



Draft Genome Sequence of the Multiple Antibiotic Resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1-UB Subline

Kah-Ooi Chua,^a Paul Norton,^b Pavlos Trus,^c Maria Katsikogianni,^d M. Julie Thornton,^b  Kok-Gan Chan,^{e,f}  Chien-Yi Chang^c

^aCentre for Research in Biotechnology for Agriculture, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

^bCentre for Skin Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Bradford, Bradford, United Kingdom

^cSchool of Dental Sciences, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

^dPolymer and Biomaterials Research Centre, School of Chemistry and Bioscience, University of Bradford, Bradford, United Kingdom

^eInstitute of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

^fInternational Genome Centre, Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang, China

Kah-Ooi Chua and Paul Norton contributed equally to this work. Author order was determined and agreed upon by both Paul Norton and Kah-Ooi Chua.

ABSTRACT We report the draft genome sequence and antibiotic susceptibility of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strain PAO1-UB, a subline of the common reference strain PAO1. This strain was sequenced in order to provide information on the genome dynamics of PAO1 sublines and their genes conferring resistance to multiple antibiotics.

Pseudomonas aeruginosa is a Gram-negative bacterium and an opportunistic pathogen of humans, plants, and animals which has the ability to develop resistance to multiple classes of antibiotics (1, 2). Although a high number of *P. aeruginosa* strains and isolates have been reported to date, PAO1 remains the most-used reference strain for *Pseudomonas* research (3, 4) and has been distributed and maintained in laboratories and culture collections worldwide, giving rise to different sublines. Studies have shown that different PAO1 strains individually maintained and adapted by various research groups can undergo microevolution, even if the strain originated from the same ancestral PAO strain isolated in 1955, which has been suggested to be lost (1). In many cases, strain-to-strain genomic and phenotypic variabilities have been reported (1, 5). Hereby, we performed whole-genome sequencing and antibiotic susceptibility testing of *P. aeruginosa* PAO1-UB, which is maintained in our laboratory collection.

The Kirby-Bauer disk diffusion assay, conducted on Oxoid nutrient broth (NB) agar at 37°C for 24 h, revealed that PAO1-UB was resistant to penicillin G, oxacillin, chloramphenicol, erythromycin, fusidic acid, novobiocin, clindamycin, and sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim. However, PAO1-UB exhibited susceptibility to gentamycin and tetracycline (Table 1).

Whole-genome sequencing of the strain was performed by MicrobesNG. Briefly, the genomic DNA was extracted from a 37°C overnight NB culture using solid-phase reversible immobilization (SPRI) beads (Beckman Coulter, USA). The library was prepared using the Nextera XT library prep kit (Illumina, USA) on a Hamilton Microlab STAR automated liquid handling system. The library was sequenced using an Illumina NovaSeq platform (250-bp paired-end setting). The raw data were quality filtered using Trimmomatic, and *de novo* genome assembly was performed using SPAdes v3.15.4 (6). The assembled draft genome was assessed for quality using QUAST v5.2.2 and completeness using Benchmarking Universal Single-Copy Ortholog (BUSCO) v5.3.2 (7). Genome annotation was carried out using the Prokaryotic Genome Annotation Pipeline (PGAP) (8), Prokka v1.14.6 (9), and a resistome analysis in the Comprehensive Antibiotic Resistance Database (CARD) (<https://card.mcmaster.ca/>) (10). Default parameters were used for all software.

The sequencing resulted in 1,312,546 quality-filtered reads (range, 36 to 251 bp). The assembled draft genome of *P. aeruginosa* PAO1-UB was 5,912,399 bp long and consisted of

Editor David A. Baltus, University of Arizona

Copyright © 2022 Chua et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

Address correspondence to Chien-Yi Chang, chienyi.chang@newcastle.ac.uk.

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Received 27 June 2022

Accepted 5 August 2022

Published 22 August 2022

TABLE 1 Antibiotic susceptibility of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1-UB using the disk diffusion method

Antibiotic	Concn on disk ^a	Zone of inhibition (mm)	Bacterial susceptibility
Penicillin G	1 unit	0	Resistant
Oxacillin	5 µg	0	Resistant
Chloramphenicol	25 µg	0	Resistant
Erythromycin	5 µg	0	Resistant
Gentamycin	10 µg	18	Susceptible
Tetracycline	30 µg	20	Susceptible
Fusidic acid	10 µg	0	Resistant
Novobiocin	5 µg	0	Resistant
Clindamycin	2 µg	0	Resistant
Sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim	25 µg	0	Resistant

^a The filter paper disks are about 6 mm in diameter.

155 contigs with 66.8% G+C content (coverage, 30×). PGAP annotation revealed 5,501 coding DNA sequences (CDS), 6 rRNAs, and 57 tRNAs. The draft genome sequence was shorter and had fewer genes than the complete genome of *P. aeruginosa* POA1 (GenBank accession number [AE004091](#); 6,264,404 bp; 5,572 CDS, 13 rRNAs, and 63 tRNAs). Nonetheless, the PAO1-UB draft genome scored 99.3% completeness in the BUSCO analysis using the *Pseudomonadales* data set. Genes conferring resistance to antibiotics, such as β-lactams (*bla*_{OXA-396} [locus tag, NF546_RS12590] and a *Pseudomonas*-derived cephalosporinase, PDC-5 [NF546_RS26465]) and fosfomycin (*fosA*) (NF546_RS20960), were detected in the genome. The resistome analysis also identified component genes of multiple drug efflux systems that were responsible for resistance to chloramphenicol (*mexA* [NF546_RS08650], *mexB* [NF546_RS08655], and *oprM* [NF546_RS08660]) and fluoroquinolones (*mexC-mexD-oprJ* [NF546_RS17525, NF546_RS17520, NF546_RS17515]). Overall, these data on antibiotic susceptibility and from the resistome analysis of PAO1-UB will be useful for interlaboratory comparison to assess the genomic and phenotypic variability between different *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 sublines.

No ethical approval was required for this research.

Data availability. This whole-genome shotgun project has been deposited at DDBJ/ENA/GenBank under the accession number [JAMWGW000000000](#). The version described in this paper is version JAMWGW010000000. The project data are available under the BioSample accession number [SAMN29127182](#) and the BioProject accession number [PRJNA849708](#). The raw sequencing reads were deposited in SRA under the accession number [SRR20177986](#).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

P.N. is grateful for the Research Development Fund PhD studentship from the University of Bradford. The work in C.-Y.C.'s lab is supported by the Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (204787/Z/16/Z). Bioinformatics analysis performed by K.-O.C. and guidance provided by K.G.C. were supported by University of Malaya High Impact Research Grants (UM-MOHE HIR grant UM.C/625/1/HIR/MOHE/CHAN/14/1, grant number H-50001-A000027; UM-MOHE HIR grant UM.C/625/1/HIR/MOHE/CHAN/01, grant number A-000001-50001) awarded to K.G.C. We thank MicrobesNG (Birmingham, UK) for genome sequencing.

C.-Y.C., M.K., and M.J.T. conceived and designed the experiment. P.N. and P.T. performed the experiments. K.-O.C. performed the bioinformatics analysis. Both K.-O.C. and P.N. contributed to the manuscript preparation. M.K., M.J.T., K.G.C., and C.-Y.C. revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

We declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

REFERENCES

- Chandler CE, Horspool AM, Hill PJ, Wozniak DJ, Schertzer JW, Rasko DA, Ernst RK. 2019. Genomic and phenotypic diversity among ten laboratory isolates of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1. *J Bacteriol* 201:e00595-18. <https://doi.org/10.1128/JB.00595-18>.
- Dolan SK. 2020. Current knowledge and future directions in developing strategies to combat *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection. *J Mol Biol* 432:5509–5528. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmb.2020.07.021>.
- Holloway AB, Morgan A. 1986. Genome organization in *Pseudomonas*.

- Annu Rev Microbiol 40:79–105. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.mi.40.100186.000455>.
4. Holloway B. 1955. Genetic recombination in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. J Gen Microbiol 13:572–581. <https://doi.org/10.1099/00221287-13-3-572>.
 5. Klockgether J, Munder A, Neugebauer J, Davenport CF, Stanke F, Larbig KD, Heeb S, Schöck U, Pohl TM, Wiehlmann L, Tümmler B. 2010. Genome diversity of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1 laboratory strains. J Bacteriol 192:1113–1121. <https://doi.org/10.1128/JB.01515-09>.
 6. Prjibelski A, Antipov D, Meleshko D, Lapidus A, Korobeynikov A. 2020. Using SPAdes de novo assembler. Curr Protoc Bioinformatics 70:e102. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cpbi.102>.
 7. Simão FA, Waterhouse RM, Ioannidis P, Kriventseva EV, Zdobnov EM. 2015. BUSCO: assessing genome assembly and annotation completeness with single-copy orthologs. Bioinformatics 31:3210–3212. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btv351>.
 8. Tatusova T, DiCuccio M, Badretdin A, Chetvermin V, Nawrocki EP, Zaslavsky L, Lomsadze A, Pruitt KD, Borodovsky M, Ostell J. 2016. NCBI Prokaryotic Genome Annotation Pipeline. Nucleic Acids Res 44:6614–6624. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkw569>.
 9. Seemann T. 2014. Prokka: rapid prokaryotic genome annotation. Bioinformatics 30:2068–2069. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btu153>.
 10. Alcock BP, Raphenya AR, Lau TTY, Tsang KK, Bouchard M, Edalatmand A, Huynh W, Nguyen A-LV, Cheng AA, Liu S, Min SY, Miroshnichenko A, Tran H-K, Werfalli RE, Nasir JA, Oloni M, Speicher DJ, Florescu A, Singh B, Faltyn M, Hernandez-Koutoucheva A, Sharma AN, Bordeleau E, Pawlowski AC, Zubyk HL, Dooley D, Griffiths E, Maguire F, Winsor GL, Beiko RG, Brinkman FSL, Hsiao WWL, Domselaar GV, McArthur AG. 2020. CARD 2020: antibiotic resistome surveillance with the comprehensive antibiotic resistance database. Nucleic Acids Res 48:D517–D525. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkz935>.