

An Evolutionary Link between Natural Transformation and CRISPR Adaptive Immunity

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ABSTRACT Natural transformation by competent bacteria is a primary means of horizontal gene transfer; however, evidence that competence drives bacterial diversity and evolution has remained elusive. To test this theory, we used a retrospective comparative genomic approach to analyze the evolutionary history of *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*, a bacterial species with both competent and noncompetent sister strains. Through comparative genomic analyses, we reveal that competence is evolutionarily linked to genomic diversity and speciation. Competence loss occurs frequently during evolution and is followed by the loss of clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPRs), bacterial adaptive immune systems that protect against parasitic DNA. Relative to noncompetent strains, competent bacteria have larger genomes containing multiple rearrangements. In contrast, noncompetent bacterial genomes are extremely stable but paradoxically susceptible to infective DNA elements, which contribute to noncompetent strain genetic diversity. Moreover, incomplete noncompetent strain CRISPR immune systems are enriched for self-targeting elements, which suggests that the CRISPRs have been co-opted for bacterial gene regulation, similar to eukaryotic microRNAs derived from the antiviral RNA interference pathway.

IMPORTANCE The human microbiome is rich with thousands of diverse bacterial species. One mechanism driving this diversity is horizontal gene transfer by natural transformation, whereby naturally competent bacteria take up environmental DNA and incorporate new genes into their genomes. Competence is theorized to accelerate evolution; however, attempts to test this theory have proved difficult. Through genetic analyses of the human periodontal pathogen *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*, we have discovered an evolutionary connection between competence systems promoting gene acquisition and CRISPRs (clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats), adaptive immune systems that protect bacteria against genetic parasites. We show that competent *A. actinomycetemcomitans* strains have numerous redundant CRISPR immune systems, while noncompetent bacteria have lost their CRISPR immune systems because of inactivating mutations. Together, the evolutionary data linking the evolution of competence and CRISPRs reveals unique mechanisms promoting genetic heterogeneity and the rise of new bacterial species, providing insight into complex mechanisms underlying bacterial diversity in the human body.

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Natural transformation is a primary means of bacterial horizontal gene transfer (HGT). Natural transformation occurs when environmental cues trigger the expression of competence genes, which allow the bacterium to take up DNA from its environment and incorporate new genes into its genome. Bacterial competence systems can vary among species, but all systems involve DNA transport proteins and machinery that incorporates the new DNA into the chromosome via homologous recombination (1–10). Because of their genetic complexities, competence systems are thought to be ancestral traits in many bacterial lineages; however, competence loss within bacterial families is common (9, 10). Evolutionary models predict that HGT and homologous recombination by natural transformation can accelerate adaptation to new environments and allow organisms to more rapidly reach fitness equilibria (11, 12). Despite predictions that competence is a beneficial trait, many bacteria are noncompetent and, among competent bacteria, competence genes are sometimes lost by strains within a species (13, 9). This leads to the hypothesis

that, throughout evolution, naturally competent bacterial populations are constantly giving rise to noncompetent siblings, and at certain points, noncompetent genomes are selected for over the dynamic genomes of competent bacteria.

To test this hypothesis, we focused on the evolutionary history of the opportunistic human periodontal pathogen *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*, of which ~30% of the isolated strains are naturally competent (13). *A. actinomycetemcomitans* is a member of *Pasteurellaceae*, a family of bacteria predicted to have descended from a competent ancestor (10). An experimental survey testing natural transformation demonstrated that *A. actinomycetemcomitans* competence loss is clonal (13), suggesting that noncompetent strains arose and radiated into noncompetent lineages. The persistence of noncompetent *A. actinomycetemcomitans* strains during evolution allows us to utilize genome sequence information to delineate the evolutionary history of competence loss and genome stability. Using comparative genomics, we have found that competence loss has occurred multiple times during *A. actinomyce-*

temcomitans evolution in parallel. Compared to competent strains, noncompetent *A. actinomycetemcomitans* strains have smaller genomes with fewer rearrangements, as demonstrated by whole-genome alignments. Pairwise strain average nucleotide identity (ANI) calculations reveal that competence loss is tied to evolutionary divergence among *A. actinomycetemcomitans* strains. Moreover, the loss of competence is directly correlated with the loss of *A. actinomycetemcomitans* CRISPR-*cas* adaptive immune systems, resulting in noncompetent strains that have more parasitic genetic elements than competent siblings do. In noncompetent strains, remnants of CRISPR-*cas* systems that remain appear to have been co-opted for *A. actinomycetemcomitans* self gene regulation, similar to eukaryotic microRNAs. Together, these results support a model of *A. actinomycetemcomitans* evolution whereby competence and noncompetence are means to genetic diversity and stability, respectively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Parallel loss of competence by common mechanisms. Because the *Pasteurellaceae* common ancestor is predicted to be competent, we sought to determine the genetic nature of competence loss throughout *A. actinomycetemcomitans* evolution. Therefore, it was important to generate an accurate evolutionary history of the species and map competence loss to this phylogeny. The alignment of concatenated core genes can be used to accurately determine phylogenetic relationships among bacteria (14). We aligned core genes from 17 sequenced *A. actinomycetemcomitans* genomes, including 14 previously sequenced strains (15–18) and 3 genomes sequenced in this study (see Table S1 in the supplemental material). The concatenated core gene superalignment was subjected to maximum-likelihood phylogenetic analysis to determine evolutionary relationships between strains, revealing the presence of three major *A. actinomycetemcomitans* lineages (Fig. 1). Of these 17 strains, 7 have previously been subjected to natural transformation assays and 2 were found to be competent (13, 19). Subsequent alignment of multiple individual competence genes from the 17 sequenced *A. actinomycetemcomitans* genomes reveals that this bacterial lineage derived from a competent ancestor, and throughout evolutionary history, several noncompetent lineages have arisen via inactivation or deletion of genes critical for DNA uptake and incorporation into the chromosome (Fig. 1; see Fig. S1 in the supplemental material). The results indicate the presence of 3 competent and 14 noncompetent sequenced strains, which reflects the prevalence of noncompetent strains in larger *A. actinomycetemcomitans* populations (13). Importantly, the bioinformatic predictions for competent and noncompetent strains correlate with results of previously published natural transformation assays. Overall, noncompetence has arisen on at least six independent occasions (Fig. 1), with the most common mutation (three occasions) occurring via the insertion of a site-specific mobile DNA element into *comM* (see Fig. S1), whose gene product is important for efficient incorporation of DNA onto the chromosome following uptake (3). This pattern of *A. actinomycetemcomitans* competence loss contrasts with that of other naturally competent bacteria, like *Haemophilus influenzae*, in which competence loss is common but occurs randomly throughout evolution and typically by many unique mechanisms (9, 20). Because *A. actinomycetemcomitans* competence loss occurred multiple times during evolution in more than one lineage, these data support a model of the parallel evolution of competence loss.

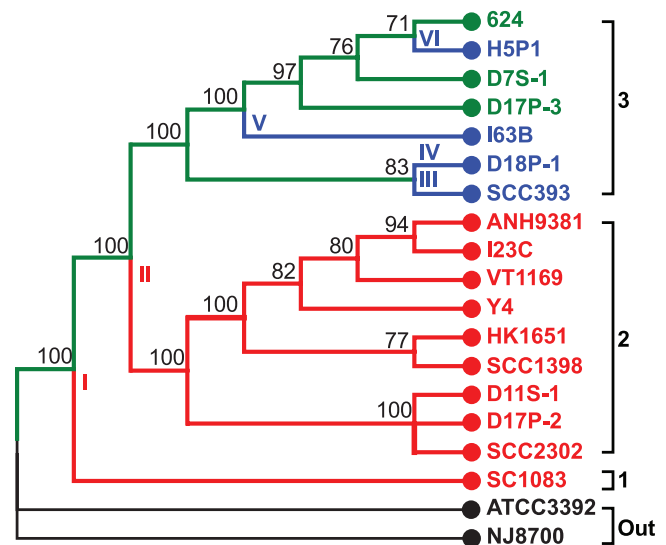


FIG 1 Competence loss occurs throughout *A. actinomycetemcomitans* evolution. The evolutionary history of 17 *A. actinomycetemcomitans* strains was determined from the alignment of 30 concatenated core genes by the maximum-likelihood method on the basis of the Tamura-Nei model with 100 bootstrap replicates, using *A. aphrophilus* ATCC 3392 and NJ8700 as the outgroup (Out) (44–47). Competence is traced with green branches. Red branches represent ancestral noncompetent lineages, while blue branches are recent noncompetent strains. Roman numerals indicate noncompetence branch points. Bootstrap values are above the branches, and branches reproduced in less than 70% of the bootstrap replicates are collapsed.

While parallel evolution is indicative of natural selection, this does not signify that competence loss is adaptive; in fact, it may be neutral, but the genome content of the stably maintained noncompetent strains is presumably beneficial.

Divergence and speciation of noncompetent strains. Competence is a primary mechanism of HGT and DNA acquisition in bacteria (21), and as expected, the genomes of competent *A. actinomycetemcomitans* strains are, on average, 200,000 bp larger than those of noncompetent strains (2.3 Mb versus 2.1 Mb, respectively; $P = 9 \times 10^{-5}$, two-tailed unpaired *t* test). A major consequence of competence loss is the inability to acquire new traits via genomic exchange with related species, leading to the hypothesis that competence loss leads to genetic isolation, which could ultimately result in speciation. To test this hypothesis, we analyzed noncompetent and competent genomes for genomic rearrangements and ANI across whole genomes. Our results revealed that noncompetent strains have similar syntenic genomes (i.e., similar gene arrangements), while competent strains have dynamic genomes with multiple rearrangements (Fig. 2; see Fig. S2 in the supplemental material). Further differences were revealed by ANI. On the basis of a proposed modern species definition (ANI of >95%) (22), the noncompetent strain with the most ancient branch point (lineage 1, Fig. 1) is a different species than strains within lineage 2 and lineage 3 (Fig. 3; see Fig. S3). Interestingly, ANI comparisons of strains within lineage 2 and within lineage 3 show that strains within these lineages are ~99% identical; however, comparisons of strains in lineages 2 and 3 reveal that they differ significantly (ANI of ~97%; $P < 0.001$). Thus, lineage 2 and 3 strains have clearly begun to diverge into distinct populations. This supports a model in which competence loss leads to genetic isolation and ultimately divergence in *A. actinomycetemcomitans*.

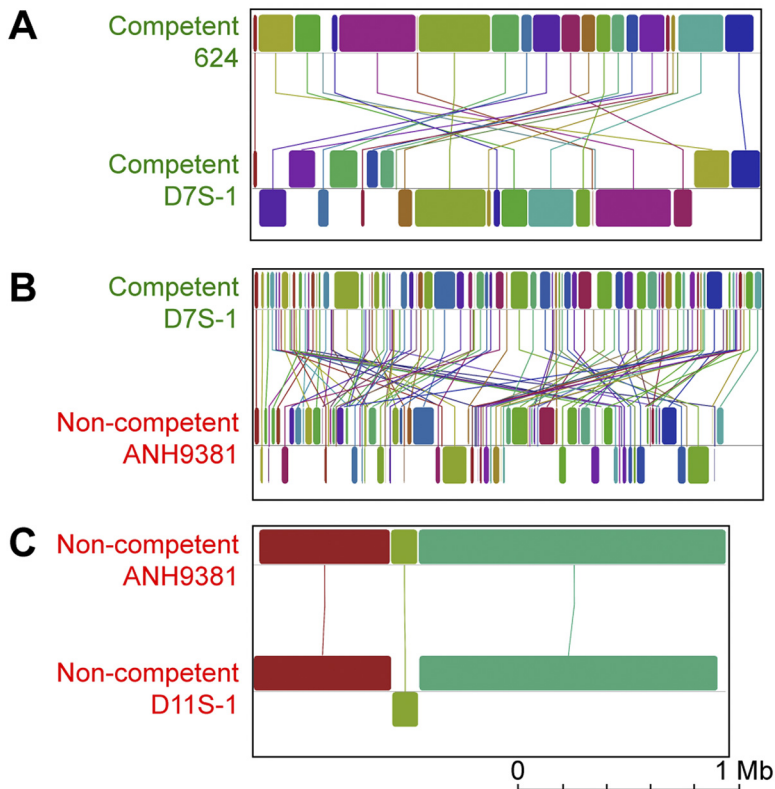


FIG 2 Noncompetent strains have highly syntenic genomes, and competent genomes have multiple rearrangements. Shown are whole-genome alignments of two competent strains (A), a competent and a noncompetent strain (B), and two noncompetent strains (C). Blocks represent collinear genomic segments, and lines indicate rearrangements.

Noncompetent strain diversity due to mobile genetic elements. Despite the fact that noncompetent genomes had high synteny and ANI, some differences among noncompetent genomes were observed. We hypothesized that noncompetent strains of *A. actinomycetemcomitans*, having eliminated a predominant pathway for HGT, would utilize alternative mechanisms for HGT to maintain evolutionary fitness. Indeed, mathematical modeling suggests that in the absence of HGT and homologous recombination, genetic drift resulting from the accumulation of random neutral mutations will ultimately lead to decreased fitness (12), indicating that at least some nominal level of HGT is required for a strain to remain fit. Transducing phage and conjugative plasmids are also sources of HGT, and on average, there were about five unique plasmid- and phage-related DNA elements in each noncompetent genome, significantly more than were observed in competent lineages, which had about two (two-tailed unpaired *t* test, $P = 0.02$). The unique DNA elements in the non-competent strains include two self-replicating plasmids, 14 integrated plasmid elements, and 22 prophage elements. Thus, while noncompetent strains possess increased synteny and smaller genomes than competent strains (Fig. 2; see Fig. S2 in the supplemental material), the observed differences between the DNA contents of these strains are almost entirely due to the incorporation of plasmid and prophage DNA.

Noncompetent strains have compromised CRISPR adaptive immune systems. The presence of plasmids and prophage in the noncompetent strains suggests that their defenses against foreign nucleic acids were potentially compromised. Bacterial adaptive

immune systems called CRISPRs have evolved to protect against phage- and plasmid-mediated HGT (23–25). Many variations of CRISPRs exist, and they have been extensively reviewed (26, 27). Briefly, CRISPRs are genetic loci consisting of direct repeats and spacers (28). Spacers are often derived from phage and plasmid DNA (29). During an infection, short CRISPR RNAs (crRNAs) are transcribed from the CRISPR loci and base pair with foreign (plasmid and bacteriophage) DNA via spacer-encoded sequences (24). Both the invading DNA and crRNA are cleaved by proteins encoded by CRISPR-associated *cas* genes, thereby eliminating the phage and plasmid DNA (23, 25, 30, 31). Recent work has shown that bacteria readily lose CRISPRs under certain selective conditions. Specifically, enterococci lost CRISPRs allowing the acquisition of parasite-encoded antibiotic resistance genes and *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* lost CRISPRs following the shift to a new avian host (32, 33). Because CRISPR loss is common in other organisms, we predicted that noncompetent *A. actinomycetemcomitans* strains were more susceptible to phage and plasmids because of CRISPR-mediated compromised immunity. To test this prediction, we examined the CRISPR-*cas* contents of competent and noncompetent *A. actinomycetemcomitans* strains. On the basis of phylogeny, the common ancestor of *A. actinomycetemcomitans* possessed two CRISPR-*cas* systems, CRISPR1-*cas* and

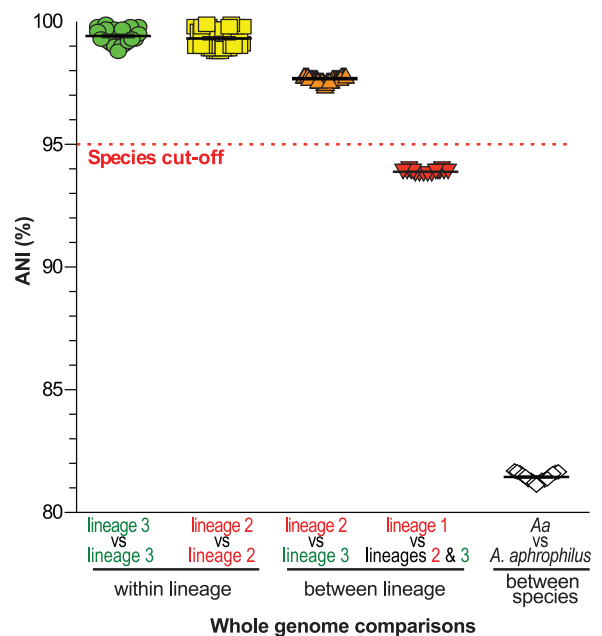


FIG 3 Speciation of noncompetent *A. actinomycetemcomitans*. Pairwise whole-genome ANIs within *A. actinomycetemcomitans* lineages (lineage 3 versus lineage 3, $n = 21$; lineage 2 versus lineage 2, $n = 36$), between *A. actinomycetemcomitans* lineages (lineage 2 versus lineage 3, $n = 63$; lineage 1 versus lineages 2 and 3, $n = 16$), and between *A. actinomycetemcomitans* (*Aa*) and *Aggregatibacter aphrophilus* ($n = 17$). Each point represents a pairwise genome comparison. Bars indicate means, and error bars are standard errors of the means. ANIs between lineages are significantly different (analysis of variance, $P < 0.001$), while within-lineage comparisons are not.

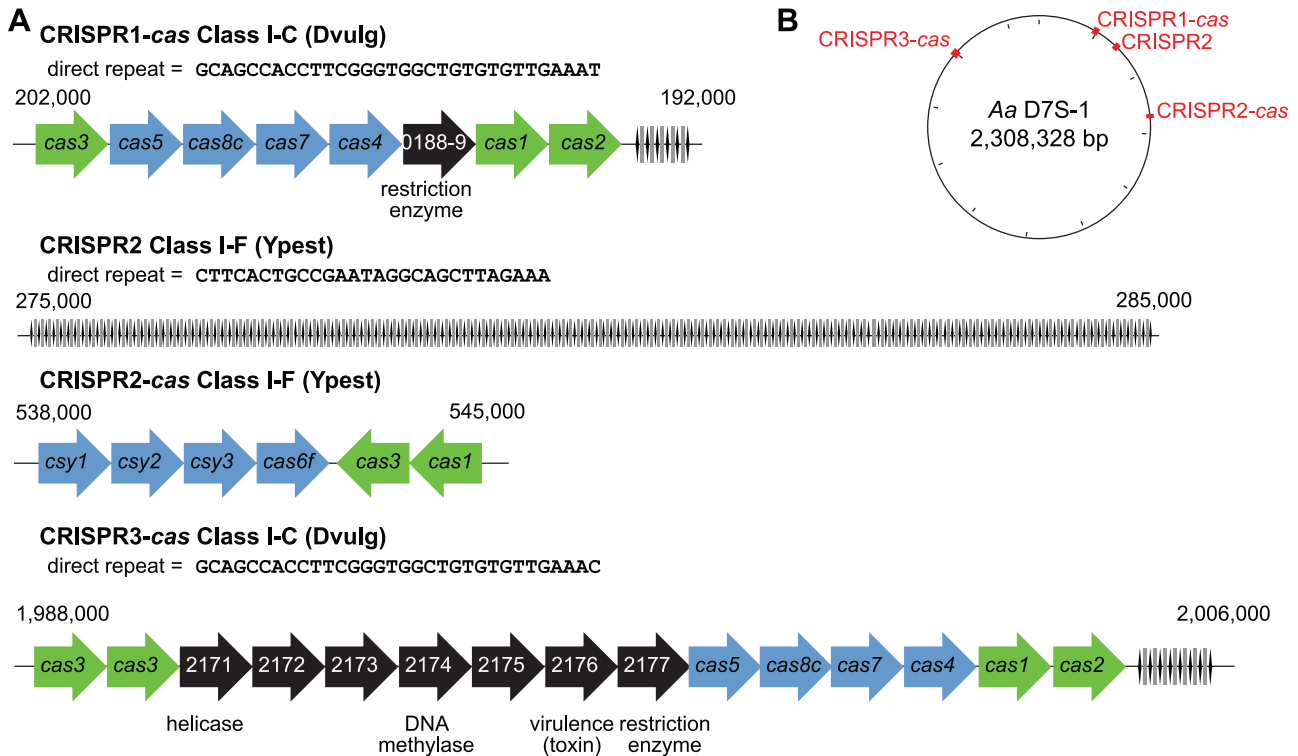


FIG 4 The representative *A. actinomycetemcomitans* CRISPR-cas systems in D7S-1. (A) Representations include the cas genes (arrows) and CRISPRs (black diamonds, direct repeats; gray rectangles, spacers). CRISPR-cas locus names and types are indicated above each map. Approximate genomic coordinates of CRISPR-cas loci are indicated at the right and left ends of each map. Direct-repeat sequences are indicated above the respective maps. Numbers within arrows represent *A. actinomycetemcomitans* D7S-1 open reading frame designations (e.g., 0188 represents D7S_0188). Green arrows represent core cas genes found in all loci, blue arrows represent subtype-specific cas genes, and variable genes not previously associated with CRISPRs are shown as black arrows. (B) Genome map with annotated CRISPR-cas loci. Boxes indicate locations of individual CRISPR-cas systems; names are shown, as well as CRISPR-cas class types. Aa, *A. actinomycetemcomitans*.

CRISPR3-cas, duplicated from a single system in a more ancient ancestor (Fig. 4). Indeed, *Aggregatibacter aphrophilus* has only one CRISPR-cas system related to *A. actinomycetemcomitans* CRISPR1-cas and CRISPR3-cas (see Fig. S4 in the supplemental material), supporting the hypothesis that they were duplicated from an ancient system. The competent *A. actinomycetemcomitans* strains in our study contain both of these ancient CRISPR-cas systems and have acquired a third intact CRISPR-cas system (Fig. 4). In contrast, the CRISPR-cas systems in ancient noncompetent lineage 1 and 2 strains have lost cas genes to deletion and/or acquired nonsense mutations in cas genes (Fig 5A; see Fig. S5 in the supplemental material). On the basis of these mutations, CRISPR elements in noncompetent lineage 1 and 2 strains are predicted to be nonfunctional. CRISPR-cas loss was evident even in the most recently evolved (lineage 3) noncompetent strains, indicating that loss of CRISPR-cas occurs quickly within evolutionary time. The most parsimonious evolutionary history is that competence loss preceded CRISPR-cas loss among *A. actinomycetemcomitans* strains. This inference can be drawn because lineage 2 strains have the same disruption of the *comM* competence gene; however, they have many different CRISPR-cas mutations and deletions. These data indicate that the emergence of noncompetence in *A. actinomycetemcomitans* is correlated with the loss of CRISPR-based adaptive immunity.

Evolution of CRISPR self gene regulation in noncompetent strains. Despite the fact that noncompetent strains have lost many

cas genes required for immunity, most of these strains maintain one CRISPR with a small number of spacers. A current hypothesis is that “broken” CRISPR-cas loci tend toward autoimmunity and acquire self-targeting spacers (34) that are used to control the expression of chromosomal genes. To test this hypothesis, we identified spacers in all of our strains and predicted their targets (35, 36). Most spacers target unknown sequences (Fig 5B; see Fig. S6 in the supplemental material). However, identifiable targets in competent strains were predominantly phage and plasmids, while strains in noncompetent lineages were enriched for spacers with specificity for *A. actinomycetemcomitans* genes (Fig 5B; see Fig S6 and Table S2 in the supplemental material). Some of these self-targeting spacers within the noncompetent strains are antisense to coding genes, indicating that they could regulate self gene expression similar to that observed for an orphan crRNA in *Listeria monocytogenes* (37). These data suggest that noncompetent *A. actinomycetemcomitans* strains are co-opting CRISPRs for *A. actinomycetemcomitans* chromosomal gene regulation, reminiscent of eukaryotic microRNAs that have been co-opted from the RNA interference immune surveillance system in higher eukaryotes (38). To test whether the self-targeting CRISPRs could be used for self gene regulation, we used Northern blot analysis to probe for the self-targeting crRNA in *A. actinomycetemcomitans* VT1169. Similar to the orphan CRISPR in *L. monocytogenes*, the *A. actinomycetemcomitans* self-targeting spacer is expressed primarily dur-

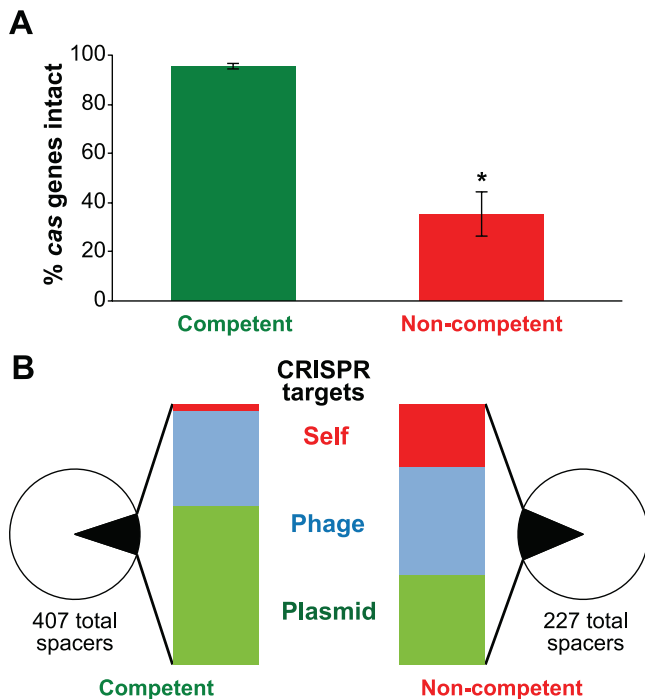


FIG 5 CRISPR-*cas* loss and the evolution of self-targeting CRISPR spacers in noncompetent *A. actinomycetemcomitans*. (A) Noncompetent strains (red, $n = 14$) have a lower percentage of intact *cas* genes than competent strains do (green, $n = 3$) (*, $P = 0.009$, two-tailed unpaired t test). Error bars represent standard errors of the means. (B) Noncompetent strains' CRISPRs are enriched for self-targeting spacers. Spacer targets were determined by BLASTn analysis (35) (see Table S2 in the supplemental material). The white wedge represents spacers with unknown targets, and the black wedge represents spacers with known targets. The bar graphs represent the proportions of spacers that are known to target self genes (red), phage (blue), and plasmids (green).

ing exponential-phase growth as part of an unprocessed ~650-nucleotide (nt) crRNA (Fig. 6A). The VT1169 crRNA is antisense to *glgP*, which encodes glycogen phosphorylase, and is predicted to bind with perfect complementarity across 35 nt near the 3' end of the *glgP* mRNA (Fig. 6B). Further experiments are required to determine whether crRNA-based gene regulation impacts mRNA stability or translation and if there is a fitness benefit to this recently evolved regulation.

An evolutionary model of the effects of competence and CRISPRs on fitness. We have discovered an instance in which bacterial speciation is correlated with competence loss and the subsequent loss of bacterial adaptive immunity. While several models take our results into account, we propose an evolutionary model in which competence-mediated HGT promotes *A. actinomycetemcomitans* genetic diversity while noncompetence promotes genome stability. On the basis of this model, dynamic competent bacterial genomes quickly drive evolution, benefiting the organism under changing environmental conditions. However, noncompetent siblings constantly arising in the population are selected for when the organisms have beneficial genome content in a relatively constant environment. One potential consequence of the concomitant loss of CRISPR-*cas* immunity by these non-competent strains is that they can sample and adjust to small changes in the environment through phage- and plasmid-mediated HGT. An important component of this model is that

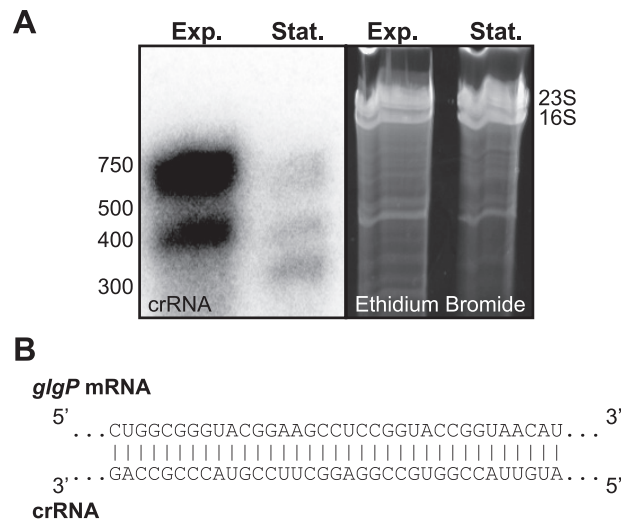


FIG 6 *A. actinomycetemcomitans* VT1169 self-targeting crRNA is expressed and predicted to target glycogen phosphorylase mRNA. (A) The self-targeting *A. actinomycetemcomitans* VT1169 crRNA is expressed primarily as an unprocessed transcript. Cells were grown to exponential phase (Exp.) and stationary phase (Stat.), and total RNA was harvested and subjected to Northern blot analysis with a probe for the self-targeting crRNA. The ethidium bromide-stained rRNA (right panel, top two bands) demonstrates equal RNA loading and RNA integrity. The radiolabeled RNA Century Marker-plus (M) is overexposed at the left to serve as the molecular size standard. Molecular sizes in nucleotides are shown on the left. The Northern blot assay shown is representative of three biological replicates. (B) Predicted binding interaction between *A. actinomycetemcomitans* VT1169 crRNA and the *glgP* mRNA.

competent bacteria have genomes that are more dynamic than those of noncompetent strains, consistent with our observations that competent bacteria have larger genomes with increased genome rearrangements (Fig. 2). While this is an appealing model, the selective force(s) that drives loss of competence and CRISPR is not known and may not be linked. An alternate model that explains the link between CRISPRs and competence is the possible greater susceptibility of competent bacteria than their noncompetent siblings to genetic parasites. This is supported by the presence of large amounts of extracellular DNA in bacterial biofilms (39, 40) that potentially contains parasitic DNA from lysed neighboring cells. This hypothesis is bolstered by recent elegant experiments with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in which an artificial CRISPR-*cas* system prevented the natural transformation of a CRISPR-targeted capsule gene into a nonvirulent rough strain, indicating that CRISPR-*cas* is capable of preventing natural transformation (41). Regardless, the evolutionary history of *A. actinomycetemcomitans* reveals a strong correlation between the evolution of competence loss and CRISPR adaptive immunity and provides new insights into mechanisms of bacterial diversity and speciation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

DNA isolation, genome sequencing, and genome assembly. *A. actinomycetemcomitans* 624, Y4, and VT1169 were routinely grown in tryptic soy broth supplemented with 0.5% yeast extract (TSBYE), and DNA was purified using standard methods for genome sequencing (42). The *A. actinomycetemcomitans* 624, VT1169, and Y4 genomes were sequenced and assembled *de novo* from Roche/454 FLX pyrosequencing reads using the Newbler assembler (43) (see Table S1 in the supplemental material). Life Technologies SOLiD V4 and 454 sequencing reads from *A. actinomyce-*

temcomitans 624, VT1169, and Y4 were aligned with the complete *A. actinomycetemcomitans* reference genomes (*A. actinomycetemcomitans* HK1651, D7S-1, and D11S-1) using CLC Genomics Workbench software (see Table S1). Supplemental sequencing of VT1169 CRISPR1 was carried out by capillary sequencing of a PCR product (obtained with primers C1-For [5' ACGCAAATTCACACCCAC 3'] and C1-Rev [5' TGGATGG TTTTGAGTGAC 3']).

Multiple sequence alignments, ANI calculations, and phylogenetic tree construction Complete and draft genome sequences for all *A. actinomycetemcomitans* strains were generated in this study or downloaded from GenBank and Oralgen (http://www.oralgen.lanl.gov/_index.html) (15–18). When complete gene sequences were not found in the *de novo* genome assembly of VT1169, consensus gene sequences were inferred from alignment with HK1651. The core gene phylogenetic tree was constructed from the sequence alignment of 30 concatenated core genes (*pyrG*, *rplA*, *rplB*, *rplC*, *rplD*, *rplE*, *rplF*, *rplK*, *rplM*, *rplP*, *rplS*, *rpsC*, *rpsE*, *rpsI*, *rpsJ*, *rpsM*, *rpsS*, *smgB*, *tsf*, *frs*, *rplE*, *rpoB*, *rpsB*, *dam*, *dnaN*, *dnaQ*, *holB*, *holD*, *recR*, *rpoA*, and *rpoH*) by the maximum-likelihood method using the Tamura-Nei model in MEGA5 using MUSCLE with 100 bootstrap replicates (44–47). Whole-genome alignments were performed with progressive MAUVE to identify genome rearrangements, local collinear genomic blocks, and variable mobile elements (48). ANI values for pairwise genome comparison were calculated using JSpecies with BLAST (ANiB) and MUMMER (ANIm) (22). Individual competence genes were aligned with MUSCLE in MEGA5 (44, 45, 47). Whole *cas* operons were aligned with CLC Sequence Viewer. The consensus gene sequences from VT1169 sequencing read alignment with HK1651 were used when genes were unassembled *de novo*.

CRISPR detection and characterization. CRISPRs were identified with CRISPRfinder (36). CRISPR spacers were subjected to BLASTn analysis against the nr/nt database, and hits with >94% identity were recorded (49). Hits were classified as directed toward plasmid, prophage, phage, or self, while negative results were classified as unknowns.

Northern blot analysis. *A. actinomycetemcomitans* VT1169 was grown to mid-exponential phase (optical density at 600 nm [OD₆₀₀], 0.80) and stationary phase (OD₆₀₀, 1.60) in TSBYE, and total RNA was harvested using RNA bee (Tel-Test) as described previously (50). Northern blotting was carried out by using previously described methods (50). Briefly, 10 µg RNA was separated on an 8% polyacrylamide–8 M urea denaturing gel, stained with ethidium bromide, transferred to nitrocellulose, UV cross-linked, blocked for 1 h at 55°C in UltraHyb buffer (Ambion), and probed for 16 h at 38.5°C with a radiolabeled DNA oligonucleotide anti-crRNA probe (5' GGCGGGTACGGAAGCCTCCGGCACC 3'). The radiolabeled RNA Century Marker-plus (Ambion) was synthesized according to the manufacturer's protocol and served as a size standard. Prior to transfer, gels were stained with ethidium bromide and imaged with a G:BOX apparatus (Syngene) to visualize rRNA, which served as the loading control.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Supplemental material for this article may be found at <http://mbio.asm.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1128/mBio.00309-12/-/DCSupplemental>.

- Figure S1, PDF file, 0.5 MB.
- Figure S2, PDF file, 2.2 MB.
- Figure S3, PDF file, 0.6 MB.
- Figure S4, PDF file, 0.4 MB.
- Figure S5, PDF file, 0.4 MB.
- Figure S6, PDF file, 0.4 MB.
- Table S1, DOCX file, 0.1 MB.
- Table S2, DOCX file, 0.1 MB.

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