reconstruction
870 analyses (B7V, E11T, F6S in *Branchipolynoe* and D3S/G, E4I and F3T/N in branch **b**) are
871 represented as spheres.

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