Complete genome sequence of *Eggerthella lenta* type strain (VPI 0255\(^T\))

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**Keywords:** mesophile, anaerobic, human intestinal microflora, pathogenic, bacteremia, Gram-positive, *Coriobacteriaceae*

"Eggerthella lenta" (Eggerth 1935) Wade *et al.* 1999, emended Würdemann *et al.* 2009 is the type species of the genus *Eggerthella*, which belongs to the actinobacterial family *Coriobacteriaceae*. *E. lenta* is a Gram-positive, non-motile, non-sporulating pathogenic bacterium that can cause severe bacteremia. The strain described in this study has been isolated from a rectal tumor in 1935. Here we describe the features of this organism, together with the complete genome sequence, and annotation. This is the first complete genome sequence of the genus *Eggerthella*, and the 3,632,260 bp long single replicon genome with its 3123 protein-coding and 58 RNA genes is part of the *Genomic Encyclopedia of Bacteria and Archaea* project.

**Introduction**

Strain VPI 0255\(^T\) (= DSM 2243 = ATCC 25559 = JCM 9979) is the type strain of the species *Eggerthella lenta*, which was first described in 1935 by Eggerth as ‘*Bacteroides lentus*’ [1], later in 1938 renamed by Prévot in ‘*Eubacterium lentum*’ [2], and was also known under the synonym ‘*Pseudobacterium lentum*’ Krasil’nikov 1949 [3]. The strain has been described in detail by Moore *et al.* in 1971 [4]. Based on 16S rRNA sequence divergence and the presence of unique phenotypic characters the strain was then transferred to the new genus *Eggerthella* as *E. lenta* (Kageyama *et al.* 1999, Wade *et al.* 1999 [5,6]. In 2004 two novel *Eggerthella* species, *E. hongkongensis* and *E. sinensis* were characterized and described in addition [7]. Recently, *E. hongkongensis* was reclassified as *Paraeggerthella hongkongensis* [8]. Although the two *Eggerthella* species and *P. hongkongensis* are part of the human gut flora, they can be the agent of severe bacteremia. So far the pathogenic potential of the genera are poorly analyzed [7]. Here we present a summary classification and a set of features for *E. lenta* VPI 0255\(^T\), together with the description of the complete genomic sequencing and annotation.

**Classification and features**

Members of the species *E. lenta* have been isolated from several abscesses, from appendix tissues, peritoneal fluid and intestinal tumors. The organ-
ism is often involved in mixed infections with less fastidious bacteria. Difficulties in cultivation and identification are probably the reason why bacteremia caused by *Eggerthella* is rarely reported. Half of the cases of *Eggerthella* bacteremia are induced by the two novel species: *E. sinensis* and *P. hongkongensis* [7]. Stinear *et al.* described an isolate (AF304434) from human feces resembling *E. lenta* (98% identity) that carries an enterococcal *vanB* resistance locus probably received via lateral gene transfer or as a result of genetic mutations [9]. Clavel *et al.* investigated the occurrence and activity of dietary lignans activating bacterial communities in human feces and identified an *E. lenta* strain (AY937380) with 98.2% sequence similarity to strain VPI 0255T [10]. Lignans are a class of phytoestrogen which can be metabolized to the biologically active enterolignans, enterodiol and enterolactone. The human intestinal microbiota is essential for the conversion of the dietary lignans *e.g.* secoisolariciresinol diglucoside via secoisolariciresinol (SECO) to the enterolignans. Clavel and co-workers also reported that the dehydroxylation of SECO is catalyzed by *Eggerthella lenta* [11]. Based on 16S rRNA gene sequence analyses another five uncultured clones with 99% identity to *E. lenta* were reported at the NCBI BLAST server (status June 2009). These clones were derived from the analyses of feces samples from humans. *e.g.* associated with obesity [12,13], but also from marine metagenomes [14].

Figure 1 shows the phylogenetic neighborhood of *E. lenta* strain VPI 0255T in a 16S rRNA based tree. The sequences of the three identical copies of the 16S rRNA gene in the genome differ by three nucleotides from the previously published 16S rRNA sequence generated from ATCC 25559 (AF292375). The slight difference between the genome data and the reported 16S rRNA gene sequence is most likely due to sequencing errors in the previously reported sequence data.

*E. lenta* strain VPI 0255T was originally isolated from a rectal tumor and described as Gram-positive, non-motile and non-sporulating [Table 1] [1]. Cells are rod shaped and occur singly or in long chains up to 20 elements (Figure 2). The cell size and morphology vary depending on the substrate and the age of the culture. Surface colonies were described as circular to slightly scalloped, convex, shiny, gray and translucent. *E. lenta* is obligately anaerobic and its optimal growth temperature is 37° C [4]. Growth is stimulated by arginine. The existence of the arginine dihydrolase pathway as an important energy source was described by Sperry and Wilkens in 1976 [26]. *E. lenta* is asaccharolytic [4,26,29], Gelatin is not liquefied, aesculin is not hydrolyzed and nitrate is reduced [29]. *E. lenta* is bile-resistant and primarily found in human feces [6].
Chemotaxonomy
The cell wall of *E. lenta* strain VPI 0255<sup>T</sup> contains A1γ-type peptidoglycan glutamic acid occurred in D-form and diaminopimelic acid in *meso* configuration. Mycolic acids and teichonic acids were not reported. Strain VPI 0255<sup>T</sup> contains menaquinone MK-6 as the major respiratory lipoquinone (63.7%) and a lower amount of the methylenenaquinone MMK-6 (36.3%) [8,29,31]. As the predominant fatty acids the unbranched saturated 16:0 DMA (29.4%) and the monounsaturated fatty acid 18:1w9c (22.0%) were identified [5,6]. Polar lipids consist of two phospholipids, phosphatidylglycerol and diphasphatidylglycerol, and four glycolipids GL1-GL4 [8].

### Table 1. Classification and general features of *B. cavernae* HKI 0122<sup>T</sup> in accordance with the MIGS recommendations [21]

| MIGS ID | Property                      | Term                                                | Evidence code |
|---------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
|         | Classification                |                                                     |               |
|         | Domain *Bacteria*             |                                                     | TAS [22]      |
|         | Phylum *Actinobacteria*       |                                                     | TAS [23]      |
|         | Class *Actinobacteria*        |                                                     | TAS [24]      |
|         | Order *Coriobacteriales*      |                                                     | TAS [24]      |
|         | Suborder “*Coriobacterineae*” |                                                     | TAS [25]      |
|         | Family *Coriobacteraceae*     |                                                     | TAS [24]      |
|         | Genus *Eggerthella*           |                                                     | TAS [6]       |
|         | Species *Eggerthella lenta*   |                                                     | TAS [6]       |
|         | Type strain VPI 0255          |                                                     |               |
|         | Gram stain                    | positive                                            | TAS [1,4]     |
|         | Cell shape                    | rods, single or arranged in pairs and chains        | TAS [1,4]     |
|         | Motility                      | non-motile                                          | TAS [1,4]     |
|         | Sporulation                   | non-sporulating                                     | TAS [1,4]     |
|         | Temperature range             | mesophile                                           | TAS [4]       |
|         | Optimum temperature           | 37°C                                                | TAS [4]       |
|         | Salinity                      | 6.5% NaCl, poor to moderate growth                  | TAS [4]       |
|         | Oxygen requirement            | anaerobic                                            | TAS [1,4]     |
| MIGS-22 | Carbon source                 | arginine                                            | TAS [24,26]   |
|         | Energy source                 | arginine                                            | TAS [26]      |
|         | Habitat                       | blood, human intestinal microflora                  | TAS [1,7]     |
| MIGS-6  | Biotic relationship           | free living                                         | NAS           |
| MIGS-15 | Pathogenicity                 | bacteremia                                           | TAS [27]      |
| MIGS-14 | Biosafety level               | 2                                                   | TAS [28]      |
|         | Isolation                     | rectal tumor                                         | TAS [1,29]    |
|         | Geographic location           | not reported                                         |               |
| MIGS-4  | Sample collection time        | 1938                                                | TAS [1]       |
| MIGS-5  |                               |                                                     |               |
| MIGS-4.1| Latitude – Longitude          | not reported                                         |               |
| MIGS-4.2| Depth                         | not reported                                         |               |
| MIGS-4.3| Altitude                      | not reported                                         |               |

Evidence codes - IDA: Inferred from Direct Assay (first time in publication); TAS: Traceable Author Statement (i.e., a direct report exists in the literature); NAS: Non-traceable Author Statement (i.e., not directly observed for the living, isolated sample, but based on a generally accepted property for the species, or anecdotal evidence). These evidence codes are from the Gene Ontology project [30]. If the evidence code is IDA, then the property was directly observed for a living isolate by one of the authors, or an expert or reputable institution mentioned in the acknowledgements.
Figure 2. Scanning electron micrograph of *E. lenta* VPI 0255\(^T\) (Manfred Rohde, Helmholtz Centre for Infection Biology, Braunschweig)

**Genome sequencing and annotation**

**Genome project history**

This organism was selected for sequencing on the basis of each phylogenetic position, and is part of the *Genomic Encyclopedia of Bacteria and Archaea* project. The genome project is deposited in the Genome OnLine Database [18] and the complete genome sequence in GenBank. Sequencing, finishing and annotation were performed by the DOE Joint Genome Institute (JGI). A summary of the project information is shown in Table 2.

**Growth conditions and DNA isolation**

*E. lenta* strain VPI 0255\(^T\), DSM 2243, was grown anaerobically in DSMZ medium 209 (*Eubacterium lentum* Medium [32]) at 37°C. DNA was isolated from 1-1.5 g of cell paste using Qiagen Genomic 500 DNA Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) following the manufacturer’s protocol without modifications.

| MIGS ID   | Property                      | Term                                      |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| MIGS-31   | Finishing quality             | Finished                                  |
| MIGS-28   | Libraries used                | Three genomic libraries: two Sanger libraries - 8 kb pMCL200 and fosmid pcc1Fos – and one 454 pyrosequence standard library |
| MIGS-29   | Sequencing platforms          | ABI3730, 454 GS FLX                       |
| MIGS-31.2 | Sequencing coverage           | 10.2× Sanger; 25.3× pyrosequence          |
| MIGS-30   | Assemblers                    | Newbler version 1.1.02.15, phrap           |
| MIGS-32   | Gene calling method           | Prodigal, GenePRIMP                       |
|           | Genbank ID                    | CP001726                                  |
|           | Genbank Date of Release       | September 9, 2009                         |
|           | GOLD ID                       | Gc01054                                   |
|           | NCBI project ID               | 21093                                     |
|           | Database: IMG-GEBA            | 2501533210                                |
| MIGS-13   | Source material identifier    | DSM 2243                                  |
|           | Project relevance             | Tree of Life, GEBA                        |
Eggerthella lenta type strain IPP VPI 0255

Genome sequencing and assembly
The genome was sequenced using a combination of Sanger and 454 sequencing platforms. All general aspects of library construction and sequencing can be found at the JGI website. 454 Pyrosequencing reads were assembled using the Newbler assembler version 1.1.02.15 (Roche). Large Newbler contigs were broken into 4,901 overlapping fragments of 1,000 bp and entered into the assembly as pseudo-reads. The sequences were assigned quality scores based on Newbler consensus q-scores with modifications to account for overlap redundancy and to adjust inflated q-scores. A hybrid 454/Sanger assembly was made using the parallel phrap assembler (High Performance Software, LLC). Possible mis-assemblies were corrected with Dupfinisher or transposon bombing of bridging clones [33]. Gaps between contigs were closed by editing in Consed, custom primer walk or PCR amplification. A total of 358 Sanger finishing reads were produced to close gaps, to resolve repetitive regions, and to raise the quality of the finished sequence. The final assembly consists of 39,464 Sanger and 471,609 pyrosequence (454) reads. Together all sequence types provided 35.5x coverage of the genome. The error rate of the completed genome sequence is less than 1 in 100,000.

Genome annotation
Genes were identified using Prodigal [34] as part of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory genome annotation pipeline, followed by a round of manual curation using the JGI GenePRIMP pipeline [35]. The predicted CDSs were translated and used to search the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) nonredundant database, UniProt, TIGRFam, Pfam, PRIAM, KEGG, COG, and InterPro databases. Additional gene prediction analysis and functional annotation was performed within the Integrated Microbial Genomes Expert Review (IMG-ER) platform [36].

Genome properties
The genome is 3,632,260 bp long and comprises one main circular chromosome with a 64.2% GC content (Table 3 and Figure 3). Of the 3,181 genes predicted, 3,123 were protein coding genes, and 58 RNAs. 53 pseudogenes were also identified. A majority of the genes (70.9%) were assigned with a putative function while the remaining genes were annotated as hypothetical proteins. The properties and the statistics of the genome are summarized in Table 3. The distribution of genes into COGs functional categories is presented in Table 4.

Table 3. Genome Statistics

| Attribute                        | Value     | % of Total |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Genome size (bp)                 | 3,632,260 | 100.00%    |
| DNA Coding region (bp)           | 3,211,405 | 88.41%     |
| DNA G+C content (bp)             | 2,322,078 | 64.20%     |
| Number of replicons              | 1         |            |
| Extrachromosomal elements        | 0         |            |
| Total genes                      | 3,181     | 100.00%    |
| RNA genes                        | 58        | 1.67%      |
| rRNA operons                     | 3         |            |
| Protein-coding genes             | 3,123     | 98.18%     |
| Pseudo genes                     | 53        | 1.67%      |
| Genes with function prediction   | 2,255     | 70.89%     |
| Genes in paralog clusters        | 629       | 19.77%     |
| Genes assigned to COGs           | 2285      | 71.83%     |
| Genes assigned Pfam domains      | 2316      | 72.81%     |
| Genes with signal peptides       | 781       | 24.55%     |
| Genes with transmembrane helices | 990       | 31.12%     |
| CRISPR repeats                   | 1         |            |
Figure 3. Graphical circular map of the genome. From outside to the center: Genes on forward strand (color by COG categories), Genes on reverse strand (color by COG categories), RNA genes (tRNAs green, rRNAs red, other RNAs black), GC content, GC skew.

Table 4. Number of genes associated with the general COG functional categories

| Code | Value | %age | Description                                      |
|------|-------|------|--------------------------------------------------|
| J    | 142   | 4.5  | Translation, ribosomal structure and biogenesis  |
| A    | 0     | 0.0  | RNA processing and modification                  |
| K    | 310   | 9.9  | Transcription                                    |
| L    | 130   | 4.2  | Replication, recombination and repair            |
| B    | 0     | 0.0  | Chromatin structure and dynamics                 |
| D    | 25    | 0.8  | Cell cycle control, mitosis and meiosis          |
| Y    | 0     | 0.0  | Nuclear structure                                |
| V    | 80    | 2.6  | Defense mechanisms                               |
| T    | 201   | 6.4  | Signal transduction mechanisms                   |
| M    | 129   | 4.1  | Cell wall/membrane biogenesis                    |
| N    | 13    | 0.4  | Cell motility                                    |
| Z    | 0     | 0.0  | Cytoskeleton                                     |
| W    | 0     | 0.0  | Extracellular structures                         |
| U    | 51    | 1.6  | Intracellular trafficking and secretion          |
| O    | 81    | 2.6  | Posttranslational modification, protein turnover, chaperones |
| C    | 293   | 9.4  | Energy production and conversion                 |
| G    | 79    | 2.5  | Carbohydrate transport and metabolism            |
| E    | 180   | 5.8  | Amino acid transport and metabolism              |
Table 4. Number of genes associated with the general COG functional categories (cont.)

| Code | Value | %age | Description                                                                 |
|------|-------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| F    | 60    | 1.9  | Nucleotide transport and metabolism                                          |
| H    | 89    | 2.8  | Coenzyme transport and metabolism                                            |
| I    | 69    | 2.2  | Lipid transport and metabolism                                               |
| P    | 132   | 4.2  | Inorganic ion transport and metabolism                                        |
| Q    | 32    | 1.0  | Secondary metabolites biosynthesis, transport and catabolism                 |
| R    | 262   | 8.4  | General function prediction only                                              |
| S    | 195   | 6.2  | Function unknown                                                             |
| -    | 838   | 26.8 | Not in COGs                                                                  |

Acknowledgements

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the help of Gabriele Gehrich-Schröter for growing *E. lenta* cultures and Susanne Schneider for DNA extraction and quality analysis (both at DSMZ). This work was performed under the auspices of the US Department of Energy’s Office of Science, Biological and Environmental Research Program, and by the University of California, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory under contract No. DE-AC02-05CH11231, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory under Contract No. DE-AC52-07NA27344, and Los Alamos National Laboratory under contract No. DE-AC02-06NA25396, as well as German Research Foundation (DFG) INST 599/1-1.

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