Virulence Factor Genes Detected in the Complete Genome Sequence of Corynebacterium uterequi DSM 45634, Isolated from the Uterus of a Maiden Mare

The MIT Faculty has made this article openly available. Please share how this access benefits you. Your story matters.

Citation
Ruckert, Christian, Martin Kriete, Sebastian Jaenicke, Anika Winkler, and Andreas Tauch. “Virulence Factor Genes Detected in the Complete Genome Sequence of Corynebacterium Uterequi DSM 45634, Isolated from the Uterus of a Maiden Mare.” Genome Announc. 3, no. 4 (July 30, 2015): e00783–15.

As Published
http://dx.doi.org/10.1128/genomeA.00783-15

Publisher
American Society for Microbiology

Version
Final published version

Citable link
http://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/98098

Terms of Use
Creative Commons Attribution

Detailed Terms
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/
Virulence Factor Genes Detected in the Complete Genome Sequence of *Corynebacterium uterequi* DSM 45634, Isolated from the Uterus of a Maiden Mare

Christian Rückert, a,b Martin Kriete, b Sebastian Jaenicke, b Anika Winkler, b Andreas Tauch b

Department of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA; Institut für Genomforschung und Systembiologie, Centrum für Biotechnologie (CeBiTec), Universität Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany; Bioinformatics Resource Facility (BRF), Centrum für Biotechnologie (CeBiTec), Universität Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany.

The complete genome sequence of the type strain *Corynebacterium uterequi* DSM 45634 from an equine urogenital tract specimen comprises 2,419,437 bp and 2,163 protein-coding genes. Candidate virulence factors are homologs of DIP0733, DIP1281, and DIP1621 from *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* and of sialidase precursors from *Trueperella pyogenes* and *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

*Corynebacterium uterequi* was proposed as a novel nonlipophilic species of the genus *Corynebacterium* by Hoyles et al. in 2013 (1). The description of this species is based on molecular and phenotypic data of three isolates associated with the urogenital tract of mares in Scotland and Sweden. Bacteria with similar morphological appearance were detected in additional uterus samples from mares with clinical problems and from mares serving as routine controls. This finding suggests that *C. uterequi* represents a commensal bacterium of the equine urogenital tract (1). The type strain *C. uterequi* DSM 45634 (VM 2298) was isolated in pure culture from a maiden mare suffering from an increased amount of liquid in the uterus. The 16S rRNA gene sequence of the type strain shared 95.01% sequence similarity with the nearest taxonomic relative *Corynebacterium lubricantis* that was isolated from a coolant lubricant in Germany (1, 2). Here, we present the complete genome sequence of the type strain *C. uterequi* DSM 45634 to identify candidate virulence factor genes (3–6).

Genomic DNA of *C. uterequi* DSM 45634 was obtained from the Leibniz Institute DSMZ. The genomic DNA was sequenced in a combined approach using a whole-genome shotgun library and a mate pair library. The whole-genome shotgun library was constructed with the Nextera DNA sample preparation kit (Illumina) and was sequenced in a paired-end run using the MiSeq reagent kit v2 (500 cycles) and the MiSeq desktop sequencer (Illumina). This shotgun sequencing resulted in 1,569,676 paired reads and 253,713,569 detected bases. The paired reads were assembled with the Roche GS De Novo Assembler software (Newbler; release 2.8), yielding 22 scaffolds with 38 scaffolded contigs. A 7-kb mate pair library was prepared with the Nextera mate pair sample preparation kit according to the gel-plus protocol. The mate pair library was sequenced with the MiSeq reagent kit v3 (600 cycles) and 459,853 mate pair reads were added to the initial Newbler assembly. The gap closure step was facilitated by the Consed software (version 26) (7). Gene prediction was performed with the Prodigal software (8) and the functional annotation of the detected protein-coding regions was supported by the IMG/ER pipeline (9).

The chromosome of *C. uterequi* DSM 45634 has a size of 2,419,437 bp with a mean G + C content of 65.5%. The automatic annotation of the genome sequence revealed 2,163 protein-coding regions, 53 tRNA genes, and 5 rRNA operons. A BLASTp search for potential virulence factors (3–6) led to the detection of homologs of DIP0733, a multifunctional virulence factor of *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* (10, 11), DIP1281, involved in adhesion and internalization of *C. diphtheriae* (12), and DIP1621, an adherence factor of *C. diphtheriae* (13). Additional candidate virulence factors are lipases of the LIP family (14), a secreted SGHN hydrolase (14), and sialidases with similarity to proteins from *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Trueperella pyogenes* (15). At least the predicted sialidases of *C. uterequi* DSM 45634 represent niche factors (16), showing the adaptation of this bacterium to a distinct equine environment that is rich in glycoconjugates during pregnancy (17).

**Nucleotide sequence accession number.** This genome project has been deposited in the GenBank database under the accession no. CP011546.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.** The *C. uterequi* genome project is part of the “Corynebacterium Type Strain Sequencing and Analysis Project.” It was supported by the Medical Microbiology and Genomics fund for practical training (eKV 200937). The bioinformatic work of this study was supported partly by the BMBF initiative “German Network for Bioinformatics Infrastructure—de.NBI” (FKZ 031A533A).

**REFERENCES**

1. Hoyles L, Ortman K, Cardew S, Foster G, Rogerson F, Falsen E. 2013. *Corynebacterium uterequi* sp. nov., a non-lipophilic bacterium isolated from urogenital samples from horses. Vet Microbiol 165:469–474. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetmic.2013.03.025](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetmic.2013.03.025)
Rückert et al.

4. Trost E, Ott L, Schneider J, Schröder J, Jaenicke S, Goesmann A, Tauch A, Sandbote J

Markowitz VM, Chen IM, Palaniappan K, Chu K, Szeto E, Pillay M, Ratner A, Huang J, Woyke T, Huntemann M, Anderson I, Billis K, Varghese N, Mavromatis K, Pati A, Ivanova NN, Kyprides NC. 2014. IMG 4 version of the integrated microbial genomes comparative analysis system. Nucleic Acids Res 42:D560–D567. http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkt963.

10. Sabbadini PS, Assis MG, Trost E, Gomes DL, Moreira LO, dos Santos CS, Pereira GA, Nagao PE, Azevedo VA, Júnior RH, dos Santos AL, Tauch A, Mattos-Guaraldi AL. 2012. Corynebacterium diphtheriae 67-72p hemagglutinin, characterized as the protein DIP0733, contributes to invasion and induction of apoptosis in HEP-2 cells. Microb Pathog 52:165–176. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.micpath.2011.12.003.

11. Antunes CA, Sanches dos Santos L, Hacker E, Köhler S, Bösl K, Ott L, de Luna Md, Hirata R, Jr, Azevedo VA, Mattos-Guaraldi AL, Burkovski A. 2013. Characterization of DIP0733, a multi-functional virulence factor of Corynebacterium diphtheriae. Microbiology 161:639–647. http://dx.doi.org/10.1099/mic.0.000020.

12. Ott L, Höller M, Gerlach RG, Hensel M, Rheinlaender J, Schäffer TE, Burkovski A. 2010. Corynebacterium diphtheriae invasion-associated protein (DIP1281) is involved in cell surface organization, adhesion and internalization in epithelial cells. BMC Microbiol 10:2. http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/1471-2179-10-2.

13. Kolodkina V, Denisevich T, Titov L. 2011. Identification of Corynebacterium diphtheriae gene involved in adherence to epithelial cells. Infect Genet Evol 11:518–521. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.meegid.2010.11.004.

14. Marchler-Bauer A, Derbyshire MK, Gonzales NR, Lu S, Chitsaz F, Geer LY, Geer RC, He J, Gwadz M, Hurwitz DI, Lanczycki CJ, Lu F, Marchler GH, Song JS, Thanki N, Wang Z, Yamashita RA, Zhang D, Zheng C, Bryant SH. 2015. CDD: NCBI’s conserved domain database. Nucleic Acids Res 43:D222–D226. http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/nar/gku1221.

15. Jost BH, Songer JG, Billington SJ. 2001. Cloning, expression, and characterization of a neuraminidase gene from Arcanobacterium pyogenes. Infect Immun 69:4430–4437. http://dx.doi.org/10.1128/IAI.69.7.4430-4437.2001.

16. Hill C. 2012. Virulence or niche factors: what’s in a name? J Bacteriol 194:5725–5727. http://dx.doi.org/10.1128/JB.00980-12.

17. Klein C, Troedsson M. 2012. Equine pre-implantation conceptuses express neuraminidase 2—a potential mechanism for desialylation of the equine capsule. Reprod Domest Anim 47:449–454. http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1439-0531.2011.01901.x.