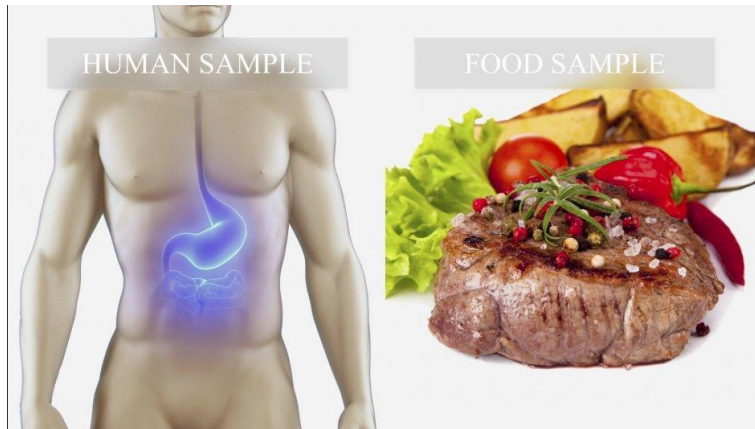


Bacterial strain typing:

characterizing a number of strains in detail and ascertaining whether they are derived from a single parental organism, **is a way to identify bacteria at the strain level and to uncover the genetic diversity underlying important phenotypic characteristics**

<https://multimedia.efsa.europa.eu/moleculartyping/index.htm>

<https://multimedia.efsa.europa.eu/moleculartyping/index.htm>



Uses of Typing methods

1. Epidemiologic usefulness:

1. To investigate the source of different strains in outbreak situations, to check the possibility of laboratory cross-contamination etc.
2. To determine whether the second episode of disease is due to a previously isolated strain or to a newly infecting strain, and
3. To determine whether an infection is caused by more than one strain of the organism

2. As an important infection control tool: to monitor the prevalence of certain strains within a healthcare institution or to investigate if a cluster of infections are unrelated or part of an outbreak



A: Phenotypic Typing Methods: Phenotyping techniques detect characteristics expressed by the microorganism. They are based on biochemical, antigenic or susceptibility (to phages or antimicrobial agents) properties of the organism.

- 1. Biotyping:** Based on metabolic characteristics expressed by an isolate; referred to as 'biotypes'
- 2. Serotyping:** Based on antigenic determinants expressed by the microorganism; referred to as 'serotypes'. O-antigen, K-antigen H-antigen
- 3. Phage typing:** Based on the pattern of resistance or susceptibility to a standard set of phages; referred to as 'phage types'.
- 4. Resistotyping:** Based on the resistance or susceptibility of the isolates against a set of arbitrarily chosen chemical agents
- 5. Bacteriocin typing:** Based on the susceptibility to a set of bacterial peptides (bacteriocin) produced by certain bacteria.

<https://microbeonline.com/bacterial-typing-methods-aim-attributes-and-types/>

B: Molecular Typing Methods: Molecular techniques are based on the analysis of chromosomal or extrachromosomal genetic elements (such as plasmid) of the organism.

In recent years a plethora of molecular-typing methods have appeared based on the analysis of fragments of DNA split by specific restriction enzymes. Their discriminatory powers and complexity vary widely. With the advancement of molecular epidemiology, a single machine is now able to generate a wealth of information needed to detect, monitor and control new threats such as drug resistance and the emergence of new pathogens. With the widespread use of molecular typing methods, phenotyping typing methods are now being obsolete.

- **Commonly used molecular tying methods are as follows:**

1. Amplified fragment length polymorphism (AFLP)
2. Enterobacterial repetitive intergenic consensus (ERIC)-PCR
3. Multilocus sequence typing (MLST)
4. Multilocus variable-number tandem repeat analysis (MLVA)
5. Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE)
6. PCR Ribotyping (agarose based or sequence-based)
7. Repetitive element PCR typing
8. Restriction endonuclease analysis (REA)
9. Surface layer protein A gene sequence typing (slpAST)
10. Whole-genome sequencing (WGS)

Bacterial typing methods



TYPING



FINGERPRINTING

The **discriminating power** of a method defines the level of correlation of strains in an epidemiological investigation



Typing methods:
pattern of bands or
DNA sequences



Typing methods: bands or sequences

Pattern

REA: Restriction endonuclease analysis
Rep-PCR: Repetitive element PCR typing
ERIC-PCR: Enterobacterial repetitive intergenic consensus
AFLP: Amplified fragment length polymorphism
PFGE: Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoresis
MLVA :Multiple-Locus Variable-number tandem-repeat Analysis
PCR Ribotyping (agarose based or sequence-based)

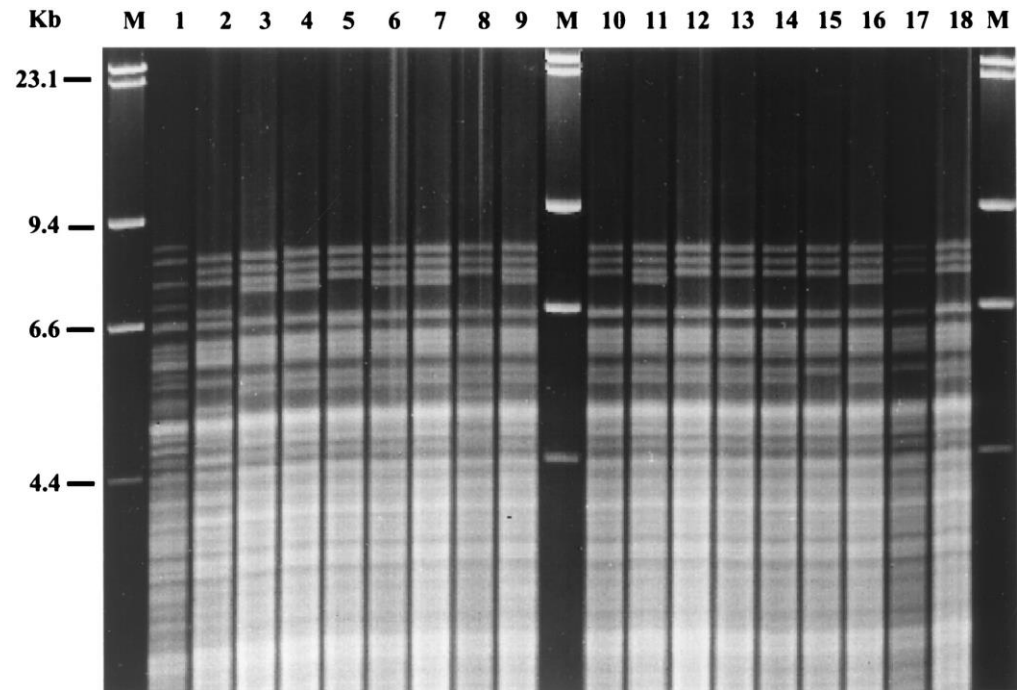
MLST: MultiLocus Sequence Typing
slpAST:Surface layer protein A gene sequence typing
WGS: Whole Genome Sequencing

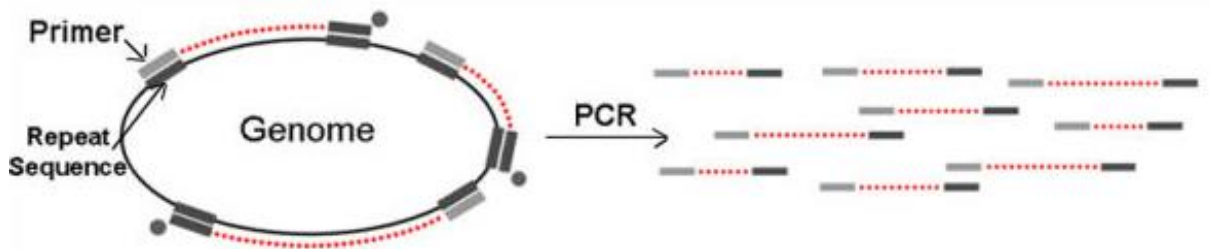
DNA sequences

REA: Restriction endonuclease analysis

Restriction endonuclease analyses (REAs) **constitute the only inexpensive molecular approach capable of typing and characterizing all strains based on their entire genome.** However, the application of this method is limited by the need for time-consuming and labor-intensive procedures.

Digestion of a preparation of genomic DNA and gel electrophoresis.

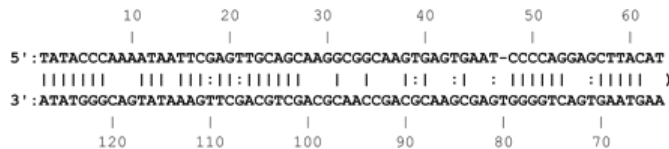


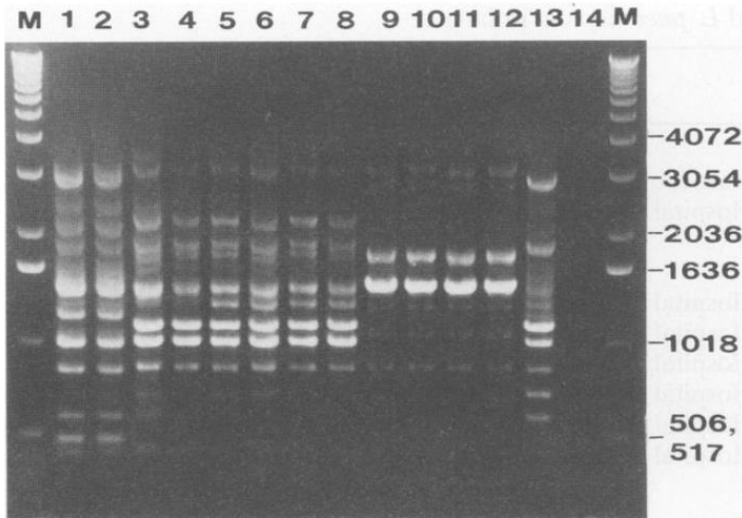


Rep-PCR: Repetitive *extragenic* palindromic PCR

It is based on the presence of regions of highly conserved and randomly interspersed repetitive DNA in the genome of a bacterium. The number and location of these regions varies within strains that show differences at the genomic level. The primers are found within the regions and are then generated a series of fragments that will have for each strain length and a defined number

Enterobacterial repetitive intergenic consensus (ERIC) sequences are 127-bp imperfect palindromes that occur in multiple copies in the genomes of enteric bacteria and vibrios





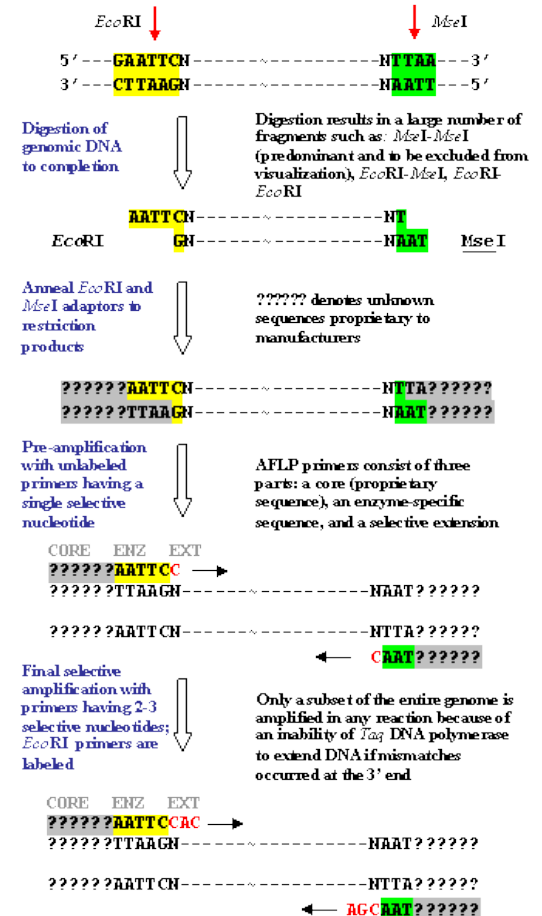
Genomic DNA of different strains were amplified by PCR using specific primers based on repeated rep sequences.

The products obtained by PCR are then separated on agarose gel and allow to identify similar / different strains e.g. (1,2)(3,4)(5-8)(9-12)13.

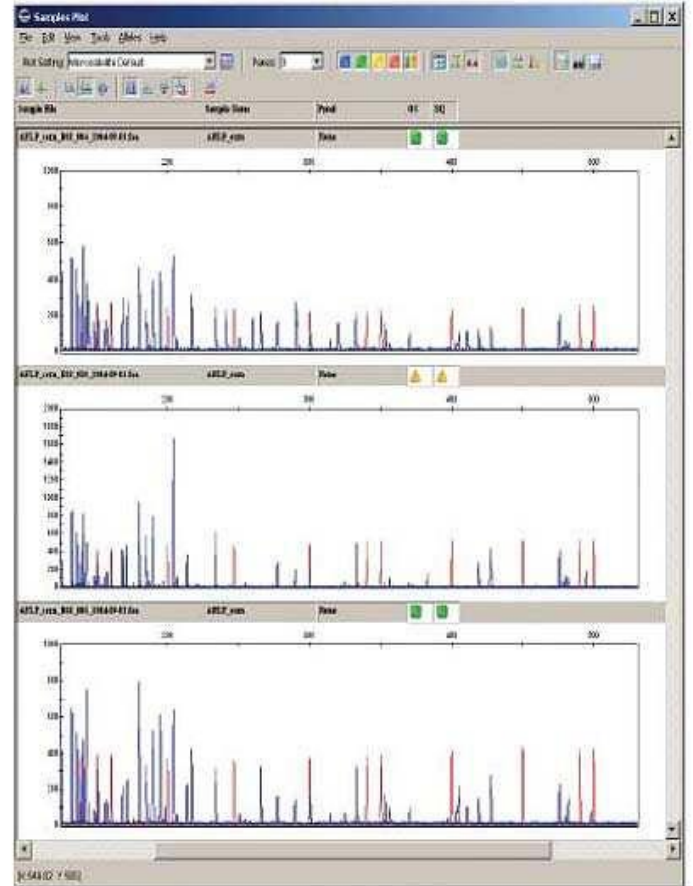
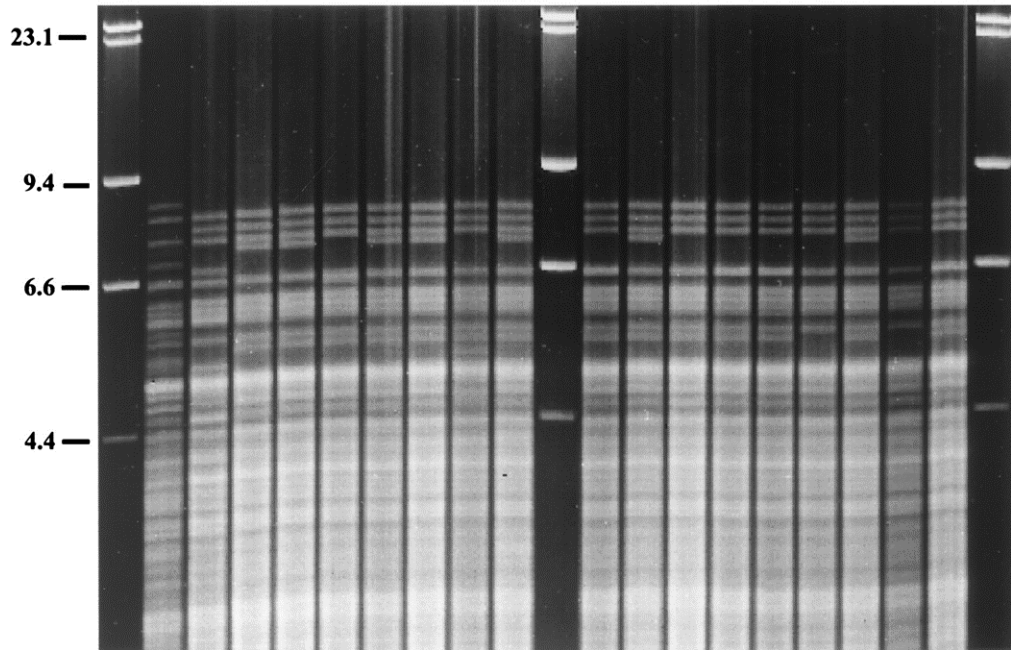
Amplified fragment length polymorphism (AFLP) is a PCR-based technique that uses selective amplification of a subset of digested DNA fragments to generate and compare unique fingerprints for genomes of interest. The power of this method relies mainly in that it does not require prior information regarding the targeted genome, as well as in its high reproducibility and sensitivity for detecting polymorphism at the level of DNA sequence.

- restriction of genomic DNA and ligation of adaptors (most often performed together) to restricted fragments; (i.e. MseI and EcoRI digestions and MseI-adaptor pair and EcoRI-adaptor pair)
- preselective PCR amplification of a subset of the restricted fragments;
- selective PCR amplification, reducing further fragment number; (i.e EcoRI primers: 5- GACTGCGTACCAATTCXXX where X stands for selective nucleotides)
- electrophoretic separation of amplified DNA fragments (capillary electrophoresis in a Sanger sequencer);
- scoring and interpretation of the data

AFLP procedure



Kb M 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 M 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 M



Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoresis:

This is a widely used technique for analyzing a large amount of chromosomal DNA found in large bacterial chromosomal fragments generated by endonuclease digestion.

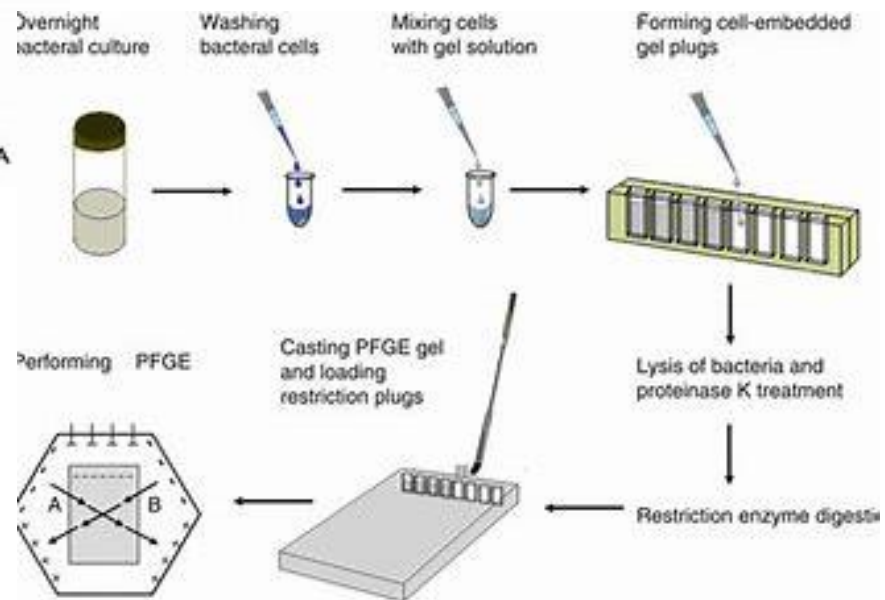
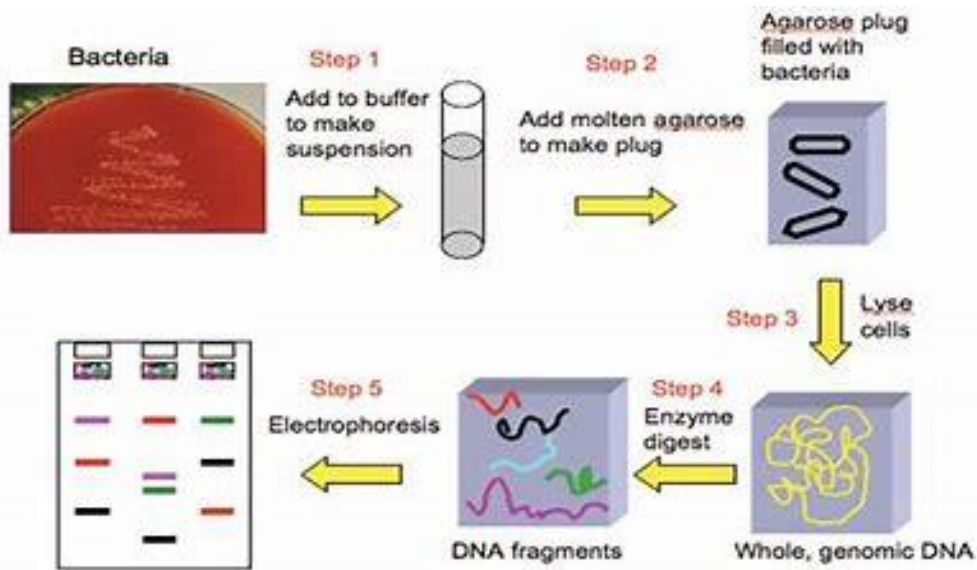
PULSE FIELD GEL ELECTROPHORESIS

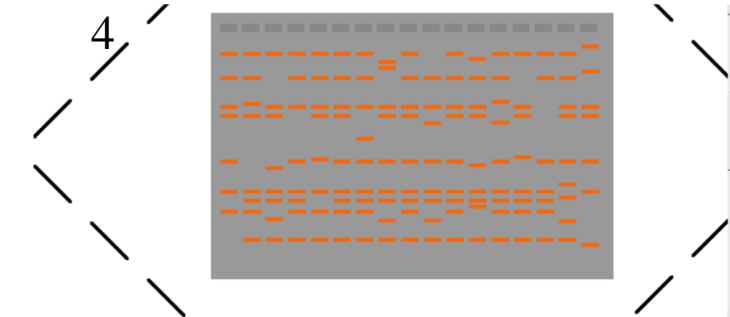
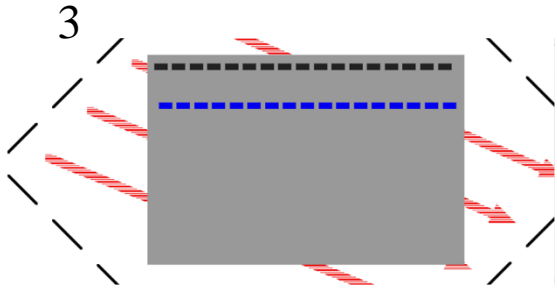
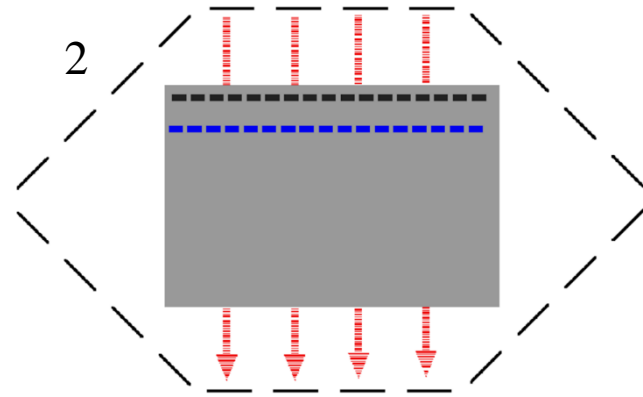
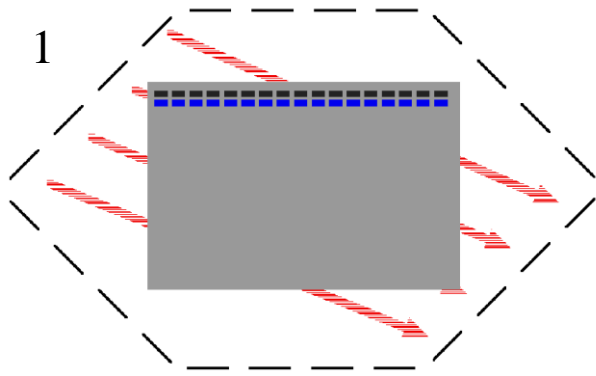
The method consists of an electrophoresis on agarose gel in which two electrical fields with different angles are applied alternately for defined periods of time (e.g. 60s).

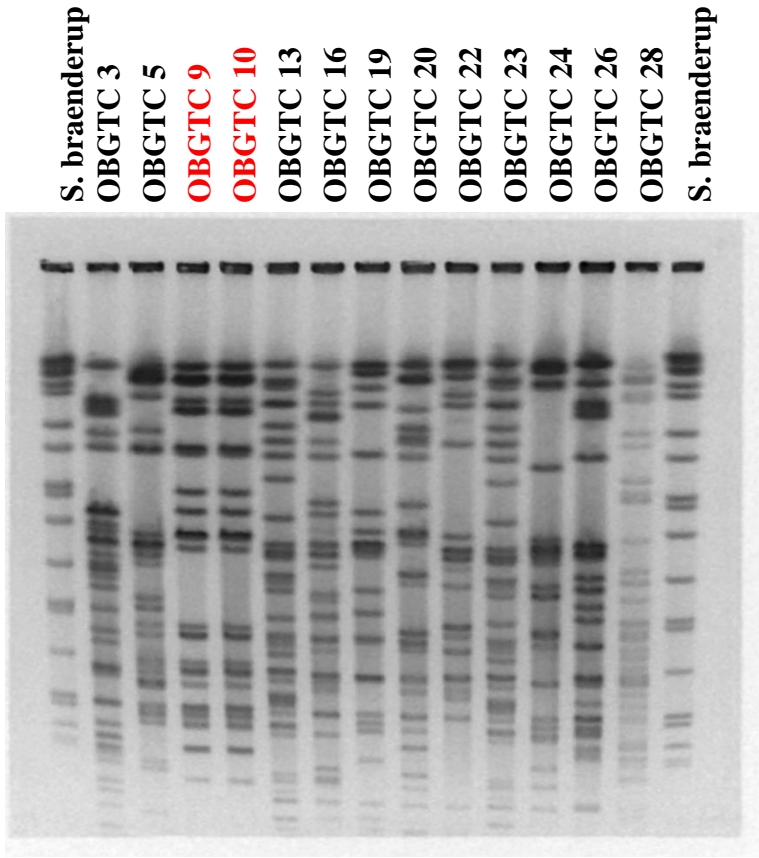
The action of the first electric field induces the movement of DNA fragments along the direction of the field. The interruption of this field and the application of the second causes the molecules to move in the new direction.

Since for a linear long-chain molecule there is a relationship between the conformational change induced by an electric field and the length of the molecule itself, the smaller molecules will realign faster in the new electric field than the larger ones.

In this way, not only the smaller molecules are separated from the larger ones but, thanks to the different re-orientation times typical of larger fragments, also large molecules between them.





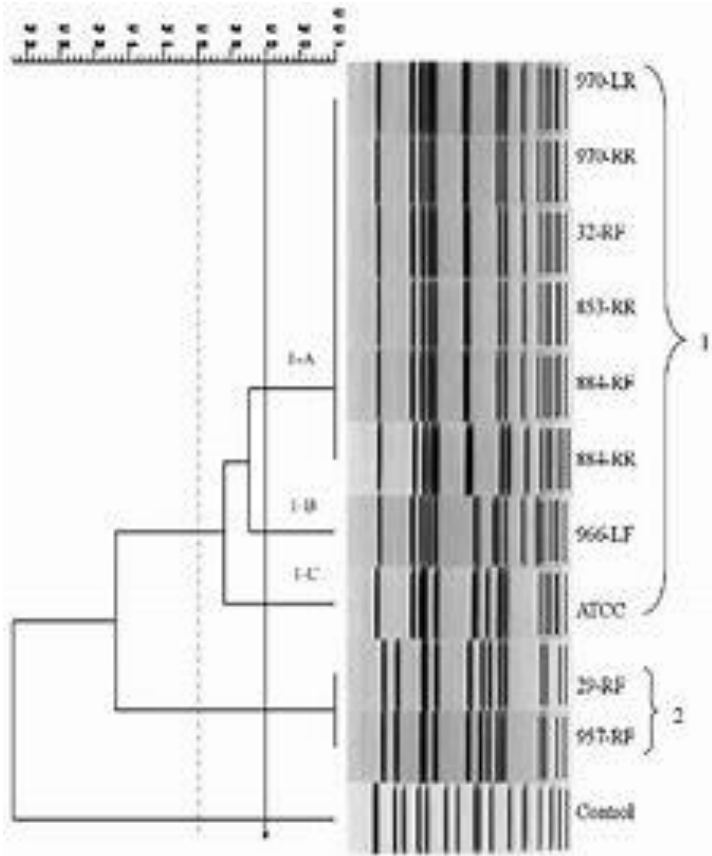


PFGE
XbaI digestion

Band pattern

Pulsotypes

Genomic DNA macrorestriction profiles of *S. maltophilia* produced by PFGE



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International ▾
Networks ▾
Molecular Typing ▾
Publications ▾

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PulseNet International

- 🏠 PulseNet
- About PulseNet +
- What We Do +
- PulseNet Methods & Protocols -
- WGS
- PFGE
- Protocols
- Protocol Images
- Next Generation Technology
- PulseNet Participants +

PulseNet Methods

PulseNet uses a variety of methods to subtype: *E. coli* (Q157 and other Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*), *Campylobacter*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Vibrio cholerae*, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, and *Cronobacter* isolates. [Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis \(PFGE\)](#), [multiple locus variable number tandem repeat analysis \(MLVA\)](#), and [whole genome sequencing \(WGS\)](#) are PulseNet's main subtyping (or fingerprinting) tools.

WGS

PFGE

MLVA

MLVA: Multiple-Locus Variable-number tandem-repeat Analysis

“The MLVA method indexes genetic variation at well defined genomic loci and produces reproducible allelic profiles that can be coded in a simple digital format.

Hence, they represent an attractive alternative to banding profile-based methods such as pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE), which requires dedicated efforts (e.g.

<http://www.cdc.gov/pulsenet>) in order to produce fingerprinting data that are comparable across laboratories.

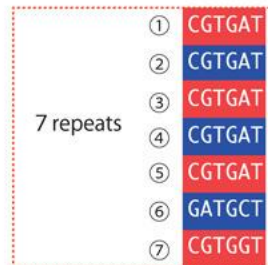
Indeed, to be useful to surveillance networks and for global epidemiology, a genotyping method has to be technically accessible, reproducible and to yield easily portable data. In addition, electronic databases that are made accessible through the Internet can render exchange and comparison of data among laboratories very effective for local, national, and international surveillance.”

Guigon G, Cheval J, Cahuzac R, Brisse S. MLVA-NET – a standardised web database for bacterial genotyping and surveillance. *Euro Surveill.* 2008;13(19):pii=18863.

MLVA

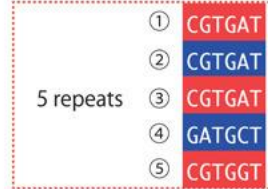
ms207: repeat unit size = 6 bp

PAO1: 146 bp 5' ACGGCGAACAGCACCAGCA GCGCGGCAGCCAGCAG
CCGGCGCCAGGGCGACGCGGCCTGTGCCCATGGC

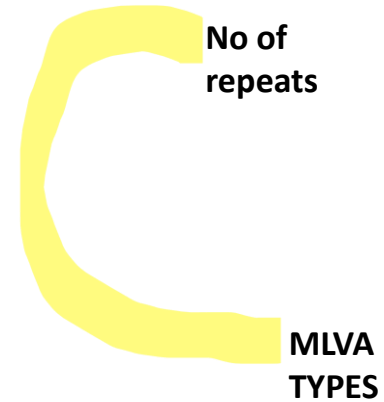
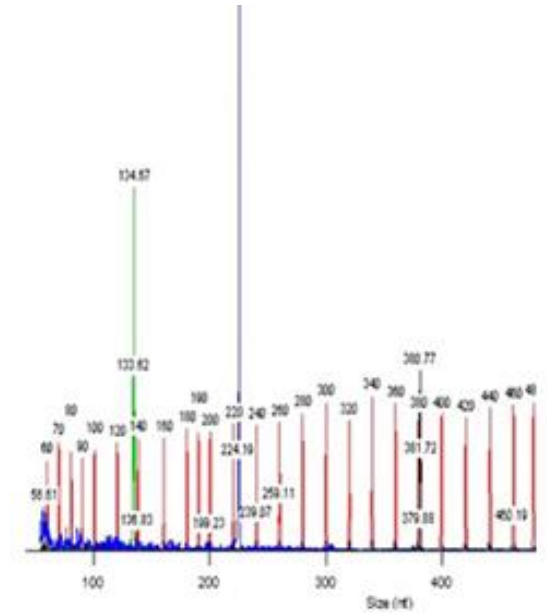


GGCTGTGCCAGTGGG AGTGACCAGGGCTCAAGAG 3'
ms207R

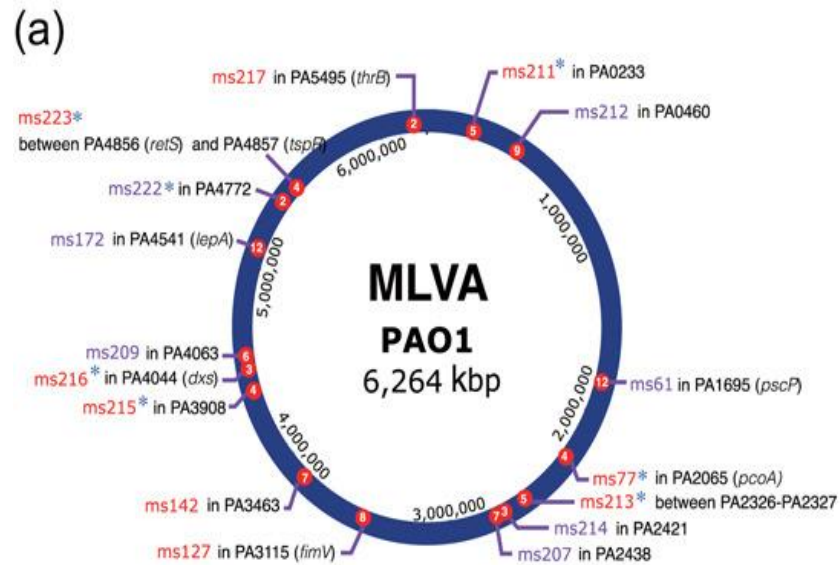
PA14: 135 bp 5' ACGGCGAACAGCACCAGCA GCGCGGCAGCCAGCAG
CCGGCGCCAGGGCGGCGGCCTGTGCCCATGGC

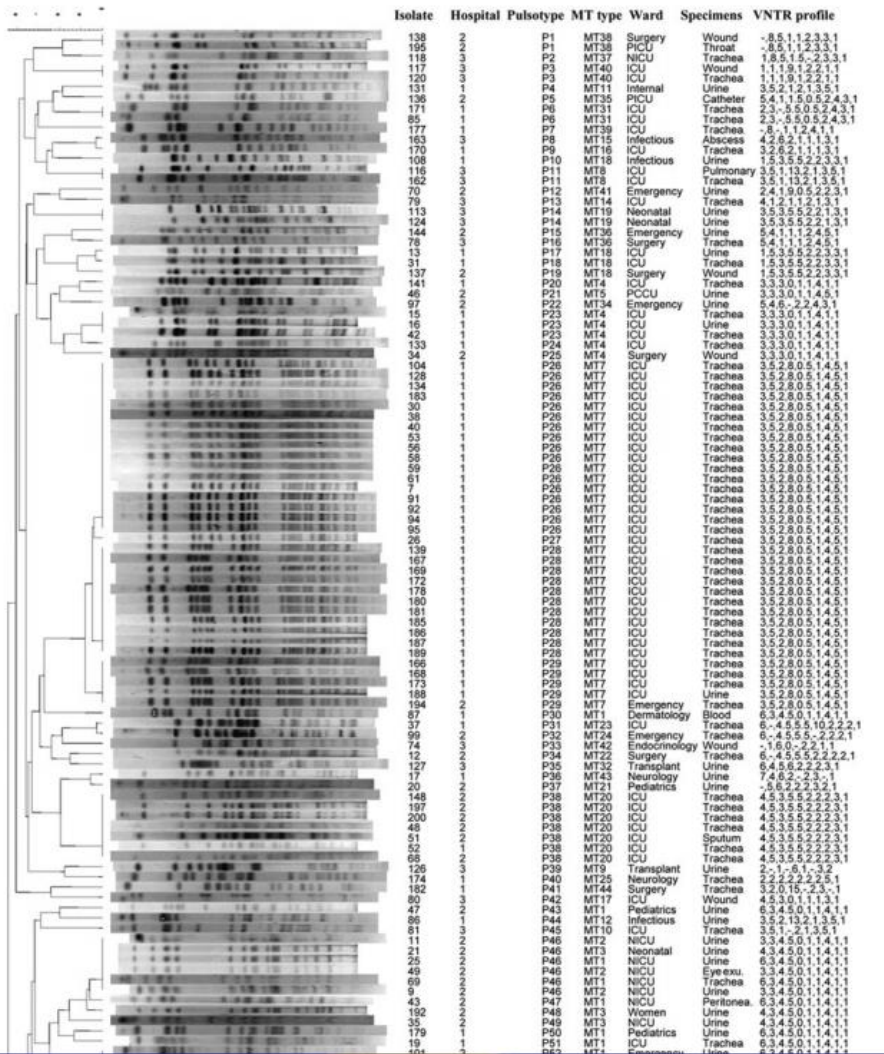


GGCTGTGCCAGTGGG AGTGACCAGGGCTCAAGAG 3'
ms207R



Molecular epidemiology of clinically high-risk *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strains: Practical overview



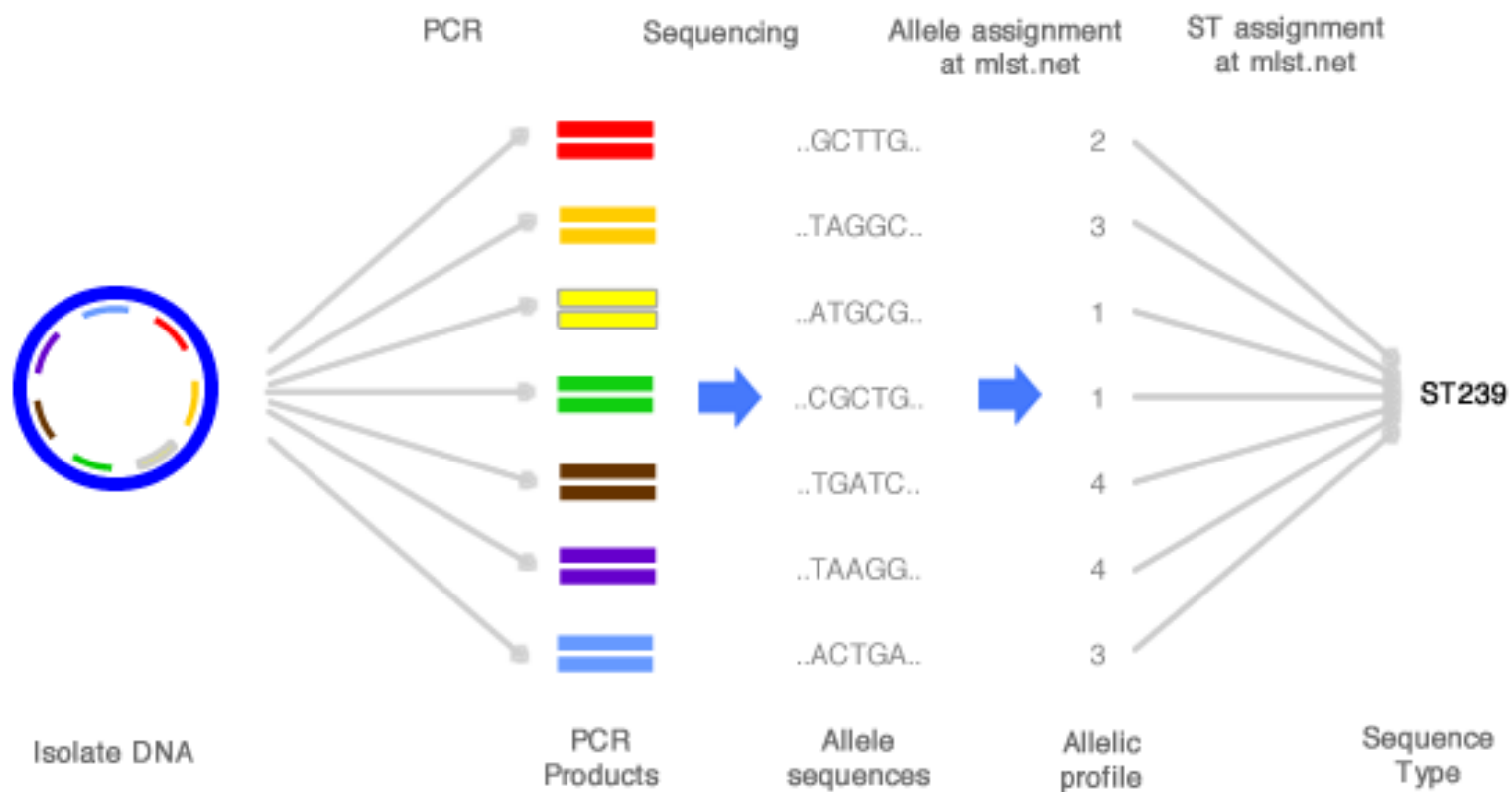


Derakhshan et al., 2016. Multiple-Locus Variable Number Tandem Repeat Analysis of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*: Comparison with Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoresis Microbial Drug Resistance 23(5)

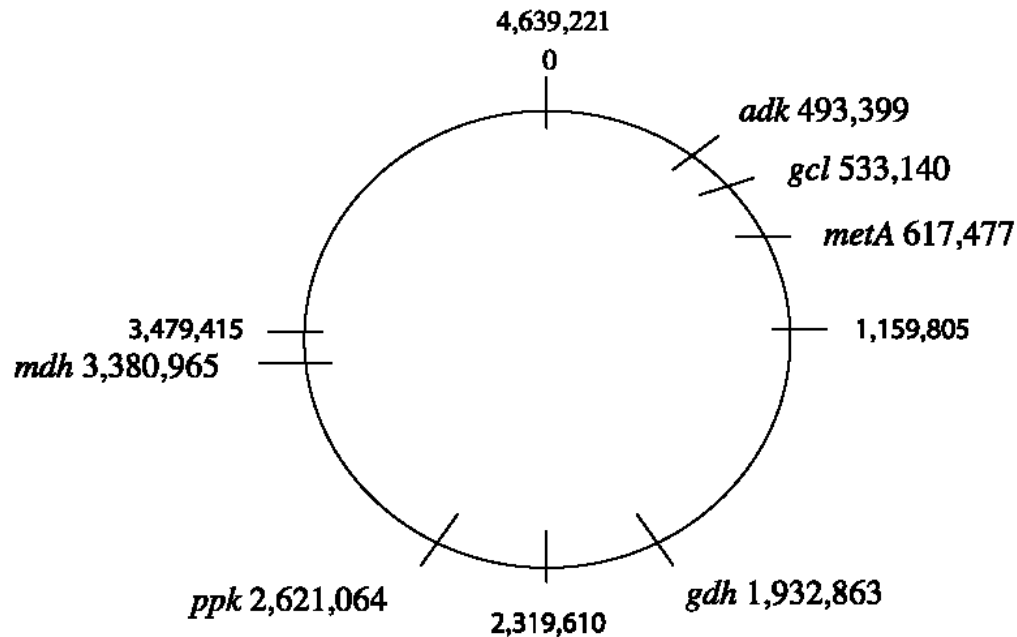
Multilocus Sequence Typing:

This is a genome-based version of the conventional method of multilocus enzyme electrophoresis. It helps in the typing of various bacterial species by identifying DNA alleles from various organisms.

This method involves PCR amplification and the nucleic acid sequencing of multiple internal fragments of housekeeping genes. The advantages of this method are that the culturing of pathogenic micro-organisms is avoided and that the sequencing data are unambiguous, easy to standardize, and electronically portable.



MultiLocus Sequence Typing: genes along the chromosome



***Vibrio cholerae* primers**

Gene	Gene Product	Direction	Oligonucleotide Sequence (5' à 3')
<i>adk</i>	adenylate kinase	F	CATCATTCTTCTCGGTGCTC
		R	AGTGCCGTCAAAC TTCAGGTA
<i>gyrB</i>	DNA gyrase subunit B	F	GTACGTTTCTGGCCTAGTGC
		R	GGGTCTTTTTCTGACAATC
<i>metE</i>	methionine synthase	F	CGGGTGACTTTGCTTGGT
		R	CAGATCGACTGGGCTGTG
<i>mdh</i>	malate dehydrogenase	F	ATGAAAGTCGCTGTTATTGG
		R	GCCGCTTGGCCCATAGAAAG
		R	TAGCTTGATAGGTTGGG
<i>pntA</i>	pyridine nucleotide transhydrogenase	F	CTTTGATGGAAAACTCTCA
		R	GATATTGCCGTCTTTTTCTT
		F	GGCCAGCCCAAAATCCT
<i>purM</i>	phosphoribosyl-formylglycinamide cyclo-ligase	F	GGTGTCGATATTGATGCAGG
		R	GGAATGTTTTCCCAGAAGCC
<i>pyrC</i>	dihydroorotase	F	ATCATGCCTAACACGGTTCC
		R	TTCAAACACTTCGGCATA



Available Databases

Salmonella Strains:278376

Assembled

- Legacy:4930
- From NGS:273446
- In Progress:202

Schemes

- Achtman 7 Gene MLST:278334
- cgMLST V2 + HierCC V1:272096
- rMLST:273222
- wgMLST:272534

[Database Home](#)



Escherichia/Shigella Strains:157082

Assembled

- Legacy:9525
- From NGS:147557
- In Progress:1098

Schemes

- Achtman 7 Gene MLST:156931
- cgMLST V1 + HierCC V1:147448
- rMLST:147458
- wgMLST:147205

[Database Home](#)



Clostridioides Strains:20223

Assembled

- From NGS:20223
- In Progress:12

Schemes

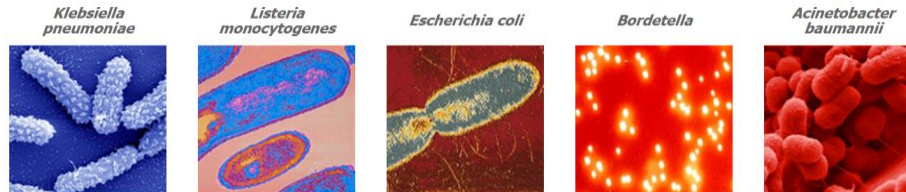
- cgMLST V1 + HierCC V1:20177
- Griffiths 7 Gene:20222
- rMLST:20222
- wgMLST:20193

[Database Home](#)



This site hosts databases of multilocus sequence typing (MLST) and whole-genome based typing schemes, which are used for genotyping of bacterial isolates. They provide reference nomenclatures of microbial strains and are mainly intended for molecular epidemiology of pathogens of public health importance, detection of virulence and antimicrobial resistance genes, and for population biology research. This site is powered by the [BIGSdb](#) software.

Databases hosted on this site



PUBLICATION : JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Multilocus sequence typing of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* nosocomial isolates



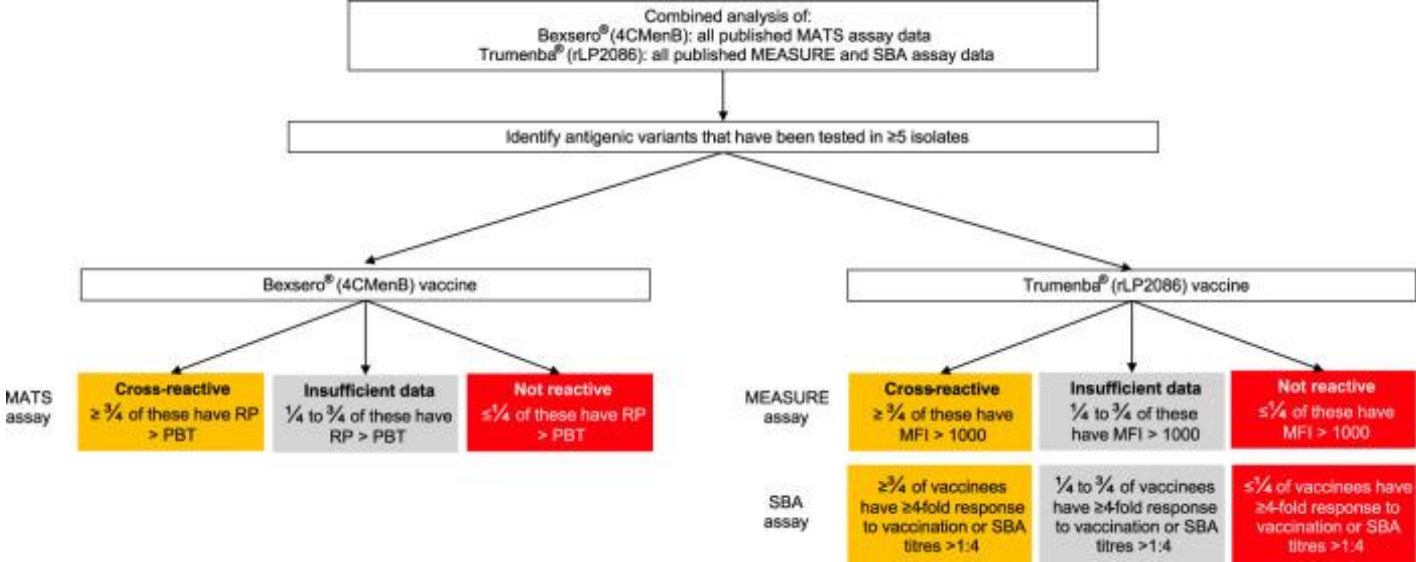
Member: Sylvain Brisse

The Deduced Vaccine Antigen Reactivity (MenDeVAR) Index was developed to combine multiple, complex data that inform the reactivity of the Bexsero[®] and Trumenba[®] vaccines against specific antigenic variants.

- Bexsero[®] (4CMenB) is a multicomponent vaccine. Peptide sequence diversity can be analysed using the Bexsero Antigen Sequence Typing (BAST) scheme ([Brehony et al. 2016](#)). The vaccine contains antigen variants: fHbp peptide 1; NHBA peptide 2; NadA peptide 8; PorA VR2 4.

- Trumenba[®] (rLP2086) is a bivalent fHbp-containing vaccine. Peptide sequence diversity can be analysed using the fHbp peptide locus. The vaccine contains fHbp peptide variants 45 and 55.

Meningococcal Deduced Vaccine Antigen Reactivity (MenDeVAR) Index: a Rapid and Accessible Tool That Exploits Genomic Data in Public Health and Clinical Microbiology Applications. Charlene M. C. Rodrigues, Keith A. Jolley, Andrew Smith, J. Claire Cameron, Ian M. Feavers, Martin C. J. Maiden. J Clin Microbiol. 2021 Jan; 59(1): e02161-20.



The Meningococcal Deduced Vaccine Antigen Reactivity (MenDeVAR) Index algorithm used to identify which antigens are included as cross-reactive in the combined analysis of published experimental data from the meningococcal antigen typing system (MATS), the meningococcal antigen surface expression (MEASURE) assay, and the serum bactericidal activity (SBA) assay. RP, relative potency; PBT, positive bactericidal threshold; MFI, mean fluorescence intensity.

(a)

Provenance/primary metadata

id: 19992	disease: invasive (unspecified/other)	update history: 175 updates show details
isolate: M10 240568	species: Neisseria meningitidis	date entered: 2012-09-05
strain designation: B: P1.22.14; F5-5: ST-213 (cc213)	serogroup: B	datestamp: 2020-10-06
country: UK [England]	genogroup: B	
continent: Europe	capsule group: B	
region: Eastern	ENA run accession: ERR170963 www.ebi.ac.uk/ena	
year: 2010	sender: Dorothea Hill, University of Oxford, UK	
epidemiological year: 07/2010-06/2011	curator: Auto Tagger	

Secondary metadata

Vaccines

Bexsero reactivity: cross-reactive  [4 notes](#)

Bexsero notes: fHbp_peptide: 15 is cross-reactive to vaccine variant - data derived from MATS assays (PMID:23414709, PMID:23588089, PMID:26686998, PMID:26950303, PMID:27355628, PMID:28366725, PMID:30135218, PMID:30592763, PMID:51770063)

Trumenba reactivity: cross-reactive  [4 notes](#)

Trumenba notes: fHbp_peptide: 15 is cross-reactive to vaccine variant - data derived from MEASURE assays (PMID:29535195), and SBA assays (PMID:22569484, PMID:22718089, PMID:23552429, PMID:26407272, PMID:26707218, PMID:26803328, PMID:26835874, PMID:27745812, PMID:27846061, PMID:28196734, PMID:28566335, PMID:29236639)

(b)

MenDeVAR (Meningococcal Deduced Vaccine Antigen Reactivity) Index

Please paste in your sequence to query against the database. Please note that this may take a while (~40 s) for a genome assembly.

Enter query sequence (single or multiple contigs up to whole genome in size) Alternatively upload FASTA file

Set FASTA file:

```

fHBMGSDM STAGTCTSR C*SGCTTTK STAGGSDS DLTGATTS GAGGCTG
AGCAGDMS GCGSDMSD GAGDMSD DDTTDCS CAGACTCS CCGDMSCT
KLSGKSG GAGCGGCS STGAGGCS AAGGAGAH BTTRMMS DLTGATTS
NAGAGTCA TTTCGAMA CAGAGCTC ACCTCTTSH CAGAGTCA DGAAGAA
TTCAGDCH KSGAGAAH CAGAGCTC AGCGAGGAC HCTTRMMS CAGAGAA
AGCCTTTD ACCTTATCS TGAATGMA BTGAGDMS DCTTATTA TTTGAGAG
  
```

Matches

fHbp_peptide: 15
 NHSA_peptide: reactivity
 NHaA_peptide: reactivity
 PsaA_182: reactivity

Vaccine cross-reactivity

Bexsero®

Explanation:

- fHbp_peptide: 15 is cross-reactive to vaccine variant - data derived from MATS assays (PMID:23414709, PMID:23588089, PMID:26686998, PMID:26950303, PMID:27355628, PMID:28366725, PMID:30135218, PMID:30592763, PMID:51770063)

Notes:

CROSS-REACTIVE Bexsero® (NCHad) is a multicomponent vaccine.

Trumenba®

Explanation:

- fHbp_peptide: 15 is cross-reactive to vaccine variant - data derived from MEASURE assays (PMID:29535195), and SBA assays (PMID:22569484, PMID:22718089, PMID:23552429, PMID:26407272, PMID:26707218, PMID:26803328, PMID:26835874, PMID:27745812, PMID:27846061, PMID:28196734, PMID:28566335, PMID:29236639)

Notes:

CROSS-REACTIVE Trumenba® (GCP288) is a trivalent fHbp-containing vaccine.

Upload a meningococcal genome assembly by pasting in to the web form or uploading a FASTA file. On submission, the protein variants found in the genome are determined and the vaccine reactivity results given as below for each vaccine:

- **exact match:** isolate contains ≥ 1 exact sequence match to antigenic variants found in the vaccine.

- **cross-reactive:** isolate contains ≥ 1 antigenic variant deemed cross-reactive to vaccine variants through experimental studies.

- **none:** all the isolate's antigenic variants have been deemed not cross-reactive to vaccine variants through experimental studies.

- **insufficient data:** isolate contains antigens for which there is insufficient data from or are yet to be tested in experimental studies.

The output is supplemented with a detailed description of the evidence supporting the result. *Only evidence published in the scientific literature is used.*

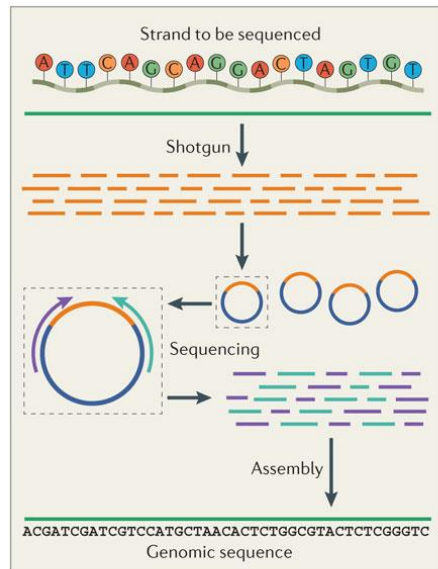
In conclusion, we present a generalizable multilocus gene-by-gene framework for interpreting complex genomic data sets that can be used by practitioners to address clinical questions in a timely manner. Specifically, the MenDeVAR Index combines genomic and experimental data to provide a rational, evidence-based estimate of the likelihood that either of the meningococcal protein-based vaccines offers protection against a given meningococcus. To ensure broad accessibility, the MenDeVAR Index is implemented with a “red,” “amber,” and “green” interpretive interface that is easy to use and informative for practitioners without expertise in genomic analysis. In the light of new published evidence, the MenDeVAR Index can be regularly reevaluated using the criteria described here, adjusting antigenic variant designations accordingly, to ensure that public health and clinical microbiologists globally benefit from the latest research findings

20 years of Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) of bacteria

- Robust data: one method for all bacterial species
- Data storage for later analysis
- Monitoring of epidemic cases in hospital
- Monitoring emergency prevalent and emerging clones
- Identification of all genes of interest
- International comparison of prevalent and emerging clones

20 years of bacterial genome sequencing

The First Revolution
Whole-genome shotgun

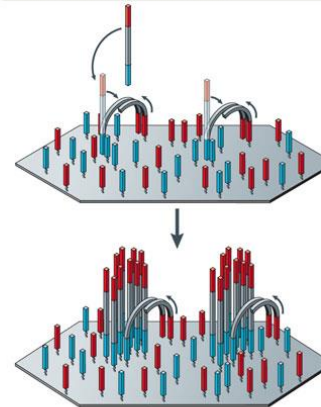


Sanger shotgun sequencing

- Sequencing by synthesis
- Amplified templates generated *in vivo*
- Requires onerous colony picking and plasmid preparation

For example, ABI capillary sequencer (ABI)

The Second Revolution
High-throughput sequencing



454 sequencing

- Sequencing by synthesis
- Amplified templates generated *in vitro*
- High accuracy outside homopolymers but short read lengths

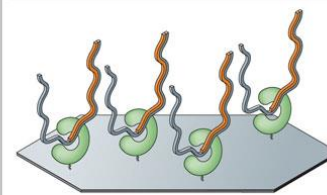
For example, 454 GS FLX+ (Roche)

Illumina sequencing

- Sequencing by synthesis
- Amplified templates generated *in vitro*
- High accuracy but short read lengths

For example, MiSeq (Illumina)

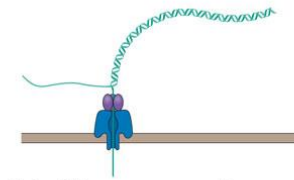
The Third Revolution
Single-molecule sequencing



Pac Bio SMRT sequencing

- Sequencing by synthesis
- Single-molecule templates
- Low accuracy but long read lengths

For example, PacBio RS
(Pacific Biosciences)

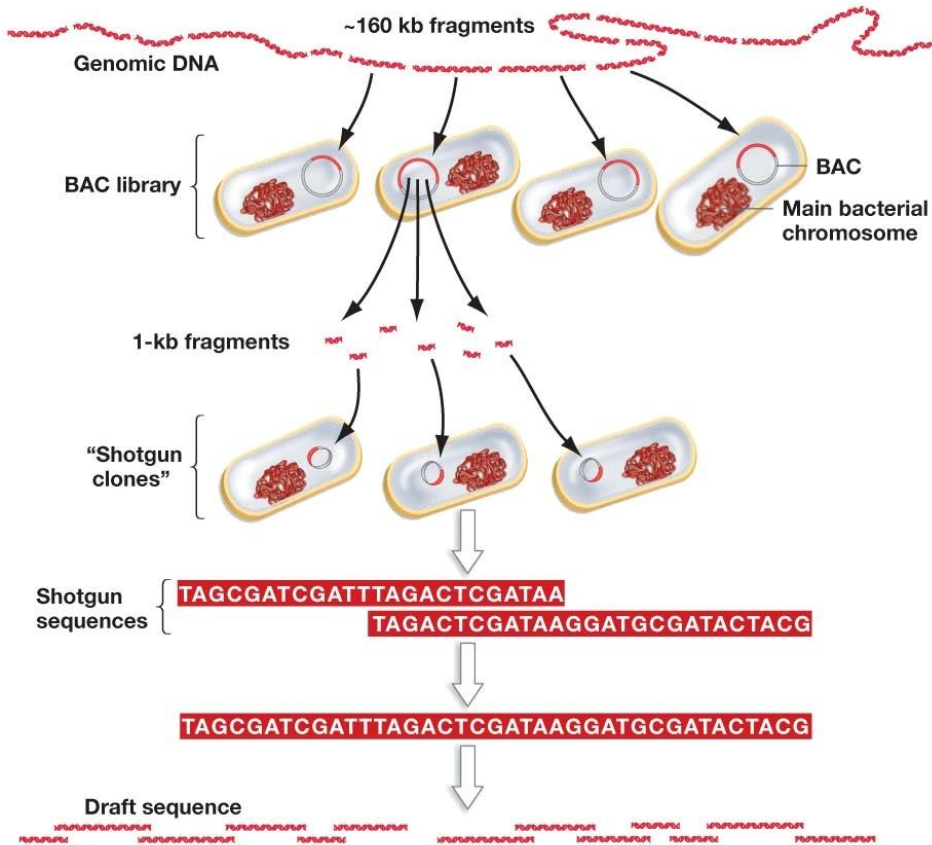


Oxford Nanopore sequencing

- Nanopore sequencing
- Single-molecule templates
- Low accuracy but long read lengths

For example, MinION
(Oxford Nanopore)

SHOTGUN SEQUENCING A GENOME



1. Cut DNA into fragments of ~160 kb, using sonication.

2. Insert fragments into bacterial artificial chromosomes; grow in *E. coli* cells to obtain large numbers of each fragment.

3. Purify each 160-kb fragment, then cut each into a set of 1-kb fragments, using sonication, so that 1-kb fragments overlap.

4. Insert 1-kb fragments into plasmids; grow in *E. coli* cells. Obtain many copies of each fragment.

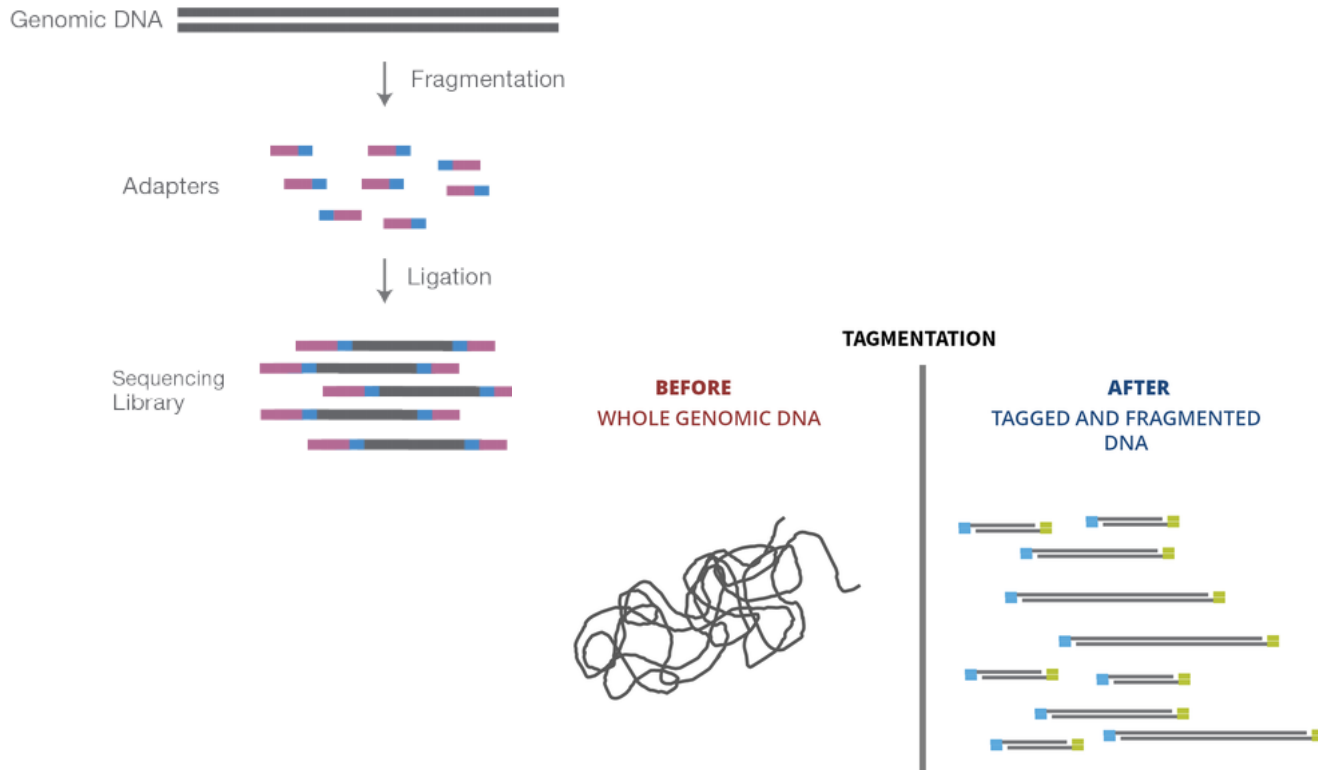
5. Sequence each fragment. Find regions where different fragments overlap.

6. Assemble all the 1-kb fragments from each original 160-kb fragment by matching overlapping ends.

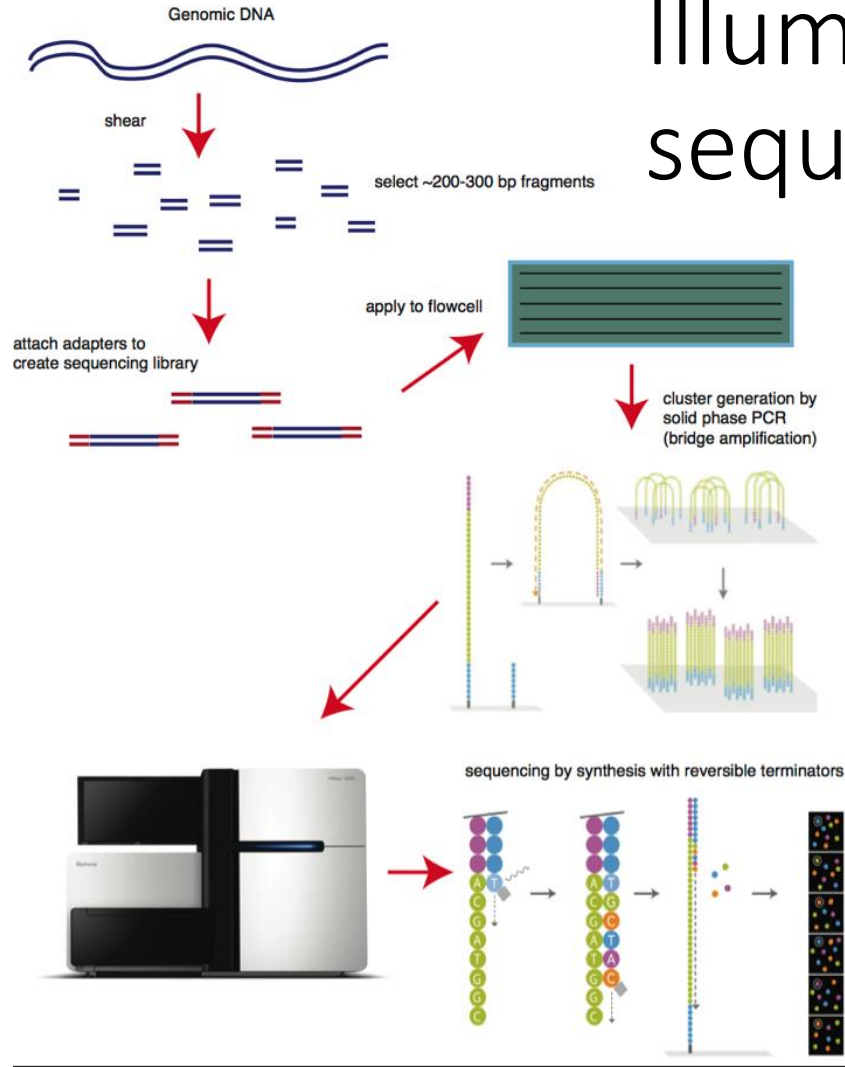
7. Assemble sequences from different BACs (160-kb fragments) by matching overlapping ends.

Whole-genome sequencing

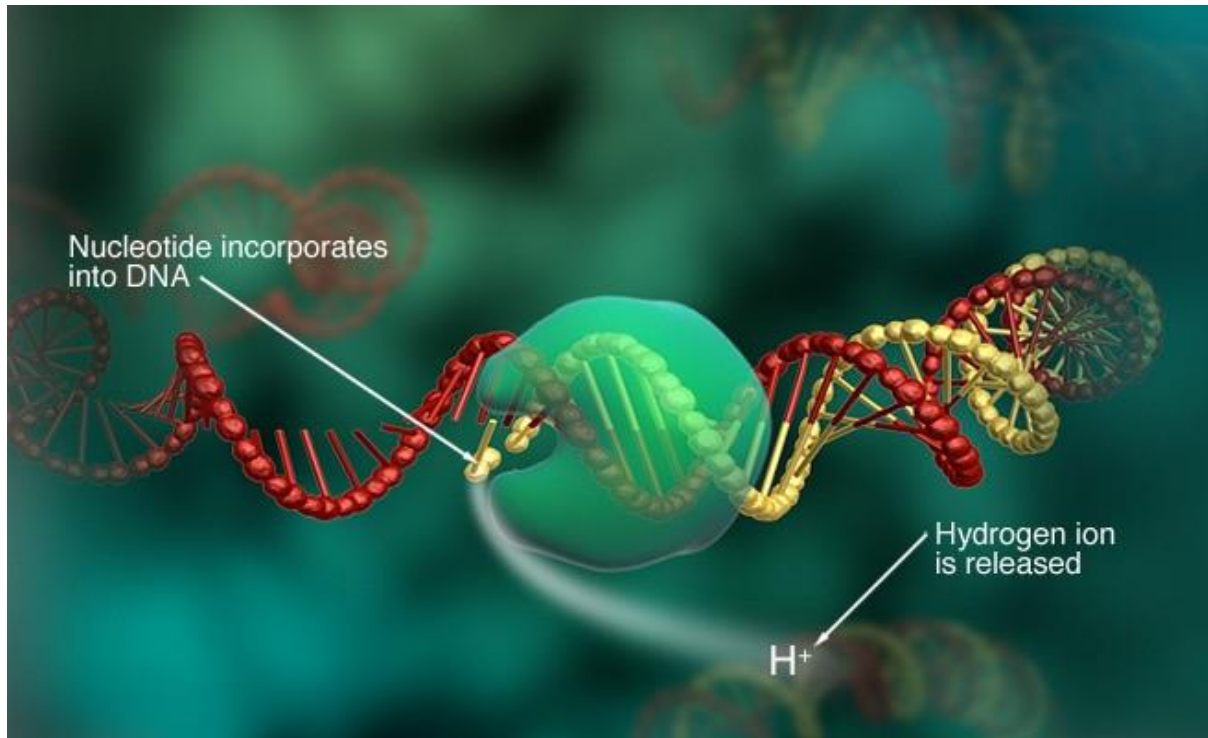
2nd generation



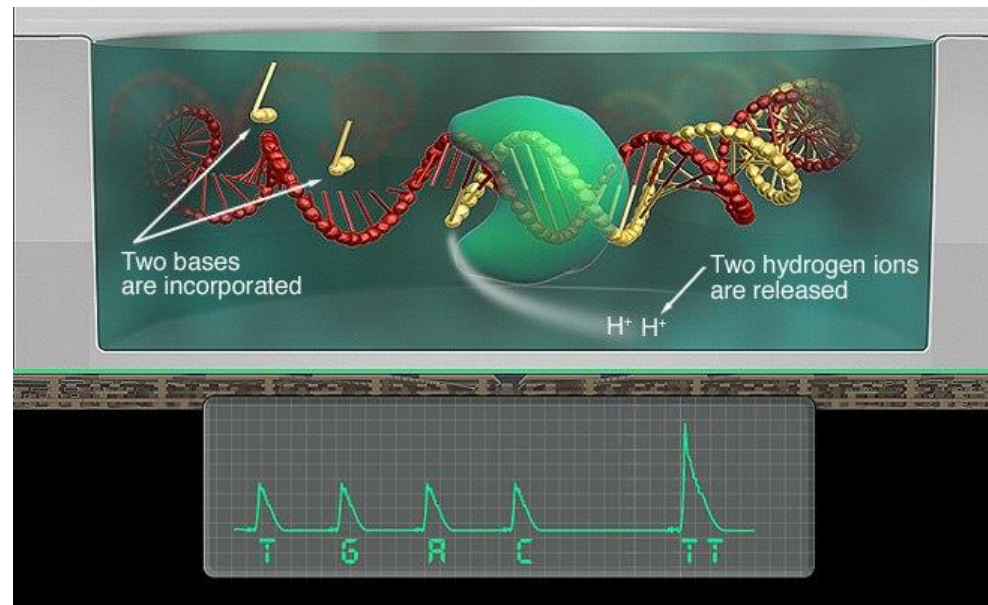
Illumina sequencing



ION TORRENT Technology



Ion Torrent™ technology directly translates chemically encoded information (A, C, G, T) into digital information (0, 1) on a semiconductor chip. This approach marries simple chemistry to proprietary semiconductor technology



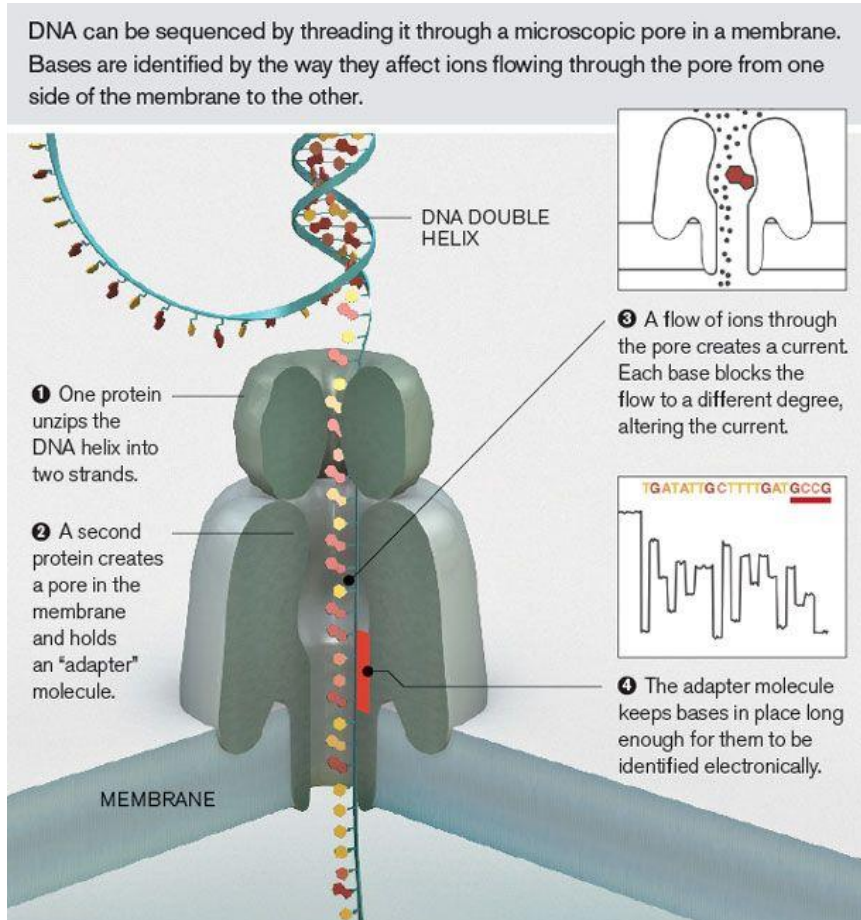
<https://www.thermofisher.com/it/en/home/life-science/sequencing/next-generation-sequencing/ion-torrent-next-generation-sequencing-technology.html>

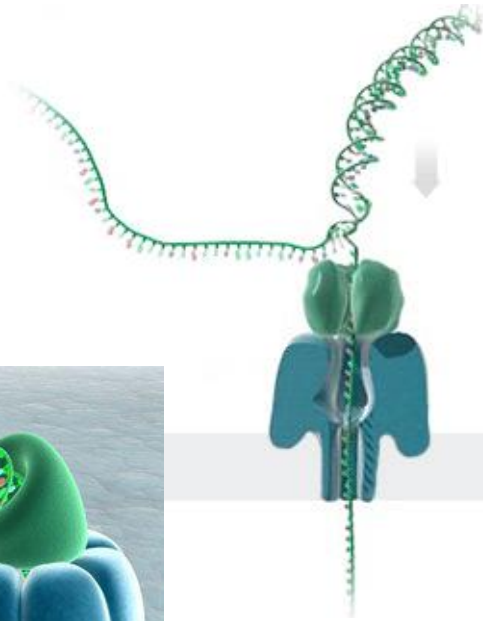
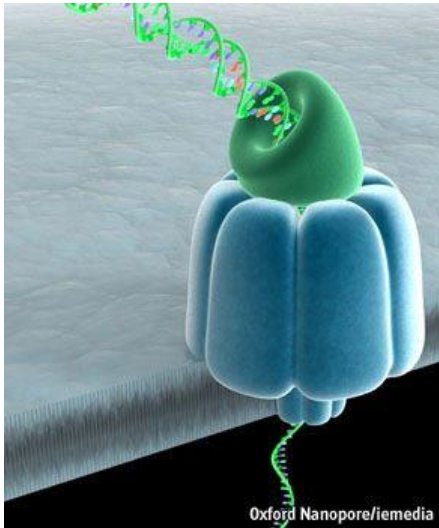
Nanopore sequencing



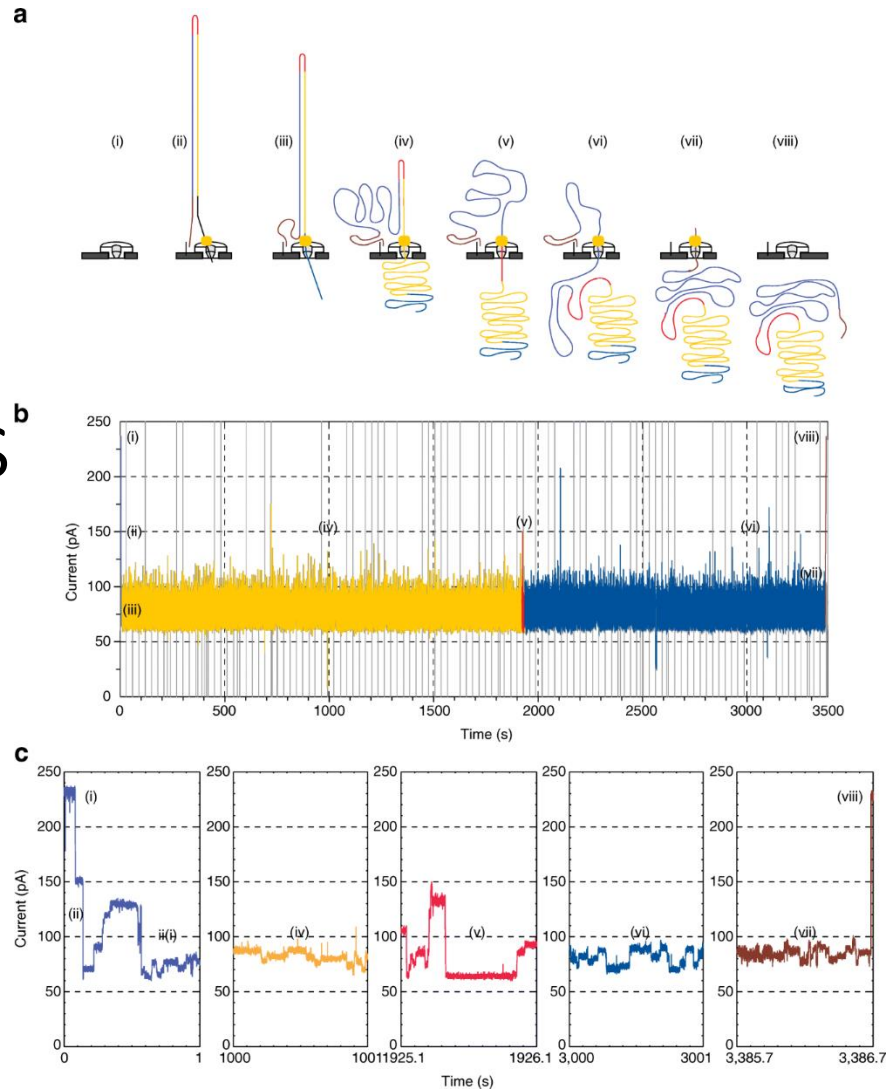


Nanopore sequencing

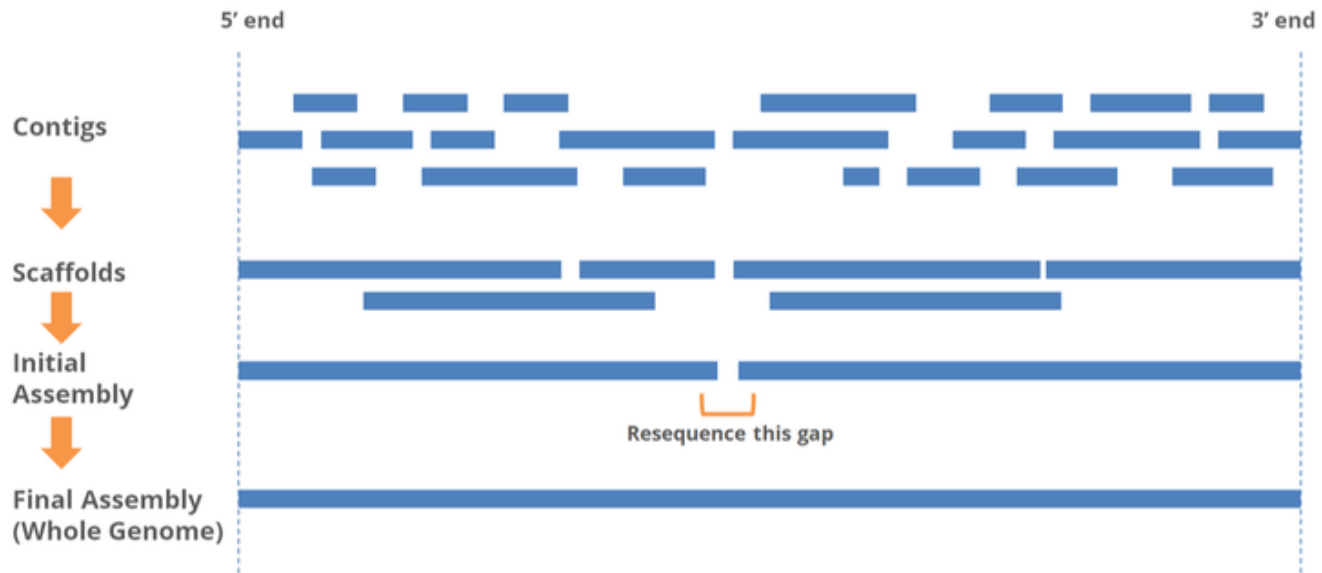




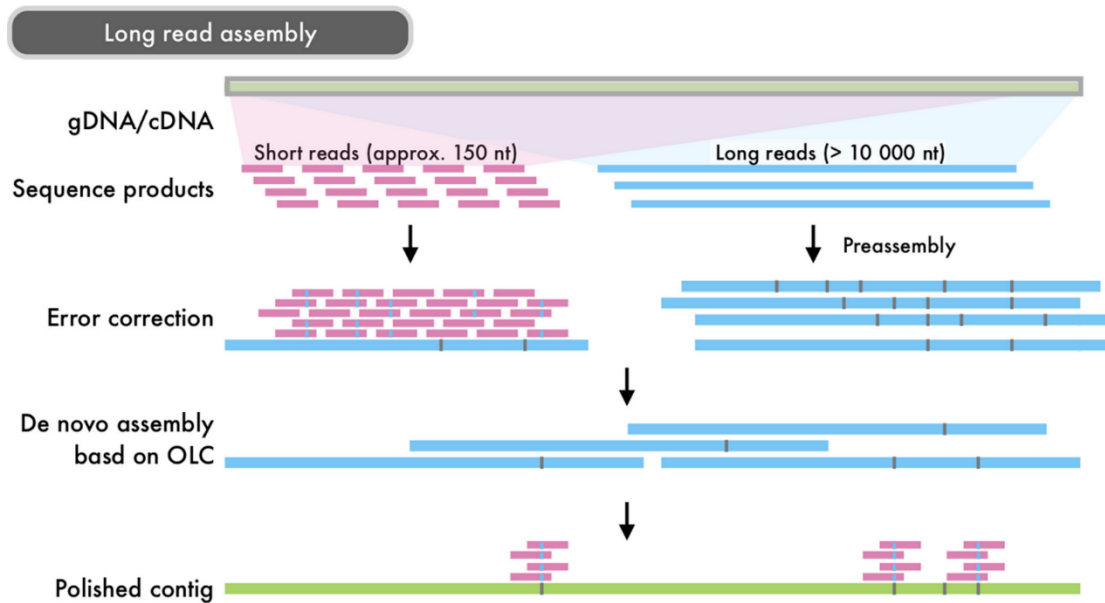
Nanopore sequencing:
long reads but mistakes!!
!



Assembler



short reads and long reads



Studying genome content

- De novo sequencing
- Comparative analysis with reference genomes
- Identification of peculiar genes

DATABASES

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Euro Surveill. ; 18(4): 20379.

Automated extraction of typing information for bacterial pathogens from whole genome sequence data: *Neisseria meningitidis* as an exemplar

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Abstract

Whole genome sequence (WGS) data are becoming a major means of characterising samples of bacterial pathogens. These data have the advantage of providing detailed information on the genotypes and likely phenotypes of aetiological agents, enabling the relationships of samples from potential disease outbreaks to be established precisely. However, the generation of increasing quantities of sequence data does not, in itself, resolve the problems that a wide variety of microbiological typing methods have addressed over the last 100 years or so; indeed, the provision of very high volumes of unstructured data can confuse rather than resolve these issues. Here we review the nascent field of the storage of WGS data for clinical application and show how curated sequence-based typing schemes on websites such as PubMLST.org, accumulated over the past 14 years or so, has generated an infrastructure that can be used to exploit WGS for bacterial typing efficiently. We review the tools that have been implemented within the PubMLST.org website to extract clinically useful, strain characterisation information which can be provided to physicians and public health scientists and officials in a timely, concise and understandable way. These data can be used to inform medical decisions such as how to treat a patient, whether to institute public health action, and what action might be appropriate. The information is compatible both with previous sequence-based typing data and also with data that can be obtained in the absence of WGS data, for example by real-time PCR tests, providing a flexible infrastructure for WGS-based clinical microbiology.

The first MLST scheme was designed to identify major clones within populations of *Neisseria meningitidis* with just seven gene fragments, totalling only 3,284 bp, or about 0.15% of the whole genome.

For meningococcus, the extent of genetic diversity present even in this small number of genes under stabilising selection is extensive: as of November 2012 each of the gene fragments used as meningococcal MLST loci had between 424 to 675 distinct alleles recorded on the PubMLST *Neisseria* website with 54-94% (71% mean) sites that were polymorphic.

Furthermore, in the representative *abcZ* locus all four bases were present at a given site over the known population in 54/433 (12%) of the nucleotide positions (Figure 1). Much of this variation is at low frequency and transitory, but the precise variants that this is the case for cannot be known without exhaustive, or at least extensive, sampling over time

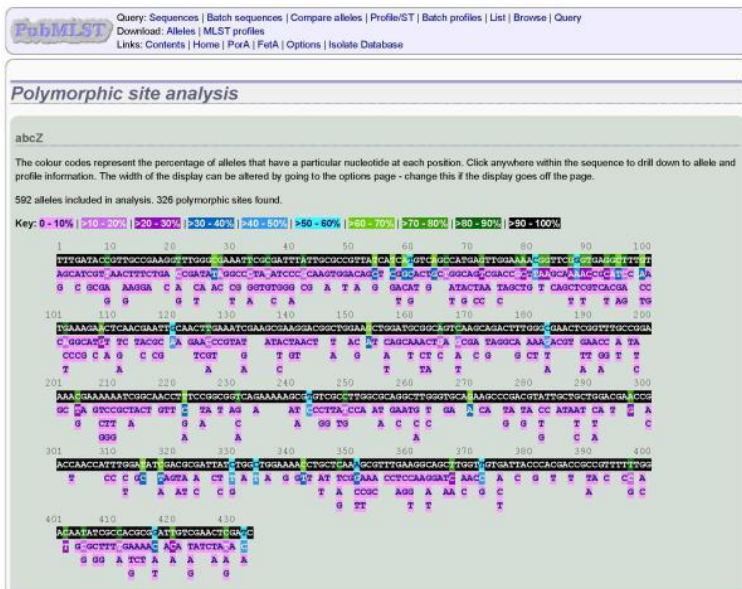


Figure 1. A schematic of one of the MLST loci showing the number and positions of known polymorphic sites within the gene fragment (unmodified PubMLST.org screenshot).

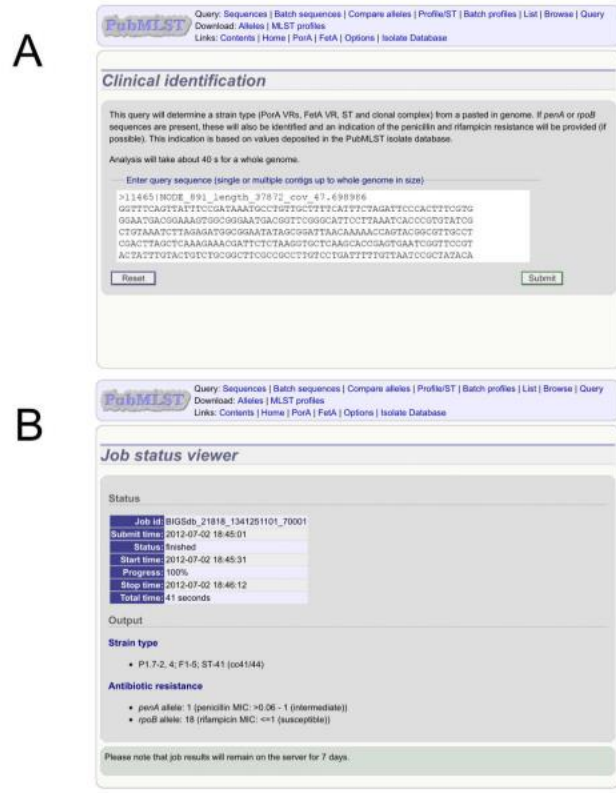


Figure 2. Extracting antigen and antibiotic resistance data from whole genome sequences. A whole genome sequence, which may consist of multiple contigs, can be pasted in to the *Neisseria* PubMLST website (A) with typing and antibiotic resistance data for penicillin and rifampicin rapidly extracted (B) (unmodified PubMLST.org screenshots).

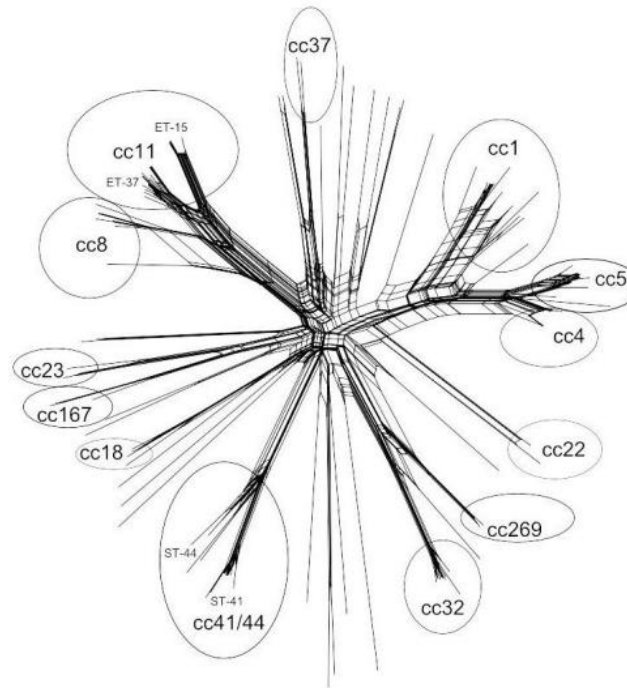


Figure 3.

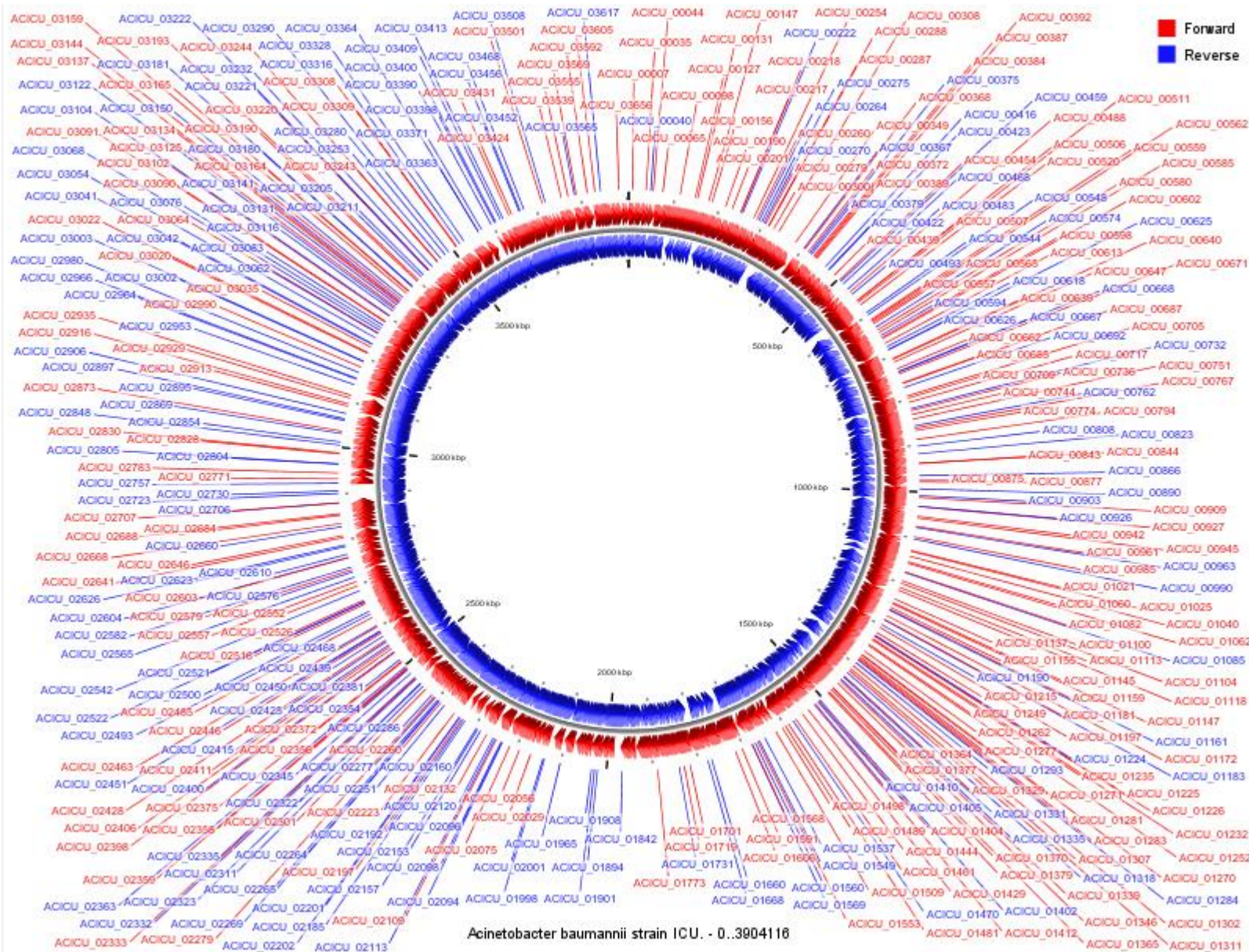
The relationships of 139 *Neisseria meningitidis* genomes stored in the [PubMLST.org](https://pubmlst.org) *Neisseria* database, generated with Genome Comparator and `NEIGHBORNET` from allelic profiles data for rMLST loci. The locations of isolates belonging to major clonal complexes identified by conventional MLST are indicated (cc1, etc). The figure illustrates relationships not apparent from sevenlocus MLST, including the diversity of some clonal complexes (e.g. cc1) and the interrelationships of others, e.g. cc8 and cc11 clonal complexes, and the relationships of the 'ET-15 and 'ET-37' variants within cc11.

Studying genome content

- De novo sequencing
- Comparative analysis with reference genomes
- Identification of peculiar genes

DATABASES

Genome annotation



Functional classes of the proteins

- Transporters
- Energy metabolism
- Biosynthesis
 - Amino acids, lipids, nucleotides
- Cell cycle
- Virulence
- Phages

Fundamental protein domains

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/COG/

Prediction of the function of a protein deduced from a DNA sequence on the basis of its functional domains

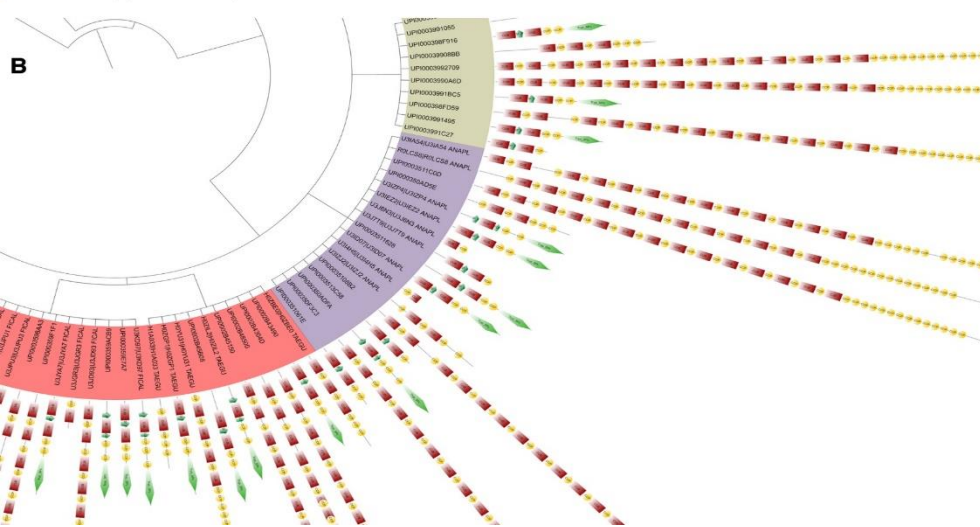
Domains within *Homo sapiens* protein C1S_HUMAN (P09871)



Information	Architecture	Interactions	Pathways	PTMs	Orthology
Length	688 aa				
Source database	UniProt				
Identifiers	C1S_HUMAN, P09871, ENSP00000385035, ENSP00000328173, ENSP00000354057, ENSP00000469889, ENSP00000471707, ENSP00000469947, D3DUT4, Q9UCU7, Q9UCU8, Q9UCU9, Q9UCV0, Q9UCV1, Q9UCV2, Q9UCV3, Q9UCV4, Q9UCV5, Q9UM14, F5H7T4_HUMAN, F5H7T4, F8WCZ6_HUMAN, F8WCZ6				
Source gene	ENSG00000182326				
Alternative splicing	C1S_HUMAN, ENSP00000384171, ENSP00000399892, ENSP00000406643, ENSP00000384464, H0Y5D1_HUMAN, ENSP00000442298				

The SMART diagram above represents a summary of the results shown below. Domains with scores less significant than established cutoffs are not shown in the diagram. Features are also not shown when two or more occupy the same piece of sequence; the priority for display is given by SMART > PFAM > PROSPERO repeats > Signal peptide > Transmembrane > Coiled coil > Unstructured regions > Low complexity. In either case, features not shown in the above diagram are marked as 'overlap' in the right side table below.

Confidently predicted domains, repeats, motifs and features:				Features NOT shown in the diagram: ⓘ				
Name	Start ▲	End	E-value	Name	Start ▲	End	E-value	Reason
CUB	9	130	3.63e-31	END	134	153	276	threshold
EGF_CA	131	172	2.37e-7	EGF	134	172	0.0118	threshold
CUB	175	290	9.8e-28	Pfam:FXa_I...	135	171	1.9e-8	overlap
CCP	294	354	1.04e-8	Pfam:HRM	138	178	14000	overlap
CCP	359	421	1.3e-9	PostSET	139	152	955	threshold
Tryp_SPc	437	675	4.36e-75	Amb V all...	140	176	13200	threshold



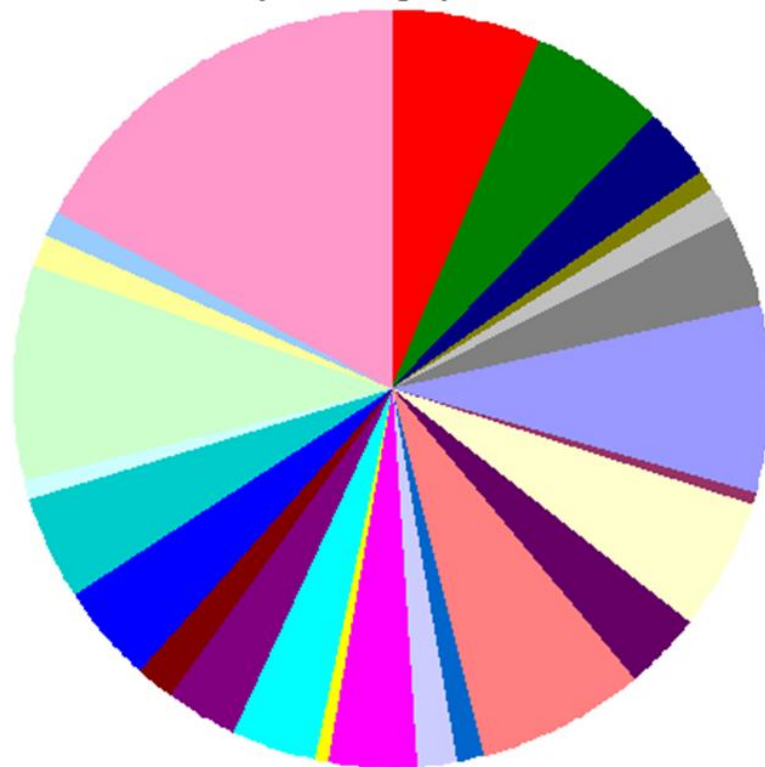
Subsystem Information

Subsystem Statistics **Features in Subsystems**

Subsystem Coverage



Subsystem Category Distribution



Subsystem Feature Counts

- ⊕ Cofactors, Vitamins, Prosthetic Groups, Pigments (290)
- ⊕ Cell Wall and Capsule (262)
- ⊕ Virulence, Disease and Defense (138)
- ⊕ Potassium metabolism (28)
- ⊕ Photosynthesis (0)
- ⊕ Miscellaneous (65)
- ⊕ Phages, Prophages, Transposable elements, Plasmids (175)
- ⊕ Membrane Transport (356)
- ⊕ Iron acquisition and metabolism (25)
- ⊕ RNA Metabolism (245)
- ⊕ Nucleosides and Nucleotides (152)
- ⊕ Protein Metabolism (322)
- ⊕ Cell Division and Cell Cycle (45)
- ⊕ Motility and Chemotaxis (80)
- ⊕ Regulation and Cell signaling (175)
- ⊕ Secondary Metabolism (26)
- ⊕ DNA Metabolism (156)
- ⊕ Fatty Acids, Lipids, and Isoprenoids (135)
- ⊕ Nitrogen Metabolism (76)
- ⊕ Dormancy and Sporulation (7)
- ⊕ Respiration (192)
- ⊕ Stress Response (196)
- ⊕ Metabolism of Aromatic Compounds (27)
- ⊕ Amino Acids and Derivatives (417)
- ⊕ Sulfur Metabolism (58)
- ⊕ Phosphorus Metabolism (54)
- ⊕ Carbohydrates (750)

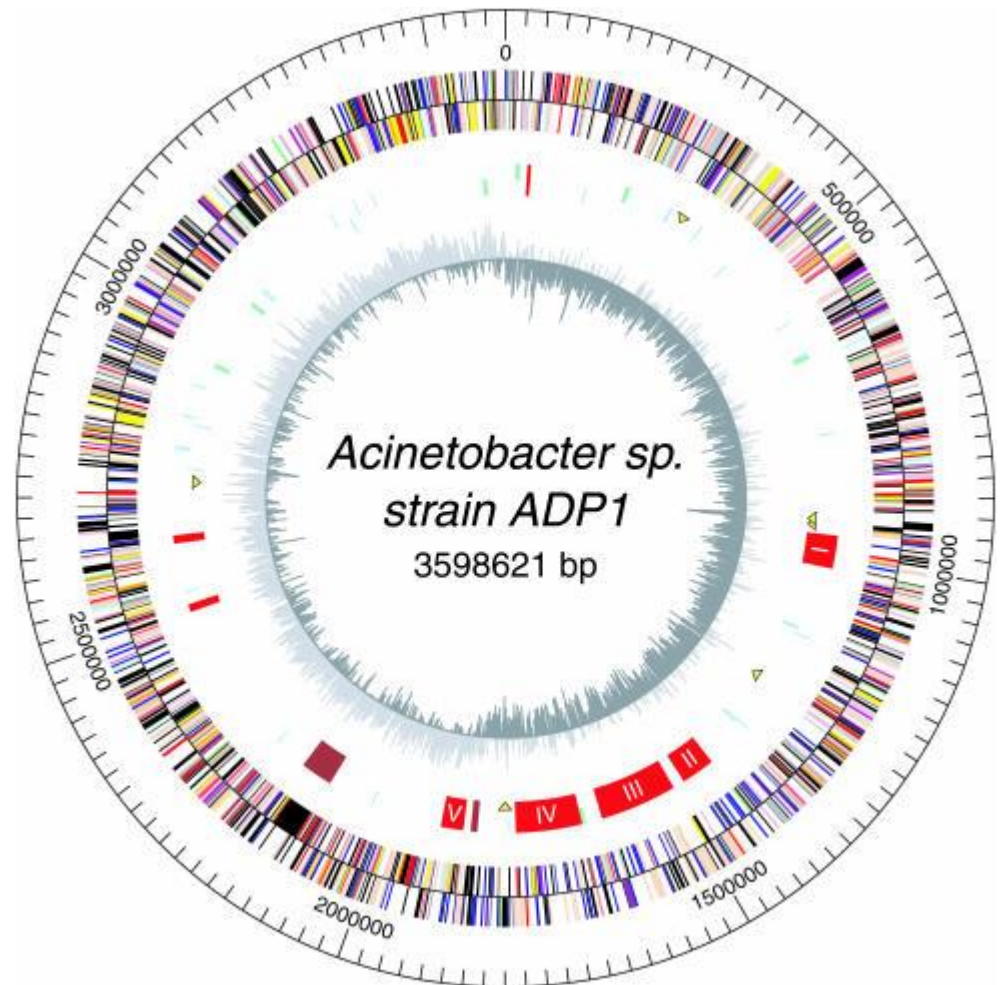
Example of genomics

Acinetobacter

Barbe V, Vallenet D, Fonknechten N, Kreimeyer A, Oztas S, Labarre L, Cruveiller S, Robert C, Duprat S, Wincker P, Ornston LN, Weissenbach J, Marlière P, Cohen GN, Médigue C.

Unique features revealed by the genome sequence of *Acinetobacter* sp. ADP1, a versatile and naturally transformation competent bacterium. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **2004** Oct 28;32(19):5766-79. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkh910.

Acinetobacter baylyi



Acinetobacter baumannii

Smith MG, Gianoulis TA, Pukatzki S, Mekalanos JJ, Ornston LN, Gerstein M, Snyder M. New insights into *Acinetobacter baumannii* pathogenesis revealed by high-density pyrosequencing and transposon mutagenesis. *Genes & development*. 2007 Mar 1;21(5):601-14. **ATCC strain**

Other *Acinetobacter baumannii*

Iacono M, Villa L, Fortini D, Bordoni R, Imperi F, Bonnal RJ, Sicheritz-Ponten T, De Bellis G, Visca P, Cassone A, Carattoli A. Whole-genome pyrosequencing of an epidemic multidrug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* strain belonging to the European clone II group. *Antimicrobial agents and chemotherapy*. 2008 Jul;52(7):2616-25. **Clinical carbapenem resistant ACICU strain**
Received 21 December 2007 **Revision received** 28 February 2008 **Accepted** 8 April 2008

Vallenet D, Nordmann P, Barbe V, Poirel L, Mangenot S, Bataille E, et al. (2008) Comparative Analysis of *Acinetobacters*: Three Genomes for Three Lifestyles. *PLoS ONE* 3(3): e1805, March 19 2008. **AYE and SDF**
Received: September 20, 2007; **Accepted:** February 9, 2008; **Published:** March 19, 2008

GENOME WATCH

Opportunity knocks

Helena Seth-Smith & Alan Walker

This month's Genome Watch examines recent genome papers that provide insight into opportunistic pathogenesis.

Acinetobacter baumannii is emerging as an opportunistic pathogen that primarily infects immunocompromised patients in hospitals and particularly those in intensive-care units. The main clinical outcomes of infection (pneumonia, meningitis, bacteraemia and urinary-tract infections) are compounded by the problem of multidrug resistance. The natural reservoir of *A. baumannii* is unknown, but it can persist in hospital environments and is commonly found on the skin. *A. baumannii* has also been isolated from body lice, which suggests that it might use these insects as vectors¹.

Four strains of *A. baumannii* were recently sequenced: *A. baumannii* ATCC 17978, an historic strain from 1951 that was implicated in fatal meningitis in a 4-month-old baby; *A. baumannii* SDF, which was isolated from a human-body louse in France; *A. baumannii* AYE, which was isolated in 2001 during a nationwide outbreak in France; and *A. baumannii* ACICU, which was isolated from the cerebrospinal fluid of a patient during an outbreak in Italy in 2005 (REFS 2–4).

One of the most striking observations is the amount of apparently horizontally acquired DNA that is present in *A. baumannii* genomes. Members of the *Acinetobacter* genus can take up foreign DNA and incorporate it into their own genomes. *A. baumannii* ATCC 17978 carries 28 putative alien islands, which account for more than 17% of the predicted coding sequences (CDSs). The more recent strain *A. baumannii* ACICU possesses an additional 8 putative alien islands. The louse-associated strain *A. baumannii* SDF does not contain intact copies of all the genes that are necessary for natural transformation and, perhaps as a result, it contains fewer strain-specific CDSs than



A. baumannii AYE. However, it contains 428 copies of insertion sequences, a massive expansion compared with *A. baumannii* AYE (33) and *A. baumannii* ACICU (14). This has resulted in a greater proportion of pseudogenes (more than 9%) and associated deletions, reducing the overall genome size (3.4 Mb compared with 3.9 Mb in the other strains) and perhaps restricting its host range.

Both *A. baumannii* ACICU and *A. baumannii* ATCC 17978 contain two plasmids, whereas *A. baumannii* SDF has three plasmids and *A. baumannii* AYE has 4 plasmids. Plasmid pACICU1 from *A. baumannii* ACICU might encode carbapenem resistance, but none of the other plasmids contains obvious resistance or virulence markers.

Generally considered a low-virulence species, candidate virulence factors have proved hard to identify. Many of the putative alien islands carry potential virulence genes, including type IV secretion systems, siderophores and haemolysins/haemagglutinins. Screens of transposon mutants of *A. baumannii* ATCC 17978 in both *Caenorhabditis elegans* and *Dictyostelium discoideum* identified several genes that are involved in virulence. However,

some of these were strain specific. Surface structures may be important in the ability of *A. baumannii* to form biofilms, which could aid the survival of this organism in hospital environments.

Glucokinase is absent from the sequenced genomes, which means that the strains cannot perform the first steps of glycolysis: an inability to grow on glucose as a sole carbon source has long been used to identify *Acinetobacter* species⁵. However, *A. baumannii* can catabolize a wide range of alternative carbon sources: *A. baumannii* ACICU seems to have the ability to use benzoate, citrate and glycerol, among other sources, and *A. baumannii* AYE has a substantial catabolic repertoire, including several uncharacterized oxygenases.

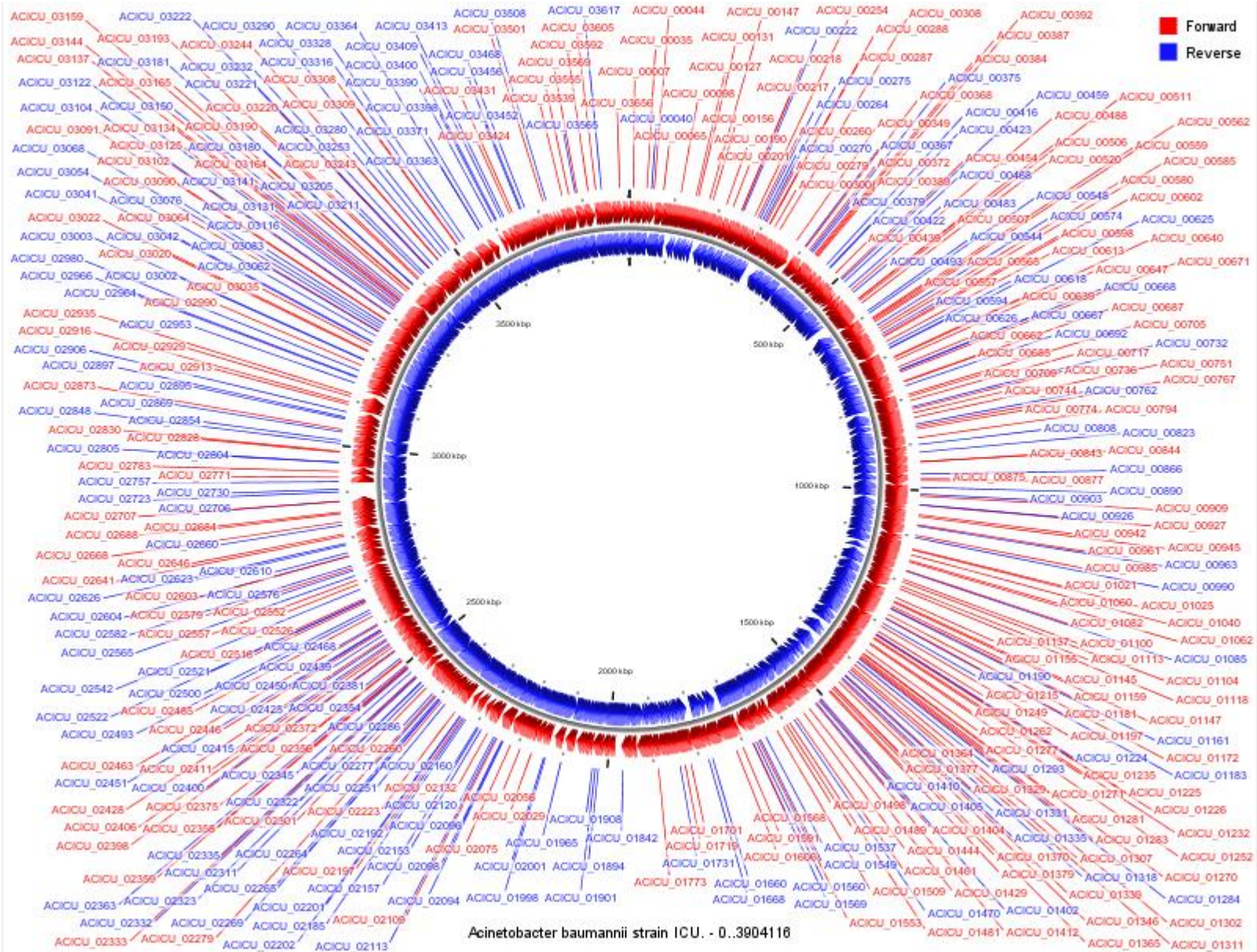
A. baumannii is intrinsically resistant to many antibiotics, putatively owing to the presence of many outer-membrane proteins and efflux pumps. Even *A. baumannii* ATCC 17978, which was isolated in 1951 and therefore had not been exposed to many antibiotics, possesses several efflux pumps, including 19 resistance-nodulation-division (RND) transporters, 3 major facilitator superfamily (MFS)



Four strains of *A. baumannii* were recently sequenced: [A. baumannii ATCC 17978](#), an historic strain from 1951 that was implicated in fatal meningitis in a 4-month-old baby; [A. baumannii SDF](#), which was isolated from a human-body louse in France; [A. baumannii AYE](#), which was isolated in 2001 during a nationwide outbreak in France; and [A. baumannii ACICU](#), which was isolated from the cerebrospinal fluid of a patient during an outbreak in Italy in 2005 (Refs [2,3,4](#)).

Nature Reviews Microbiology **6**, pages 652–653 (2008)

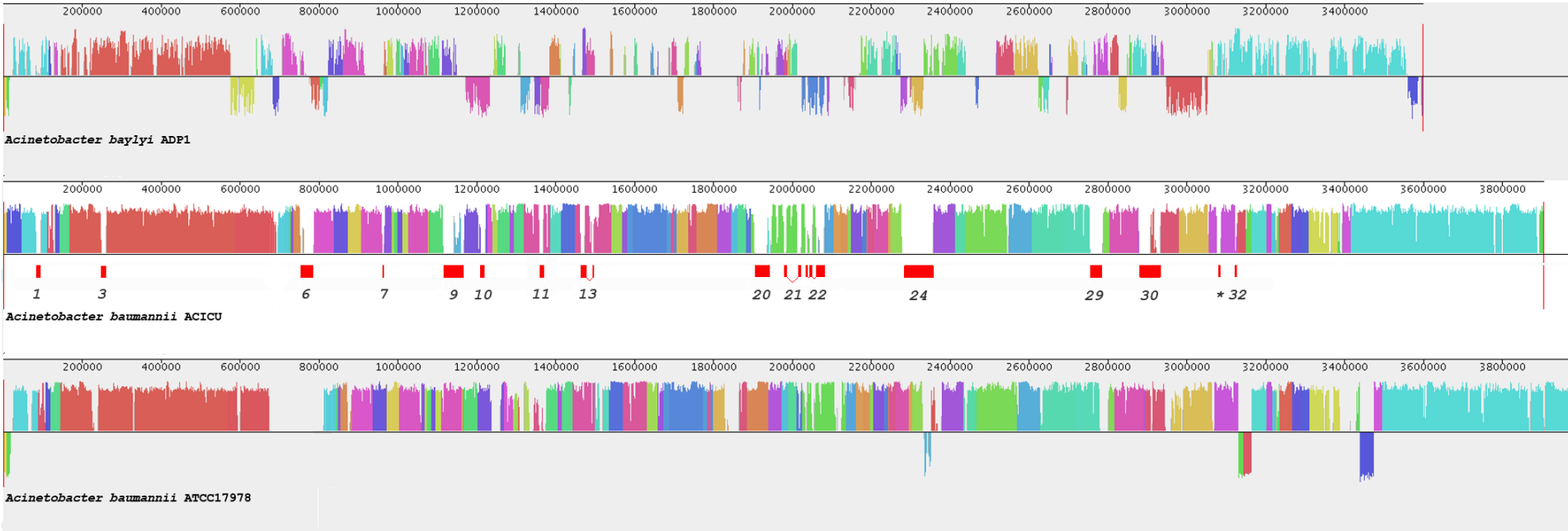
Genome annotation



- *A. baumannii* ACICU contains a single circular chromosome of 3,904,116 bp and two plasmids (pACICU1 and pACICU2) of 28,279 and 64,366 bp, respectively; 3,758 genes were annotated in the ACICU chromosome, including 3,670 predicted protein-encoding CDSs, 64 tRNA genes, and 8 rRNA operons.
- Nearly 70% of the CDSs (n = 2,670) were assigned to a COG functional category; several genes belonged to more than one COG class.

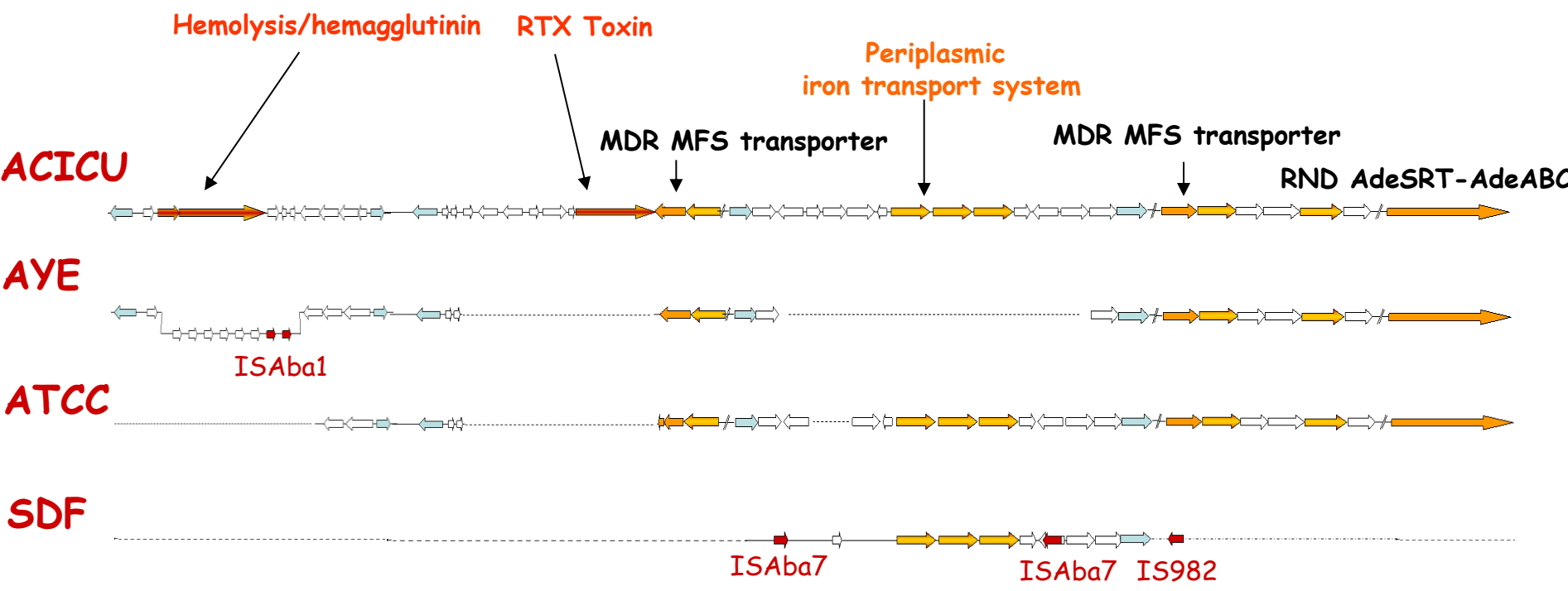
- The *A. baumannii* ACICU genome was initially compared with the unique genomes of *Acinetobacter* available, *A. baumannii* ATCC 17978 and *Acinetobacter baylyi* ADP1, with the aim of identifying novel genes related to virulence and drug resistance.
- Genome comparison showed 86.4% synteny with *A. baumannii* ATCC 17978 and 14.8% synteny with *A. baylyi* ADP1
- For many COG classes, the number of CDSs identified in ACICU largely exceeds the number identified in ATCC 17978, since in the latter strain only 60.1% of the genes were assigned to a COG class

Acinetobacter spp. synthenia



36 putative alien islands (pAs) were detected in the ACICU genome; 24 of these had previously been described in the ATCC 17978 genome, 4 are proposed here for the first time and are present in both ATCC 17978 and ACICU, and 8 are unique to the ACICU genome.

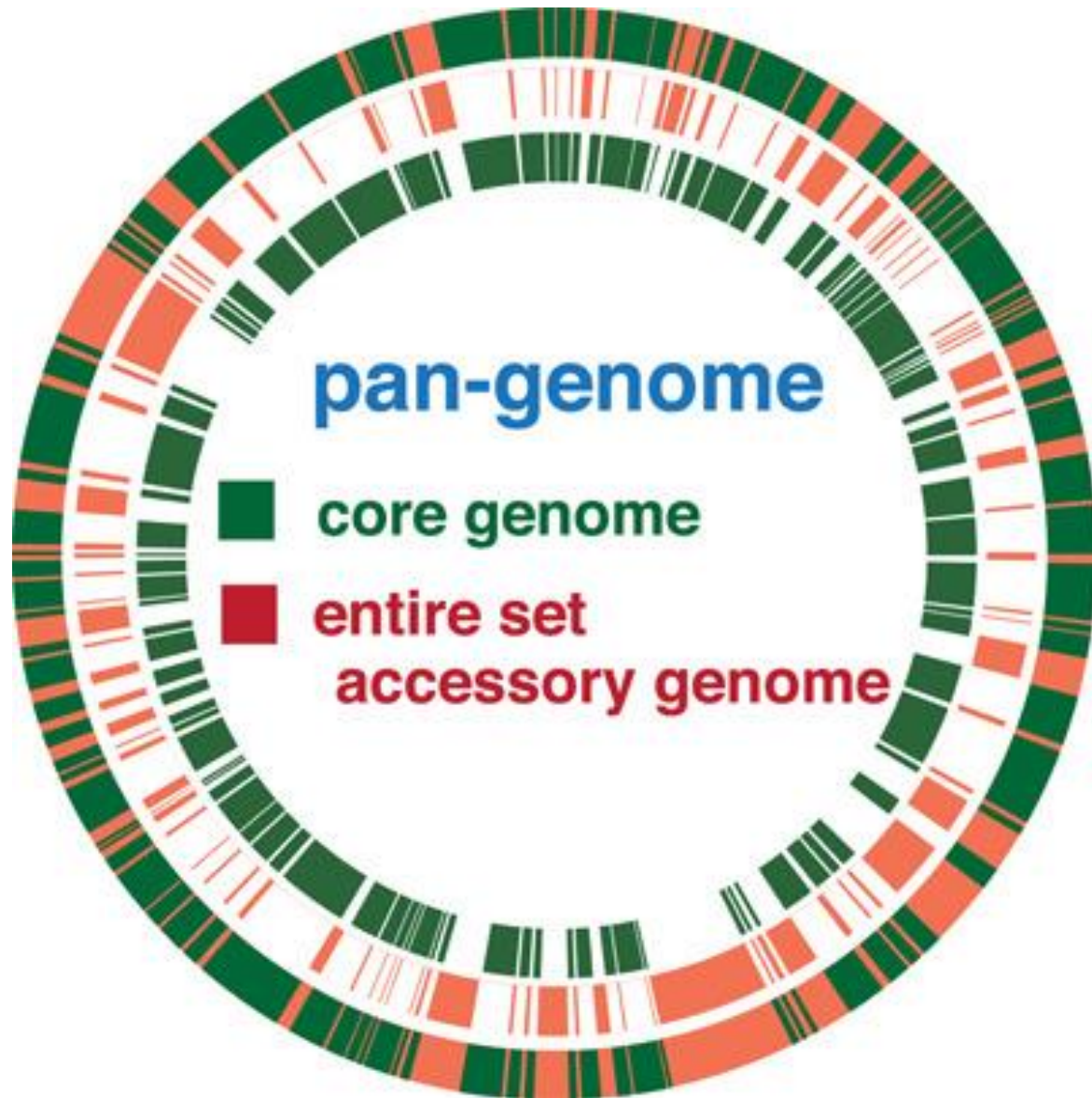
- ACICU also contains **14 ISs** in the chromosome, including 7 ISAba125 elements, 4 ISAba2 elements, 2 IS26 elements, and 1 ISPu12 element, and 11 on plasmids, including 3 ISAba3 elements, 3 IS26 elements, 4 ISAba2 elements, and 1 ISAba125 element.
- The chromosome is composed of **0.38% short repetitive mini- and microsatellite DNA sequences**

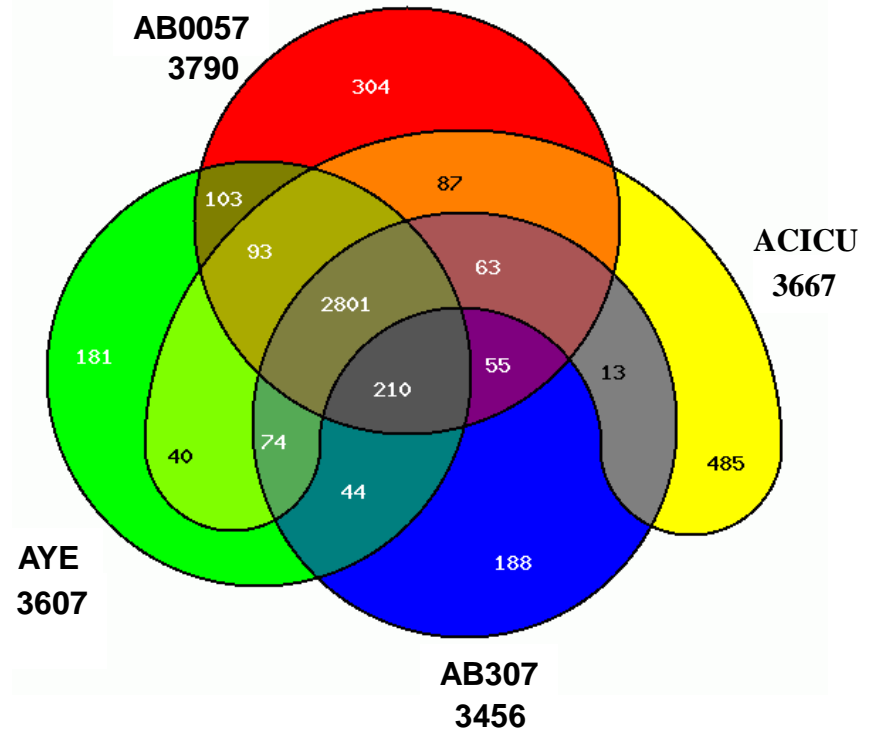
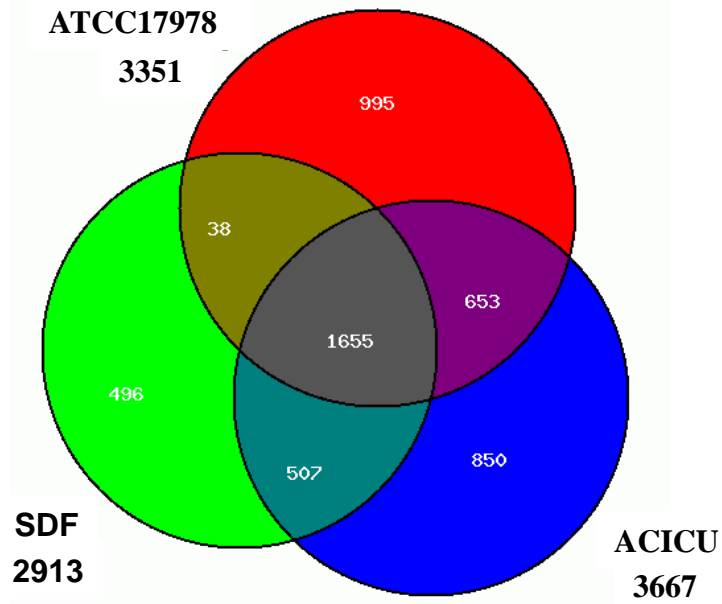
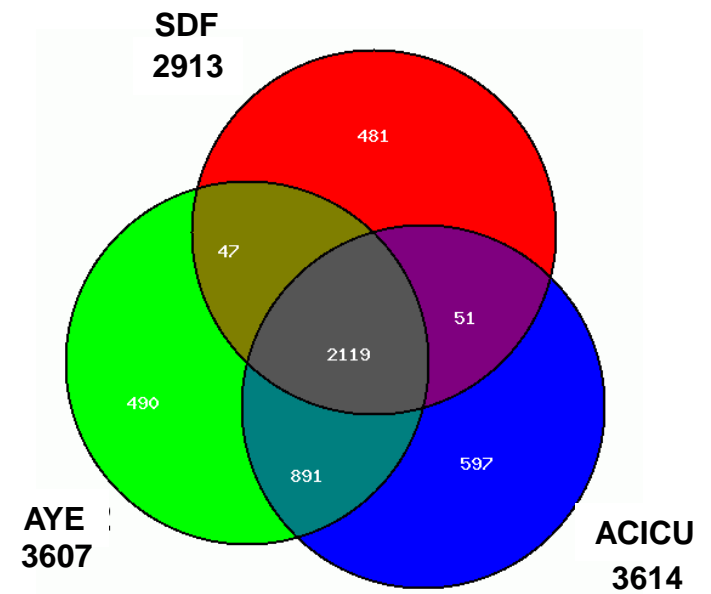
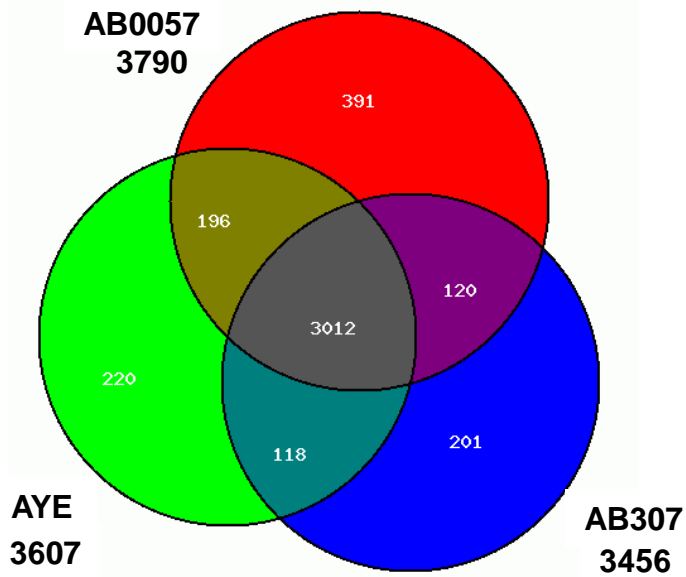


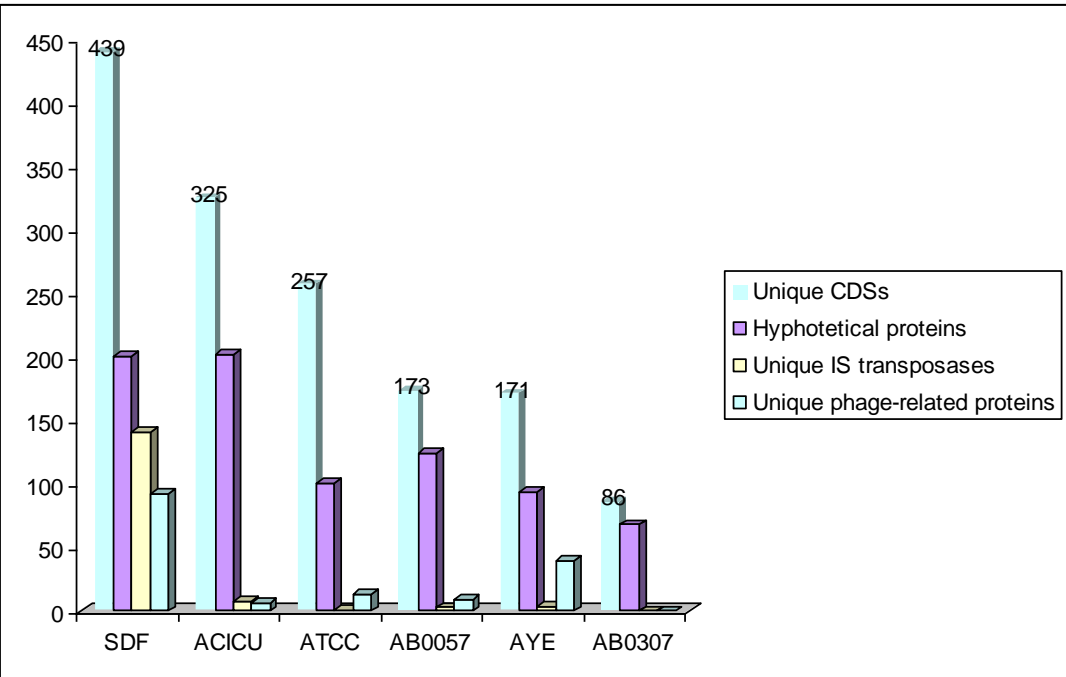
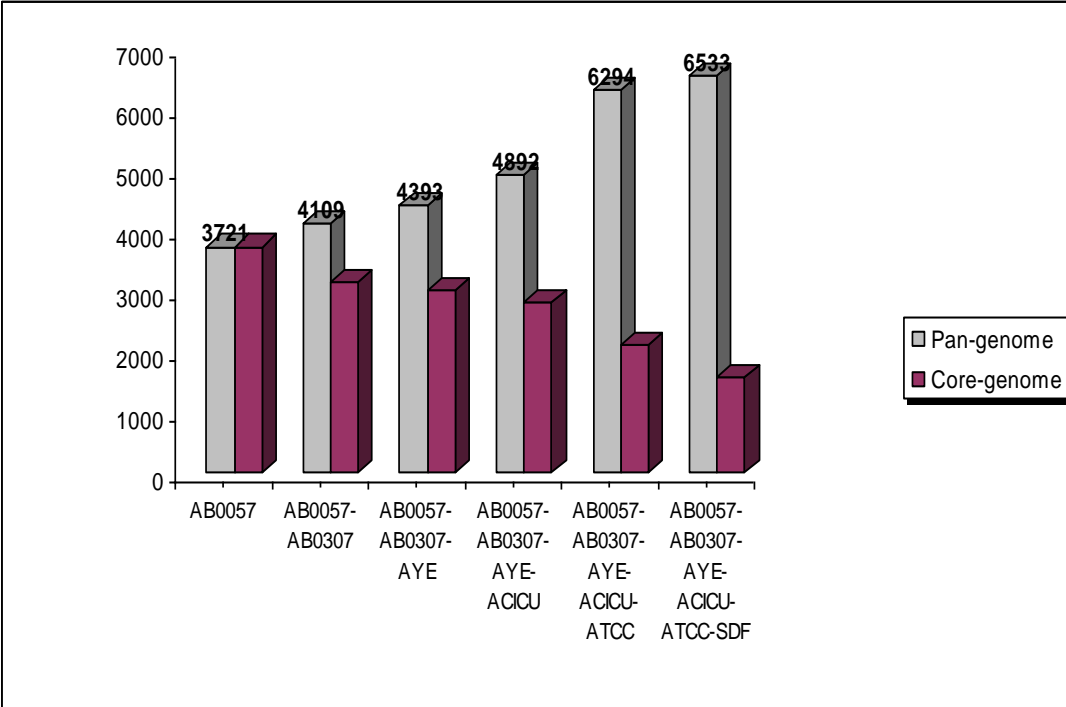
Coregenome

Pangenome

- Coregenome represents the genes present in all strains of a species = indispensable genome
- The accessory or flexible genome or dispensable genome: represents the genes that are present in some strains but not in the whole species
- The pangenome is the pool of all genes accessible to a species, both those of the coregenome and the accessory genes
- The ultimate goal is to understand the phenotype of a species, but also the phenotypic differences between isolates of the same species

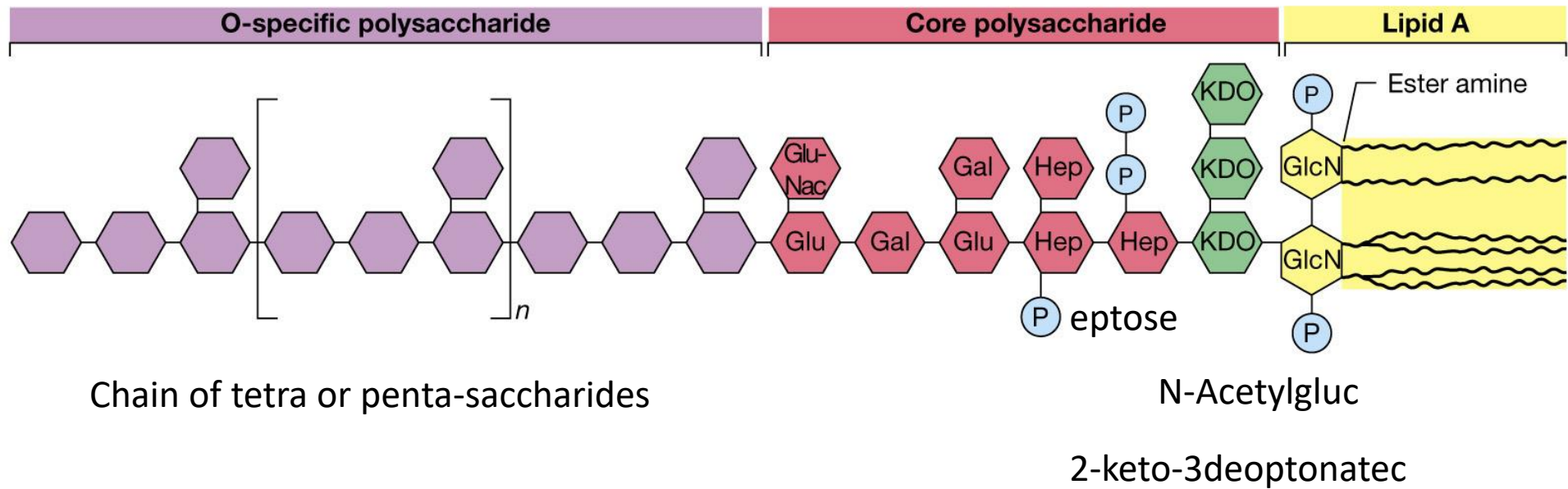




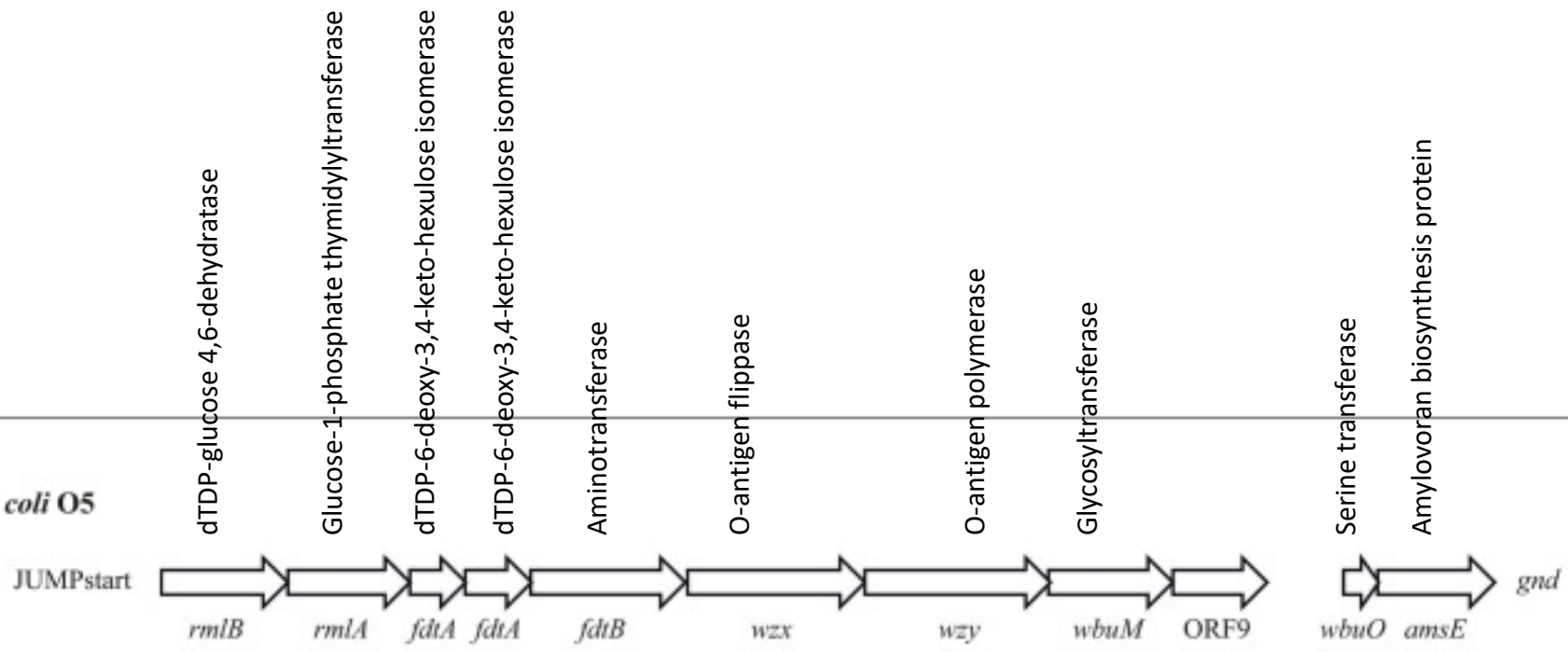


identification of genes in the
genome

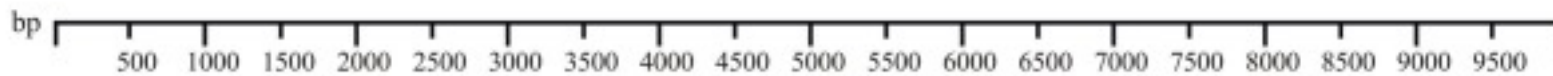
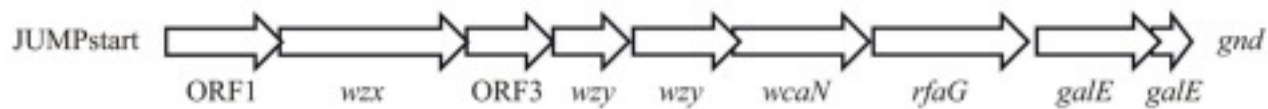
LPS



E. coli O5



E. coli O76



Serotyping



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Comparison of O-Antigen Gene Clusters of All O-Serogroups of *Escherichia coli* and Proposal for Adopting a New Nomenclature for O-Typing

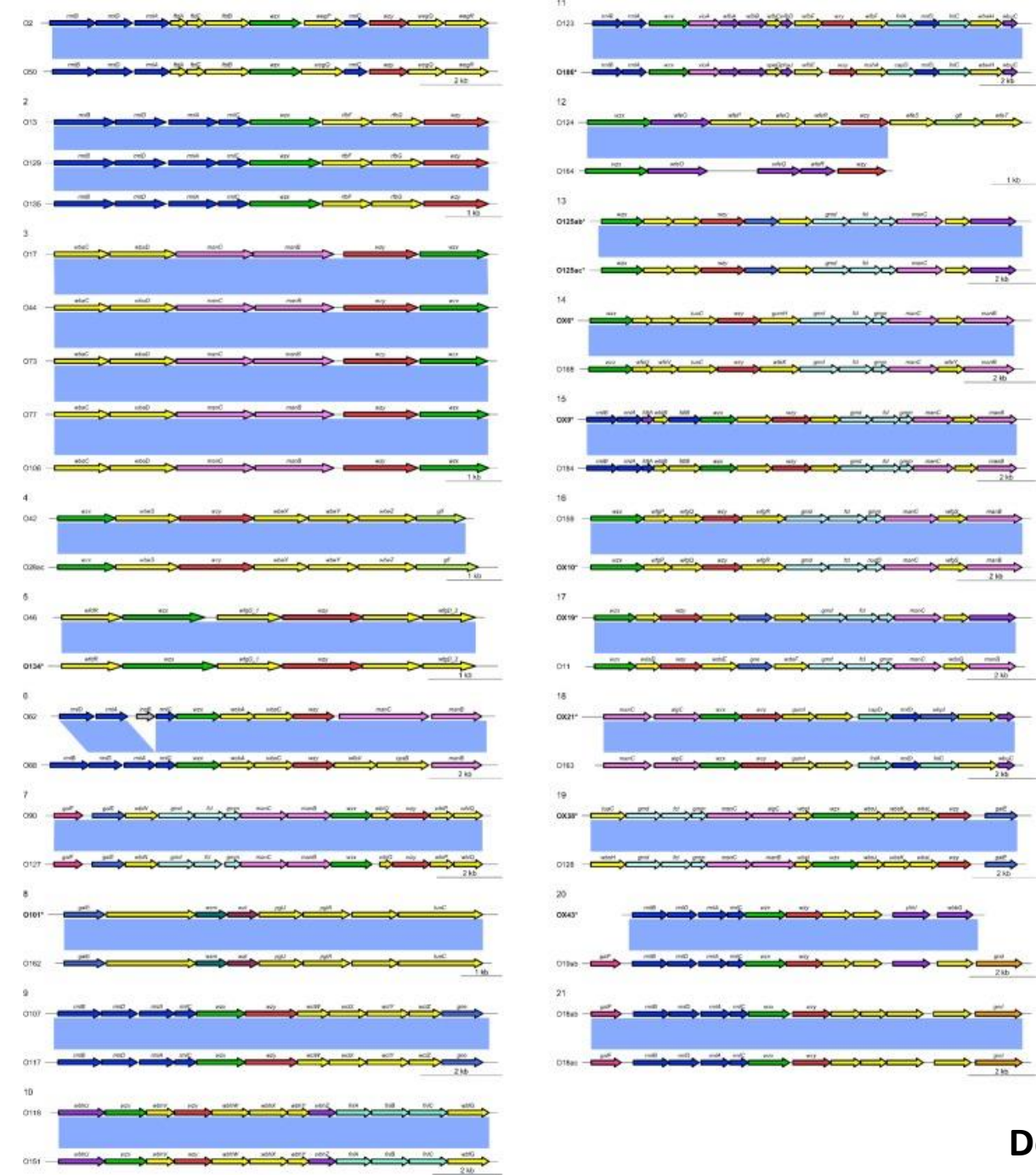
Chitrita DebRoy^{1*}, Pina M. Fratamico², Xianghe Yan², GianMarco Baranzoni², Yanhong Liu², David S. Needleman², Robert Tebbs³, Catherine D. O'Connell³, Adam Allred³, Michelle Swimley³, Michael Mwangi¹, Vivek Kapur¹, Juan A. Raygoza Garay¹, Elisabeth L. Roberts¹, Robab Katani¹

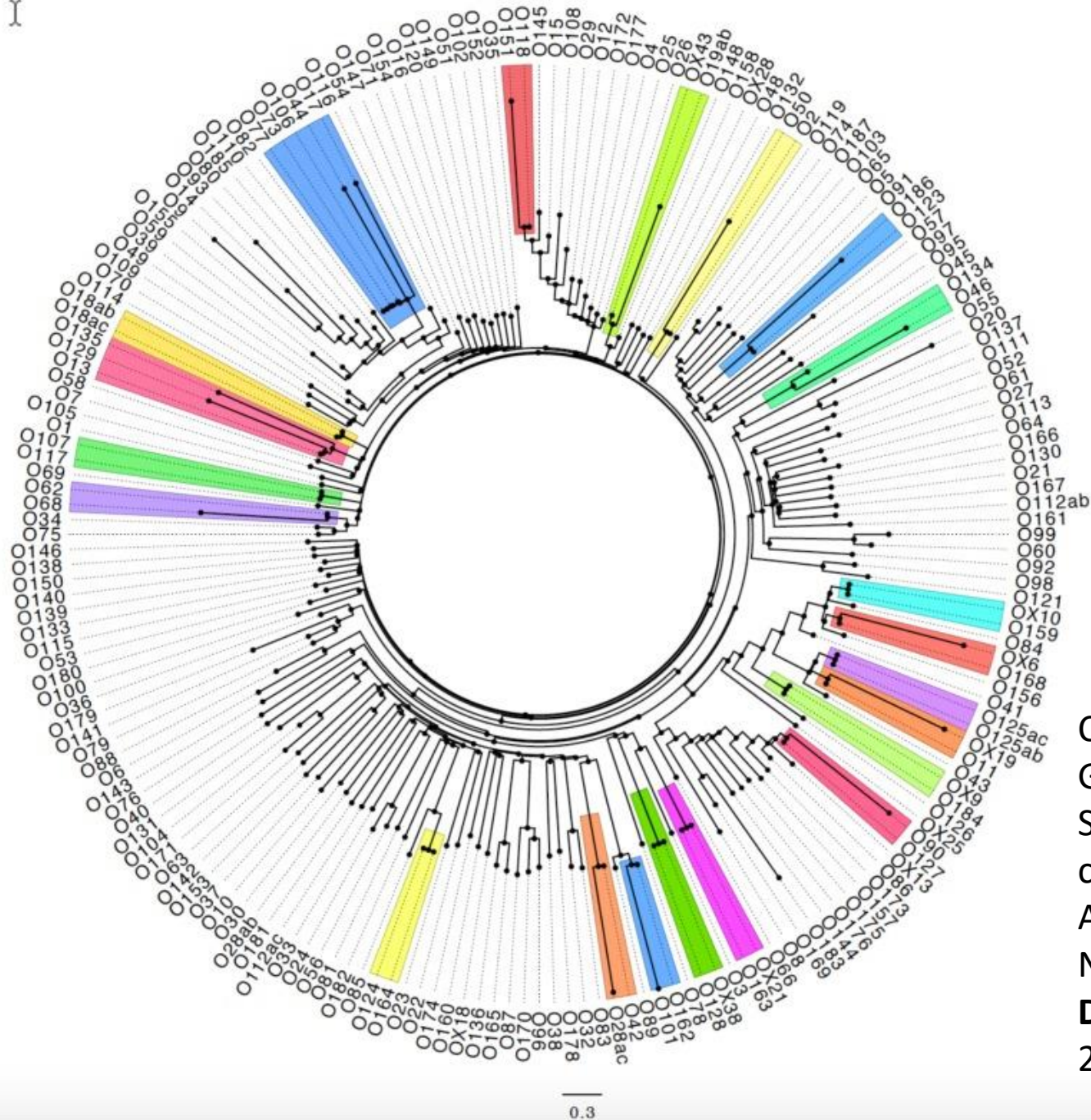
1 *E. coli* Reference Center, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, United States of America, **2** Eastern Regional Research Center, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, United States of America, **3** Animal Health & Food Safety, Life Sciences Solutions, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Austin, Texas, United States of America

* rcd3@psu.edu



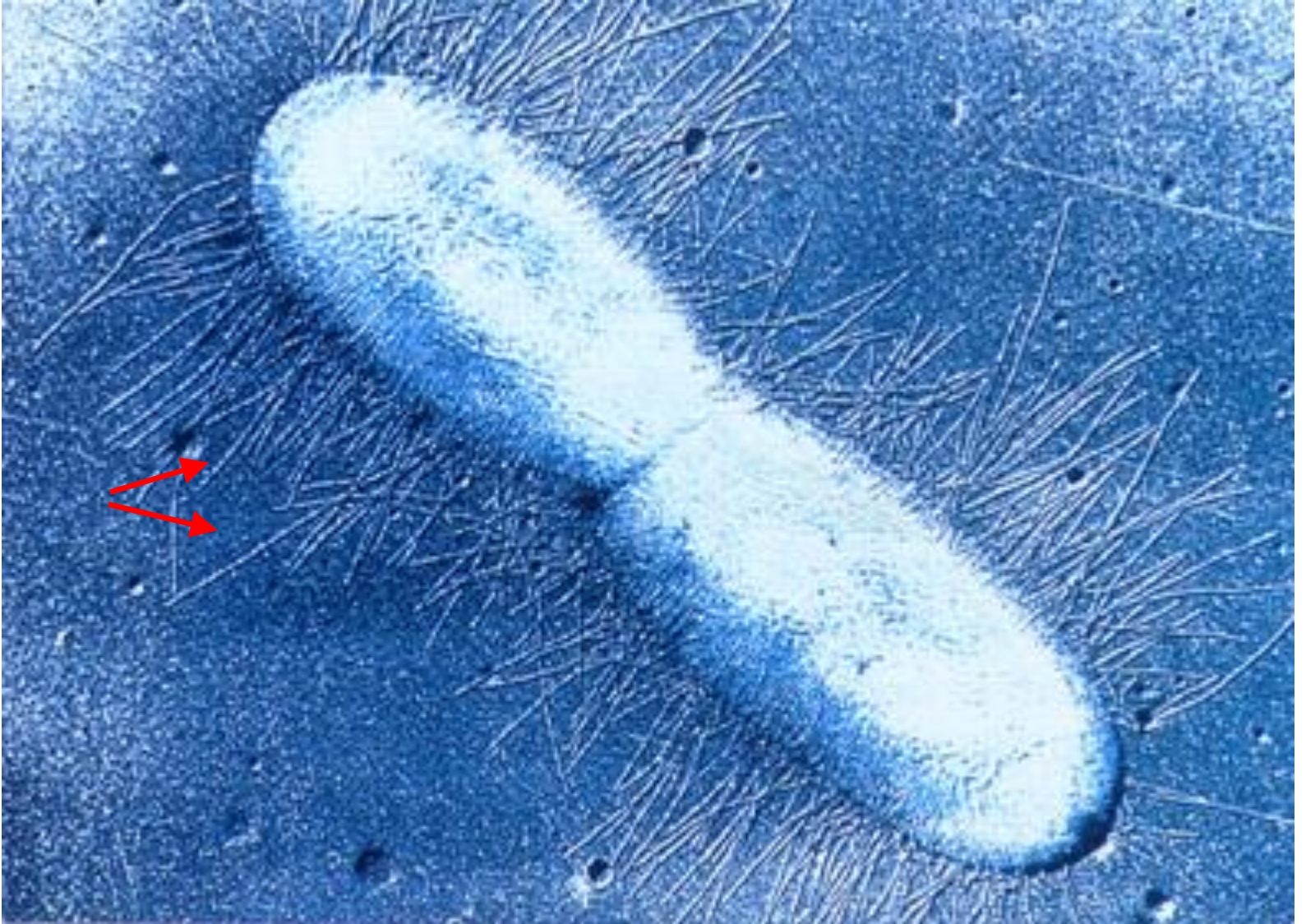
Correspondence





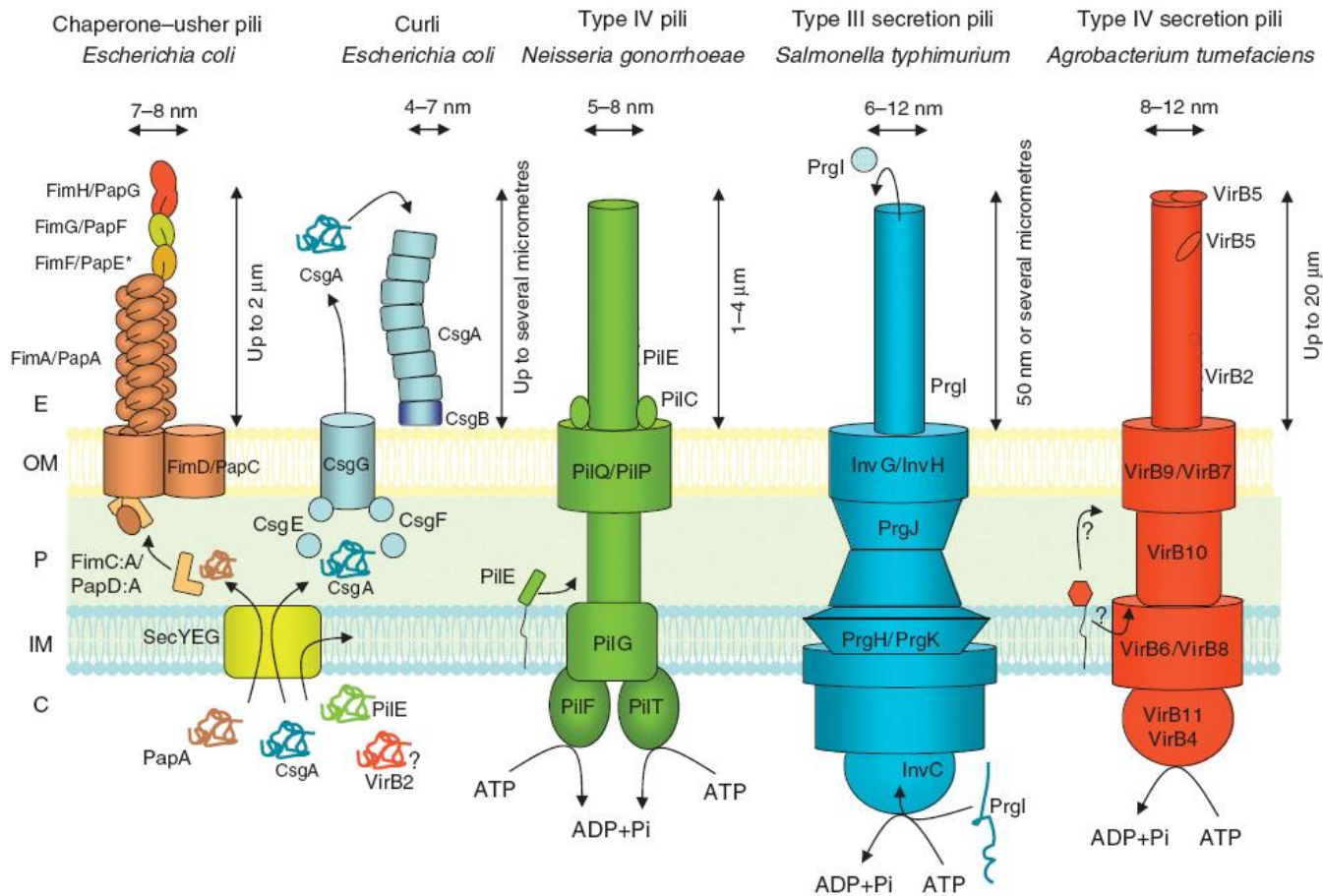
Comparison of O-Antigen Gene Clusters of All O-Serogroups of *Escherichia coli* and Proposal for Adopting a New Nomenclature for O-Typing.
DebRoy C et al. PLoS One. 2016 Jan 29;11(1):e0147434

Pili

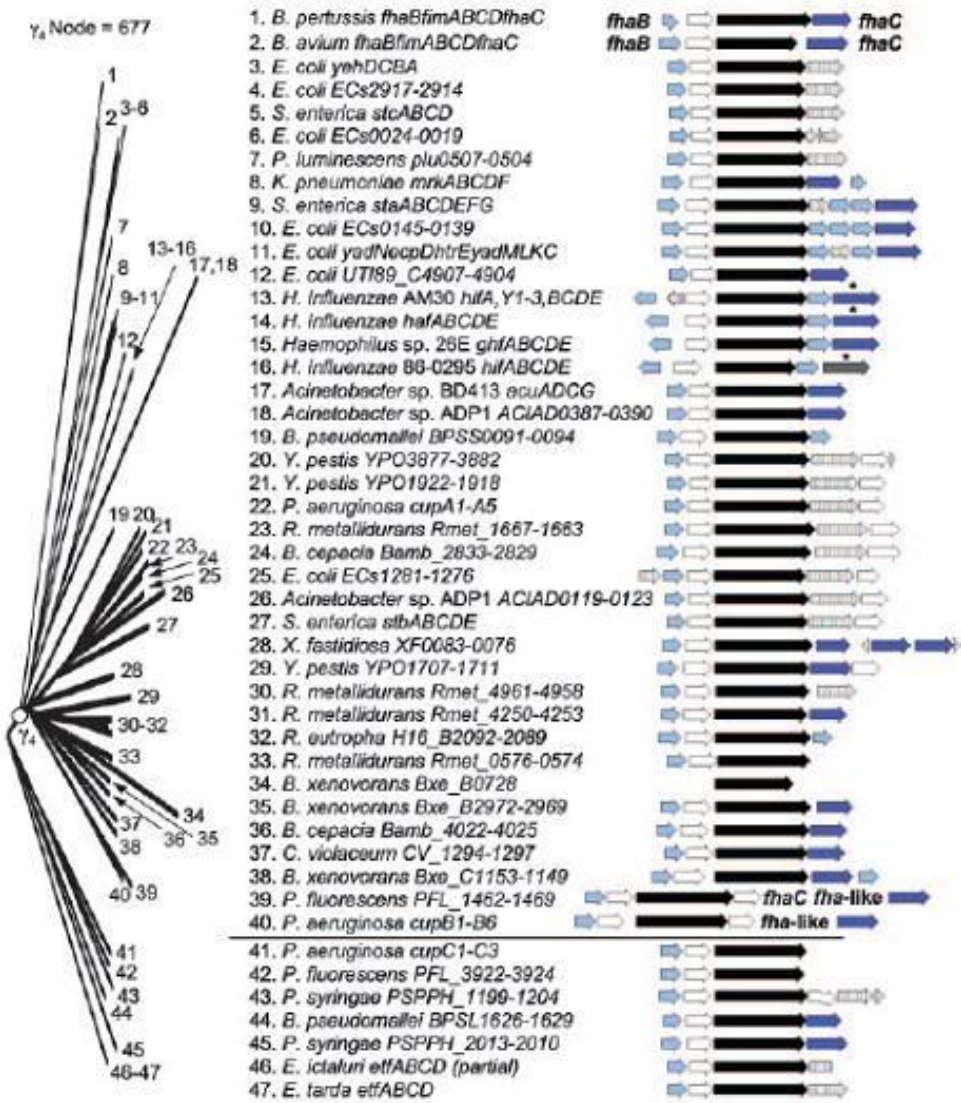


Pili and fimbriae

Non-flagellar protein appendages in Gram-negative bacteria
R Fronzes *et al*



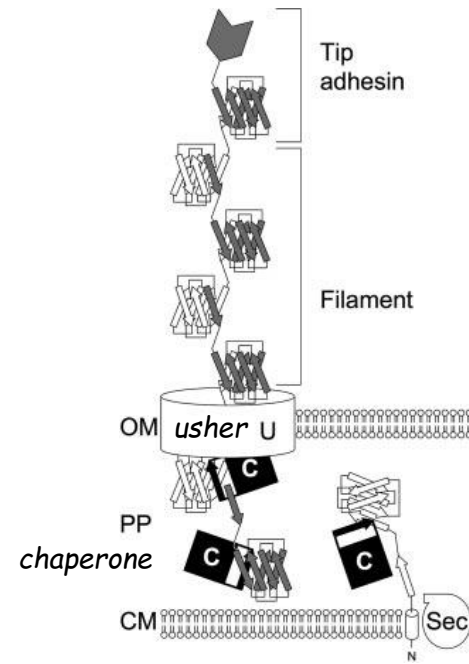
fimbriae



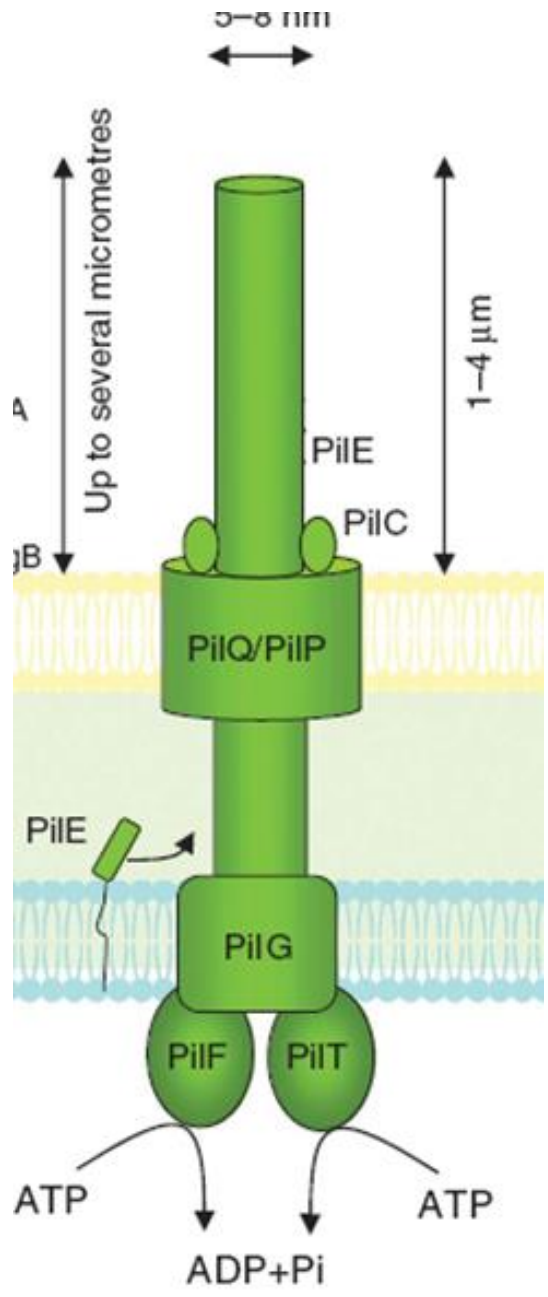
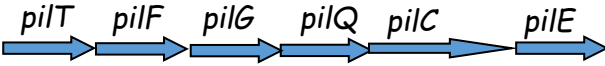
Usher, COG3188, PFAM00577
 Tip adhesin
 Subunit, COG3539, PFAM00419
 Chaperone, COG3121, PFAM00345, PFAM02753
 Tip adhesin, COG3539, PFAM00419
 Subunit, no domain
 Unknown function, no domain
 * *Neisseria*_PilC domain: PFAM05567

Evolution of the Chaperone/Usher Assembly Pathway: Fimbrial Classification Goes Greek†

Sean-Paul Nuccio and Andreas J. Bäumer*



Type IV pilus



Escherichia coli

K12-MG1655 (no pathogenic)

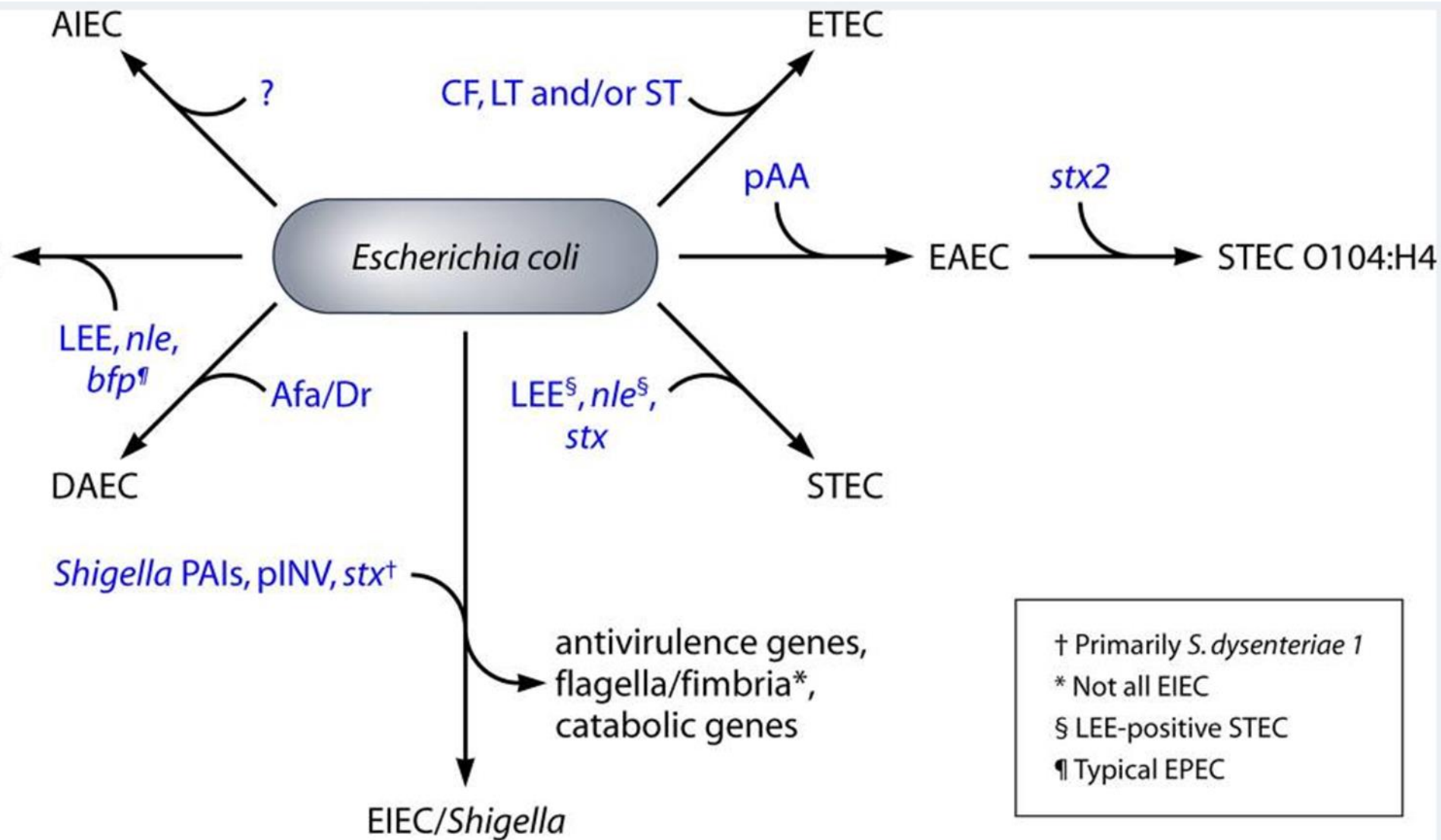
Enterohemorrhagic EHEC (O157:H7, STX)

Uropathogenic UPEC (pili P)

Enteropathogenic EPEC (T3SS)

Enterotoxigenic ETEC (LT e adesine)

Enterotoxigenic EAEC (fimbriae)



35 Kb locus of enterocyte effacement (LEE); bundle-forming pilus gene (*bfp*); Shiga toxin genes (*stx*₁, *stx*₂); Heat-Labile toxin (LT); Heat-Stable toxin (ST); colonization factors (CFs); acquired fimbriae that enhance adherence (Afa/Dr); pAA plasmid; pINV plasmid; chromosomal pathogenicity islands (PAIs) Croxen et al. CMR 2013



Global emergence of a hypervirulent carbapenem-resistant *Escherichia coli* ST410 clone

Received: 10 May 2023

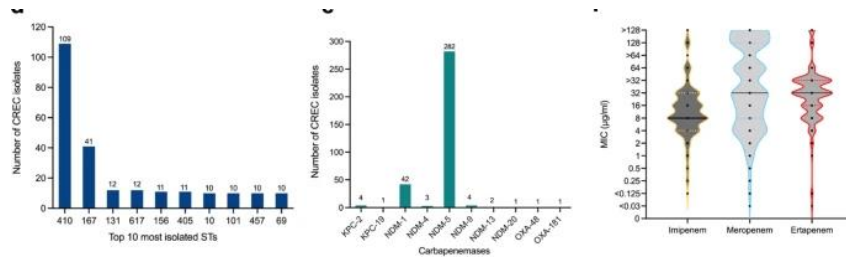
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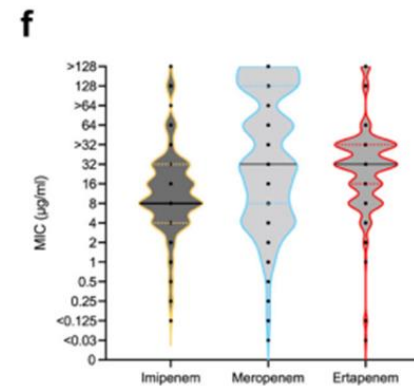
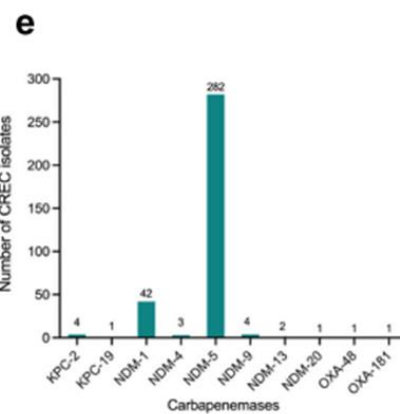
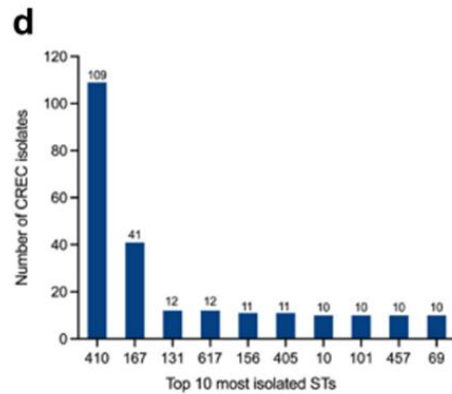
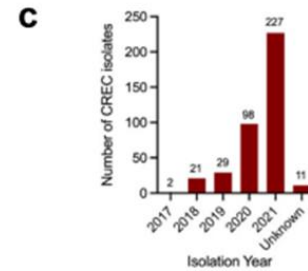
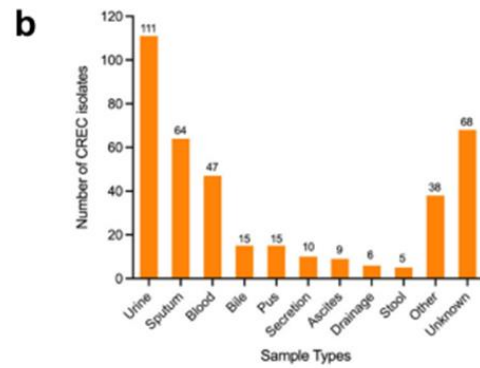
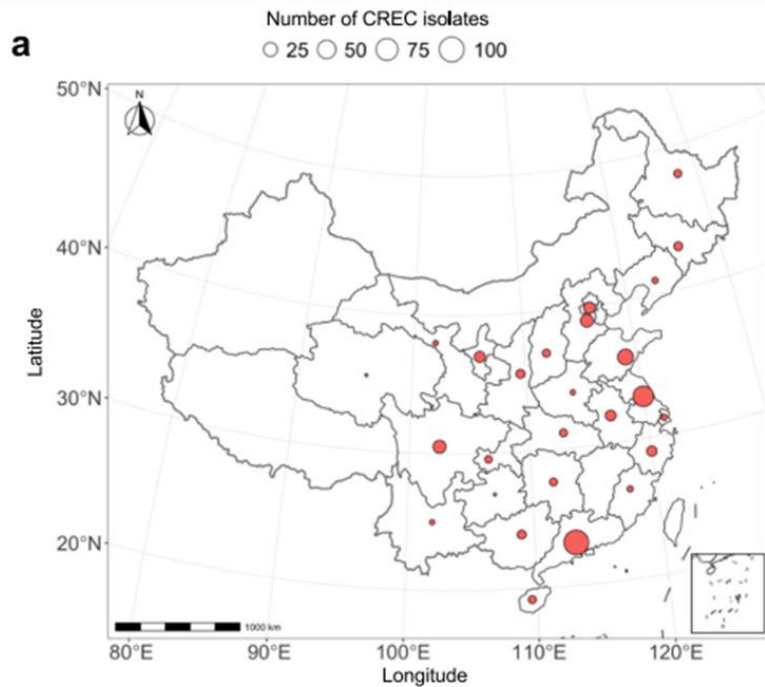
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Carbapenem-resistant *Escherichia coli* (CREC) ST410

- CREC prevalence increased in Chinese hospitals between 2017 and 2021.
- ST410 is the most frequent. Four groups of *E. coli* ST410 were identified in this children's hospital,
- **Genomic analysis identifies a hypervirulent CREC ST410 clone, B5/H24RxC**
- It may have emerged from the previously characterized B4/H24RxC in 2006
- Compared with B4/H24RxC, **B5/H24RxC lacks the *bla*_{OXA-181}-bearing X3 plasmid, but carries a F-type plasmid containing *bla*_{NDM-5}**
- **Most of B5/H24RxC also carry a high pathogenicity island YBT and a novel O-antigen gene cluster**
- B5/H24RxC grew faster *in vitro* and is more virulent *in vivo*
- Globally disseminated hypervirulent CREC clone, highlights the ongoing evolution of ST410 towards increased resistance and virulence.



Carbapenem-resistant *Escherichia coli* (CREC) ST410

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Article

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-43854-3>

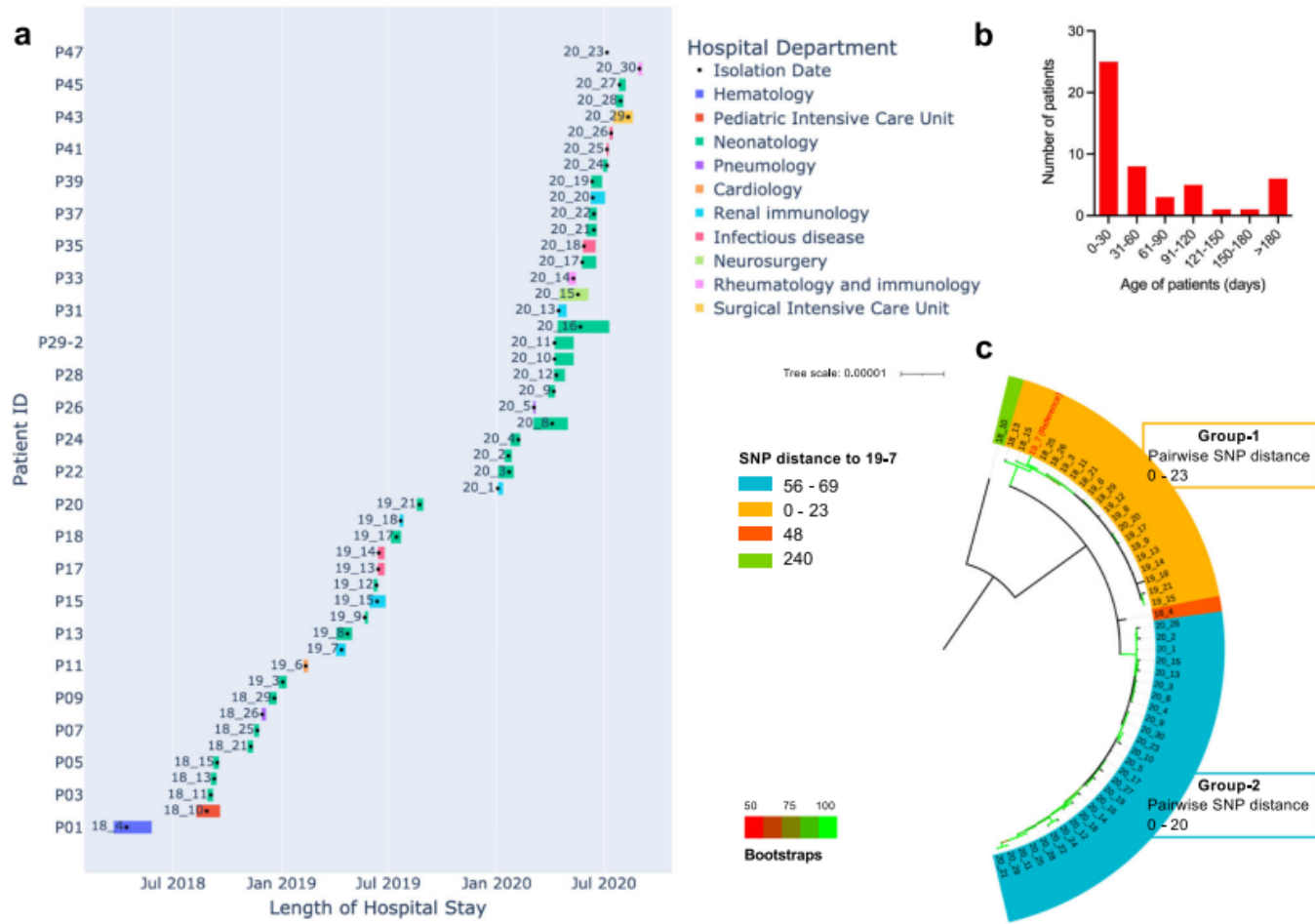
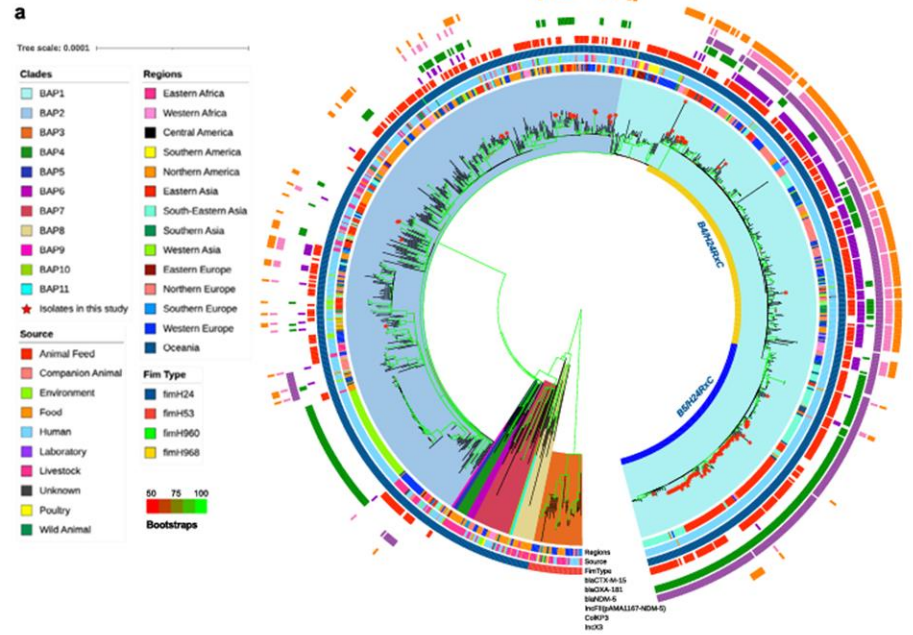
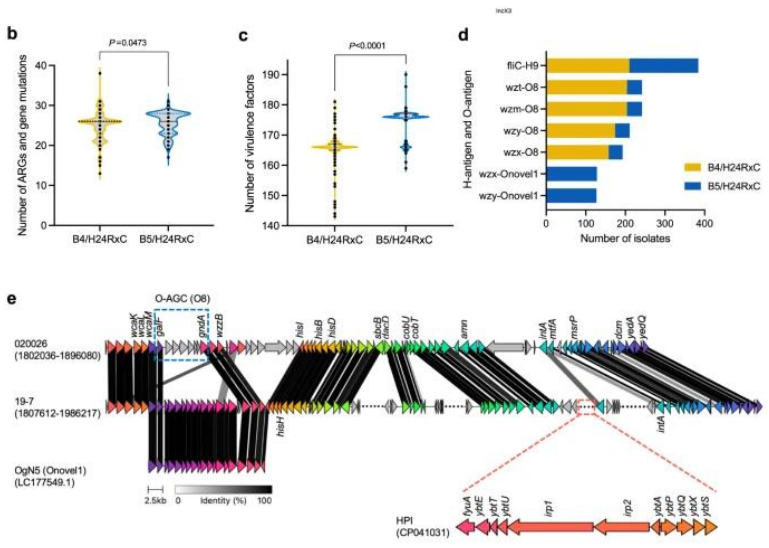
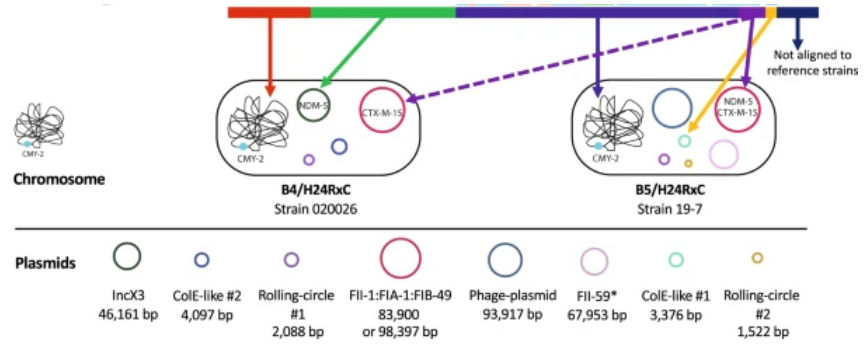


Fig. 2 | Outbreaks of a ST410 lineage in a children's hospital. a Gantt plot showing the length of hospital stay of the patients in the children's hospital in eastern China. Patient ID are presented on the y axis and the length of stay of each patient is represented with coloured bars. A black dot within the coloured bars indicates the time of the isolation of the isolates. **b** Bar chart showing the age

distribution of the patients. **c** Maximum-likelihood core-genome SNP phylogeny of the 49 ST410 CREC isolates in the children's hospital. Colours indicates the SNP distance to the reference genome 19-7. Bootstrap values are represented by gradient colours. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



B5/H24RxC had 176 putative virulence genes, B4/H24RxC had 166
 The difference: the presence of the **high pathogenicity island (Yersiniabactin)** originated from in *Yersinia enterocolitica* (*fyuA*, *irp1*, *irp2*, *ybtA*, *ybtE*, *ybtP*, *ybtQ*, *ybtS*, *ybtT*, *ybtU*, and *ybtX*)
 And the O-antigen genes were associated with B4/H24RxC (*wzm/wzt* O8) changed with *wzx/wzy* Onovel1 in B5/H24RxC
 Compared with B4/H24RxC, **B5/H24RxC lacks the bla_{OXA-181}-bearing X3 plasmid, but carries a F-type plasmid containing bla_{NDM-5}**



- B5/H24RxC grew faster *in vitro* and is more virulent *in vivo*

Time of the most recent common ancestor (TMRCA) of different phylogenetic groups
 A mutation rate of $6.42\text{E-}7$ SNPs per site per was estimated. The analysis estimated the age of the ST410 lineage to be approximately 205 years, with a TMRCA of around 1816. The B4/H24RxC ancestor was estimated to have originated in 2003. The TMRCA of B5/H24RxC was estimated at around May 2006

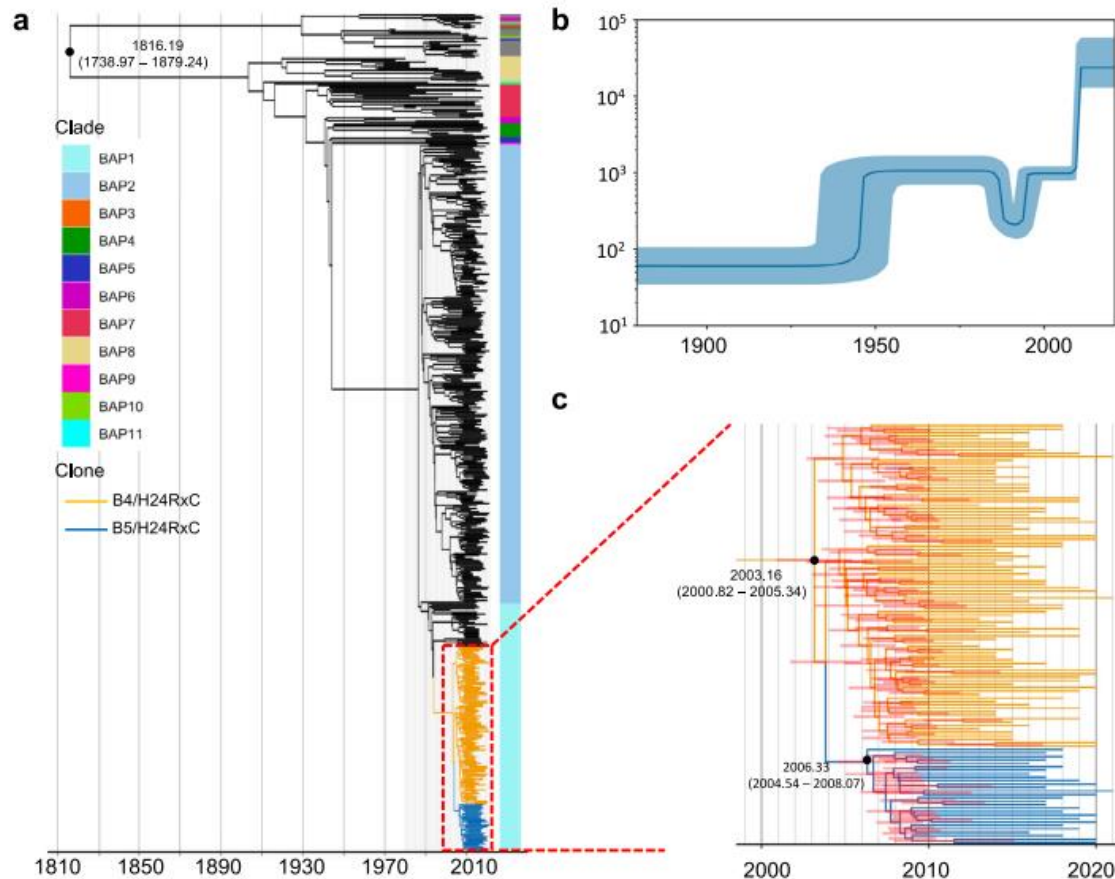


Fig. 6 | Coalescence-based analysis of *E. coli* ST410. **a** A time-calibrated phylogeny was reconstructed using BEAST2.0 based on the nonrecombinant SNPs for the 500 selected *E. coli* ST410. The MDR clone B4/H24RxC and B5/H24RxC are coloured in orange and blue, respectively. **b** The Bayesian skyline plot illustrates the

predicted demographic changes of the ST410 clades. The thick solid line represents the median estimate of the effective population size, with 95% confidence interval shown in lighter blue area. **c** An enlarged phylogenetic tree showing the B4/H24RxC and B5/H24RxC clones.