

# Identification of Genetic Differences Between Strains of *Campylobacter jejuni*

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This dissertation is submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

## Declaration

This dissertation is the result of my own work and includes nothing which is the outcome of work done in collaboration except where specifically indicated in the text.

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1/8/05

## Acknowledgements

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## Abstract

The bacterial pathogen *Campylobacter jejuni* is known to cause a range of diseases from inflammatory diarrhoea to the autoimmune Guillain-Barré syndrome, although in some individuals infection with *C. jejuni* can be asymptomatic. The difference in outcome of the infection is likely to be the result of a number of factors including genetic differences between the infecting strains and susceptibility of the infected individual. As *C. jejuni* is known to be genetically variable, this project has involved the comparison of a number of unsequenced strains of *C. jejuni* against the sequenced strain 11168, in order to discover novel chromosomal sequences that may be responsible for the different phenotypes of these strains.

Four strains, representing a range of clinical outcomes and survival in different environmental niches were compared against the sequenced strain 11168 using a nylon macro-array based technique. This has resulted in the identification of 483 Kb of sequence containing 595 novel predicted genes within small-insert genomic libraries. Many of the novel predicted genes are associated with surface polysaccharide, flagellar biosynthesis and modification in addition to hypothetical genes. Also a number of genes identified were associated with restriction modification, metabolism and respiration. A few predicted proteins showed homology to genes associated with transposons, plasmid conjugation, chemotaxis and adhesion. Using this data 31 larger-insert BAC clones containing predicted genes of interest were identified and sequenced in order to determine the extent of these chromosomal islands. Within these sequences predicted genes have been identified that might be implicated in the distinct phenotypes of these strains.

A chromosomal tetracycline resistance determinant was discovered amongst remnants of transposon associated genes. A similar insert was found in two of eight

tetracycline resistant clinical isolates studied. This presents the possibility that a transposon may be responsible for disseminating tetracycline resistance in some strains of *C. jejuni*.

Two plasmids from one of the strains used in this study were sequenced. In one of the plasmids an inverting region was discovered and analysed, and the possibility that this is responsible for variable expression of a type IV secretion system was investigated.

## Glossary of terms

aa	amino acid
ACT	Artemis Comparison Tool
AFLP	amplified fragment length polymorphism
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
BAC	Bacterial Artificial Chromosome
BAP	Bacterial Alkaline Phosphatase
Bp	Base pair(s)
BSA	Bovine Serum Albumin
C	Cytosine
CDS	Coding Sequence
CDSC	Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre
CDT	Cytotoxic Distending Toxin
dATP	2'-Deoxyadenosine 5'-triphosphate
dCTP	2'-Deoxycytidine 5'-triphosphate
DDW	double distilled water
dGTP	2'-Deoxyguanosine 5'-triphosphate
DMSO	dimethyl sulphoxide
dTTP	2'-Deoxythiamine 5'-triphosphate
EDTA	ethylene diamine tetra-acetic acid
FSA	Food Standards Agency
G	Guanine
GBS	Guillain-Barré syndrome
GGT	gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase
HLA	Human Lymphocyte Antigen
HR-MAS NMR	High-resolution magic angle spinning nuclear magnetic resonance
Id	Identity
IgG	immunoglobulin G
IPA	Invasion Protein Antigen
IPTG	isopropylthio- $\beta$ -D-galactoside
IVS	Intervening sequence
Kb	kilobase(s)
LB	Luria-Bertani broth
LMP	Low Melting Point
LOS	Lipooligosaccharide

LPS	Lipopolysaccharide
LSHTM	The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
MFS	Miller Fisher Syndrome
MLST	Multilocus Sequence Typing
MSP	Maximal Segment Pairs
MW	Molecular Weight
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PEG	polyethylene glycol
PFGE	pulsed-field gel electrophoresis
PMSF	phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride
RAPD	Randomly amplified polymorphic DNA
RFLP	restriction fragment length polymorphism
RM	restriction-modification
SDS	Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate
SOD	Superoxide Dismutase
SSD	Strain Specific DNA
ST	Sequence Type
T	Thymine
TE	Tris- EDTA
TLP	Transducer-like protein
TMAO	trimethylamine- <i>N</i> -oxide
TPS	Two Partner Secretion
TYE	Tryptone Yeast Extract
UV	Ultra Violet
WU-BLAST	Washington University-Basic Local Alignment Sequence Tool
X-gal	5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl- $\beta$ -D-galactoside
YOP	<i>Yersinia</i> outer protein

# Table of Contents

Declaration.....	ii
Acknowledgements.....	ii
Abstract.....	iii
Glossary.....	v
Table of contents.....	vii
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background.....	1
1.1.1 Classification.....	1
1.1.2 Physiology and metabolism.....	2
1.1.2.1 Growth.....	2
1.1.2.2 Transport and iron uptake.....	3
1.1.2.3 Carbon metabolism.....	4
1.1.2.4 Electron transport.....	4
1.1.3 <i>Campylobacter</i> infection.....	5
1.1.3.1 Epidemiology.....	5
1.1.3.2 Disease outcomes.....	6
1.1.4 Pathogenesis.....	8
1.1.4.1 Models of infection.....	8
1.1.4.2 Motility.....	9
1.1.4.3 Adherence.....	10
1.1.4.4 Cellular Invasion.....	10
1.1.4.5 Intracellular survival.....	11
1.1.4.6 Toxins.....	12
1.1.4.7 Surface polysaccharide structures.....	13
1.1.4.8 Environmental survival.....	14
1.1.4.9 Plasmids.....	15
1.1.4.9 Chicken colonization.....	15
1.1.4.10 Pathogenesis Summary.....	16
1.1.5 Subtyping and diversity.....	16
1.1.5.1 Serotyping.....	16
1.1.5.2 Molecular subtyping.....	17
1.1.5.3 Subtyping Summary.....	19
1.2 Genomic studies.....	20
1.2.1 Genome sequencing.....	21
1.2.1.1 <i>C. jejuni</i> strain NCTC 11168.....	21
1.2.1.2 <i>C. jejuni</i> strain RM1221.....	22
1.2.2 Comparative genomic studies.....	22
1.2.2.1 Microarrays.....	22
1.2.2.2 Subtractive hybridization.....	23
1.2.2.3 Differential hybridization in other organisms.....	24
1.3 Aims of this thesis.....	26

2. Materials and Methods .....	27
2.1 Materials .....	27
2.1.1 Bacterial Strains and plasmids .....	27
2.1.2 Reagents .....	28
2.2 General Methods .....	28
2.2.1 Growth of <i>Escherichia coli</i> clones .....	28
2.2.2 Preparation of DNA .....	28
2.2.2.1 Isopropanol preparation for isolation of pUC plasmid DNA .....	28
2.2.2.2 Vacuum preparation for isolation of BAC DNA .....	29
2.2.2.3 Low-throughput preparation of DNA .....	30
2.2.3 Gel electrophoresis .....	30
2.2.4 Polymerase Chain Reaction .....	31
2.2.5 Restriction enzyme digests .....	31
2.2.6 DNA manipulation .....	32
2.2.6.1 Gel extraction .....	32
2.2.6.1.1 Spin column kit .....	32
2.2.6.1.2 LMP agarose digestion .....	32
2.2.6.2 Phenol extraction .....	32
2.2.6.3 Ethanol precipitation .....	32
2.3 Differential hybridization methods .....	33
2.3.1 Construction of a pUC19 library of DNA fragments .....	33
2.3.1.1 Preparation of DNA .....	33
2.3.1.2 Ligation .....	33
2.3.1.3 Transformation .....	33
2.3.2 Construction of a pBACe3.6 library of DNA fragments .....	34
2.3.2.1 Preparation of pBACe3.6 vector .....	34
2.3.2.2 Preparation of DNA .....	34
2.3.2.3 Ligation .....	35
2.3.2.4 Transformation .....	35
2.3.3 Propagation of library clones .....	35
2.3.4 Preparation of colony arrays .....	36
2.3.4.1 Colony blotting .....	36
2.3.4.2 Lysis of bacterial clones .....	36
2.3.5 Hybridization of membranes .....	37
2.3.5.1 Radiolabelled probe generation using random octamers .....	37
2.3.5.2 Generation of radiolabelled probe using PCR .....	37
2.3.5.3 Hybridization .....	38
2.3.5.4 Washes .....	38
2.3.6 Sequencing of library clones .....	38
2.3.6.1 Sequencing primers .....	38
2.3.6.2 Sequencing reactions .....	39
2.3.6.2.1 pUC clone sequencing .....	39
2.3.6.2.2 Sequencing from primers internal to cloning vector .....	39
2.3.6.2.3 BAC end sequencing .....	40
2.3.7 Analysis of sequence .....	40

3. Plasmid sequencing and annotation.....	42
3.1 Introduction.....	42
3.2 Results.....	42
3.2.1 Overview of methods.....	42
3.2.2 Identification of replication origins.....	43
3.2.3 General characteristics.....	44
3.2.3.1 Characteristics of pVir.....	45
3.2.3.2 Characteristics of pTet.....	48
3.3 Discussion.....	53
3.3.1 Comparison to published sequences.....	53
3.3.1.1 pVir.....	53
3.3.1.2 pTet.....	58
3.3.2 Characteristics of pVir and pTet.....	62
4. Analysis of pUC libraries.....	66
4.1 Introduction.....	66
4.2 Results.....	67
4.2.1 Identification of DNA present in test strains and absent from NCTC 11168.....	67
4.2.2 False positive and false negative testing.....	69
4.2.3 Strain 81-176 clones with matches to pVir and pTet.....	70
4.2.4 General Features of novel pUC assemblies.....	72
4.2.5 Regions showing limited identity to genes in NCTC 11168.....	77
4.2.5.1 Surface associated.....	77
4.2.5.1.1 N-linked glycosylation locus cj1119c-cj1130c.....	77
4.2.5.1.2 Lipo-oligosaccharide biosynthesis locus cj1131-1152.....	77
4.2.5.1.3 Flagellar associated genes.....	79
4.2.5.1.4 Capsule locus cj1413-1448.....	81
4.2.5.1.5 Miscellaneous.....	83
4.2.5.2 Metabolism.....	84
4.2.5.2.1 Molybdate transport region cj0294-cj0310.....	84
4.2.5.2.2 Region cj0807-cj0813.....	85
4.2.5.2.3 Miscellaneous.....	85
4.2.5.3 Hypothetical genes.....	86
4.2.5.4 Pseudogenes.....	86
4.2.6 Predicted CDSs shared between test strains but absent from NCTC 11168.....	88
4.2.6.1 CDSs present in all test strains.....	89
4.2.6.2 CDSs present in three test strains.....	89
4.2.6.2.1 Shared between 81-176, M1 and 40671.....	89
4.2.6.2.2 Shared between 81-176, 40671, 52472.....	90
4.2.6.3 CDSs present in two test strains.....	90
4.2.6.3.1 Shared between 81-176 and M1.....	90
4.2.6.3.2 Shared between 81-176 and 40671.....	92
4.2.6.3.3 Shared between 81-176 and 52472.....	92
4.2.6.3.4 Shared between M1 and 40671.....	92
4.2.6.3.5 Shared between M1 and 52472.....	93
4.2.6.3.6 Shared between 40671 and 52472.....	94
4.2.6.4 Predicted novel CDSs present in RM1221.....	95
4.2.6.4.1 Shared between 81-176 and RM1221.....	95
4.2.6.4.2 Shared between M1 and RM1221.....	95

4.2.6.4.3 Shared between 40671 and RM1221 .....	96
4.2.6.4.4 Shared between 52472 and RM1221 .....	96
4.2.7 Predicted CDSs unique to each test strain .....	97
4.2.7.1 Strain 81-176.....	97
4.2.7.1.1 Restriction modification.....	97
4.2.7.1.2 Hypothetical.....	97
4.2.7.1.3 Surface (transport) .....	98
4.2.7.1.4 Miscellaneous .....	98
4.2.7.2 Strain M1 .....	98
4.2.7.2.1 Restriction modification.....	98
4.2.7.2.2 Hypothetical.....	99
4.2.7.2.3 Surface .....	99
4.2.7.2.4 Miscellaneous .....	100
4.2.7.3 Strain 40671 .....	101
4.2.7.3.1 Restriction modification.....	101
4.2.7.3.2 Hypothetical.....	101
4.2.7.3.3 Surface .....	102
4.2.7.3.4 Miscellaneous .....	102
4.2.7.4 Strain 52472 .....	103
4.2.7.4.1 Restriction modification.....	103
4.2.7.4.2 Hypothetical CDSs.....	103
4.2.7.4.3 Surface .....	104
4.2.7.4.4 Miscellaneous .....	104
4.3 Discussion .....	105
4.3.1 Surface structures.....	105
4.3.2 Transport .....	107
4.3.3 Restriction modification.....	108
4.3.4 Metabolism .....	109
4.3.5 Respiration .....	110
4.3.6 Chemotaxis .....	111
4.3.7 Pseudogenes.....	111
4.3.8 Characteristics of each strain .....	112
4.3.8.1 Strain 81-176.....	112
4.3.8.2 Strain M1 .....	113
4.3.8.3 Strain 40671 .....	113
4.3.8.4 Strain 52472 .....	113
4.3.9 Summary .....	114
<b>5. Analysis of BAC libraries.....</b>	<b>115</b>
5.1 Introduction.....	115
5.2 Results.....	115
5.2.1 Overview of methods.....	115
5.2.2 Respiration .....	118
5.2.3 Transport .....	126
5.2.3.1 di-tripeptide transporters.....	126
5.2.3.2 Autotransporter .....	129
5.2.3.3 Two partner transporter.....	133
5.2.4 Plasmid.....	140
5.2.5 Chemotaxis .....	143
5.2.6 Tetracycline resistance.....	146

5.2.7 Hypothetical genes.....	148
5.2.8 Restriction Modification .....	153
5.2.9 Capsule.....	155
5.2.10 Bacteriophage .....	159
5.2.11 Metabolism .....	163
5.2.12 Pseudogenes.....	166
5.3 Discussion.....	168
5.3.1 23S rDNA in intervening sequence (IVS) .....	168
5.3.2 Respiration.....	170
5.3.3 Transport.....	171
5.3.4 Chemotaxis .....	177
5.3.5 Restriction Modification .....	178
5.3.6 Capsule.....	178
5.3.7 Bacteriophage .....	179
5.3.8 Pseudogenes.....	180
5.3.9 Overview.....	181
5.3.9.1 Strain 81-176.....	182
5.3.9.2 Strain M1 .....	182
5.3.9.3 Strain 40671 .....	183
5.3.9.4 Strain 52472.....	183
6. TetO analysis from multiple clinical isolates.....	185
6.1 Introduction.....	185
6.2 Methods.....	186
6.2.1 Strains and primers used in this study.....	186
6.2.2 Overview .....	186
6.3 Results.....	187
6.3.1 BAC end sequencing.....	187
6.3.2 BAC insert sequencing .....	189
6.4 Discussion .....	193
7. Mutagenesis of <i>C. jejuni</i> strain 81-176 plasmid pTet.....	195
7.1 Introduction.....	195
7.2 Materials and Methods.....	195
7.2.1 Reagents.....	195
7.2.2 Strains and plasmids .....	195
7.2.3 Methods.....	196
7.2.3.1 Primer sequences .....	196
7.2.3.1 Growth of <i>Campylobacter jejuni</i> .....	197
7.2.3.2 Chromosomal DNA preparation.....	197
7.2.3.2.1 Phenol/Chloroform extraction .....	197
7.2.3.2.2 Qiagen column prep.....	198
7.2.3.3 Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (QPCR) .....	198
7.2.3.4 Mutagenesis of pTet.....	199
7.2.3.4.1 Constructing a suicide vector.....	199
7.2.3.4.2 Transformation.....	200
7.2.3.4.3 Colony PCR .....	200
7.2.3.5 Southern blotting.....	200
7.2.3.5 Conjugation experiments .....	201

7.3 Results.....	202
7.3.1 Invertible region.....	202
7.3.2 Determination of plasmid copy number .....	209
7.3.3 Knockout mutagenesis of the site specific recombinase pTet0023 .....	213
7.3.4 Conjugation experiments .....	225
7.4 Discussion .....	227
8. Final discussion .....	232
References .....	243
Appendices.....	266
APPENDIX 1: CDSs predicted for pVir.....	266
APPENDIX 2: CDSs predicted for pTet.....	268
APPENDIX 3: novel CDSs predicted for strain 81-176.....	271
APPENDIX 4: novel CDSs predicted for strain M1.....	275
APPENDIX 5: novel CDSs predicted for strain 40671.....	280
APPENDIX 6: novel CDSs predicted for strain 52472.....	283