Csp1, a Cold Shock Protein Homolog in *Xylella fastidiosa* Influences Cell Attachment, Pili Formation, and Gene Expression

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ABSTRACT  Bacterial cold shock-domain proteins are conserved nucleic acid binding chaperones that play important roles in stress adaptation and pathogenesis. Csp1 is a temperature-independent cold shock protein homolog in *Xylella fastidiosa*, a bacterial plant pathogen of grapevine and other economically important crops. Csp1 contributes to stress tolerance and virulence in *X. fastidiosa*. However, besides general single-stranded nucleic acid binding activity, little is known about the specific function(s) of Csp1. To further investigate the role(s) of Csp1, we compared phenotypic differences and transcriptome profiles between the wild type and a *csp1* deletion mutant (*Δcsp1*). Csp1 contributes to attachment and long-term survival and influences gene expression. We observed reduced cell-to-cell attachment and reduced attachment to surfaces with the *Δcsp1* strain compared to those with the wild type. Transmission electron microscopy imaging revealed that *Δcsp1* was deficient in pili formation compared to the wild type and complemented strains. The *Δcsp1* strain also showed reduced survival after long-term growth *in vitro*. Long-read nanopore transcriptome sequencing (RNA-Seq) analysis revealed changes in expression of several genes important for attachment and biofilm formation in *Δcsp1* compared to that in the wild type. One gene of interest, *pilA1*, which encodes a type IV pili subunit protein, was upregulated in *Δcsp1*. Deleting *pilA1* in *X. fastidiosa* strain Stag’s Leap increased surface attachment *in vitro* and reduced virulence in grapevines. *X. fastidiosa* virulence depends on bacterial attachment to host tissue and movement within and between xylem vessels. Our results show that the impact of Csp1 on virulence may be due to changes in expression of attachment genes.

IMPORTANCE  *Xylella fastidiosa* is a major threat to the worldwide agriculture industry. Despite its global importance, many aspects of *X. fastidiosa* biology and pathogenicity are poorly understood. There are currently few effective solutions to suppress *X. fastidiosa* disease development or eliminate bacteria from infected plants. Recently, disease epidemics due to *X. fastidiosa* have greatly expanded, increasing the need for better disease prevention and control strategies. Our studies show a novel connection between cold shock protein Csp1 and pili abundance and attachment, which have not been reported for *X. fastidiosa*. Understanding how pathogenesis-related gene expression is regulated can aid in developing novel pathogen and disease control strategies. We also streamlined a bioinformatics protocol to process and analyze long-read nanopore bacterial RNA-Seq data, which will benefit the research community, particularly those working with non-model bacterial species.

KEYWORDS  RNA-seq, *Xylella fastidiosa*, biofilms, cold shock proteins, gene expression, plant pathogens, stress response, transcriptional regulation, type IV pili, virulence factors

*Xylella fastidiosa* is an economically important plant pathogen that causes disease in many agricultural crops, including grapevines, citrus, almonds, alfalfa, and coffee. Infection of grapevines by *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* is known as Pierce’s disease (1–6). Pierce’s disease is a serious problem for the grapevine industry in the United States,
especially in California, where the disease threatens the $30 billion wine industry (7). During the infection cycle, *X. fastidiosa* is spread via sap-feeding insect vectors and colonizes the xylem tissue of plants (8). In the plant xylem, the bacteria encounter many stressors, such as plant defense responses, that can reduce pathogen viability. Abiotic stressors, such as cold temperature, can also affect long-term survival of the bacteria in grapevines and have been linked to pathogen elimination and vine recovery (9, 10).

The Csp superfamily consists of a diverse group of homologous proteins conserved in many bacteria (11). Most research on bacterial cold shock proteins has focused on their role in helping bacteria adapt and survive at suboptimal temperatures; however, several studies show that some Csps also contribute to virulence and general stress response (12–15). *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* Csp1 shares 53% amino acid sequence identity with CspA from *Escherichia coli* K-12 (ECDH10B_3735) and 52% identity with a CspA homolog (XC_1828) from *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *campestris* (16). In *E. coli*, some Csps have been identified as paralogs (CspA and CspB, CspH and CspF, CspC and CspE, CspI and CspG) (2). Five of the nine *E. coli* Csps (CspA, CspB, CspE, CspG, and CspI) are induced by changes in temperature (11), while CspC and CspE are constitutively expressed at normal growth temperatures (37°C) and are involved in regulating stress response gene expression (17). *E. coli* CspD is induced at early stationary phase and is important for survival under nutrient-poor conditions (15). Previous studies on *X. fastidiosa* Stag’s Leap revealed that deleting csp1 resulted in reduced survival after cold treatment *in vitro*; however, csp1 expression is not induced by cold exposure, and its importance to *X. fastidiosa* cold survival *in planta* is not as well established (16). Csp1 is also important for osmotic stress tolerance (16). These results suggest that, like *E. coli* CspE and CspC, *X. fastidiosa* Csp1 may be less important for cold survival and play a more prominent role in general stress tolerance.

In some animal and plant pathogens, Csps are also important for regulation of virulence factors. A triple deletion mutant (ΔcspABD) in bacterial foodborne pathogen *Listeria monocytogenes* reduced oxidative and cold stress survival and impaired host cell invasion and intracellular growth (13). The *L. monocytogenes* ΔcspABD mutant was also deficient in cellular aggregation and did not express surface flagella or exhibit swarming motility (18). Gene expression analysis showed reduced expression of virulence and motility genes in *L. monocytogenes* csp mutants, suggesting that some Csps may regulate gene expression. Similarly, some cold shock proteins in plant-pathogenic bacteria also act as virulence factors and regulate gene expression. The *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae* (Xoo) CspA protein regulates expression of two virulence genes, PXO_RS11830 and PXO_RS01060 (14). Deletion of Xoo cspA decreased cold tolerance, bacterial pathogenicity, biofilm formation, and polysaccharide production (14). In *X. fastidiosa* strain Stag’s Leap, deleting csp1 resulted in significantly reduced disease severity and bacterial titer in the absence of cold stress in susceptible Chardonnay grapevines (16). However, the mechanisms of how Csp1 contributes to virulence are not well understood.

In this study, we investigated the molecular mechanisms through which *X. fastidiosa* Csp1 contributes to stress tolerance and virulence. Since the *X. fastidiosa* csp1 mutant was less tolerant to certain stress conditions and had a bacterial titer lower than that of the wild type *in planta* (16), we compared long-term survival of wild-type *X. fastidiosa* Stag’s Leap with that of the Δcsp1 mutant and a complemented strain. We also investigated whether Csp1 influences biofilm formation since xylem occlusion by biofilms is a major aspect of *X. fastidiosa* pathogenicity, and the Δcsp1 mutant produced less-severe symptoms in grapevine compared to the wild type (16). Last, because Csp1 has general nucleic acid binding activity (16) and studies in other bacteria show that some Csps regulate gene expression, we also investigated the influence of Csp1 on *X. fastidiosa* gene expression using transcriptome sequencing (RNA-Seq) to compare transcriptomes of wild-type Stag’s Leap and the Δcsp1 mutant.

**RESULTS**

*X. fastidiosa* Δcsp1 mutant showed reduced long-term survival *in vitro*. Previous work showed that deleting the csp1 gene in *X. fastidiosa* strain Stag’s Leap resulted in
reduced tolerance to salt and cold stress (16). Since these results strongly suggest that Csp1 may play a role in X. fastidiosa stress adaptation, we were interested to see if Csp1 was involved in survival under other stresses, such as prolonged survival times. We compared cell viability of wild-type, \( \Delta csp1 \), and \( \Delta csp1/csp1^{+} \) strains grown on PD3 plates at 7 days postinoculation (DPI), when X. fastidiosa cells begin to decline, and at 13 DPI (extended stationary phase). No significant change in viability was observed between the mutant and the wild type at 7 days postinoculation (DPI) (Fig. 1), but there was a significant decrease in viability of \( \Delta csp1 \) at 13 DPI compared to that of the wild-type and complemented strains (Fig. 1). The csp1 mutant grows at a rate comparable to that of the wild-type and complemented strains at earlier time points (Fig. S1). These results suggest that Csp1 is important for long-term or stationary-phase survival of X. fastidiosa in vitro.

**Δcsp1 strain showed reduced cellular aggregation and surface adhesion.** Biofilm formation is an important aspect of X. fastidiosa host colonization and involves both cell-cell aggregation and cellular adhesion to surfaces (19). Wild-type Stag’s Leap cells form visible aggregates and a biofilm ring at the air-liquid interface when grown in liquid PD3 medium (Fig. 2A). However, the \( \Delta csp1 \) mutant showed a dispersed phenotype with visibly fewer cells attached at the air-liquid interface when grown under the same conditions as the wild type (WT) and the complemented strains (Fig. 2A). We quantified and compared aggregation of the WT, \( \Delta csp1 \), and \( \Delta csp1/csp1^{+} \) strains and found that the percentage of aggregated cells in liquid culture was significantly lower for \( \Delta csp1 \) than for the WT and complemented strains (Fig. 2B). In addition to cellular aggregation, biofilm formation also requires cell adhesion to surfaces. We quantified surface attachment of static cultures of WT, \( \Delta csp1 \), and \( \Delta csp1/csp1^{+} \) strains grown in 96-well plates using crystal violet staining and observed a significant decrease in the number of attached cells for the mutant strain compared to that for the WT and the complemented strains (Fig. 2C).

**Δcsp1 mutant shows reduced pili formation.** X. fastidiosa pili are important for cellular aggregation and surface attachment (20). To evaluate the effect of csp1 on pilus formation, cells of the wild type Stag’s Leap, the \( \Delta csp1 \) mutant, and the complemented strains were visualized using transmission electron microscopy (TEM), as shown in Figure 3. TEM images of wild-type X. fastidiosa show that pili localized to one pole of the cell, while the csp1 mutant did not show visible pili formation (Fig. 3). The complemented strain shows restored pilus formation, with most of the pili concentrated toward one pole of the cell (Fig. 3).
Motility- and attachment-related genes were differentially expressed in the Δcsp1 strain. To investigate the influence of Csp1 on X. fastidiosa gene expression, we used nanopore RNA-Seq to sequence transcriptomes of wild-type X. fastidiosa strain Stag’s Leap and the Δcsp1 deletion mutant under standard growth conditions (28°C). RNA-Seq analysis revealed that 90 genes were expressed differentially in the Δcsp1 strain compared to the wild type (Table 1). Of the 90 differentially expressed genes, 65 were downregulated and 25 were upregulated in Δcsp1 compared to the wild type. The RNA-Seq results also showed that no transcripts mapped to the csp1 gene in the mutant strain, verifying that csp1 was absent and showing the accuracy of transcript mapping (Table 1). Gene ontology analysis using GSEA Pro (http://gseapro.molgenrug.nl) showed significant enrichment of genes involved in cell adhesion/attachment, gene regulation, translation, and rRNA binding. To identify genes of interest for further investigation, we focused on genes that may be associated with phenotypes observed in the Δcsp1 mutant, such as reduced cellular aggregation and attachment and the...
**TABLE 1** Differentially expressed genes

| Locus ID | Gene symbol | Product                                                                 | Transcripts per million | Expression ratio (Δcsp1/WT) |
|----------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| PD0020   | pilV        | Pre-pilin leader sequence                                              | 180.08                  | 0.00                         |
| PD0141   | fabG        | 3-Ketoacyl-(acyl-carrier-protein) reductase                            | 127.23                  | 0.00                         |
| PD1354   | csp1        | Cold shock protein                                                     | 5,290.81                | 0.00                         |
| PD1380   | dnaB        | Replicating DNA helicase                                               | 44.29                   | 0.00                         |
| PD1735   | fabG        | Type 4 fimbrial biogenesis protein                                      | 131.92                  | 0.00                         |
| PD1944   | rpsR        | 30S ribosomal protein S18                                               | 8,011.60                | 0.00                         |
| PD2095   | pilV        | Pre-pilin leader sequence                                              | 119.23                  | 0.00                         |
| PD1926   | pilA2       | Fimbrial protein                                                       | 2,184.57                | 66.44                        |
| PD0216   | cvaC        | Colicin V precursor                                                    | 10,631.85               | 842.10                       |
| PD1931   | sucD        | Succinyl-CoA synthetase subunit alpha                                  | 133.48                  | 11.68                        |
| PD1317   | xrvA        | Virulence regulator                                                    | 112.39                  | 10.34                        |
| PD2003   | rpi        | 50S ribosomal protein L10                                               | 479.16                  | 45.72                        |
| PD0463   | rpsS        | 30S ribosomal protein L19                                               | 947.68                  | 115.89                       |
| PD1945   | rpsF        | 30S ribosomal protein S6                                                | 1,201.60                | 179.24                       |
| PD1063   | pilA2       | Fimbrial protein                                                       | 1,287.41                | 202.47                       |
| PD0556   | pilA2       | Fimbrial protein                                                       | 28,667.31               | 4,555.29                     |
| PD0062   | fimA        | Fimbrial subunit precursor                                             | 10,009.57               | 1,724.44                     |
| PD0217   | fimA        | Fimbrial protein                                                       | 2,815.96                | 511.29                       |
| PD1440   | rpsT        | 30S ribosomal protein S20                                               | 6,060.28                | 1,246.99                     |
| PD0708   | virulence regulator                                               | 672.31                  | 141.02                       |
| PD1914   | rpmL        | 50S ribosomal protein L35                                               | 21,603.77               | 4,619.53                     |
| PD0626   | sb         | Single-stranded DNA-binding protein                                    | 484.98                  | 103.71                       |
| PD0061   | fimC        | Chaperone protein precursor                                            | 477.40                  | 108.95                       |
| PD1087   | pilV        | Pre-pilin leader sequence                                              | 2,361.29                | 583.51                       |
| PD0283   | dksA        | DnaK suppressor                                                        | 927.35                  | 238.22                       |
| PD0313   | pspB        | Serine protease                                                       | 76.39                   | 19.88                        |
| PD0459   | rpsK        | 30S ribosomal protein S11                                               | 2,578.30                | 684.46                       |
| PD0460   | rpsD        | 30S ribosomal protein S4                                                | 949.37                  | 255.44                       |
| PD1913   | rplT        | 50S ribosomal protein L20                                               | 2,372.81                | 665.13                       |
| PD0447   | rplN        | 50S ribosomal protein L14                                               | 2,169.26                | 615.27                       |
| PD2122   | rnpA        | Ribonuclease P                                                        | 1,479.05                | 424.04                       |
| PD2121   | yidC        | Putative inner membrane protein translocase component YidC            | 96.10                   | 30.18                        |
| PD0453   | rplR        | 50S ribosomal protein L18                                               | 1,681.26                | 541.74                       |
| PD1684   | rplQ        | 50S ribosomal protein L17                                               | 15,592.41               | 5,202.73                     |
| PD0462   | rpsM        | 30S ribosomal protein S13                                               | 1,407.81                | 481.26                       |
| PD0458   | rpsM        | 30S ribosomal protein S13                                               | 2,889.36                | 991.26                       |
| PD1557   | apbE        | Thiamine biosynthesis lipoprotein ApbE precursor                      | 132.21                  | 46.45                        |
| PD1807   | ompW        | Outer membrane protein                                                | 3,923.03                | 1,396.21                     |
| PD0442   | pilV        | 50S ribosomal protein L22                                               | 2,512.05                | 900.32                       |
| PD0856   | dcp         | Peptidyl-dipeptidase                                                  | 111.54                  | 42.17                        |
| PD1808   | hsf/xadA    | Afimbrial adhesin surface protein                                       | 35,966.82               | 13,605.11                    |
| PD0824   | hsf/xadA    | Afimbrial adhesin surface protein                                       | 43.10                   | 16.51                        |
| PD0464   | comM        | Competence-related protein                                             | 257.79                  | 98.85                        |
| PD1993   | csp2        | Temp acclimation protein B                                             | 97,359.93               | 38,394.08                    |
| PD0246   | secG        | Preprotein translocase subunit SecG                                    | 1,557.96                | 650.10                       |
| PD0436   | rpsI        | 30S ribosomal protein S10                                               | 9,769.22                | 3,538.88                     |
| PD1984   | gacA        | Transcriptional regulator                                              | 694.76                  | 310.36                       |
| PD0448   | rplX        | 50S ribosomal protein L24                                               | 2,529.90                | 1,134.00                     |
| PD1558   | comE        | DNA transport competence protein                                       | 16,765.37               | 7,555.53                     |
| PD1709   | mopB        | Outer membrane protein                                                | 597.52                  | 309.74                       |
| PD2123   | rpmH        | 50S ribosomal protein L34                                               | 36,412.20               | 19,544.34                    |
| PD0446   | rpsQ        | 30S ribosomal protein S17                                               | 11,515.54               | 6,378.49                     |
| PD0451   | rpsH        | 30S ribosomal protein S8                                                | 3,394.73                | 1,983.09                     |
| PD0060   | fimD        | Outer membrane usher protein precursor                                 | 75.88                   | 46.68                        |
| PD0452   | rplF        | 50S ribosomal protein L6                                                | 1,627.21                | 1,022.85                     |
| PD0461   | rpoA        | DNA-directed RNA polymerase subunit alpha                              | 477.69                  | 301.63                       |
| PD0159   | pilV        | Pre-pilin leader sequence                                              | 1,722.76                | 1,188.73                     |

(Continued on next page)
absence of pili. Several differentially expressed genes encoding proteins directly involved in attachment, motility, and/or biofilm formation included pilA1 (PD1924), pilA2 (PD1926), fimA (PD0062), fimC (PD0061), hsf/xadA (PD0824), pilV (PD0020), and fimT (PD1735). We performed quantitative reverse transcriptase PCR (qRT-PCR) for several of these genes and saw that expression of pilA1 was consistently upregulated in the csp1 mutant strain in multiple independent replicates of qPCR using RNA extracted separately from X. fastidiosa cells grown under the same conditions (Table 2). We also observed differential expression of several genes encoding ribosomal components that have previously been associated with biofilm growth (as opposed to planktonic cell growth) (21). It is likely that differential expression of ribosomal components in the Dcsp1 mutant is related to the difference in biofilm development in this mutant as well, but further experiments were focused on pilA1 because of the deficiency in pili formation in Dcsp1.

### Table 1 (Continued)

| Locus ID | Gene symbol | Product                                      | Transcripts per million | Expression ratio (Dcsp1/WT) |
|----------|-------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| PD1087   | ruvA        | Holliday junction DNA helicase RuvA           | 185.24                  | 6.13                        |
| PD0718   | nodQ        | Bifunctional sulfate adenylyltransferase subunit 1/adenylsulfate kinase protein | 96.67                    | 3.33                        |
| PD1589   | btuB        | TonB-dependent receptor                       | 21.48                   | 6.50                        |
| PD0179   |             | Hypothetical protein                          | 21.64                   | 4.25                        |
| PD1652   | recB        | Exodeoxyribonuclease V beta chain             | 4.63                    | 3.29                        |
| PD1167   | ugd         | UDP-glucose dehydrogenase                     | 41.30                   | 3.31                        |
| PD1924   | pilA1       | Fimbrial protein                              | 202.45                  | 4.41                        |
| PD1702   |             | Hypothetical protein                          | 80.27                   | 4.52                        |
| PD0744   | hsf         | Surface protein                               | 22.05                   | 5.20                        |
| PD1829   | xylA        | Family 3 glycoside hydrolase                  | 4.24                    | 3.57                        |
| PD1703   |             | Hypothetical protein                          | 82.67                   | 5.95                        |
| PD0405   | rpfG        | Response regulator                            | 44.40                   | 6.12                        |
| PD0292   | argE        | Acetylornithine deacetylase                   | 13.64                   | 6.57                        |
| PD1517   |             | Hypothetical protein                          | 52.15                   | 6.70                        |
| PD1280   | hspA        | Low mol wt heat shock protein                 | 832.27                  | 7.15                        |
| PD1409   | grx         | Glutaredoxin-like protein                     | 76.86                   | 7.28                        |
| PD0521   |             | Hypothetical protein                          | 946.01                  | 7.44                        |
| PD1850   |             | M20/M25/M40 family peptidase                  | 13.43                   | 7.99                        |
| PD1531   |             | Hypothetical protein                          | 538.53                  | 9.45                        |
| PD1468   | bolA        | Morphogene BolA protein                       | 236.76                  | 9.74                        |
| PD1392   | gumF        | GumF protein                                  | 13.10                   | 17.83                       |
| PD1222   |             | Hypothetical protein                          | 321.58                  | 37.89                       |
| PD0657   |             | Hypothetical protein                          | 70.31                   | 40.65                       |
| PD0215   | cvaC        | Colicin V precursor                           | 1,211.81                | 87.37                       |

Table 2: Quantitative RT-PCR results for pilA1 expression

| Gene | Relative normalized expression of: |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| pilA1| WT       | Δcsp1 | Δcsp1+ |
|      | 1.00    | 7.29 ± 4.35 | 0.50 ± 0.36 |
adhesion, and decreased attachment to surfaces in the Stag’s Leap Δcsp1 mutant, so we created a pilA1 deletion mutant in the Stag’s Leap background to further investigate the role of pilA1 expression in the phenotypes observed in Δcsp1. Like TemeculaL, the Stag’s Leap ΔpilA1 strain showed an increase in surface attachment compared to that of the wild type and complemented strains (Fig. 4A). The ΔpilA1 mutant also had reduced cellular aggregation and a dispersed phenotype in liquid media (Fig. 4B). TEM images of Stag’s Leap ΔpilA1 show that, like deleting the TemeculaL ΔpilA1 mutant, deleting pilA1 in Stag’s Leap also leads to overabundance of pili distributed around the entire cell (Fig. S3). These results show that pilA1 is important for attachment and biofilm formation in Stag’s Leap and suggest that the decrease in surface attachment observed in the Δcsp1 mutant may be a result of increased expression of pilA1.

The ΔpilA1 mutant showed reduced virulence in grapevines. Xylem vessel occlusion caused by biofilms is one major mechanism of X. fastidiosa pathogenicity. Previous studies showed that the Δcsp1 mutant is less virulent in Chardonnay grapevines compared to wild-type Stag’s Leap (16). Since both the Δcsp1 and ΔpilA1 mutant strains have altered biofilm phenotypes, and pilA1 expression is upregulated in the Δcsp1 strain, we were interested to see if pilA1 also influences virulence in grapevines. We inoculated susceptible 1-year-old potted Chardonnay grapevines with wild-type

**FIG 4** Cellular aggregation and attachment of ΔpilA1. (A) Cell attachment of wild-type Stag’s Leap (WT), pilA1 deletion mutant (ΔpilA1), and pilA1 complemented strain (ΔpilA1/pilA1+) was quantified by measuring the amount of crystal violet stain retained by cells attached to the walls of 15-ml polystyrene culture tubes (OD_{550}) after static growth in 5 ml of PD3 liquid medium for 7 days. OD_{550} was normalized to total cells (CFU per ml) quantified by qPCR. Graph represents at least 16 technical replicates from four separate experiments. ***, significant difference from wild type based on one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey means comparison test (*P < 0.01). (B) Cellular aggregation was quantified by measuring the OD_{600} of statically grown liquid cultures of WT, ΔpilA1, and ΔpilA1/pilA1+ before and after manual dispersal of cells. The percentage of aggregated cells was calculated using the equation from Figure 2B. The graph represents a total of at least 9 technical replicates from three separate experiments. *, significant difference based on one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey means comparison test (*P < 0.05).
Stag’s Leap, ΔpilA1, and ΔpilA1/pilA1+ cultures or 1× phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) as the negative control. Disease ratings were accessed using the grapevine symptom rating scale (23) (Fig. S2). Disease severity was significantly reduced for plants inoculated with the ΔpilA1 strain compared with that for plants inoculated with wild-type and complemented strains at 16 weeks postinoculation (Fig. 5A). The bacterial populations in inoculated plants were also quantified using quantitative PCR (qPCR). There was no significant difference in X. fastidiosa populations detected in petioles from plants inoculated with ΔpilA1, wild type, or the complemented strains at 16 weeks postinoculation (Fig. 5B). This suggests that the virulence defect of the mutant strain was not due to reduced bacterial populations.

**DISCUSSION**

In this study, we explored the role of Csp1 and biofilm-related gene expression in bacterial plant pathogen X. fastidiosa. Deleting the csp1 gene in strain Stag's Leap influenced expression of 90 genes, several of which encode proteins related to bacteria attachment and motility. The phenotype of the Δcsp1 mutant supported our transcriptome data, showing changes in cellular aggregation and surface attachment, processes...
that involve type I and type IV pili (20, 24). TEM images of Δcsp1 showed a significant reduction in the number of visible pili compared to that in the wild-type and complemented strains. Deleting csp1 also reduced bacterial viability during late stationary phase, suggesting that Csp1 is important for long-term survival.

Biofilm formation is an important part of X. fastidiosa insect vector and plant colonization (25). Xylem blockage by biofilms restricts water flow and is a major mechanism of X. fastidiosa pathogenicity (26). Biofilm development in X. fastidiosa is highly regulated and requires surface attachment and cellular aggregation, which are dependent on type I and type IV pili (27). Our RNA-Seq data showed upregulation of the type IV pili gene pilA1 in the Δcsp1 mutant. When pilA1 was deleted from the Stag’s Leap genome, we observed increased surface attachment and decreased cellular aggregation. Electron microscopy of the Stag’s Leap, TemeculaL (22), and WM1-1 (22) ΔpilA1 mutants showed increased pili abundance with pili distributed around the entire cell, unlike their respective wild-type strains, which showed only pili localized to one cell pole. In contrast, the Δcsp1 mutant, which showed upregulation of pilA1, appears to be deficient in pili formation compared to wild-type Stag’s Leap. The lack of visible pili in Δcsp1 may contribute to the reduced attachment phenotype observed for this strain, while the increased abundance of type IV pili in the ΔpilA1 mutants may contribute to increased attachment. Differential expression of other biofilm-related genes includes downregulation of type IV pili genes pilA2 (PD1926) and fimT (PD1735) and type I pilin gene fimA (PD0062) in the Δcsp1 strain. Previous studies showed that X. fastidiosa mutants lacking fimA had aggregation- and biofilm-deficient phenotypes but were twitching enhanced (24, 28), while mutants in pilA2 were twitching deficient compared to the wild type (22). Twitching motility allows X. fastidiosa to move against xylem flow and colonize tissue beyond the point of inoculation, making it important for virulence and plant colonization (29). Twitching motility of the Δcsp1 mutant was not examined in this study but would be of interest for future studies to elucidate whether Csp1 influences this type of movement in X. fastidiosa and whether it contributes to virulence and bacterial titer in grapevines. In addition, future experiments investigating in planta biofilm formation of the Δcsp1 mutant can give us a better understanding of how Csp1 influences X. fastidiosa plant colonization.

We also observed downregulation of gacA in Δcsp1, which encodes a response regulator that influences expression of genes related to attachment and biofilm formation in X. fastidiosa (30). In X. fastidiosa A05, a gacA mutant strain was deficient in cell-to-cell aggregation and surface attachment and showed differential expression of 27 genes (30), including similar regulation in several genes that were also differentially expressed in our Δcsp1 mutant. These shared genes of interest include downregulation of cvaC (PD0216) and pilA2 and upregulation of cvaC (PD0215) and four hypothetical proteins (PD1702, PD1703, PD0521, PD0657) (30). The hsf (PD0744) gene encoding a surface protein was downregulated in the gacA mutant (30) but was upregulated in our Δcsp1 mutant. The gacA X. fastidiosa mutant study did not show differential expression of csp1, pilA1, or some of the other genes encoding pili components that were differentially expressed in our study. These results suggest that the influence of Csp1 on gacA expression may also contribute to the attachment and aggregation phenotypes we observed in the Δcsp1 Stag’s Leap mutant but that csp1 may be higher up in the biofilm gene regulation network. Future studies looking at the relationship between Csp1 and gacA expression can shed light on regulatory networks in X. fastidiosa.

Our Stag’s Leap ΔpilA1 mutant was also less virulent in susceptible Chardonnay grapevines. X. fastidiosa disease symptom development is strongly correlated with pathogen spread within infected plants (20, 29), so increased surface attachment of the ΔpilA1 mutant may restrict bacterial spread within the xylem, leading to the reduced virulence phenotype observed. However, there was no significant difference in bacterial titer between ΔpilA1 and the wild-type or complemented strains, suggesting that the virulence defect of ΔpilA1 may not be entirely due to reduced colonization. The Δcsp1 mutant showed
upregulation of pilA1 and decreased virulence in grapevines, while the ΔpilA1 mutant also had reduced virulence in grapevines, indicating that other factors besides increased expression of pilA1 are contributing to the Csp1-related virulence defect. Other variables that may affect virulence include decreased expression of virulence regulators (PD1905/xrvA and PD0708) in Δcsp1. The functions of XrvA and the putative PD0708 protein in X. fastidiosa are still unclear. In Xanthomonas oryzae pv. oryzae, the xrvA gene encodes a protein containing a histone-like nucleoid-structuring protein (H-NS) domain and a mutation in xrvA resulted in reduced virulence in rice host plants (31). Future studies investigating the functions of XrvA in X. fastidiosa can shed light on its potential role virulence.

The Stag’s Leap Δcsp1 mutant was less viable at 13 days postinoculation, which is considered the late stationary phase of growth for this strain of X. fastidiosa, compared to the wild-type and complemented strains. Bacteria in stationary phase encounter many stressors, including nutrient limitation, accumulation of toxic byproducts, and changes in pH, temperature, osmolarity, etc. (32). Studies in other bacteria show that several temperature-independent cold shock proteins are involved in stationary-phase stress response. E. coli CspD, which is 55.2% identical to the X. fastidiosa Csp1 amino acid sequence, is expressed during stationary phase upon glucose starvation and oxidative stress (15). The function of CspD is inhibition of DNA replication by nonspecific binding to single-stranded DNA regions at replication forks (33), and deletion of cspD leads to decreased persister cell formation, while overexpression of cspD is lethal in E. coli (33). Bacterial persister cells are more resistant to antibiotics and can often be found in biofilm communities (34). Bacteria in biofilms are more resistant to host defense responses and antimicrobial compounds (35, 36) and have increased nutrient availability (37). Copper-based products are often used to control bacterial pathogens in agriculture, and transcriptome studies show that treating X. fastidiosa subsp. pauca biofilms with copper resulted in upregulation of genes important for biofilm and persister cell formation, including the toxin-antitoxin system MqsR/MqsA (38) which, in E. coli, regulates expression of cspD. The E. coli MqsR toxin is also directly involved in biofilm development and is linked to the development of persister cells (38). Overexpression of the X. fastidiosa MqsR toxin in a citrus pathogenic strain led to increased biofilm formation and decreased cell movement, resulting in reduced pathogenicity in citrus plants. In X. fastidiosa Temecula-1, an mqsR deletion mutant had reduced biofilm formation (39). MqsR overproduction also increased persister cell formation under copper stress in X. fastidiosa (40). It is unknown whether csp1 expression in Stag’s Leap is regulated or influenced by the MqsR/MqsA complex; however, functional similarities between Csp1 and CspD and the results from studies in E. coli showing that cspD is directly regulated by MqsR/MqsA suggest that this is a possibility. Future studies looking at possible links between Csp1 and the MqsR/MqsA toxin-antitoxin system can shed more light on X. fastidiosa stress tolerance and survival.

In summary, our study showed novel findings that a cold shock protein homolog in X. fastidiosa influences gene expression and biofilm-related phenotypes. Biofilm formation is an essential virulence factor for X. fastidiosa and also contributes to bacterial stress tolerance. The results of this study highlight the complexity of X. fastidiosa pathogen biology, and more work looking at how cold shock proteins affect these processes will help us better understand how this pathogen colonizes and causes disease in hosts.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bacterial culture conditions. The wild-type strain used in this study is Xylella fastidiosa subspecies fastidiosa strain Stag’s Leap isolated from grapevines with Pierce’s disease in California, USA (41). The Δcsp1 mutant strain used in this study has the csp1 (PD1380) gene deleted and replaced with a chloramphenicol resistance cassette (16). For all in vitro experiments, X. fastidiosa strains were grown on PD3 (42) agar plates or liquid PD3 medium without antibiotics or supplemented with 5 μg/ml of chloramphenicol and/or gentamicin when needed. Escherichia coli strains used for cloning and propagating of plasmid constructs were grown on LB medium supplemented with appropriate antibiotics at the following concentrations: chloramphenicol 35 μg/ml, spectinomycin 100 μg/ml, and gentamicin 10 μg/ml. All bacterial strains and plasmids used in this study are listed in Table 2 and 3, respectively.
**Construction of mutant and complemented strains.** The *X. fastidiosa* ΔpilA1 mutant strain was constructed by replacing the pilA1 open reading frame with the chloramphenicol resistance cassette from plasmid pCR8-csp1-chl (16) using homologous recombination. Homologous recombination in *X. fastidiosa* is highly efficient, and none of the plasmids used for transformation can replicate in this species. A total of 931 bp of the upstream flanking region of the pilA1 coding sequence were amplified from the WT Stag’s Leap genomic DNA (gDNA) using the primers pilA1-up-F/pilA1-up-R-SacI (Table 4). The pilA1-up-R-SacI adds a SacI restriction site to the 3’ end of the PCR product. A total of 1.3 kb of the downstream flanking region of the pilA1 coding sequence were amplified using primers pilA1-down-F-XbaI/pilA1-down-R (Table 4). The pilA1-down-F-XbaI primer adds the XbaI restriction site to the 5’ end of the PCR product. The chloramphenicol resistance cassette from pCR8-csp1-chl (16) was amplified using primers Ctrl-F-SacI/Chl-R-XbaI, which add SacI and XbaI restriction sites to the 5’ end of the PCR product. The transformation efficiency and none of the plasmids used for transformation can replicate in this species. A total of 931 bp of the upstream flanking region of the pilA1 coding sequence were amplified from the WT Stag’s Leap genomic DNA (gDNA) using the primers pilA1-up-F/pilA1-up-R-SacI (Table 4). The pilA1-up-R-SacI adds a SacI restriction site to the 3’ end of the PCR product. A total of 1.3 kb of the downstream flanking region of the pilA1 coding sequence were amplified using primers pilA1-down-F-XbaI/pilA1-down-R (Table 4). The pilA1-down-F-XbaI primer adds the XbaI restriction site to the 5’ end of the PCR product. The chloramphenicol resistance cassette from pCR8-csp1-chl (16) was amplified using primers Ctrl-F-SacI/Chl-R-XbaI, which add SacI and XbaI restriction sites to the 5’ end of the PCR product. The transformation efficiency was confirmed by Sanger sequencing. Plasmid pCR8-ΔpilA1-chl was then transferred into WT X. fastidiosa using the natural transformation protocol (43) for mutagenesis via homologous recombination. Transformants were selected on PD3 agar supplemented with chloramphenicol and gene-specific primers were confirmed by colony PCR using *X. fastidiosa*-specific primers RST31/RST33 (44) and gene-specific primers to confirm the size of the insertion region (pilA1-ORF-F/pilA1-ORF-R; Table 4). The deletion mutation was confirmed by Sanger sequencing of the recombination region.

For complementation of the pilA1 deletion, the pilA1 open reading frame (ORF) plus upstream and downstream flanking regions was inserted into the chromosome of the *X. fastidiosa* ΔpilA1 strain at a neutral site as described previously (45). The pilA1 ORF plus 405 bp of upstream and 215 bp of downstream sequence was PCR amplified from WT Stag’s Leap gDNA template using Platinum Taq polymerase and primers pilA1-ORF-405-F/pilA1-ORF-R (Table 4) and TA cloned into pCR8/GW/TOPO to create pCR8-pilA1-ORF (Table 3). Plasmid pCR8-pilA1-ORF was recombined with plasmid pAX1-GW (16) (Table 3) using the Gateway LR recombination protocol (Invitrogen). The resulting plasmid, pAX1-pilA1-ORF, was purified from *E. coli* transformants and the correct insertion was confirmed by Sanger sequencing. pAX1-pilA1-ORF was naturally transformed into the *X. fastidiosa* ΔpilA1 strain, and transformants

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**TABLE 3** Bacteria strains

| Strain                        | Description                                                                 | Source       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| *Xylella fastidiosa*          |                                                                             |              |
| Subspecies fastidiosa Stag’s Leap | Wild-type strain, used to create mutant                                      | 41           |
| Δcsp1                         | *X. fastidiosa* deletion mutant in csp1 (PD1380), Cm<sup>+</sup>             | 16           |
| Δcsp1/csp1<sup>+</sup>        | Complemented strain, constructed by chromosomal insertion of csp1 ORF at neutral site, Cm<sup>+</sup>, Cm<sup>R</sup> | 16           |
| ΔpilA1                        | *X. fastidiosa* deletion mutant in pilA1 (PD1924), Cm<sup>+</sup>            | This study   |
| ΔpilA1/pilA1<sup>+</sup>      | Complemented strain, constructed by chromosomal insertion of pilA1 ORF at neutral site, Cm<sup>+</sup>, Cm<sup>R</sup> | This study   |
| One Shot TOP10 chemically competent *E. coli* | Commercially available *E. coli* strain used for propagating plasmid constructs, genotype: F-mcrA Δ(mrr-hsdRMS-mcrBC) Φ80lacZΔM15 ΔlacX74recA1 araD139 Δ(araleu)7697 galU galK rpsL (StrR) endA1 nupG | Invitrogen   |

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**TABLE 4** Plasmids

| Plasmid                     | Description                                                                 | Source       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| pCR8/GW/TOPO                | Commercially available cloning vector with 3’-T overhangs. Compatible with Gateway destination vectors, Sp<sup>R</sup> | Invitrogen   |
| pCR8-ΔpilA1-chl             | pilA1 gene deletion construct containing chloramphenicol resistance marker flanked by ~1.5 kb upstream and downstream sequences of pilA1 gene, pilA1 ORF is deleted, Sp<sup>R</sup>, Cm<sup>R</sup> | This study   |
| pCR8-pilA1-ORF              | pilA1 complementation construct containing the *X. fastidiosa* pilA1 ORF and flanking regions. Used with Gateway pAX1-GW destination vector, Sp<sup>R</sup> | This study   |
| pAX1-GW                     | Gateway destination vector used for *Xf* chromosomal gene complementation into neutral location via homologous recombination, Cm<sup>+</sup>, Cm<sup>R</sup> | 45           |
| pAX1-pilA1-ORF              | Gateway complementation construct with ORF of *Xf* pilA1 and flanking regions, Cm<sup>R</sup> | This study   |
were selected on PD3 agar plates supplemented with gentamicin. Transformants were screened using colony PCR with X. fastidiosa-specific primers (RST31/RST33) and gene-specific primers (pilA1-ORF405-F/pilA1-ORF-R). Correct insertion of complementation constructs was confirmed by Sanger sequencing.

**Cell aggregation assay.** X. fastidiosa strains were grown on PD3 agar plates and incubated at 28°C for 6 to 7 days. After incubation, bacterial cells were scraped off plates and resuspended in 5 ml of liquid PD3 medium (per sample) to an optical density at 600 nm (OD$_{600}$) of 0.10. Liquid cultures were grown in sterile 15-ml polypropylene test tubes at 28°C without shaking for 6 to 7 days. At least 3 replicates per strain were included. Cell aggregation was quantified using the OD$_{600}$ of the upper culture (ODs) and the OD$_{600}$ of the total culture (ODT). ODs, which is composed mostly of dispersed cells, was determined by measuring OD$_{600}$ of undisturbed cultures. OD$_{T}$ was measured after aggregated cells were dispersed using a pipette and vortexed. The relative percentage of aggregated cells was estimated using the formula [(OD$_{T}$ − ODs)/OD$_{T}$] × 100 (46). The assay was repeated at least three separate times.

**Cell attachment assay.** All procedures for setting up the attachment assays were performed aseptically. X. fastidiosa strains used in the attachment assays were grown on PD3 agar plates and incubated at 28°C for 6 to 7 days. After incubation, bacterial cells were scraped off plates and resuspended in 1 ml (per sample) of liquid PD3 medium. Small volumes of the concentrated cell suspensions were pipetted into 5 ml (per sample) of fresh PD3 medium until a concentration of OD$_{600}$ of 0.03 to 0.05 was reached. Aliquots of 100 μl of cell suspensions were added to individual wells of sterile 96-well polystyrene plates with lids (NuncNalg, catalog no. 163320). Of the remaining cell suspension, 1 ml of each sample was transferred into sterile 1.5-ml centrifuge tubes and incubated at 28°C for 4 days (for qDNA extraction and qPCR later). Unincubated liquid PD3 medium was used as a negative control. To minimize evaporation issues, we did not use wells from the outermost rows and columns of the plates. Plates were double wrapped with parafilm and incubated at 28°C for 4 days. Cell attachment was quantified using crystal violet staining. Medium 96-well plates and the wells were washed three times with distilled water to remove unbound (planktonic) cells. Cells adhering to the sides of individual wells were stained with 100 μl of 0.1% (wt/vol) crystal violet for 25 min at room temperature. Crystal violet solution was removed from wells and wells were washed three times with distilled water. Crystal violet stain retained by attached cells was eluted by adding 100 μl of 30% acetic acid (47) to each well and quantified using a microplate reader (Tecan Infinite M1000 PRO) at 550 nm wavelength. OD$_{550}$ results were normalized to CFU/ml of cells determined by qPCR. For qPCR, 1-ml aliquots of cells were centrifuged at 9,000 rpm for 3 min to pellet cells and then frozen at −20°C until DNA extraction. DNA extraction was performed using a DNeasy blood and tissue kit (Qiagen) following the manufacturer’s protocol for Gram-negative bacteria. DNA was resuspended in 50 μl of sterile diethylpyrocarbonate (DEPC) water (Invitrogen). Of each DNA sample was used as the template for qPCR with Applied Biosystems PowerUp SYBR green master mix (Thermo Fisher) and primers targeting the X. fastidiosa chromosome (XfITS145-60F/XfITS145-60R; Table 4). Concentration in CFU/ml was determined based on a standard curve of X. fastidiosa DNA extracted from samples with known CFU/ml concentrations. Cell attachment assays were repeated three separate times.

**Cell viability assay.** Wild type, Δcsp1, and Δcsp1/csp1+ strains were grown on PD3 agar plates for 7 to 13 days at 28°C. Cells were scraped off plates and resuspended in 1× PBS and diluted to an OD$_{600}$ of 0.01. One-milliliter aliquots of each sample were reserved for qDNA extraction for cell quantification by qPCR. Ninety microliters of cell suspensions was added to individual wells of sterile 96-well plates and 10 μl of alamarBlue cell viability reagent (Invitrogen) was mixed into each well. Plates were incubated in the dark at 32°C for 2 h. Fluorescence was measured at 560 nm excitation/590 nm emission using a Tecan Infinite M1000 PRO plate reader. DNA extracted from samples with known CFU/ml concentrations. Fluorescence readings were normalized to CFU/ml.

**Transmission electron microscopy of X. fastidiosa.** X. fastidiosa cells were grown on modified permeabilized wafers (PW) agar (omit phenol red and add 1.8 g/liter of bovine serum albumin) (22) for two to 3 days. We placed 5 mm 300 mesh TEM grids directly on bacterial cells growing on agar medium for 5 s. Grids were immediately coated with a drop of 1.0% phosphotungstic acid for 30 s. Excess stain was wicked off the grid and placed in the FEI Helios Nanolab 650 SEM for STEM imaging. TEM was performed by S. Sawyer at the Oregon State University Electron Microscopy Facility (Corvallis, OR).

**RNA-Seq analysis. Bacteria growth conditions.** WT Stag’s Leap and Δcsp1 strains were grown on PD3 agar plates for 6 days at 28°C (6 plates per strain). Cells were aseptically harvested from each plate for all strains and immediately frozen on dry ice for RNA extraction later. Three replicates were included per strain, and each replicate sample included cells from two separate plates.

**RNA preparation.** Total bacterial RNA was extracted from frozen cells using the TRIzol extraction method as described. Briefly, 1 ml of TRIzol (Invitrogen) reagent was added to each sample (in 1.5-ml centrifuge tubes) and incubated at room temperature for 5 min. Samples were centrifuged to remove debris and the supernatant was transferred into new 1.5-ml tubes. A total of 0.2 ml of chloroform was added to each sample and mixed thoroughly. Samples were centrifuged at 12,000 × g for 15 min. Following centrifugation, the colorless upper aqueous phase containing the RNA was transferred into a fresh tube and RNA was precipitated by adding 0.5 ml of room temperature isopropanol alcohol. Samples were incubated at room temperature for 10 min and centrifuged at 12,000 × g for 10 min. The RNA
pellet was washed twice with 1 ml of 75% ethanol. Ethanol was removed and the RNA pellet was air dried and dissolved in DEPC-treated water. Total RNA was quantified using Quant-IT RNA assay kit (Invitrogen). Five micrograms of total RNA was treated with DNase I (Thermo Fisher) following the manufacturer's protocol. DNase-treated RNA was repurifed using 0.1 volume sodium acetate and 3× volume ethanol. Poly(A) tail was added to the bacterial mRNA using poly(A) tailing kit (Invitrogen) following the manufacturer's protocol. RNA was repurifed using sodium acetate and resuspended in DEPC water (Tris-EDTA [TE] buffer was not used because EDTA concentrations as low as 1 mM will inhibit activity of exonuclease used in the next step). RNA was removed using the Lucigen terminator 5'-phosphate-dependent exonuclease kit following the manufacturer's protocol. The reaction was terminated, and the remaining RNA was repurifed using sodium acetate and ethanol. RNA quantity and quality were measured on the Agilent bioanalyzer 2100 prior to cDNA library synthesis.

**Nanopore cDNA library preparation.** cDNA library synthesis was performed using the Oxford nanopore direct cDNA synthesis kit (Oxford Nanopore) following the manufacturer's protocol. All cDNA synthesis-specific reagents and consumables used were included in the kit unless stated otherwise. A total of 250 ng of PolyA+ mRNA resuspended in 7.5 μl of nuclease-free water (per sample) was added to DNA LoBind tubes and centrifuged briefly. Reverse transcription and strand-switching were performed by first adding 2.5 μl VNP primer and 1 μl 10 mM dioxynucleoside triphosphates (dNTPs) (ThermoFisher) to each mRNA sample and incubating at 65°C for 5 min, followed by immediately cooling on ice. In separate tubes, 4 μl of 5× Maxima H Minus RT buffer (Thermo Fisher), 1 μl RNaseOUT (Thermo Fisher), 1 μl nuclease-free water, and 2 μl strand-switching primer (SSP) were combined and added to the mRNA samples. Samples were incubated at 42°C for 2 min, after which 1 μl of Maxima H Minus reverse transcriptase (Thermo Fisher) was added to each sample. Samples were incubated at 42°C for 90 min, followed by heat inactivation at 85°C for 5 min. Residual RNA was digested by adding 1 μl of RNase cocktail enzyme mix (Thermo Fisher) to each reverse transcription reaction. Samples were transferred to new 1.5-ml DNA LoBind Eppendorf tubes and cDNA was purified using 17 μl of resuspended AMPure XP beads (Agencourt) flowing the manufacturer’s protocols. Samples mixed with AMPure XP beads were centrifuged briefly and beads (bound to cDNA) were immobilized to tube walls using a magnetic tube rack. Tubes were kept on the magnetic rack and the supernatant was removed and discarded. The beads were washed twice with 200 μl freshly prepared 70% molecular grade ethanol. Residual ethanol was removed, and bead pellets were air dried briefly (not to the point of the pellet cracking). Tubes were removed from the magnetic rack and bead pellets were resuspended in 20 μl of DEPC water (Invitrogen). Tubes were put back on the magnetic rack to separate the eluate from the AMPure XP beads, and 20 μl of eluate from each sample was transferred into separate 0.2-ml PCR tubes for downstream steps. A total of 25 μl 2× LongAmp Taq master mix (New England Biolabs), 2 μl PR2 primer, and 3 μl of DEPC water was added to each 20-μl eluate sample. Thermal cycler conditions were as follows: 94°C for 1 min, 50°C for 1 min, 65°C for 15 min, hold at 4°C until next step. Samples were transferred into 1.5-ml DNA LoBind tubes and cDNA was purified using 40 μl of AMPure XP beads following the same protocol as described previously. Purified cDNA was eluted in 21 μl of DEPC water. One microliter of purified cDNA was analyzed on the Agilent Bioanalyzer 2100 to check the quality and quantity. End repair and dA-tailing of fragmented cDNA were performed by mixing 20 μl cDNA sample, 30 μl nuclease-free water, 7 μl Ultra II end-prep reaction buffer (New England Biolabs), and 3 μl Ultra II end-prep enzyme mix (New England Biolabs). Samples were incubated at 20°C for 5 min, followed by 65°C for 5 min in a thermal cycler. Samples were transferred into 1.5-ml DNA LoBind Eppendorf tubes and purified using 60 μl of AMPure XP beads following the same protocol as before. Samples were resuspended in 22.5 μl of DEPC water and transferred into clean 1.5-ml Eppendorf DNA LoBind tubes.

**Barcode ligation.** Individual cDNA libraries (12 total) were ligated with unique native barcodes (Oxford nanopore native barcode expansion sets 1 to 12) following the manufacturer’s protocols. A total of 22.5 μl of cDNA was combined with 2.5 μl native barcode and 25 μl Blunt/TA ligase master mix (New England Biolabs). Samples were incubated at room temperature for 10 min, and barcoded cDNA libraries were purified using 40 μl of AMPure XP beads and resuspended in 26 μl DEPC water following the same protocol as that used during cDNA library preparation. One microliter of each sample was quantified using the Quant-it high-sensitivity dsDNA assay kit (Thermo Fisher). The quantity of cDNA for one replicate sample of WT 28°C was too low and was excluded from further experiments. The barcoded cDNA libraries from the remaining 11 samples were pooled in equal ratios to obtain 700 ng total DNA and final volume adjusted to 50 μl using nuclease-free water and loaded into the Nanopore MinION flow cell (FLO-MIN106). The sequencing reaction was run for 23 h and generated approximately 4.04 million reads in FASTQ format.

**Data analysis.** Nanopore FASTQ files were converted into FASTQ files using the basecalling program Guppy (48). Barcoded samples were demultiplexed using Deepbinner (49). The program Porechop was used to trim off adapter sequences from the demultiplexed FASTQ reads. The X. fastidiosa Temecula-1 cDNA reference transcriptome (http://ftp.ensemblgenomes.org/pub/bacteria/release-44/fasta/bacteria_18_collection/xyella_fastidiosa_temecula1/cdna/) was indexed and FASTQ reads were mapped to the reference using Minimap2 (50). After mapping, aligned reads were quantified using Salmon (51). A table summarizing transcript-level estimates for use in differential gene analysis was created using the R package tximport (52). Differential expression analysis was performed using the R package DESeq2 (53). Descriptions of the programs used and web addresses for downloading the source codes are listed in Table S1.

**qRT-PCR gene expression analysis.** Quantitative reverse transcriptase PCR (qRT-PCR) was used to look at gene expression results of several differentially expressed genes of interest from the RNA-Seq.
TABLE 5 Primers

| Primer name | Sequence 5’−3’ | Source |
|-------------|----------------|--------|
| RST3        | GCCGTAATTTCTGAAGTTGATTCGATTGC | 44 |
| RST33       | CACCATCGTATCCCGGTC | 44 |
| pilA1-up-F  | GGCTTGGCAATTITTTCC | This study |
| pilA1-up-R-Sacl | GGGAGGCTGATATACCCCTCAATAAAAGGTTGGT | This study |
| pilA1-down-F-Xbal | CACCCTAGTGATACACACACAGGTCAATG | This study |
| pilA1-down-R  | AATCGTGTGTTGCTTGGT | This study |
| pilA1-ORF-405F | CGCAGATCGTTGGTC | This study |
| pilA1-ORF-R   | GTTGAACGGCTACCT | This study |
| XfITS145-60F  | TACATCGGAATCTACCTTATCGTG | 55 |
| XfITS145-60R  | ATGCGGATTTAGCGTAAGTTTC | 55 |
| csp1-qPCR-F   | TGATGGGACCTCCCGAGGTAT | 16 |
| csp1-qPCR-R   | GGCCTTCATGCAAACTACGG | 16 |
| PD1924-qRT-F (pilA1) | TATGTGCGAGTCCCAAGTC | This study |
| PD1924-qRT-R (pilA1) | TCACTGAGAATTTGCCCTTAAT | This study |
| dnaQ-qPCR-F   | CGTATCCGGGTTACGCTGTTA | 54 |
| dnaQ-qPCR-R   | GTAAGCAGGGTTGGGTTTA | 54 |

experiment, as well as to monitor expression of csp1 during different X. fastidiosa growth stages. For RNA extraction for differentially expressed genes of interest, cells were grown under the same conditions as for the RNA-Seq experiment. For csp1 expression, cells were grown as described in the cell viability assay. Total RNA was extracted as described in the RNA-Seq methods section using the TRIzol (Invitrogen) method. gDNA was removed using Baseline Zero DNase (Lucigen) following the manufacturer’s protocols and RNA reprecipitated using 0.1 volume of sodium acetate and 2 to 3 volumes 100% ethanol. Purified RNA was quantified using a Quant-IT RNA assay kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Removal of residual DNA was confirmed by DNA-specific quantification using a Quant-IT dsDNA broad range assay kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). For cDNA synthesis, 500 ng of total RNA was reverse transcribed with random primers using an iScript cDNA synthesis kit (Bio-Rad) and including a no-RT and controls for each sample. One microtiter of each cDNA sample was used as the template for qPCR using Applied Biosystems PowerUp SYBR green master mix (Thermo Fisher Scientific). X. fastidiosa dnaQ gene, which is a stable reference gene in X. fastidiosa (54), was used to normalize expression of other target genes. Relative normalized gene expression was calculated from the mean ± standard deviation of at least 5 separate experiments after 30 cycles of qPCR. Primer sequences for target genes are listed in Table 5. PCR cycling conditions were based on recommended protocol provided by PowerUp SYBR green master mix and the melting temperature of the different primer sets. Experiments were repeated three independent times and relative gene expression was calculated with Bio-Rad CFX Manager software.

Plant virulence assays. Plant inoculations. Wild-type Stag’s Leap, ΔpilA1, and ΔpilA1/pilA1 + strains were grown on PD3 agar plates for 3 to 7 days and then scraped off plates and resuspended in 1× PBS at a concentration of OD600 of 0.25 (~1 × 10⁹ CFU/ml). Susceptible (cv. Chardonnay) 1-year-old potted grapevines were inoculated using a decrick inoculation method (23). Mock inoculations using 1× PBS were used as negative controls. Twenty plants were inoculated with wild type, 15 plants with ΔpilA1, 15 plants with ΔpilA1/pilA1 +, and 10 plants with 1× PBS. Plants were labeled with number codes and placed randomly within a climate-controlled greenhouse. The plants were monitored weekly for development of scorching symptoms. Once disease symptoms began to develop (5 weeks postinoculation for this experiment), plants were given a disease index score between 0 and 5 based on a rating scale developed previously (23). A disease score of 0 indicates no disease symptoms and a score of 5 represents severe disease symptoms and plant death. Representative images of disease ratings were provided courtesy of Yaneth Barreto-Zavala and are included in Figure S2. Plants were rated until 12 weeks postinoculation. Area under disease progress (AUDPC) was calculated using average disease intensity over time (weeks) with the Agricola package for R (https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=agricolae). Plant infection assays were conducted during June to September 2020.

qPCR quantification of bacterial populations. At 9 and 12 weeks postinoculation, petiole samples from infected and mock-inoculated plants were collected for DNA extraction and qPCR quantification of in planta bacterial populations. Two to three petiole samples from each plant were pooled, and samples were lyophilized using a FreeZone (LABCONCO) freezer dryer at −80°C for 24 to 48 h. Lyophilized samples were pulverized with 3-mm tungsten carbide beads (Qiagen) using a Tissue Lyser II (Qiagen) for a total of 4 min at 30 rotations/second. One milliliter of DNA extraction buffer (20 mM EDTA, 350 mM Sorbitol, 100 mM Tris HCl) with 2.5% polyvinylpyrrolidone was added to each sample and centrifuged at 14,000 rpm for 5 min. All centrifugation steps were performed at 4°C. Supernatant was removed, and pellet was washed with an additional 1 ml of DNA extraction buffer and centrifuged for 10 min at 14,000 rpm. Supernatant was removed and pellet was resuspended with 300 µl of DNA extraction buffer, 300 µl of lysis buffer (50 mM EDTA, 2 M NaCl, 2% cetyltrimethylammonium bromide [CTAB], 200 mM Tris HCl), and 200 µl of 5% sarcosyl. Tubes were incubated for 45 min at 65°C and mixed by vortexing every 15 min. After incubation, 700 µl of chloroform/isooamyl alcohol (24:1) was added to each tube and inverted to mix samples. Samples were then centrifuged at 9,500 rpm for 5 min. The upper
SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Supplemental material is available online only.

SUPPLEMENTAL FILE 1, PDF file, 0.5 MB.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Brandon Ortega and Nathaniel Luna for technical support and Yaneth Barreto-Zavala for providing the images used for the grapevine symptoms rating scale. We also thank Leonardo De La Fuente and Marcus Merfa for helpful suggestions regarding imaging pili. Funding for this work was from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service appropriated project 2034–22000-012-00D. Mention of trade names or commercial products in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information and does not constitute endorsement by USDA. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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