

Genome sequence and description of *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* gen. nov., sp. nov., isolated from the gut of patient with kwashiorkor

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Abstract

Using the culturomics strategy, a wide range of anaerobic bacteria was discovered including *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* strain mt9^T (= CSUR P1511 = DSM 102954), isolated from the gut microbiota of a 1-year-old Senegalese patient with kwashiorkor. This Gram-negative strain is a strictly anaerobic, spore-forming rod motile by a polar flagellum. The 3 511 289 bp long genome of this strain contains 3046 protein-coding and 49 RNA genes, including 45 tRNA and four rRNA genes, and exhibits a G+C content of 52.94%. Here we describe the features of this organism, together with the complete genome sequence and annotation.

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Introduction

Culturomics is a new approach introduced in our laboratory in 2012 that aims to study the diversity of the microorganisms colonizing the human gut [1]. Recently culturomics was applied to explore the bacterial diversity of patients with kwashiorkor. During this study, we isolated the strain mt9^T (= CSUR P1511 = DSM 102954), which belongs to a new bacterial genus within the family *Clostridiaceae*. This family was created by Ernst August Pribram in 1933 [2] and contains as its core the genus *Clostridium* and 36 other genera [3]. *Clostridiaceae* members are Gram positive and present low G+C% content [4]. They have been isolated from highly diverse habitats, including freshwater and marine sediments, salt lakes, various sites of the human body, manure piles, sewage sludge and different types of faeces [4].

So far, the criteria used to classify new species based on 16S rDNA sequencing and DNA-DNA hybridization (DDH), are limited due to the low cutoff between species and genus [5]. Recently we proposed a new polyphasic approach associating phenotypic characterization, matrix-assisted desorption ionization–time of flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS), and genotypic characteristics to better define and classify new species [6]. In addition, characterizing new species by sequencing the whole genome allows a better distinction between the closest related species, comparing the whole genome and all of its coded function [7,8] and genomic data to become available for new bacterial species.

In this culturomics study, we isolated the strain mt9^T (= CSUR P1511 = DSM 102954), which is the first representative of a new bacterial genus within the family *Clostridiaceae*. Here we present a summary classification and a set of features for *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* gen. nov., sp. nov., as well as the description of its complete genomic sequence and annotation.

Materials and Methods

Sample collection

The stool specimens were collected from a 1-year-old Senegalese patient with kwashiorkor after defecation in sterile plastic containers. The stool specimen was then formed into aliquots and stored at -80°C until use. The parents of the patient provided informed consent. The study and the assent procedure were approved by the National Ethics Committee of Senegal and the local ethics committee of the IFR48 (Marseille, France) under numbers 11-017 and 09-022, respectively.

Isolation and identification of strain

The stool sample was cultivated in anaerobic conditions and preincubated in a blood culture bottle (Becton Dickinson, Le Pont-de-Claix, France) at 37°C for 15 days after a thermic shock at 80°C for 20 minutes. Then 1 mL of the enriched culture was spread on a 5% sheep's blood-enriched Columbia agar (bioMérieux, Marcy l'Etoile, France) and incubated at 37°C for 72 hours. The obtained colonies were purified and identified using MALDI-TOF MS as previously described [9,10]. This proteomic analysis was conducted using a Microflex spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics, Leipzig, Germany) with a MTP 96 MALDI-TOF target plate (Bruker). The obtained spectra were imported into MALDI BioTyper 2.0 software (Bruker) and analysed by standard pattern matching (with default parameter settings) against the 7567 references contained in our database (Bruker database incremented with our data). When the identification score was ≥ 1.9 , the species level was determined; a score between 1.9 and 1.7 allowed identification only at the genus level; and a score < 1.7 gave no identification. In this last case, the 16S rRNA gene was sequenced as previously described [11] in order to get a molecular identification. Stackebrandt and Ebers [12] determined a 98.7 and 95% similarity level threshold to define a new species and a new genus respectively without performing DDH.

Growth conditions

Growth of the strain mt9^T was tested under anaerobic and microaerophilic conditions generated using GENbag anaer and GENbag microaer systems (bioMérieux) respectively, and in aerobic conditions with or without 5% CO₂. Different growth temperatures including 25, 30, 37 and 45°C were tested. Optimal salt concentration was determined by growing the strain at 0, 0.5, 1 and 1.5% NaCl. Different pH conditions were tested: 6, 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8 and 8.5.

Biochemical characterization and antibiotic susceptibility test

The biochemical characteristics of the strain mt9^T were studied using API ZYM, API 20 NE and API 50 CH strips (bioMérieux) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The sensitivity to antibiotics was tested using amoxicillin, amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, clindamycin, metronidazole, vancomycin, doxycycline, imipenem, rifampicin and trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole using antibiotic discs (i2a, Montpellier, France) [13].

Morphologic and microscopic observations

The surface colonies of the strain mt9^T was observed after 72-hour incubation under anaerobic conditions at 37°C. In order to observe cell morphology, cells were fixed with 2.5% glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M cacodylate buffer for at least 1 hour at

4°C. A drop of cell suspension was deposited for approximately 5 minutes on glow-discharged formvar carbon film on 400-mesh nickel grids (FCF400-Ni; Electron Microscopy Sciences (EMS), Hatfield, PA, USA). The grids were dried on blotting paper, and cells were negatively stained for 10 seconds with 1% ammonium molybdate solution in filtered water at room temperature. Electron micrographs were acquired with a Tecnai G20 Cryo (FEI Company, Limeil-Brevannes, France) transmission electron microscope operated at 200 keV. To determine the Gram stain, we used the colour Gram kit 2 (bioMérieux). Strain mt9^T was observed under a DM1000 photonic microscope (Leica Microsystems, Nanterre, France) after Gram colouration as well as a fresh growing culture to assess its motility.

Fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) analysis by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS)

Cellular FAME analysis was performed by GC/MS. Two samples were prepared with approximately 15 mg of bacterial biomass per tube collected from several culture plates. FAME were prepared as described by Sasser [14]. GC/MS analyses were carried out as described before [15]. Briefly, FAME were separated using an Elite 5-MS column and monitored by MS (Clarus 500-SQ 8 S, PerkinElmer, Courtaboeuf, France). Spectral database search was performed using MS Search 2.0 operated with the Standard Reference Database IA (National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Gaithersburg, USA) and the FAMEs mass spectral database (Wiley, Chichester, UK).

DNA extraction and genome sequencing

After a pretreatment by a lysozyme incubation at 37°C for 2 hours, DNA of strain mt9^T was extracted on the EZ1 biorobot (Qiagen, Germantown, MD, USA) with EZ1 DNA tissues kit. The elution volume is 50 µL. Genomic DNA (gDNA) was quantified by a Qubit assay with the high sensitivity kit (Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) to 31.7 ng/µL.

gDNA of strain mt9^T was sequenced on the MiSeq Technology (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) with the mate pair strategy. The gDNA was barcoded in order to be mixed with 11 other projects with the Nextera Mate Pair sample prep kit (Illumina). The mate pair library was prepared with 1.5 µg of gDNA using the Nextera mate pair Illumina guide. The gDNA sample was simultaneously fragmented and tagged with a mate pair junction adapter. The pattern of the fragmentation was validated on an Agilent 2100 BioAnalyzer (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) with a DNA 7500 labchip. The DNA fragments ranged in size from 1.5 to 11 kb, with an optimal size at 7.670 kb. No size selection was performed, and 600 ng of tagmented fragments were circularized. The

circularized DNA was mechanically sheared to small fragments with an optimal at 804 bp on a Covaris device S2 in T6 tubes (Covaris, Woburn, MA, USA). The library profile was visualized on a High Sensitivity Bioanalyzer LabChip (Agilent Technologies), and the final concentration library was measured at 9.39 nmol/L. The libraries were normalized at 2 nM and pooled. After a denaturation step and dilution at 15 pM, the pool of libraries was loaded onto the reagent cartridge and then onto the instrument along with the flow cell. Automated cluster generation and sequencing run were performed in a single 39-hour run in a 2×251 bp read length. Total information of 6.1 Gb was obtained from a 653K/mm² cluster density with a cluster passing quality control filters of 96.1% (12 031 000 passing filter paired reads). Within this run, the index representation for strain mt9^T was determined to 9.21%. The 1 108 387 paired reads were trimmed and then assembled.

Genome annotation and comparison

Open reading frames (ORFs) were predicted using Prodigal [16] with default parameters, but the predicted ORFs were excluded if they were spanning a sequencing gap region. The predicted bacterial protein sequences were searched against the GenBank database and the Clusters of Orthologous Groups (COGs) database using BLASTP. The tRNAScanSE tool [17] was used to find tRNA genes, whereas ribosomal RNAs were found by using RNAmmer [18] and BLASTn against the GenBank database. Lipoprotein signal peptides and the number of transmembrane helices were predicted using SignalP and TMHMM respectively. ORFans were identified if their BLASTP *E* value was lower than $1e^{-03}$ for alignment length greater than 80 amino acids. If alignment lengths were smaller than 80 amino acids, we used an *E* value of $1e^{-05}$.

We compared the genome of strain mt9^T to those of other members of the order *Clostridiales*. Their genomes were automatically retrieved from the 16S rRNA tree using Xegen software (PhyloPattern) [19]. For each selected genome, the complete genome sequence, proteome genome sequence and ORFeome genome sequence were retrieved from the FTP of National Center for Biotechnology Information. All proteomes were analysed with proteinOrtho [20]. Then for each couple of genomes a similarity score was computed. This score is the mean value of nucleotide similarity between all couples of orthologues between the two genomes studied (average genomic identity of orthologous gene sequences; AGIOS) [21]. An annotation of the entire proteome was performed to define the distribution of functional classes of predicted genes according to the clusters of orthologous groups of proteins (using the same method as for the genome annotation). To evaluate the genomic similarity between *Anaeromassilibacillus* genus and closely related genera, we determined two parameters: digital

DNA-DNA hybridization (dDDH), which exhibits a high correlation with DDH [22,23], and AGIOS, which was designed to be independent from DDH. Annotation and comparison processes were performed in the Multi-Agent software system DAGOBAN [24] that included Figenix [25] libraries to provide pipeline analysis.

Results

Strain identification and phylogenetic analyses

Strain mt9^T (Table 1) was isolated in January 2015 by anaerobic cultivation at 37°C on 5% sheep's blood-enriched Columbia agar after a thermic shock and 15-day preincubation on blood culture bottle. MALDI-TOF MS results showed that the score obtained was under 1.7 for the strain mt9^T, thus suggesting that our isolate was not a member of a known species listed in our database. 16S rRNA gene sequencing and comparison demonstrate that the strain mt9^T (LN866991) exhibited 93.4% nucleotide sequence similarity with *Clostridium leptum* (NR114789) (Fig. 1). This value was lower than the 95% 16S rRNA gene sequence threshold recommended by Stackebrandt and Ebers [12] to delineate a new genus without carrying out DDH. We incremented our database with the spectrum from strain mt9^T (Fig. 2). Spectrum differences with other species are shown in Fig. 3.

Phenotypic characterization

Colonies of the strain mt9^T were 1 to 2 mm in diameter on Columbia agar, and opaque white in colour. Cells were Gram negative, rod shaped (Fig. 4), motile and spore-forming, 2.40 µm in length and 0.9 µm in diameter (Fig. 5). Strain mt9^T grows in a range from 25 to 37°C, with an optimum at 37°C. NaCl is not required for growth, but strain mt9^T was only able to grow between 0 and 0.5% NaCl. The optimum pH for growth was 7 (pH range, 6–8.5).

TABLE 1. Classification and general features of *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* strain mt9^T

Property	Term
Current classification	Domain: <i>Bacteria</i>
Phylum	<i>Firmicutes</i>
Class	<i>Clostridia</i>
Order	<i>Clostridiales</i>
Family	<i>Clostridiaceae</i>
Genus	<i>Anaeromassilibacillus</i>
Species	<i>Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis</i>
Type strain	mt9 ^T
Gram stain	Negative
Cell shape	Rod
Motility	Motile
Sporulation	sporulating
Temperature range	Mesophilic
Optimum temperature	37°C

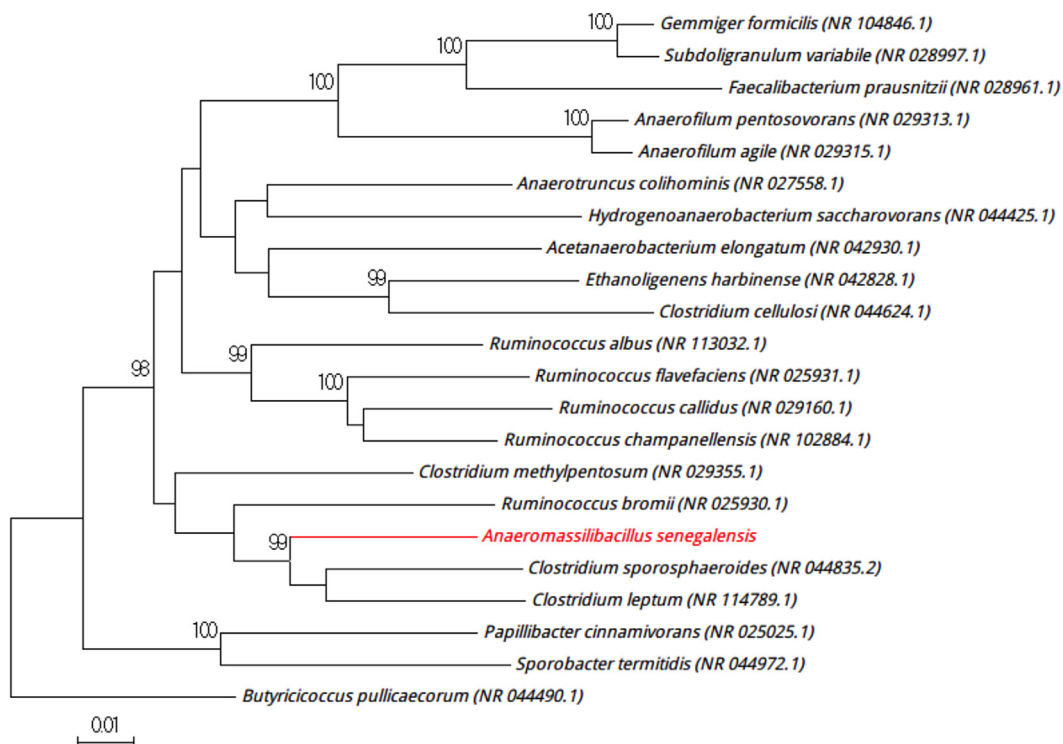


FIG. 1. Phylogenetic tree highlighting position of *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* strain mt9^T relative to other type strains. 16S rRNA sequences accession numbers are indicated in parentheses. Sequences were aligned by Muscle 3.8.31 with default parameters, and phylogenetic inferences were obtained using neighbour-joining method with 500 bootstrap replicates within MEGA6 software. Only bootstraps >95% are shown. Scale bar represents 0.01% nucleotide sequence divergence.

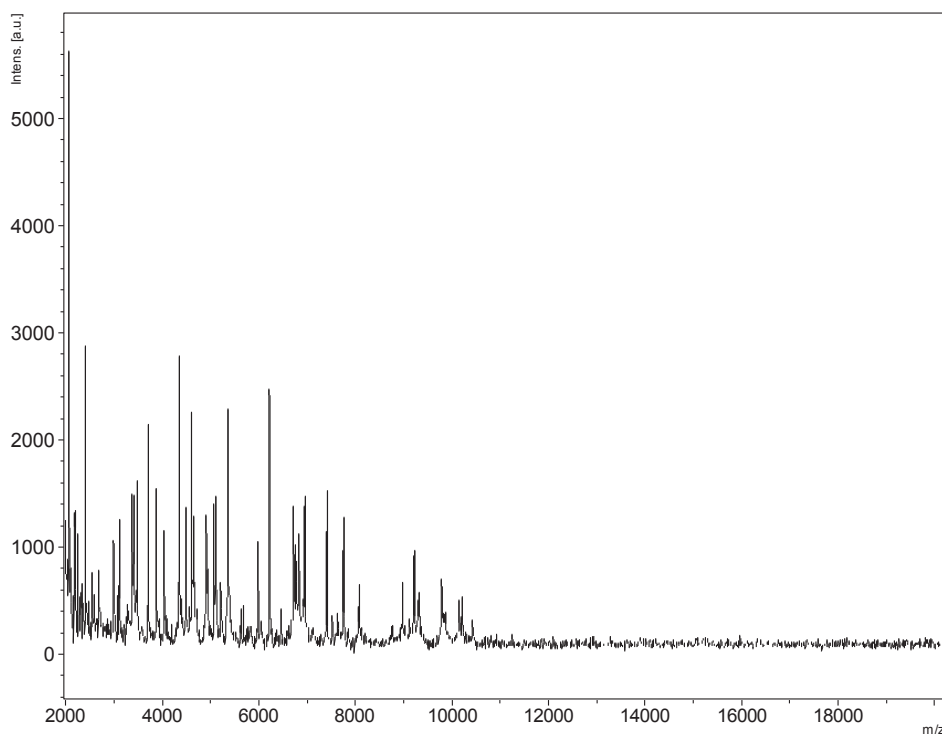


FIG. 2. Reference mass spectrum from *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* strain mt9^T.

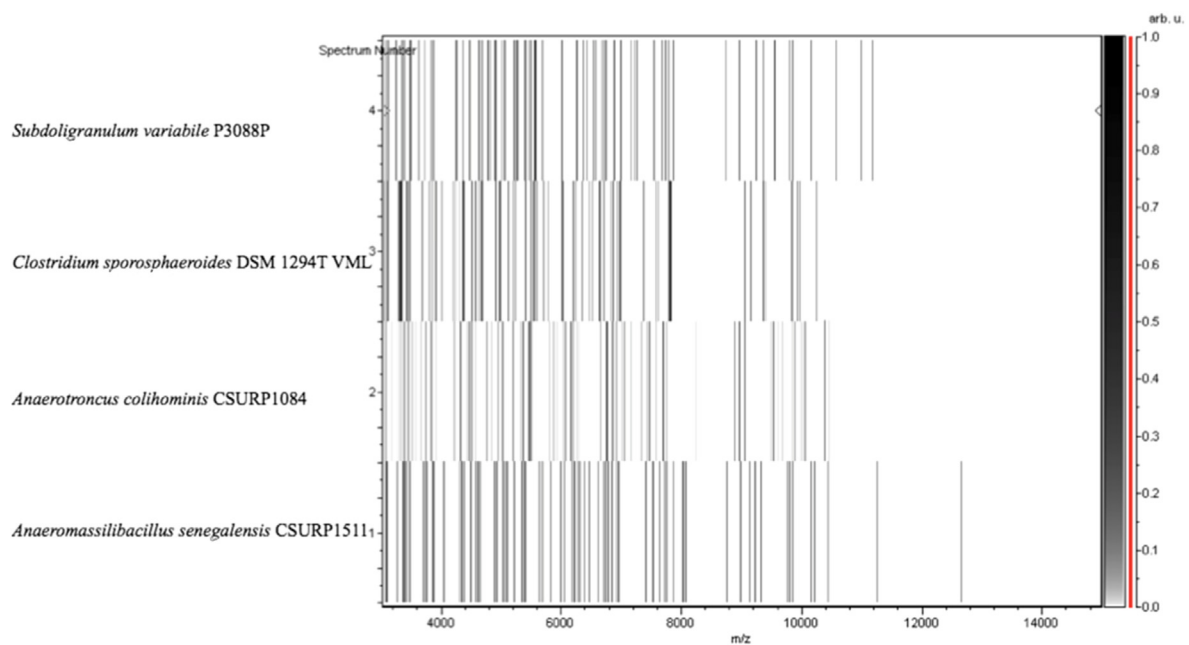


FIG. 3. Gel view comparing *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* strain mt9^T to closely related genera. Gel view displays raw spectra of loaded spectrum files arranged in pseudo-gel-like look. X-axis records *m/z* value. Left y-axis displays running spectrum number originating from subsequent spectra loading. Peak intensity is expressed by greyscale scheme code. The color bar and the right y-axis indicate the relation between the color, the peak displayed and the peak intensity in arbitrary units. Displayed species are indicated on the left.

Strain mt9^T does not exhibit catalase or oxidase activities. Using the API ZYM gallery, positive reactions were observed for alkaline phosphatase, esterase, esterase lipase, valine arylamidase, acid phosphatase, naphthol-AS-BI-phosphohydrolase, α -galactosidase, β -galactosidase, α -glucosidase, β -glucosidase, *N*-acetyl- β -glucosaminidase and α -mannosidase. The API 50CH gallery showed positive reactions for *D*-ribose, *D*-adonitol, dulcitol, *D*-sorbitol, amygdalin, arbutin, esculin, *D*-cellobiose, *D*-maltose, inulin, *D*-raffinose, amidone, glycogen, xylitol, gentiobiose, *D*-tagatose and potassium 5-ketogluconate. Using the API 20 NE, enzymatic activities were observed for gelatin hydrolysis

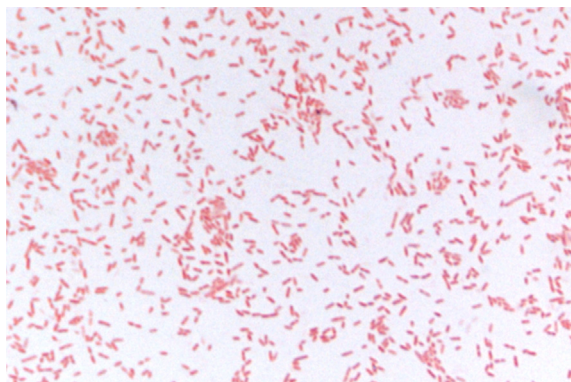


FIG. 4. Gram staining of *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* strain mt9^T.

and β -galactosidase. Urease reaction, nitrate reduction and indole production were negative.

Antibiotic susceptibility test demonstrated that strain mt9^T is susceptible to vancomycin, doxycycline, ceftriaxone, imipenem, amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, penicillin and rifampicin, and is resistant to trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, ciprofloxacin,

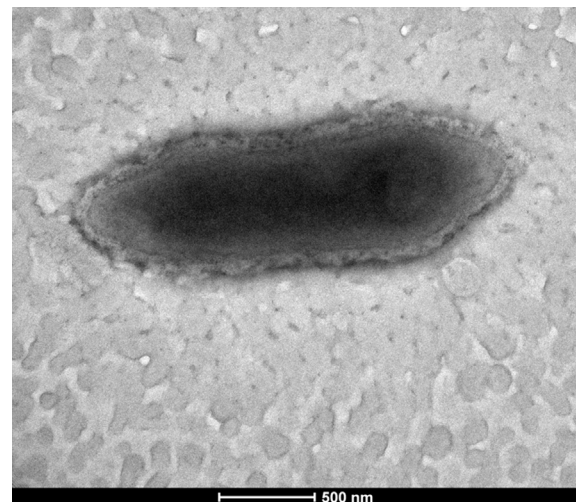


FIG. 5. Electron micrographs of *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* strain mt9^T using Tecnai G20 transmission electron microscope (FEI Company) at operating voltage of 200 keV. Scale bar = 500 nm.

TABLE 2. Differential characteristics of *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* DSM 102954, *Clostridium thermobutyricum* DSM 4928, *Clostridium cellulolyticum* H10, *Clostridium leptum* DSM 753, *Clostridium sporosphaeroides* DSM 1294, and *Ethanoligenens harbinense* YUAN-3 [26–28]

Property	<i>A. senegalensis</i>	<i>C. sporosphaeroides</i>	<i>C. cellulolyticum</i>	<i>C. leptum</i>	<i>E. harbinense</i>	<i>C. thermobutyricum</i>
Cell diameter (µm)	0.9	0.5–0.6	1.5	0.6–0.8	0.4–0.8	1.6–2.1
Oxygen requirement	Strictly anaerobic	Strictly anaerobic	Strictly anaerobic	Strictly anaerobic	Strictly anaerobic	Strictly anaerobic
Gram stain	Negative	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Negative
Motility	Motile	Nonmotile	Motile	Nonmotile	Motile	Nonmotile
Endospore formation	+	+	+	+	–	+
Indole	–	–	–	NA	+	–
Production of:						
Alkaline phosphatase	+	NA	NA	NA	–	+
Catalase	–	NA	–	NA	–	–
Oxidase	–	NA	NA	NA	–	–
Nitrate reductase	–	–	–	NA	–	–
Urease	–	–	–	NA	+	NA
β-galactosidase	+	NA	NA	NA	–	–
N-acetyl-glucosamine	+	NA	NA	NA	+	–
Acid from:						
L-Arabinose	–	–	NA	NA	–	+
Ribose	+	–	NA	w	+	+
Mannose	–	–	NA	–	+	–
Mannitol	–	–	NA	–	–	NA
Sucrose	–	NA	NA	w	+	–
D-Glucose	–	NA	NA	NA	+	+
D-Fructose	–	NA	NA	NA	+	+
D-Maltose	+	NA	NA	NA	+	+
D-Lactose	–	NA	NA	NA	+	+
G+C content (%)	52.94	53.5	41	51	47.8	37
Habitat	Human gut	Human gut	Compost	Human gut	Environment	Environment

+, positive result; –, negative result; w, weakly positive result; NA, data not available.

oxacillin, cefoxitin, colistin and fosfomycin. The phenotypic and biochemical features of the strain mt9^T were compared to the features of closely related species (Table 2). The major fatty acids were hexadecanoic acid (32%), tetradecanoic acid (27%) and 9-octadecenoic acid (26%). Minor amounts of unsaturated, branched and other saturated fatty acids were also detected (Table 3).

Genome properties

The 3 511 289 bp long genome contains 52.94% of G+C content (Fig. 6 and Table 4) and is composed of 12 scaffolds (composed of 15 contigs). Of the 3095 predicted genes, 3046 were protein-coding genes and 49 were RNAs (two genes are

5S rRNA, one gene is 16S rRNA, one gene is 23S rRNA and 45 genes are tRNA genes). A total of 1773 genes (58.21%) were assigned as putative function (by COGs or by NR BLAST). Four hundred genes were identified as ORFans (13.13%). The remaining genes were annotated as hypothetical proteins (749 genes, 24.59%). Table 5 summarizes the distribution of genes into COGs functional categories. The genome sequence is deposited in European Molecular Biology Laboratory–European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL–EBI) under accession number CWIP00000000.

Genome comparison

The genomic characteristics of strain mt9^T were compared to closely related species (Table 6). The draft genome sequence of strain mt9^T (3.51 MB) is smaller than those of *Oscillibacter valericigenes*, *Clostridium cellulolyticum*, *Flavonifractor plautii*, *Acetivibrio cellulolyticus*, *Clostridium clariflavum* and *Clostridium papyrosolvens* (4.47, 4.07, 3.81, 6.15, 4.90 and 4.40 MB respectively), but larger than those of *Ethanoligenens harbinense*, *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii* and *Clostridium leptum* (3.01, 3.32 and 2.82 MB respectively). The G+C content of strain mt9^T (52.94%) is smaller than those of *O. valericigenes*, *E. harbinense*, *F. prausnitzii* and *F. plautii* (53.19, 55.56, 56.82 and 61.07% respectively), but larger than those of *C. cellulolyticum*, *C. leptum*, *A. cellulolyticus*, *C. clariflavum* and *C. papyrosolvens* (37.40, 50.25, 35.55, 35.72 and 37.13% respectively). The gene content of strain mt9^T (3046) is smaller than those of *O. valericigenes*, *C. cellulolyticum*, *F. plautii*, *A.*

TABLE 3. Cellular fatty acid composition (%)

Fatty acid	Name	Mean relative % ^a
16:0	Hexadecanoic acid	32.3 ± 1.4
14:0	Tetradecanoic acid	26.5 ± 0.9
18:1n9	9-Octadecenoic acid	25.8 ± 2.2
18:1n7	11-Octadecenoic acid	4.0 ± 0.6
18:2n6	9,12-Octadecadienoic acid	3.0 ± 0.4
18:0	Octadecanoic acid	2.5 ± 0.3
15:0	Pentadecanoic acid	1.5 ± 0.4
16:1n7	9-Hexadecenoic acid	1.2 ± 0.0
14:1	Tetradecanoic acid	TR
12:0	Dodecanoic acid	TR
15:0 iso	13-methyl-Tetradecanoic acid	TR
13:0	Tridecanoic acid	TR
17:0 anteiso	14-methyl-Hexadecanoic acid	TR
15:0 anteiso	12-methyl-tetradecanoic acid	TR

TR, trace amounts <1%.
^aMean peak area percentage.

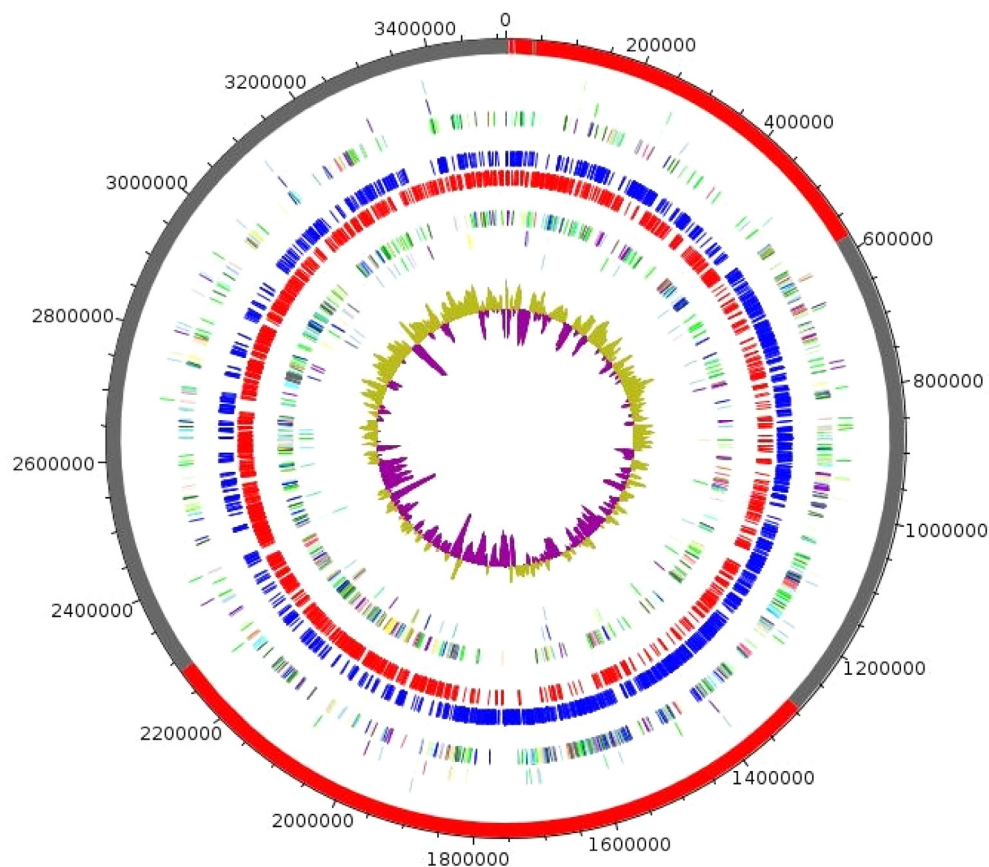


FIG. 6. Graphical circular map of genome. From outside to centre: contigs (red/grey), COGs category of genes on forward strand (three circles), genes on forward strand (blue circle), genes on reverse strand (red circle), COGs category on reverse strand (three circles), G+C content. COGs, Clusters of Orthologous Groups database.

cellulolyticus, *C. clariflavum* and *C. papyrosolvans* (4723, 3390, 4278, 5082, 3892 and 3867 respectively), but larger than those of *E. harbinense*, *F. prausnitzii* and *C. leptum* (2701, 2756 and 2482 respectively).

TABLE 4. Nucleotide content and gene count levels of genome

Attribute	Genome (total)	
	Value	% of total ^a
Size (bp)	3 511 289	100
G+C content (%)	1 858 158	52.93
Coding region (bp)	3 051 966	86.92
Total genes	3095	100
RNA genes	49	1.58
Protein-coding genes	3046	100
Genes with function prediction	1773	58.20
Genes assigned to COGs	1526	50.09
Genes with peptide signals	413	13.55
Genes with transmembrane helices	578	18.97
ORFans genes	400	13.13
Genes associated with PKS or NRPS	5	0.16
No. of antibiotic resistance genes	0	0

COGs, Clusters of Orthologous Groups database.; NRPS, nonribosomal peptide synthase; PKS, polyketide synthase.
^aTotal is based on either size of genome in base pairs or total number of protein-coding genes in annotated genome.

Strain mt9^T shared respectively 866, 787, 841, 789, 766, 818, 681, 780 and 772 orthologous genes with *F. plautii*, *A. cellulolyticus*, *C. leptum*, *C. papyrosolvans*, *E. harbinense*, *O. valericigenes*, *F. prausnitzii*, *C. cellulolyticum* and *C. clariflavum*. AGIOS values ranged from 52.27 to 87.31% among compared species except strain mt9^T. The comparison of the strain mt9^T to other species resulted in AGIOS values ranging from 57.07% with *A. cellulolyticus* to 67.67% with *C. leptum* (Table 7). dDDH was estimated between strain mt9^T's genome and the other compared genomes, and results ranged from 19.6% with *F. plautii* to 30.4% with *C. clariflavum* (Table 8). These values are in the range of the dDDH values of compared species except our strain (18.8–32.2%) and under the 70% threshold used to delineate a new species [22], thus confirming the status of the strain mt9^T as a previously unknown member of the *Clostridiaceae* family.

The distribution of genes into COGs categories was similar, but not identical, in all compared genomes (Fig. 7). For instance, *O. valericigenes* presented more genes dedicated to the DNA replication, recombination and repair.

TABLE 5. Number of genes associated with 25 general COGs functional categories

Code	Value	% of total	Description
J	142	4.66	Translation
A	0	0	RNA processing and modification
K	197	6.47	Transcription
L	102	3.35	Replication, recombination and repair
B	1	0.03	Chromatin structure and dynamics
D	19	0.62	Cell cycle control, mitosis and meiosis
Y	0	0	Nuclear structure
V	54	1.77	Defense mechanisms
T	59	1.94	Signal transduction mechanisms
M	80	2.63	Cell wall/membrane biogenesis
N	5	0.16	Cell motility
Z	0	0	Cytoskeleton
W	0	0	Extracellular structures
U	22	0.72	Intracellular trafficking and secretion
O	49	1.61	Posttranslational modification, protein turnover, chaperones
C	81	2.66	Energy production and conversion
G	112	3.68	Carbohydrate transport and metabolism
E	146	4.79	Amino acid transport and metabolism
F	49	1.61	Nucleotide transport and metabolism
H	69	2.27	Coenzyme transport and metabolism
I	38	1.25	Lipid transport and metabolism
P	77	2.53	Inorganic ion transport and metabolism
Q	20	0.66	Secondary metabolites biosynthesis, transport and catabolism
R	216	7.09	General function prediction only
S	124	4.07	Function unknown
—	1520	49.90	Not in COGs

COGs, Clusters of Orthologous Groups database.

Conclusion

The new polyphasic approach based on phenotypic, phylogenetic and genomic analyses (taxonogenomics) represented here support the affiliation of the strain mt9^T to a new bacterial genus. Consequently, we formally propose the creation of the genus *Anaeromassilibacillus* gen. nov., and *Anaeromassilibacillus*

TABLE 6. Genome comparison of closely related species to *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* strain mt9^T

Organism	INSDC	Size (Mb)	G+C (%)	Protein-coding genes
<i>Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis</i> strain mt9 ^T	CWIP000000000	3.51	52.93	3046
<i>Oscillibacter valericigenes</i> strain Sjm18-20	AP012044	4.47	53.19	4723
<i>Clostridium cellulolyticum</i> strain H10	CP001348	4.07	37.40	3390
<i>Flavonifractor plautii</i> strain ATCC_29863	ADLO000000000.1	3.81	61.07	4278
<i>Clostridium clariflavum</i> strain DSM 19732	CP003065.1	4.90	35.72	3892
<i>Clostridium papyrosolvens</i> strain DSM 2782	ACXX000000000.2	4.40	37.13	3867
<i>Acetivibrio cellulolyticus</i> strain CD2	AEDB000000000.2	6.15	35.55	5082
<i>Ethanoligenens harbinense</i> strain YUAN-3	CP002400.1	3.01	55.56	2701
<i>Faecalibacterium prausnitzii</i> strain ATCC_27768	ACOP000000000.2	3.32	56.82	2756
<i>Clostridium leptum</i> strain DSM 753	ABCB000000000.2	2.81	50.25	2482

INSDC, International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration.

TABLE 7. Numbers of orthologous proteins shared between genomes (upper right)^a

	<i>Flavonifractor plautii</i>	<i>Acetivibrio cellulolyticus</i>	<i>Clostridium leptum</i>	<i>Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis</i>	<i>Clostridium papyrosolvens</i>	<i>Ethanoligenens harbinense</i>	<i>Oscillibacter valericigenes</i>	<i>Faecalibacterium prausnitzii</i>	<i>Clostridium cellulolyticum</i>	<i>Clostridium clariflavum</i>
<i>F. plautii</i>	4278	795	760	866	817	734	906	701	800	773
<i>A. cellulolyticus</i>	52.27	5082	745	787	1348	824	822	601	1328	1345
<i>C. leptum</i>	62.04	58.15	2482	841	760	729	729	630	757	735
<i>A. senegalensis</i>	62.70	57.07	67.67	3046	789	766	818	681	780	772
<i>C. papyrosolvens</i>	53.17	66.65	58.44	57.65	3867	826	818	600	1534	1269
<i>E. harbinense</i>	63.64	55.08	63.42	64.45	55.74	2701	744	605	809	792
<i>O. valericigenes</i>	67.12	55.30	62.08	62.83	55.64	62.71	4723	665	817	786
<i>F. prausnitzii</i>	65.36	52.95	61.97	62.78	53.97	63.62	63.58	2756	603	584
<i>C. cellulolyticum</i>	53.41	66.63	58.47	57.76	87.31	55.69	55.95	53.76	3390	1247
<i>C. clariflavum</i>	53.18	77.09	58.65	57.72	66.68	55.75	55.76	53.51	66.81	3892

^aAverage percentage similarity of nucleotides corresponding to orthologous protein shared between genomes (lower left) and numbers of proteins per genome (bold).

TABLE 8. Pairwise comparison of *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* with nine other species^a

	<i>Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis</i>	<i>Oscillibacter valericigenes</i>	<i>Clostridium cellulolyticum</i>	<i>Flavonifractor plautii</i>	<i>Clostridium clariflavum</i>	<i>Clostridium papyrosolvens</i>	<i>Acetivibrio cellulolyticus</i>	<i>Ethanoligenens harbinense</i>	<i>Faecalibacterium prausnitzii</i>	<i>Clostridium leptum</i>
<i>A. senegalensis</i>	100% ± 0.0	23.1% ± 2.5	29.0% ± 2.5	19.6% ± 2.4	30.4% ± 2.5	30.0% ± 2.5	28.5% ± 2.5	23.2% ± 2.5	25.6% ± 2.5	21.0% ± 2.4
<i>O. valericigenes</i>	100% ± 0.0	25.7% ± 2.5	20.5% ± 2.4	26.8% ± 2.5	27.1% ± 2.5	26.6% ± 2.5	27.5% ± 2.5	19.6% ± 2.4	25.5% ± 2.5	
<i>C. cellulolyticum</i>	100% ± 0.0	25.8% ± 2.5	32.2% ± 2.5	28.1% ± 2.5	29.1% ± 2.5	25.7% ± 2.4	24.7% ± 2.5	27.6% ± 2.5		
<i>F. plautii</i>	100% ± 0.0	27.5% ± 2.4	25.7% ± 2.5	29.0% ± 2.5	18.8% ± 2.4	20.4% ± 2.4	21.0% ± 2.4			
<i>C. clariflavum</i>	100% ± 0.0	23.6% ± 2.5	21.0% ± 2.4	25.9% ± 2.5	28.4% ± 2.5	29.5% ± 2.5				
<i>C. papyrosolvens</i>	100% ± 0.0	23.6% ± 2.5	26.4% ± 2.5	25.8% ± 2.5	26.1% ± 2.5					
<i>A. cellulolyticus</i>	100% ± 0.0	27.1% ± 2.5	25.2% ± 2.5	26.2% ± 2.5						
<i>E. harbinense</i>	100% ± 0.0	20.1% ± 2.4	22.2% ± 2.5							
<i>F. prausnitzii</i>	100% ± 0.0	28.7% ± 2.5								
<i>C. leptum</i>	100% ± 0.0									

DDH, DNA-DNA hybridization; GGDC, Genome-to-Genome Distance Calculator; HSP, high-scoring pair.
^aComparison made using GGDC, formula 2 (DDH estimates based on identities/HSP length). Confidence intervals indicate inherent uncertainty in estimating DDH values from intergenomic distances based on models derived from empirical test data sets (which are always limited in size). These results are in accordance with 16S rRNA and phylogenomic analyses as well as GGDC results.

senegalensis gen. nov., sp. nov., is the first representative of this new genus for which the strain mt9^T is the type strain. This strain was isolated from the stool specimen of a 1-year-old patient with kwashiorkor living in Senegal.

Description of *Anaeromassilibacillus* gen. nov.

Anaeromassilibacillus gen. nov. (a.na.e'ro.mas.si.li.ba.cil'lus, N.L. masc. n., *anaero*, from *anaēr*, the Greek term for absence of oxygen, *massili* for Massilia, the Latin name of Marseille, and *bacillus*, 'little rod'). Cells are Gram-negative, motile, strictly anaerobic, spore-forming, rod-shaped bacilli. Strain mt9^T do not exhibited catalase or oxidase activities. Habitat is human gut. The type species is *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* gen. nov., sp. nov.

Description of *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* sp. nov.

Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis (se.ne.gal.en'sis, L. masc. adj., *senegalensis*, 'originating from Senegal,' the country from which the stool sample was collected).

Cells are Gram-negative, motile, spore-forming, rod-shaped bacilli with a length of 2.4 µm and a diameter of 0.9 µm. Colonies were 1 to 2 mm in diameter on Columbia agar, and opaque white in colour. *A. senegalensis* strain mt9^T is strictly anaerobic, grows at 37°C (optimum) and pH 7 (optimum) and NaCl is not required. *A. senegalensis* strain mt9^T does not exhibit catalase or oxidase activities. Positive reactions were observed for alkaline phosphatase, esterase, esterase lipase, valine arylamidase, acid phosphatase, naphthol-AS-BI-phosphohydrolase, galactosidase, β-galactosidase, α-glucosidase, β-glucosidase, *N*-acetyl-β-glucosaminidase, α-mannosidase, *D*-ribose, *D*-adonitol, dulcitol, *D*-sorbitol, amygdalin, arbutin, esculin, *D*-cellobiose, *D*-maltose, inulin, *D*-raffinose, amidone, glycogen, xylitol, gentiobiose, *D*-tagatose and potassium 5-ketogluconate. Enzymatic activities were observed for gelatin hydrolysis and β-galactosidase. Urease reaction, nitrate reduction and indole production were negative. Antibiotic susceptibility test showed that *A. senegalensis* strain mt9^T is susceptible to vancomycin, doxycycline, ceftriaxone, imipenem, amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, penicillin, and rifampicin, and resistant to trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, ciprofloxacin, oxacillin, ceftioxin, colistin and fosfomycin. The major fatty acid is hexadecanoic acid (32%).

The 3 511 289 bp long genome exhibits a G+C content of 52.94%. The 16S rRNA and genome sequences are deposited in EMBL-EBI under accession numbers LN866991 and CWIP00000000, respectively. The type strain mt9^T (= CSUR P1511 = DSM 102954) was isolated from the gut microbiota of a 1-year-old Senegalese patient with kwashiorkor. Habitat is human gut.

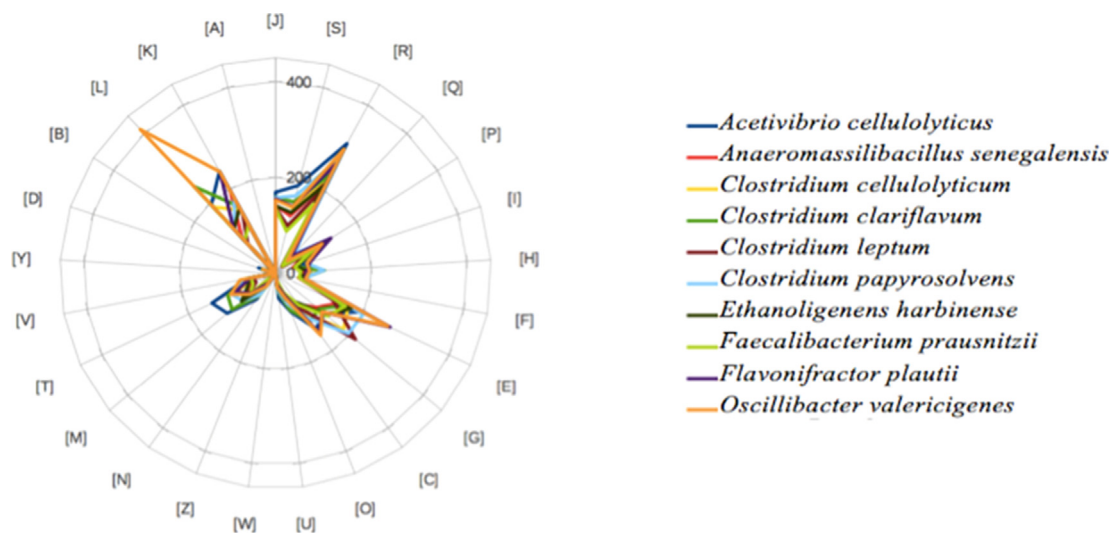


FIG. 7. Distribution of functional classes of predicted genes according to clusters of orthologous groups of proteins of *Anaeromassilibacillus senegalensis* strain mt9^T and other strains.

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Conflict of Interest

None declared.

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