Infectious bronchopneumonia has a major economic impact, causing high morbidity and mortality rates in cattle production systems worldwide (1). Further-more, it is the main indication for antimicrobial use in calves and youngstock (2), often resulting in acquired antimicrobial resistance (AMR) among bovine respiratory pathogens (3). Bacterial pathogens commonly involved in bronchopneumonia in cattle are *Histophilus somni*, *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Mycoplasma bovis*, and *Pasteurella multocida* (4).

*Gallibacterium anatis* is an opportunistic pathogen, previously associated with deaths in poultry, domestic birds, and occasionally humans. We obtained *G. anatis* isolates from bronchoalveolar lavage samples of 10 calves with bronchopneumonia unresponsive to antimicrobial therapy. Collected isolates were multidrug-resistant to extensively drug-resistant, exhibiting resistance against 5–7 classes of antimicrobial drugs. Whole-genome sequencing revealed 24 different antimicrobial-resistance determinants, including genes not previously described in the *Gallibacterium* genus or even the *Pasteurellaceae* family, such as adaA23, *bla* _CARB-8_, tet(Y), and _qnr_ D1. Some resistance genes were closely linked in resistance gene cassettes with either transposases in close proximity or situated on putative mobile elements or predicted plasmids. Single-nucleotide polymorphism genotyping revealed large genetic variation between the *G. anatis* isolates, including isolates retrieved from the same farm. *G. anatis* might play a hitherto unrecognized role as a respiratory pathogen and resistance gene reservoir in cattle and has unknown zoonotic potential.

Materials and Methods

Animal Sampling

We retrieved *G. anatis* isolates during a 2-year period (2017–2018) from 10 calves from 7 unrelated farms in Belgium; all 10 calves had a history of respiratory problems (≈5% of the total amount of samples). No poultry was present at these farms; however, at farm 2 (Table 1), raw eggs were occasionally fed to the calves. We obtained all isolates from animals 4–60 days old (Table 1) exhibiting signs of infectious bronchopneumonia, such as fever (>39.3°C), cough, nasal discharge, depression, and adventitious lung
sounds. Before the sampling, each calf had already been treated unsuccessfully with first- or second-line antimicrobial drugs. Thoracic ultrasound examination, performed with a 7.5-MHz linear probe as described previously (16), showed a consolidated zone in the lung of ≥1 cm² in all animals. A nonendoscopically bronchoalveolar lavage (nBAL) was conducted in all cases, as described previously (17). The sampling method was approved by the ethics committee of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University (approval no. EC 2016/20).

Identification
We inoculated all nBAL samples on an Oxoid Columbia blood agar enriched with 5% sheep blood (http://www.oxoid.com) and on a BD Difco modified pleuropneumonia-like organism agar plate (https://www.bd.com) containing 832,000 IU/L polymyxin, 0.36 g/L ampicillin, 23.1% deactivated horse serum, and 6.5% yeast extract for the isolation of Mycoplasma spp. We incubated blood agar plates overnight and pleuropneumonia-like organism agars for 5 days, both at 35°C and in a 5% CO₂ enriched atmosphere. We identified bacterial colonies, grown on both agars, with matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry by using the direct transfer method and α-cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid as matrix, according to the manufacturer’s guidelines. We considered identifications with a log score value >2.0 to be reliable at the species level. We subcultured G. anatis isolates on Columbia blood agar enriched with 5% sheep blood (Oxoid) to obtain a pure culture, which we stored at −80°C for further analysis.

Antimicrobial-Susceptibility Testing
For susceptibility testing, we performed the broth microdilution technique for ampicillin, cefotiofur, doxycycline, enrofloxacin, florfenicol, gentamicin, kanamycin, penicillin, spectinomycin, tetracycline, tilmicosin, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, tulathromycin, and tylosin, according to Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute standards (18,19). Concentrations of all antimicrobial drugs ranged from ≤0.03 to >128 µg/mL. We performed susceptibility testing of amoxicillin/clavulanic acid by using the gradient strip test. We used Escherichia coli ATCC 25922 and Staphylococcus aureus ATCC 29213 as quality-control strains. In addition, we included E. coli ATCC 35218 as the quality-control strain for amoxicillin/clavulanic acid testing. We used ampicillin, tetracycline, enrofloxacin, tylosin, florfenicol, spectinomycin, and trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole as class representatives of the penicillins, tetracyclines, florouquinolones, macrolides, phenicols, aminocyclitol/aminoglycosides, and potentiated sulphonamides, respectively, to determine phenotypic resistance for these classes, using Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute breakpoints for G. anatis (Appendix Table 1, https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/EID/article/26/4/19-0962-App1.pdf) (18).

Whole-Genome Sequencing
We prepared genomic DNA by using the Bioline Isolate II Genomic DNA kit (Meridian Bioscience, https://www.meridianbioscience.com), following the manufacturer’s instructions. We constructed sequencing libraries by using the Illumina Nextera XT DNA sample preparation kit and then sequenced isolates using the MiSeq Reagent v3 kit with a 250-bp paired-end protocol (Illumina, https://www.illumina.com) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. We have deposited all generated WGS data in the National Center for Biotechnology Information Sequence Read Archive (20) under accession number PRJNA541488. We cleaned and assembled raw reads (Appendix Table 2) and used Kraken 0.10.5 (21) to perform k-mer–based classification of cleaned reads against an in-house dump of the complete genomes from the National Center for Biotechnology Information RefSeq Microbial Genomes Database (22). We

Table 1. Origin and characteristics of Gallibacterium anatis strains isolated from calves with unresponsive bronchopneumonia, Belgium, 2017–2018*

| Isolate | Age of calf, d | Type (breed) | Farm | Culture | Other pathogens detected | MALDI-TOF MS log score† |
|---------|---------------|--------------|------|---------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| GB2     | 36            | Sheep        | 1    | Pure culture | ND                      | 2.40                    |
| GB3     | 20            | Sheep        | 2    | Dominant isolate | Escherichia coli         | 2.13                    |
| GB4     | 14            | Sheep        | 2    | Pure culture | ND                      | 2.48                    |
| GB5     | 15            | Sheep        | 2    | Pure culture | ND                      | 2.46                    |
| GB6     | 18            | Sheep        | 2    | Dominant isolate | Histophilus somni       | 2.47                    |
| GB7     | 66            | Beef (BWB)   | 3    | Dominant isolate | Bibersteinia trehalosi, Mycoplasma bovis | 2.34                |
| GB8     | 22            | Beef (BWB)   | 4    | Dominant isolate | Trueperella pyogenes     | 2.38                    |
| GB9     | 45            | Beef (BWB)   | 5    | Pure culture | ND                      | 2.38                    |
| GB10    | 23            | Beef (Blonde d’Aquitaine) | 6 | Dominant isolate | Mannheimia haemolytica, M. bovis | 2.23                |
| GB11    | 4             | Dairy (Holstein Friesian) | 7 | Pure culture | ND                      | 2.24                    |

*BWB, Belgian White and Blue; MALDI-TOF MS, matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry; ND, not detected.
†Identification with a log score value >2.0 is considered reliable at the species level.
analyzed paired-end reads and orphaned reads (i.e., reads where only 1 read of the pair survived cleaning) separately by using default settings and then combining the results by concatenating the output files.

**Antimicrobial-Resistance Genotyping**

We performed genotypic resistance gene detection, as described by Bogaerts et al. (23), against the ResFinder database (24). We defined AMR gene clusters as resistance genes on the same contig within a sample. We performed detection of mutations linked with increased fluoroquinolone MICs in the quinolone-resistance determining regions of *gyrA* and *parC* by aligning these regions in the *E. coli* K12 reference genome in NCBI (accession no. NC_000913.3) for *gyrA* (accession no. NP_416734) and *parC* (accession no. NP_417491.1) by using the Needle tool for pairwise sequence alignment of the EMBOSS suite (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/tools/psa) (25). We used mlplasmids 1.0.0 (https://sarredondo.shinyapps.io/mlplasmids) to predict whether assembled contigs were either plasmid- or chromosome-derived, by using *E. coli* as species model and 1,000 bp as the minimum sequence length (26). We then compared contigs predicted to be plasmid-encoded by using blastn (https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi), with default settings, against the nucleotide database. We performed transposase detection by using ISFinder (https://www.is.biotoul.fr/index.php) with the blastn tool, using default settings (27), to substantiate the presence of transposable elements in close proximity to the AMR gene clusters in the specific contigs of the whole assembly. Last, we used ICEberg 2.0 (http://db-mml.sjtu.edu.cn/ICEberg), with default settings, to detect integrative and conjugative elements (ICEs) or integrative and mobilizable elements (IMEs) in the *G. anatis* assemblies (28).

**Sample Relatedness**

For multilocus sequence typing (MLST), we used an in-house copy of the MLST database for *G. anatis* hosted by the PubMLST platform (http://pubMLST.org/anatis) (29), which we pulled in-house using the REST API (30), for MLST genotyping. We typed individual loci separately by aligning the assembly for each sample against all allele sequences of that locus by using nucleotide BLAST+ 2.6.0, with default values (31). We then performed filtering and best hit identification, as described previously, for AMR gene characterization. Because MLST offered limited resolution in the relationship between samples, we used a single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) genotyping approach based on an in-house implementation of the CSI Phylogeny workflow (https://omictools.com/csi-phylogeny-tool) (Appendix Table 3) (32), using the NCBI RefSeq entry for *G. anatis* (accession no. NC_015460) as reference to compare diversity among samples. We used MEGA-Computing Core 10.0.4 (https://www.megasoftware.net) to detect the best evolutionary model and construct a maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree on the basis of the SNP matrix, setting the following options: “missing-data” set to “partial_deletion,” “site-cov-cutoff” set to 50, “branch-swap” set to “very_weak,” “ml-method” set to “spr3,” “action” set to “model,” and “bootstraps” set to 100. We then repeated the same workflow by using the genome assembly of isolate GB8 (Appendix Table 3), filtered on contigs ≥1,000 bases with a k-mer coverage of 10–50× as reference. We visualized the resulting phylogenetic trees by using iTOL (33) and, afterward, a midpoint rooting. In addition, we constructed a core genome MLST (cgMLST) scheme to investigate the relationship of the isolates in Belgium compared with all genomes for this species publicly available in the NCBI database (Appendix Table 4).

**Results**

**Identification**

We compiled all strain origin information and co-infection data (Table 1). The *G. anatis* isolates were all nonhemolytic and were recovered as a pure culture (50% of cases) or the predominant isolate in large numbers (50% of cases). When a dominant culture was obtained, other pathogens were detected to a lesser extent. All calves recovered from the pneumonia because of appropriate antimicrobial therapy, except 1 who was euthanized because of cardiac failure.

**Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing**

We observed high MIC values for tylosin, tetracycline, spectinomycin, kanamycin, and enrofloxacin for all isolates, which most likely explains therapeutic failure (Table 2; Appendix Table 1). All isolates exhibited very low MIC values for ceftiofur and amoxicillin/clavulanic acid.

**Whole-Genome Sequencing**

The number of raw paired-end reads, genome assembly length, N50 (a metric used as a proxy for assembly quality that was defined as the length at which contigs of equal or longer length contained ≥50% of the assembled sequence), and number of contigs ≥1,000 bases was in the same range for all samples, with a median of 372,623 raw paired-end reads, median assembly length of 2,483,037 bases, median N50 value of
105,124 bases, and median of 58 contigs ≥1,000 bases across all samples (Appendix Table 2). Genome assembly sizes were close to the expected size of ≈2.69 Mb (34), indicating high quality of the WGS run. K-mer-based classification of read content for all isolates confirmed the samples to be G. anatis, given that this was the only species identified in the sample having a 5% read cutoff.

**AMR Genotyping**

By using the ResFinder database, we detected various AMR determinants in the WGS data for all isolates (Table 2). In total, we detected 24 different resistance genes across all 10 isolates, and several genes were present in multiple isolates. We found all isolates harbored resistance genes targeting aminoglycosides, phenicols, macrolides, sulphonamides, and tetracyclines. Seven isolates also harbored resistance genes such as bla<sub>CAR8</sub> or bla<sub>TEM2</sub> targeting β-lactamase-susceptible penicillins. Six isolates contained dfrA1, conferring resistance against trimethoprim. Isolate GB10 carried gyrD1, a plasmid-mediated quinolone resistance determinant. We found mutations linked with increased fluoroquinolone MICs in the quinolone resistance determining region of gyrA and parC (35) in all isolates, including a single-point mutation in parC (Ser-80 to Ile) and 2 mutations in gyrA resulting in S-83 to Y or F, and D-87 to A or G, changes. We determined the genotype to phenotype correspondence to be 90% (phenotypic observations might be explained by genotypic detection of corresponding resistance genes).

In GB10, we found very high MIC values for penicillin/ampicillin and no corresponding resistance gene. We did find resistance genes without corresponding high MIC values for potentiated sulphonamides in isolate GB3 and for phenicols in isolates GB5, GB7, GB8, GB9, and GB11.

Some resistance genes were closely linked into resistance gene cassettes (Table 3). Overall, we observed a high diversity of resistance genes, both in determinants present in resistance gene clusters and in separate contigs. We detected gene clusters with 3–4 of the same resistance genes found in GB4, GB9, and GB11, and 2 identical resistance genes in GB3 and GB6 (Table 3). In 19 of 20 clusters, we observed a link with transposases in close proximity or localization on putative predicted IMEs, plasmids, or both (Table 3). In addition, we detected a type 4 secretion system not associated with a resistance gene cluster in GB2, GB5, GB7, and GB10 (data not shown).
Table 3. Overview of clustered AMR genes in bovine Gallibacterium anatis isolates, Belgium, 2017–2018*

| Isolate(s) | Clustered AMR genes† | Linked transposases or IME‡ | Predicted contig origin$ |
|------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| GB7, GB9, GB11 | aac6-aph2, ahp3-III, ermB | Putative IME | Chromosome (0.968–0.971) |
| GB7 | aadA1, aadB, catA1 | TnAs3 transposase A. salmonicida | Chromosome (0.988) |
| GB2 | aadA1, aadB, catA1, ermB, tetM | TnAs3 transposase A. salmonicida | Chromosome (0.965) |
| GB3 | aadA1, aadB, sul1, tetM | TnAs3 transposase A. salmonicida | Chromosome (0.98) |
| GB5 | aadA1, catA1, dfrA1, ermB, tetM | TnAs3 transposase A. salmonicida | Chromosome (0.979) |
| GB4, GB9, GB11 | aadA1, catA1, dfrA1, tetM | TnAs3 transposase A. salmonicida | Chromosome (0.99) |
| GB10 | aadA1, catA1, ermB, tetM | TnAs3 transposase A. salmonicida | Chromosome (0.977) |
| GB6 | aadA1, dfrA1, ermB, floR, sul1, tetM | TnAs3 transposase A. salmonicida | Chromosome (0.986) |
| GB8 | aadA23, catA1, dfrA1, ermB, tetM | TnAs3 transposase A. salmonicida | Chromosome (0.957) |
| GB8 | aadB, ahpA1 | Truncated IS6 family transposase | Chromosome (0.848) |
| GB5 | aadB, floR | IS6 family transposase | Plasmid (0.694); B. trehalosi pCCK13698 (75%–99%) |
| GB7 | ahpA1, catA3, strA, strB, sul2 | ISap1 transposase A. pleuropneumoniae | Chromosome (0.988) |
| GB2 | ahpA1, catA3, strA, strB, sul2 | Truncated IS4 family transposase | Plasmid (0.749); uncultured Eubacterium pE1130 (84%, 99%) |
| GB10 | ahpA1, floR, strA, tetB | ISVs3 transposase V. salmonicida | Plasmid (0.807); B. trehalosi USDA-ARS-USMARC-192 (68%, 99%) |
| GB3, GB6 | ahpA1, sul2 | Truncated ISVs3 transposase V. salmonicida | Plasmid (0.898); P. multocida USDA-ARS-USMARC-60675 (83%, 99%) |
| GB4, GB9, GB11 | blaTEM-2, tropA, sul2, tetB | Tn3 transposase Salmonella | Plasmid (0.864–0.895); S. sonnei p866 (83%, 99%) |
| GB3, GB6 | blaTEM-2, tetB | Tn3 transposase Salmonella | Plasmid (0.708); Salmonella Heidelberg pN13–01290_23 (100%, 99%) |
| GB7 | blaTEM-2, tetB | Tn3 transposase Salmonella | Plasmid (0.738); P. multocida 14424 (71%, 99%) |
| GB8 | catA3, mphE, mepR, strA, sul2, tetB | Truncated ISVs5 transposase V. salmonicida | Plasmid (0.526) |
| GB5 | strA, tetB | Not detected | Chromosome (0.526) |

*Includes predicted transposases in close proximity of the resistance gene clusters (or predicted IME containing the AMR gene cluster) and the predicted contig origin. AMR, antimicrobial resistance; IME, integrative mobilizable elements.
†AMR genes present on the same contig (genes are listed in alphabetical order).
‡Determined by using ISfinder for transposases and ICEberg for IME.
§Determined by using miplasmids. Values in parentheses indicate (range of) posterior probability of belonging to either a plasmid or chromosome. For predicted plasmids, the best hit in the National Center for Biotechnology Information nucleotide database is also listed, with its corresponding query coverage and percentage identity, respectively, in parentheses.

Sample Relatedness

To evaluate the relationship between isolates, we performed MLST by using the public G. anatis database hosted by the PubMLST platform. However, an exact allelic match could only be identified for 1 locus in GB2, 2 loci in GB3, 2 loci in GB4, 3 loci in GB5, 2 loci in GB6, 1 locus in GB7, 1 locus in GB8, 2 loci in GB9, 1 locus in GB10, and 2 loci in GB11 (in a total of 8 loci in the scheme). Reliable allele calling for the remaining loci was not possible because of mismatches and different lengths for all samples. Closer inspection revealed that the MLST database only contained 89 isolates corresponding with 81 profiles, suggesting that MLST failed because of the lack of an available background to compare against.

Because MLST was not appropriate for delineating relationships, we performed SNP genotyping by using the NCBI RefSeq reference for G. anatis (UMN179). We found 14,583–15,234 SNPs for all samples (Appendix Table 3), resulting in a total SNP matrix of 25,166 positions, indicating large diversity between samples. We repeated the workflow by using the assembly of GB8 (which had the highest original read mapping rate) as a reference; this step ensured that the number of SNPs was not erroneously inflated by taking a reference not suited for SNP genotyping (i.e., a reference too divergent from the actual samples). We found 8,978–11,137 SNPs for all samples (Appendix Table 3), resulting in a total SNP matrix of 25,166 positions, confirming the large genetic diversity among samples. Afterward, we performed model selection and phylogenetic tree reconstruction with MEGA, identifying the general time reversible model as the best fit for both references.

We used GB8 as reference for 1 phylogenetic tree (Figure 1) and G. anatis UMN179 as reference for another (Appendix Figure). Although branch lengths differed, their underlying topology was identical and well supported by high bootstrap values, indicating that, although some isolates clustered together with fewer differences (GB10 with GB2, GB4 with GB9 and GB11, GB3 with GB6), overall we observed large variation between the different isolates. Notably, for the 4 isolates GB3, GB4, GB5, and GB6 obtained from the same farm (Table 2), only GB3 and GB6 clustered together, whereas GB4 and GB5 were located elsewhere in the phylogeny.
We also constructed a cgMLST scheme on the basis of our mining all publicly available G. anatis genomes from NCBI, including in total 27 isolates from poultry, complemented with the strains from Belgium (Figure 2). Despite the existence of generally very large distances between all samples, the resulting topology indicated that the strains isolated from cattle in Belgium clustered together and were distinctly separated from all other strains isolated from poultry. Moreover, the subtopology of the isolates from Belgium was concordant with results from the SNP analysis.

Discussion
Our report illustrates the involvement of G. anatis in respiratory disease in cattle. Interestingly, isolation of G. anatis from cattle was only described for feces (13) or was of unknown origin (13,14). Also, recent microbiome studies on the nasopharyngeal and tracheal bacterial communities of feedlot cattle did not document the presence of G. anatis (15). The presence of the bacterium in cattle might have been underestimated in the past, and availability of matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry might have improved detection rates for G. anatis, as seen in poultry (36) and humans (11). Nevertheless, finding this bacterium in pulmonary animals on multiple farms suggests the possible emerging nature of this pathogen, as suggested in poultry (37).

In poultry, clonal outbreaks of G. anatis have been described (38,39), in contrast with our study, where both SNP- and cgMLST-based phylogenetic analysis of the cattle isolates demonstrated a high variety between isolates, even for those retrieved on the same farm. This finding indicates that G. anatis strains from the different farms do not originate from 1 single introduction or outbreak and that a large unsampled reservoir of circulating G. anatis strains exists in cattle within Belgium. Another explanation for retrieving G. anatis in calves with pneumonia might be a direct link with poultry on the affected farms. In our study, no poultry was present, nor was poultry manure used as cattle feed at any farm, although at farm 2 (Table 1), raw eggs were occasionally fed to the calves. Because this practice occurred at only 1 farm, an indirect link with poultry seems unlikely. Moreover, cgMLST analysis indicated that, despite the large variation present in the cattle isolates in Belgium, these isolates still clustered together and were clearly separated from all poultry isolates for which genome information was publicly available. The relatively limited number of currently available G. anatis genomes and their large overall distances prevent definitive conclusions, but nevertheless support that no direct or indirect link with poultry exists.

Like other Pasteurellaceae species, G. anatis most likely acts as an opportunistic bacterium, infecting an already damaged respiratory tract caused by co-infections with viruses or bacteria, as observed in poultry (37). Unfortunately, viral involvement in the reported outbreaks in our study cannot be confirmed because we did not perform any viral diagnostics. However, the combined observations we have made suggest that G. anatis can act as an opportunistic bacterium in a multifactorial disease complex rather than being a highly virulent pathogen that spreads clonally during a clinical outbreak. To what extent G. anatis isolated from cattle in our study can survive in the environment remains unknown.

A second major finding of our study is the multidrug-resistant nature of the retrieved G. anatis isolates. All isolates obtained in the study demonstrated acquired resistance against 5–7 different antimicrobial classes, defining them as multidrug-resistant. Although the lack of species-specific clinical breakpoints precludes drawing firm conclusions, the clinical observation of
Drug-Resistant *Gallibacterium anatis* from Calves

unresponsiveness to antimicrobial treatment with various agents also supports this theory. Because antimicrobial susceptibility testing indicated susceptibility for only cephalosporins, amoxicillin/clavulanic acid, or both in all isolates, the isolates can even be defined as extensively drug-resistant (40). Also, for *G. anatis* isolated from poultry, a high prevalence of multidrug resistance has been demonstrated (37). However, the isolates retrieved in our study also demonstrated acquired resistance against fluoroquinolones, ampicillin, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, florfenicol, and gentamicin. Furthermore, the level and prevalence of multidrug resistance observed in the *G. anatis* isolates we analyzed surpasses previously described multidrug resistance in bovine *Pasteurellaceae* (41–43).

We detected >20 different resistance genes in the genomes of the *G. anatis* isolates in our study, including determinants conferring resistance to aminoglycosides, phenicols, macrolides, sulphonamides, trimethoprim, tetracyclines, penicillins, and quinolones. Although many of these resistance genes have been described previously in *Pasteurellaceae* obtained from either animals or humans (43,44), we detected various other resistance genes not previously reported in *G. anatis* or bovine *Pasteurellaceae*. Moreover, 4 resistance genes have so far never been described in *Pasteurellaceae* at all, namely *aadA23*, *blaCARB-8*, *tet(Y)* and *qnrD1*. In contrast to recently described bovine multidrug-resistant *Pasteurellaceae* (43,45,46), resistance genes in the *G. anatis* isolates in our study were detected at various
locations in the genome and were seldom contained within ICE, as described previously for \textit{G. anatis} in poultry \cite{47}. Only 1 gene cluster, carrying 1 or 2 \textit{erm}(B) copies, as well as \textit{aac(6)-aph(2)} and \textit{aph(3)-III} detected in 3 isolates (GB4, GB9, and GB11), was associated with a predicted putative IME. This putative element did not show any remarkable similarities with any of the IMEs in the ICEfinder database for gram-negative bacteria but did show some similarity with ICEs in \textit{Streptococcus pneumoniae} (data not shown). However, for all remaining clustered resistance genes, we observed a link with transposases, some of which were located on predicted plasmids. In addition, the high prevalence and diversity of resistance genes in the bovine \textit{G. anatis} isolates we analyzed suggests that this species might acquire resistance genes relatively easily compared with other Pasteurellaceae species. Indeed, \textit{G. anatis} is considered a naturally competent species that has been demonstrated to be less selective in the uptake of foreign DNA compared with other Pasteurellaceae species \cite{48}. As a consequence, these resistance genes might spread to more pathogenic closely related respiratory bacteria like \textit{Mannheimia haemolytica}, \textit{Histophilus somni}, and \textit{Pasteurella multocida}, possibly leading to therapy failure of infectious bronchopneumonia in cattle. We found no relevant virulence genes in the genomes of the strains in Belgium (Appendix Table 5), indicating that such genes are not present or, alternatively, have not yet been described.

In conclusion, \textit{G. anatis} needs to be taken into account as a secondary respiratory pathogen and resistance gene reservoir in cattle. In addition to poultry, cattle hold a potential risk for zoonotic transmission of \textit{G. anatis}, but further research is required to establish zoonotic potential.

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Isolation of Drug-Resistant *Gallibacterium anatis* from Calves with Unresponsive Bronchopneumonia, Belgium

Appendix

**Materials and Methods**

**Whole-Genome Sequencing**

Trimmomatic 0.36 (*I*) was first used to trim raw reads setting the following options: “ILLUMINACLIP: NexteraPE-PE.fa:2:30:10”, “LEADING:10”, “TRAILING:10”, “SLIDINGWINDOW:4:20”, and “MINLEN:40”. Afterwards, trimmed reads were de novo assembled using SPAdes 3.10.0 (*I*) setting the following options: “-careful”, and “--cov-cutoff off”. Orphaned reads resulting from trimming (i.e., reads where only one read of the pair survived) were also provided to the assembler as unpaired reads. Assembly statistics such as genome size, N50 (the length at which contigs of equal or longer length contain at least 50% of the assembled sequence), and number of contigs >1000 bases were calculated with QUAST 4.4 (*I*) using default settings, and are presented in Appendix Table 2.

**Virulence Genotyping**

Genotypic virulence gene detection was performed as described for antimicrobial resistance genotyping (see main article), but using the VirulenceFactor (*I*) full database (database accessed 04/03/2019). Results are presented in Appendix Table 4. Only one virulence gene, namely FimC (http://www.mgc.ac.cn/cgi-bin/VFs/gene.cgi?GeneID = VFG004079) coding for a type-1 fimbrial protein, was detected in some isolates.

**SNP-Based Phylogenetic Analysis**

Phylogenetic analysis was done using an in-house copy of the CSI phylogeny pipeline as follows: Trimmed reads (see “Whole genome sequencing”) were used for read mapping against the NCBI RefSeq Genome entry for *G. anatis* (accession number NC_015460) for every sample with Bowtie2 2.3.0 (*I*) setting the following options: “--end-to-end”, “--phred33”, and “--
sensitive”. The “mpileup” program of Samtools 1.3.1 (6) was then used to create pileups setting the following options: “–count-orphans”, and “–VCF”, after which the “call” program of Bcftools 1.9 (7) was used to call SNPs setting the following options: “-O’ z”, “–consensus-caller”, “–variants-only”, “–ploidy 1”, and “–skip-variants indels”. The “filter” program of Bcftools was used to apply several quality filters to called SNPs by setting the following options: having a SNP depth of at least 10x with at least one forward and reverse read covering the position (“–exclude “DP<10 || DP4[0]+DP4[2]<1 || DP4[1]+DP4[3]<1 ”); having a SNP quality of at least 25 (“–exclude QUAL<25 ”); and having a mapping quality of at least 30 (“–exclude MQ<30 ”). Custom in-house scripts were used to apply two additional filters: keeping only one randomly selected SNP if two or more SNPs were located within the same window of 10 bases; and having a minimal Z-score and Y-multiplier of 1.96 and 10 (8), respectively.

**cgMLST-based Phylogenetic Analysis**

All 27 publically available genomes for *G. anatis* in the NCBI genome database were downloaded on 17/09/2019. An overview of the accession numbers for these samples is provided in Appendix Table 5. These genomes together with the assemblies of all Belgian isolates were used to construct a de novo cgMLST scheme with chewBBACA v2.0.17.2 (9). A prodigal training file was created using Prodigal v2.6.3 (10) using the NCBI RefSeq Genome entry for *G. anatis* (accession number NC_015460) as input and setting the “-p” parameter to “single”. A draft cgMLST scheme was then created using the chewBBACA “CreateScheme” function and setting the “–ptf” option to the aforementioned training file and providing all genomes as input. The “AlleleCall” function was used to perform allele calling for all loci in the draft scheme. Afterwards, the “RemoveGenes” function was used to remove paralogs and duplicate loci. Allele calling on the resulting scheme was done as described by Bogaerts et al., 2019 (11). A phylogeny based on the allele call matrix was created using GrapeTree 2.0 (12) setting the “method” option to “MSTreeV2”, and afterwards visualized within the GrapeTree interface. Host information for the NCBI genomes was retrieved from the “FEATURES” sections in their corresponding GenBank files.

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Table 1. Genotypic resistance determinants and their corresponding MIC values for 16 antimicrobials commonly used to treat infectious bronchopneumonia of all investigated bovine *G. anatis* isolates

| Isolate name | Antimicrobial agent | MIC (µg/mL) | Resistance gene/mutation |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| GB2          | Penicillin          | 2           | /                        |
|              | Ampicillin          | 2           | *erm* (B)                |
|              | Ceftiofur           | <0.03       | *su* 2                   |
|              | Amoxi/clav          | <0.12/0.06  | *tet* (M)                |
|              | Tylosin             | 128         | *cat* A1                 |
|              | Tilmicosin          | 64          | *cat* A3                 |
|              | Tulathromycin       | >128        | *flo* R                  |
|              | Trim/sulfa          | 16/304      | *aad* A1                 |
|              | Tetracycline        | 64          | *aad* B                  |
|              | Doxycycline         | 16          | *aph* A1                 |
|              | Florfenicol         | 32          | *str* A                  |
|              | Spectinomycin       | 128         | *str* B                  |
|              | Gentamicin          | 8           | *gyr* A 83S→Y            |
|              | Kanamycin           | >128        | *gyr* A 87D→A            |
|              | Enrofloxacin        | 16          | *parC 80S→I              |
| GB3          | Penicillin          | >128        | *bla*CARB-8              |
|              | Ampicillin          | >128        | *bla*-TEM-2              |
|              | Ceftiofur           | 0.06        | *erm* (B)                |
|              | Amoxi/clav          | 2/1         | *su* 1                   |
|              | Tylosin             | 128         | *su* 2                   |
|              | Tilmicosin          | 64          | *tet* (B)                |
|              | Tulathromycin       | 128         | *tet* (M)                |
|              | Trim/sulfa          | 2/38        | *tet* (Y)                |
|              | Tetracycline        | 128         | *flo* R                  |
|              | Doxycycline         | 32          | *aad* A1                 |
|              | Florfenicol         | 32          | *aad* B                  |
|              | Spectinomycin       | >128        | *aph* A1                 |
|              | Gentamicin          | 8           | *str* A                  |
|              | Kanamycin           | >128        | *str* B                  |
|              | Enrofloxacin        | 16          | *gyr* A 83S→Y            |
|              |                     |             | *gyr* A 87D→A            |
|              |                     |             | *parC 80S→I              |
| GB4          | Penicillin          | 128         | *bla*-TEM-2              |
|              | Ampicillin          | >128        | *erm* (B)                |
|              | Ceftiofur           | 0.06        | *dfr* A1                 |
|              | Amoxi/clav          | 2/1         | *su* 2                   |
|              | Tylosin             | >128        | *su* 2                   |
|              | Tilmicosin          | >128        | *tet* (B)                |
|              | Tulathromycin       | >128        | *tet* (M)                |
|              | Trim/sulfa          | 16/304      | *cat* A1                 |
|              | Tetracycline        | 128         | *aac(6')-aph(2")-1       |
|              | Doxycycline         | 16          | *aad* A1                 |
|              | Florfenicol         | 32          | *aph*(3')-III            |
|              | Spectinomycin       | 128         | *str* A                  |
|              | Gentamicin          | 32          | *gyr* A 83S→Y            |
|              | Kanamycin           | >128        | *gyr* A 87D→A            |
|              | Enrofloxacin        | 32          | *parC 80S→I              |
| GB5          | Penicillin          | 0.5         | /                        |
|              | Ampicillin          | 1           | *erm* (B)                |
|              | Ceftiofur           | <0.03       | *dfr* A1                 |
|              | Amoxi/clav          | 0.25/0.125  | *su* 2                   |
|              | Tylosin             | >128        | *tet* (B)                |
|              | Tilmicosin          | >128        | *tet* (M)                |
|              | Tulathromycin       | >128        | *cat* A1                 |
|              | Trim/sulfa          | 32/608      | *flo* R                  |
|              | Tetracycline        | 128         | *aad* A1                 |
|              | Doxycycline         | 16          | *aad* B                  |
|              | Florfenicol         | 4           | *aph* A1                 |
| Isolate name | Antimicrobial agent | MIC (µg/mL) | Resistance gene/mutation |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Spectinomycin | 128                 | strA        |                          |
| Gentamicin   | 8                   | gyrA 83S→Y |                          |
| Kanamycin    | >128                | gyrA 87D→A |                          |
| Enrofloxacin | 16                  | parC 80S→I |                          |
| GB6          | Penicillin          | 128         | bla-CARB-8               |
|              | Ampicillin          | >128        | bla-TEM-2                |
|              | Ceftriactin         | 0.06        | erm(B)                   |
|              | Amoxiclavox        | 2/1         | dfrA1                    |
|              | Tymosin            | >128        | sul1                     |
|              | Tilmicosin         | 64          | sul2                     |
|              | Talithromycin      | >128        | tet(B)                   |
|              | Trim/ sulfax       | 32/608      | tet(M)                   |
|              | Tetracycline       | 128         | tet(Y)                   |
|              | Doxycycline        | 32          | floR                     |
|              | Florfenicol        | 8           | aadA1                    |
|              | Spectinomycin      | 128         | strA                     |
|              | Gentamicin         | >128        | strB                     |
|              | Kanamycin          | >128        | gyrA 83S→F               |
|              | Enrofloxacin       | 16          | gyrA 87D→G               |
| GB7          | Penicillin          | >128        | bla-TEM-2                |
|              | Ampicillin          | >128        | erm(B)                   |
|              | Ceftriactin         | <0.03       | sul2                     |
|              | Amoxiclavox        | 2/1         | tet(B)                   |
|              | Tymosin            | 128         | tet(M)                   |
|              | Tilmicosin         | 128         | catA1                    |
|              | Talithromycin      | 32          | catA3                    |
|              | Trim/ sulfax       | 32/608      | aadA1                    |
|              | Tetracycline       | 128         | aadB                     |
|              | Doxycycline        | 16          | aphA1                    |
|              | Florfenicol        | 1           | strA                     |
|              | Spectinomycin      | >128        | gyrA 83S→F               |
|              | Gentamicin         | 16          | gyrA 87D→G               |
| GB8          | Penicillin          | >128        | bla-TEM-2                |
|              | Ampicillin          | >128        | erm(B)                   |
|              | Ceftriactin         | 0.06        | mph(E)                   |
|              | Amoxiclavox        | 1/0.5       | mra(E)                   |
|              | Tymosin            | >128        | dfrA1                    |
|              | Tilmicosin         | >128        | sul2                     |
|              | Talithromycin      | >128        | tet(B)                   |
|              | Trim/ sulfax       | >128/2432   | tet(M)                   |
|              | Tetracycline       | >128        | catA1                    |
|              | Doxycycline        | 32          | catA3                    |
|              | Florfenicol        | 1           | aadA23                   |
|              | Spectinomycin      | >128        | aadB                     |
|              | Gentamicin         | >128        | aphA1                    |
| GB9          | Penicillin          | 128         | bla-TEM-2                |
|              | Ampicillin          | >128        | erm(B)                   |
|              | Ceftriactin         | <0.03       | dfrA1                    |
|              | Amoxiclavox        | 2/1         | sul2                     |
|              | Tymosin            | >128        | tet(B)                   |
|              | Tilmicosin         | 128         | tet(M)                   |
|              | Talithromycin      | >128        | catA1                    |
|              | Trim/ sulfax       | 16/304      | aac(6')-aph(2")-1       |
|              | Tetracycline       | >128        | aadA1                    |
|              | Doxycycline        | 16          | aph(3')-III              |
|              | Florfenicol        | 1           | strA                     |
|              | Spectinomycin      | 128         | gyrA 83S→Y               |
|              | Gentamicin         | >128        | gyrA 87D→A               |

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Appendix Table 2. Overview of WGS summary statistics expressed as number of raw paired-end reads, genome assembly length, N50, and number of contigs >1,000 bases.

| Isolate name | No. paired-end reads | Genome assembly length | N50 | No. contigs >1,000 bases |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| GB2          | 428,631               | 2,549,575               | 80,564 | 62                      |
| GB3          | 375,338               | 2,440,244               | 99,746 | 57                      |
| GB4          | 332,655               | 2,398,744               | 110,501 | 53                      |
| GB5          | 276,532               | 2,507,524               | 89,941 | 65                      |
| GB6          | 382,662               | 2,427,176               | 89,568 | 59                      |
| GB7          | 344,368               | 2,524,470               | 129,663 | 55                      |
| GB8          | 326,968               | 2,466,991               | 68,465 | 74                      |
| GB9          | 452,788               | 2,597,989               | 122,205 | 73                      |
| GB10         | 369,907               | 2,499,083               | 157,729 | 48                      |
| GB11         | 380,273               | 2,352,964               | 131,690 | 44                      |
### Appendix Table 3. Mapping rates and number of SNPs after filtering for all isolates using either *G. anatis* UMN179 or GB8 as reference

| Isolate name | Reference = *G. anatis* UMN179 | Mapping rate, % | No. SNPs after filtering | Reference = GB8 | Mapping rate, % | No. SNPs after filtering |
|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| GB2          |                                  | 71.26          | 15,189                   |                 | 72.35          | 10,855                   |
| GB3          |                                  | 77.43          | 14,597                   |                 | 84.21          | 8,978                    |
| GB4          |                                  | 76.71          | 14,767                   |                 | 82.14          | 9,173                    |
| GB5          |                                  | 77.73          | 14,583                   |                 | 78.33          | 10,688                   |
| GB6          |                                  | 76.28          | 14,593                   |                 | 84.84          | 8,979                    |
| GB7          |                                  | 76.15          | 15,162                   |                 | 76.61          | 11,137                   |
| GB8          |                                  | 80.22          | 14,795                   |                 | 95.4           | 1                        |
| GB9          |                                  | 74.36          | 14,814                   |                 | 79.41          | 9,216                    |
| GB10         |                                  | 71.36          | 15,234                   |                 | 73.15          | 10,941                   |
| GB11         |                                  | 78.54          | 14,967                   |                 | 85.01          | 9,303                    |

### Appendix Table 4. Overview of NCBI accession numbers for all *G. anatis* isolates used for constructing a cgMLST scheme and resulting topology

| Name                  | Accession number (NCBI assembly) |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| GB2                   | GCF_000209675.1_ASM20967v1       |
| GB1                   | GCF_000379785.1_ASM37978v1       |
| GB3                   | GCF_000464615.2_Ga_12656_12_1_0  |
| GB4                   | GCF_000771775.1_ASM77177v1       |
| GB5                   | GCF_000771795.1_ASM77179v1       |
| GB6                   | GCF_000771805.1_ASM77180v1       |
| GB7                   | GCF_000771855.1_ASM77185v1       |
| GB8                   | GCF_000771915.1_ASM77191v1       |
| GB9                   | GCF_000771935.1_ASM77193v1       |
| GB10                  | GCF_000771955.1_ASM77195v1       |
| GB11                  | GCF_000772265.1_ASM77226v1       |
| GB12                  | GCF_000772275.1_ASM77227v1       |
| GB13                  | GCF_000772285.1_ASM77228v1       |
| GB14                  | GCF_000772295.1_ASM77229v1       |
| GB15                  | GCF_000772345.1_ASM77234v1       |
| GB16                  | GCF_000772365.1_ASM77236v1       |
| GB17                  | GCF_000772385.1_ASM77238v1       |
| GB18                  | GCF_000772395.1_ASM77239v1       |
| GB19                  | GCF_000772425.1_ASM77242v1       |
| GB20                  | GCF_000772445.1_ASM77244v1       |
| GB21                  | GCF_001678465.1_Gal26            |
| GB22                  | GCF_001678565.1_Gal27            |
| GB23                  | GCF_002263255.1_ASM226325v1      |
| GB24                  | GCF_002263295.1_ASM226329v1      |
| GB25                  | GCF_900450735.1_49950_E01        |

### Appendix Table 5. Overview of all hits for the VirulenceFactor full database

| Sample name | Locus detected | % Identity | HSP/Locus length | Contig | Position in contig |
|-------------|----------------|------------|------------------|--------|-------------------|
| GB2         | Fim (CVF003)   | 98.59      | 1347/2052        | NODE_3_length_239488_cov_37.058585 | 162028..163374 |
| GB3         | Fim (CVF003)   | 100        | 1237/2052        | NODE_13_length_55171_cov_37.453256 | 45256..46492  |
| GB4         | Fim (CVF003)   | 99.76      | 1240/2052        | NODE_13_length_56472_cov_27.584125 | 1..1240      |
| GB5         | Fim (CVF003)   | 99.68      | 1253/2052        | NODE_12_length_71610_cov_28.199852 | 1..1253      |
| GB6         | Fim (CVF003)   | 100        | 1237/2052        | NODE_13_length_55173_cov_41.462704 | 8680..9916   |
| GB7         | Fim (CVF003)   | 99.92      | 1241/2052        | NODE_25_length_22235_cov_39.928714 | 1..1241      |
| GB11        | Fim (CVF003)   | 98.81      | 1347/2052        | NODE_9_length_76651_cov_35.885030  | 55233..56579 |
**Appendix Figure.** Phylogeny of *Gallibacterium anatis* isolates based on SNP genotyping when using *G. anatis* UMN179 as a reference. Node labels indicate bootstrap support values (expressed as decimals). Branch lengths and the scale bar are expressed as average substitutions per site.