

Whole genome sequencing of multi- drug resistant *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT isolated from a sheep Hydatid Cyst fluid in Mosul City

By Talal S. Salih

Original Article

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Whole genome sequencing of multi-drug resistant *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT isolated from a sheep Hydatid Cyst fluid in Mosul City

Saba A. Hamid¹, Inam A. Abdulhameed², Talal S. Salih³

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¹Department of Microbiology, College of Medicine, University of Ninevah, Iraq

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²Department of Anatomy, College of Medicine, University of Mosul, Iraq

³Department of Medical Physics, College of Science, University of Mosul, Iraq

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR: Talal Sabhan Salih,

Email: talal.salih@uomosul.edu.iq

ABSTRACT

Background and Objectives. Secondary infections of hydatid cysts are most commonly caused by 29 bacteria such as *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas* species and *Salmonella*

species. Yet, no study has been reported the isolation of bacterial strains belong to the genus *Psychrobacter* from hydatid cysts. This study aimed to present the first whole genome sequence of a multidrug-resistant *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT isolated from a sheep hydatid cyst fluid in Mosul city, Iraq.

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Materials and Methods. The whole-genome of *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT was sequenced using MiSeq Sequencing System (Illumina, USA). The comprehensive ResFinder 4.0 and CARD tools were used to identify the acquired antibiotic and the quaternary ammonium compounds resistance genes in the genome of *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT.

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Results. The sequence genome of *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT yielded a total of 3,331,920 bp with a DNA GC content of 42.82% and a total of 2,955 protein-coding sequences (CDSs). The results revealed the presence of six genes that corresponded to the predicted resistance phenotypes against five different antibiotic classes, including aminoglycoside (*aph(3'')-Ib* and *aph(6)-Id*), aminocyclitol (*aadA14*),

amphenicol (*floR*), tetracycline (*tet(H)*), and beta-lactam (*bla_{CARB-16}*). Moreover, *qacG* and *qacJ* genes which confer resistance to benzalkonium chloride (BKC) and cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) disinfectants were also reported. The results of *isDDH* revealed that *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT was closely related to *Psychrobacter cibarius* DSM 16327 with with *isDDH* value of 64.9%. The whole genome sequence of *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT has been deposited at DDBJ/ENA/GenBank under the accession number JAQGEL000000000.

Conclusions. In the current study, an Iraqi bacterium, *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT, was whole genome sequenced. The ResFinder 4.0 and CARD tools revealed that there were eight antibiotic and quaternary ammonium compounds resistance genes in the genome of *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT. The *isDDH* values <70% suggest that *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT is not only a new strain, but also a new species of the genus *Psychrobacter*.

Keywords: Acquired ABR genes, hydatid cysts, *Psychrobacter*, *qac* resistance genes, whole genome sequencing

INTRODUCTION

Hydatid disease, one of the most common zoonotic diseases worldwide, is a parasitic infection caused by the larvae of a tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus*. It can cause cysts to grow in various organs including the liver, lungs, and brain of dogs and livestock such as sheep, cattle, goats, and pigs [1]. Humans become accidentally infected through the ingestion of the parasite eggs [2].

While secondary bacterial infection of the hydatid cysts is rare, it can occur and lead to severe complications and even be life-threatening if left untreated [3]. Studies have reported several bacterial species such as *Escherichia coli*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Citrobacter freundii*, *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Staphylococcus* spp., *Enterococcus* spp., *Pseudomonas* spp., and *Salmonella* spp. were isolated from hydatid cyst fluids [4,5]. To the best of our knowledge, *Psychrobacter pulmonis* is the only species within *Psychrobacter* genus reported from lung clinical sample of a lamb [6].

Psychrobacter is an opportunistic pathogen found in a wide range of environments. Moreover, some species belong to *Psychrobacter* have been found to cause serious infections in humans, including arthritis, foot abscess, surgical wound infections, nosocomial ocular infections, bacteraemia and meningitis in infants [7,8]. Very recently, a case of cerebrospinal fluid shunt infection of an ex-premature infant girl caused by *Psychrobacter piechaudii* in the UK has been reported [9].

The genus *Psychrobacter* was first isolated from poultry and reported in 1986 [10]. The type species of *Psychrobacter* is *Psychrobacter immobilis*. The type strain of *Psychrobacter immobilis* is ATCC 43116, CIP 102557, DSM 7229, JCM 20442 and NBRC 15733; and the GenBank accession number of its 16S rRNA gene is AJ309942. The genus *Psychrobacter* currently includes 44 species with validly published names [11]. The most two recent novel species of the genus *Psychrobacter* are *Psychrobacter halodurans* and *Psychrobacter coccoides* were isolated from marine sediment samples in China [12]. In this study, we presented the whole genome sequence of *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT, which was isolated from a sheep hydatid cyst fluid in Mosul city, Iraq, together with the description of acquired antibiotic and quaternary ammonium compounds resistance genes, general genome features, and the detailed of genome annotation using comprehensive bioinformatics tools.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Isolation of *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT from a sheep hydatid cyst fluid

The study initially aimed to isolate common bacteria associated with hydatid diseases caused by parasitic infections in sheep. However, 100 μ l of a hydatid liver fluid from a sheep was collected using a sterile syringe, cultured on nutrient agar medium and incubated at temperatures ranged from 10 °C to 37 °C for 72 h. The *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT strain was selected for whole genome sequencing based on its unusual culture growth shape and its ability to grow at low temperatures. Moreover, the preliminary antibiotic susceptibility testing using the disk diffusion assay [13] on the Muller-Hinton plates showed that *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT resistance to the following

antibiotics: streptomycin (S-25), ampicillin (AM-10), amoxicillin (AX-10), piperacillin (PRL-100), chloramphenicol (C-10) and tetracycline (TE-10).

Whole genome sequencing, assembly and annotation

The genome of *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT was sequenced at the Leibniz Institute (DSMZ-German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures GmbH, Germany). Genomic DNA was extracted using MasterPure™ Complete DNA Purification Kit (Epicentre Biotechnologies, Germany). Nextera XT DNA Library Preparation Kit (Illumina, USA) was applied to prepare the genomic DNA library. Prepared DNA library was sequenced on a MiSeq Sequencing System (Illumina, USA) using MiSeq Reagent Kit v2. The sequence reads were de novo assembled to draft genome via SPAdes 3.5 tool [14]. After genome assembly, the obtained contigs were annotated using the RASTtk server [15] and the SEED tool [16] was used for predicting functional genes in subsystem categories.

Whole- genome-based phylogenetic tree analysis and *in silico* whole genome DNA-DNA hybridization (*is*DDH) comparisons

The Type Strain Genome Server (TYGS) [17] was applied to infer the whole-genome-based phylogenetic tree of *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT and the most related strains. *is*DDH values between *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT and the most closely related strains was measured using GGDH bioinformatics tool [11] which is integrated within the TYGS.

Detection of the acquired antibiotic resistance genes (ABR) and resistance phenotypes prediction

The platform of ResFinder 4.0 tool [18] was used to detect the antibiotic resistance genes in the genome sequence. The ResFinder 4.0 contains a database that translate the sequence genotypes into the resistance phenotypes which displays the results in created tables. As default, all the antibiotic databases were selected with a threshold of 80% identity and a minimum hit length of 80% for the best matching resistance antimicrobial genes in the ResFinder 4.0 database and the input *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT sequence as well as the most closely strains.

Detection of the quaternary ammonium compounds (*qac*) resistance genes

The *qac* resistance genes in the *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT genome were detected using the Comprehensive Antibiotic Resistance Database (CARD) program version 3.2.6 [19], through the resistance gene identifier (RGI) tool version 6.0.1 [20].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

General genome features of *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT

A detailed summary of the genome features of *P. sp. SIT* is shown in Table 1. The assembled genome sequence of *P. sp. SIT* yielded a total of 3,331,920 bp with a DNA GC content of 42.82% distributed within 38 contigs with N50 value of 155953, and with a largest contig of 370,318 bp. RASTtk annotated a total of 2,955 protein-coding sequences (CDSs), 46 tRNA genes and 275 subsystems. Most of the predicted genes in the subsystem categories were involved in amino acids and derivatives synthesis (265), cofactors, vitamins, prosthetic groups and pigments production (212), carbohydrates metabolism (201), protein metabolism (149) and fatty acids, lipids, and Isoprenoids (86) (Figure 1).

TABLE 1. General features of the *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT genome

Feature	Value
Total genome size (pb)	3,331,920
DNA GC content (%)	42.82
Number of contigs	38
Largest contig size (bp)	370,318
Smallest contig size (bp)	1203
N50	155,953
Total of protein-coding sequences (CDSs)	2,955
Number of tRNA genes	46

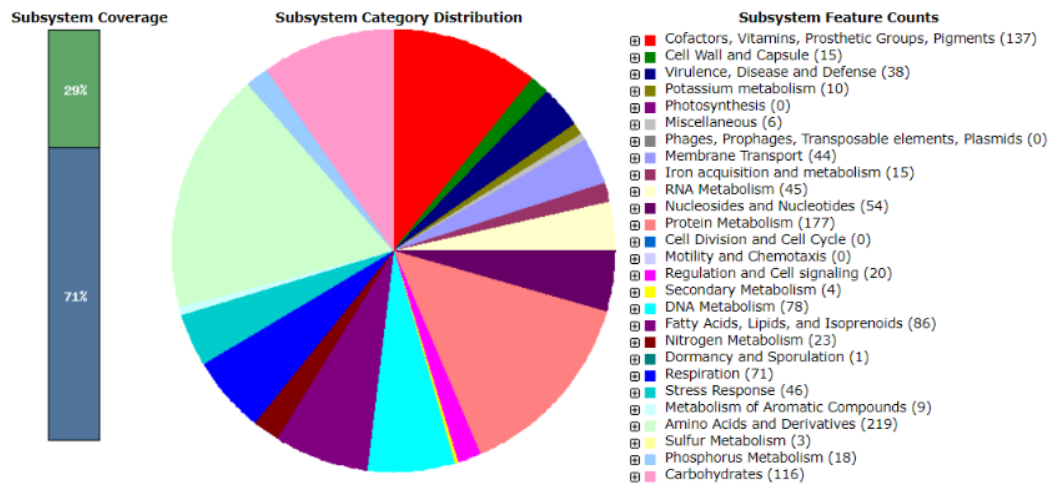


FIGURE 1: Subsystem category distribution statistics of *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT. The pie chart showed the count of each subsystem feature and the subsystem coverage were displayed using SEED viewer tool. The green bar of the subsystem coverage corresponds to the percentage of the proteins included in the subsystems while the blue bar corresponds to the percentage of the proteins that are not included in the subsystems.

Whole-genome-based phylogenetic tree and *is*DDH comparison values

The TYGS analysis identified thirteen strains of the genus *Psychrobacter* that are most closely related to *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT (Figure 2). The results have displayed that the nearest relative to *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT were *Psychrobacter cibarius* DSM 16327, *Psychrobacter immobilis* DSM 722 and *Psychrobacter aquimaris* DSM 16329 with *is*DDH values of 64.9%, 64.7% and 39.7% respectively. All other related strains have shown *is*DDH values $\leq 24.9\%$. The TYGS addresses the gold standard methods and state-of-the-art estimates in the genomic era to determine nearest bacterial genome sequences with valid names [11]. Values obtained from *is*DDH method can estimate species boundaries based on whole genome sequence data by applying formula of probability that DDH > 70% is same species [21,22]. Results of *is*DDH values <70% have revealed sufficient dissimilarity of *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT to their closest relative species within the genus of *Psychrobacter* and might indicate that *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT was not only a new strain, but also a new species of the genus *Psychrobacter*.

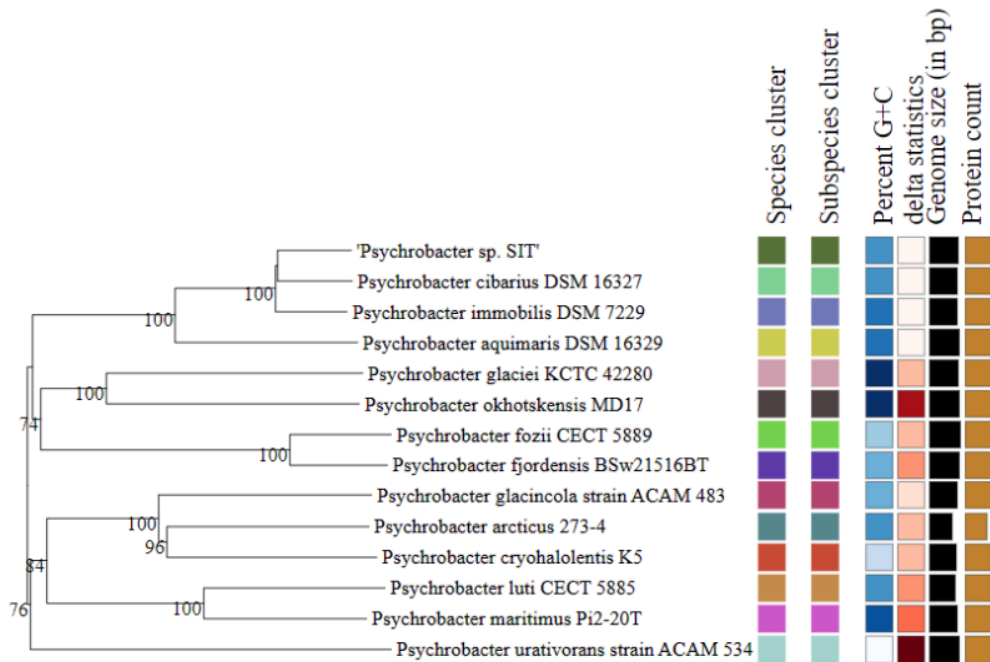


FIGURE 2: Whole-genome-based phylogenetic tree constructed from the thirteen whole genome sequences of the genus *Psychrobacter* that are most related to *P. sp. SIT*. The tree generated via the TYGS based on balanced minimum evolution method (100X bootstrap support values). Labels on leaves were indicated by association to species and subspecies clusters, genomic GC percent, δ values, overall genome size and total number of proteins

Whole-genome-based phylogenetic tree and *isDDH* comparison values

The ResFinder 4.0 tool analysis indicated that *Psychrobacter sp. SIT* was harboring genes mediated to five different antibiotic classes: aminoglycoside, aminocyclitol, amphenicol, tetracycline and beta-lactam. A total of six resistance genes were identified in the genome sequence of *Psychrobacter sp. SIT* (Table 2). The resistance *aph(3'')-Ib* and *aph(6)-Id* genes that identified in *P. sp. SIT* were homologous to *aph(3'')-Ib* and *aph(6)-Id* genes that found in *Shigella flexneri* (accession no. AF321551) and *Escherichia coli* (accession no. M28829) with identities of 99.8% and 100% respectively. Studies have revealed that the occurrence of *aph(3'')*-

Ib and *aph(6)*-Id genes conferring resistance to streptomycin antibiotic [23]. These two genes are among the most predominant aminoglycosides observed in Gram negative pathogens in particularly the family Enterobacteriaceae [24,25]. Florfenicol antibiotic has been widely used in farm animals, as a veterinary medicine and feed additive. The occurrence of *floR* gene in a bacterial genome confers resistance to chloramphenicol and florfenicol antibiotics [26]. Currently, *floR* resistance gene is widespread not only in veterinary pathogens but also in various human-originated clinical isolates such as *Escherichia coli* [27], *Klebsiella pneumoniae* [28] and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [29]. On the other hand, the *tet(H)* resistance gene detected in *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT was highly similar to *tet(H)* gene that was found in *Pasteurella aerogenes* (accession no. AJ245947), an animal pathogen associated with pigs and hamsters, [30]. However, the *tet(H)* gene has also been identified in some clinical bacterial isolates [31]. Interestingly, the *bla*_{CARB-16} gene sequence that identified in *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT was identical (100%) to the *bla*_{CARB-16} gene sequence that identified in *Psychrobacter maritimus* MR29-12 which was isolated from an ancient permafrost [32]. This result might suggest that this gene is within the intrinsic genes in *Psychrobacter* species. However, recent studies have reported that the presence of *bla*_{CARB-16} gene in *Acinetobacter baumannii* clinical isolates conferring resistance to carbapenem antibiotics including ampicillin, amoxicillin and piperacillin [33,34].

TABLE 2. Antibiotic resistance genes detected in the genome sequence of *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT by ResFinder 4.0 tool with ID \geq 80%.

Resistance class	Resistance gene	Identity	Predicted phenotype	PubMed ID	Accession No.
Aminoglycoside	<i>aph(3'')</i> -Ib	99.8%	Streptomycin	12029529	AF321551
	<i>aph(6)</i> -Id	100%	Streptomycin	2653965	M28829
Aminocyclitol	<i>aadA14</i>	80.9%	Spectinomycin, streptomycin	15980396	AJ884726
Amphenicol	<i>floR</i>	98.2%	florfenicol	10339826	AF118107
Tetracycline	<i>tet(H)</i>	100%	Doxycycline, tetracycline	10913704	AJ245947

Beta-lactam	<i>bla</i> _{CARB-16}	100%	Ampicillin, amoxicillin, piperacillin	25063046	HF953351
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CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study has shown that new species of bacteria could be isolated from hydatid cysts. The new strain *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT of the genus *Psychrobacter* will attribute in studying of secondary bacterial infections of hydatid cysts. Compared with other *Psychrobacter* genomes, *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT might be a new species of the genus *Psychrobacter*. The genome analysis using the comprehensive RestFinder and CARD bioinformatics tools conferred that *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT is a multi-drug resistant bacterium where found to harbor six antibiotic resistance genes belong to five different antibiotic classes. In addition, *qac* genes which confer resistance to the quaternary ammonium compounds were also found in *Psychrobacter* sp. SIT genome. Finally, the current study highlights the rise of multidrug-resistant bacteria among environmental bacterial isolates, which can make them difficult to treat and control.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization, Saba A. Hamid, Inam A. Abdulhameed and Talal S. Salih; methodology, Saba A. Hamid, Inam A. Abdulhameed and Talal S. Salih; software, Talal S. Salih; validation, Saba A. Hamid and Inam A. Abdulhameed; formal analysis, Talal S. Salih; investigation, Saba A. Hamid and Inam A. Abdulhameed; resources, Saba A. Hamid; data curation, Saba A. Hamid; writing—original draft preparation, Saba A. Hamid and Inam A. Abdulhameed; writing—review and editing, Talal S. Salih;

visualization, Inam A. Abdulhameed. ⁵ All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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