

Lysobacter cavernae sp. nov., a novel bacterium isolated from a cave sample

Wei Chen · Ying-Liang Zhao · Juan Cheng · Xing-Kui Zhou ·
Nimaichand Salam · Bao-Zhu Fang · Qing-Qing Li ·
Wael N. Hozzein · Wen-Jun Li

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Abstract A Gram-staining negative, aerobic, rod-shaped bacterium, designated YIM C01544^T, was isolated from a soil sample collected from Sigangli Cave, Yunnan province, South-West China. The strain was able to grow over a range of temperatures (4–30 °C), pH (6.0–10.0) and NaCl concentration (0–2 %, w/v). Comparative 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis revealed that strain YIM C01544^T should be a member of the genus *Lysobacter*. The strain is closely related to *Lysobacter niastensis* GH41-7^T (97.6 %),

Lysobacter soli DCY21^T (97.5 %), *Lysobacter enzymogenes* DSM 2043^T (97.3 %), *Lysobacter antibioticus* DSM 2044^T (97.1 %) and *Lysobacter panacisoli* CJ29^T (97.1 %). The genomic DNA relatedness values (<47 %) as indicated by DNA–DNA hybridization studies were below the threshold limit for characterization of new bacterial species. The chemotaxonomic features of the new isolate include diphosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylethanolamine, two unidentified phospholipids and two unidentified polar lipids as its characteristic polar lipids and Q-8 as the only quinone. The major fatty acids detected were iso-C_{15:0} and iso-C_{17:1}ω9c. The DNA G + C content of the strain was determined to be 64.9 mol %. Based on the data from phenotypic, chemotaxonomic and molecular studies, strain YIM C01544^T merits recognition as

Wei Chen and Ying-Liang Zhao contributed equally to this work.

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W. Chen · Y.-L. Zhao · X.-K. Zhou
China Tobacco Yunnan Industrial Co. Ltd.,
Kunming 650231, People's Republic of China

J. Cheng · X.-K. Zhou · W.-J. Li
Key Laboratory of Microbial Diversity in Southwest China, Ministry of Education, Yunnan Institute of Microbiology, Yunnan University, Kunming 650091, People's Republic of China

N. Salam · B.-Z. Fang · W.-J. Li (✉)
State Key Laboratory of Biocontrol and Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Plant Resources, School of Life Sciences, Sun Yat-Sen University,
Guangzhou 510275, People's Republic of China
e-mail: liwenjun3@mail.sysu.edu.cn

Q.-Q. Li (✉)
Life Science College, Southwest Forestry University,
Kunming 650224, People's Republic of China
e-mail: doublelqq@163.com

W. N. Hozzein
Bioproducts Research Chair, Zoology Department,
College of Science, King Saud University, Riyadh 11451,
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

W. N. Hozzein
Botany and Microbiology Department, Faculty of Science, Beni-Suef University, Beni-Suef 62511, Egypt

novel species in the genus *Lysobacter* for which the name *Lysobacter cavernae* sp. nov. is proposed. The type strain of *Lysobacter cavernae* is YIM C01544^T (= KCTC 42875^T = DSM 101561^T = CPCC 100816^T).

Keywords *Lysobacter cavernae* sp. nov. · Sigangli Cave · Polyphasic taxonomy

Introduction

Members of the genus *Lysobacter* have been established as potential biocontrol agents (Christensen and Cook 1978; Hashizume et al. 2004). This property has been attributed to their ability to produce a variety of antimicrobial compounds including many extracellular enzymes (Allpress and Mountain 2002; Chohnan et al. 2004; Ogura et al. 2006). A recent study has also indicated that a *Lysobacter* strain XL1 releases an enzyme complex (lysoamidase bacteriolytic complex) in liquid culture that exhibits broad-antimicrobial spectrum (Tishchenko et al. 2016). Genome analysis of a *Lysobacter capsici* strain AZ78 also demonstrated the presence of a gene pool with the capability for production of antibiotics, lytic enzymes and siderophore as well as genes involved in resistance to antibiotics, environmental stressors, fungicides and heavy metals (Puopolo et al. 2016). Their ability to produce a variety of metabolites dictates the importance of searching for new isolates for future industrial applications.

The genus *Lysobacter* belongs to the family *Xanthomonadaceae* (Christensen and Cook 1978) within the class *Gammaproteobacteria*. The distinctive chemotaxonomic features of the genus *Lysobacter* include the presence of Q-8 as predominant quinone and iso-branched cellular fatty acids (Christensen and Cook 1978). The polar lipids are mainly composed of diphosphatidylglycerol (DPG), phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) and phosphatidylglycerol (PG), with genomic G + C content ranging between 61.7 and 70.7 mol % (Christensen and Cook 1978; Saddler and Bradbury 2005; Weon et al. 2006; Luo et al. 2012; Wei et al. 2012; Fukuda et al. 2013). This paper reports the taxonomic characterization of a novel *Gammaproteobacteria* of the genus *Lysobacter* isolated from a cave sample.

Materials and methods

Strain and culture conditions

Strain YIM C01544^T was isolated from a serially diluted soil sample collected from Sigangli Cave (E 103°22.791', N 25°04.270'), Yunnan province, South-West China, using modified starch casein medium (Soluble starch 1.0 g, Casein 0.3 g, KNO₃ 2.0 g, NaCl 2.0 g, K₂HPO₄ 2.0 g, MgSO₄·7H₂O 0.05 g, FeSO₄·7H₂O 0.01 g, CaCO₃ 10 g, agar 12 g, Distilled water 1000 mL, pH 8.0) (Hayakawa and Nonomura 1987). The strain was maintained as pure cultures on International *Streptomyces* Project (ISP) 2 agar slants containing 1 % (w/v) CaCO₃ at 4 °C and as suspensions in glycerol (20 %, v/v) at −80 °C.

Molecular analysis

Isolation of genomic DNA and sequencing of 16S rRNA gene were performed as reported earlier (Cui et al. 2001; Li et al. 2007). The almost complete 16S rRNA gene sequence (Accession number KT306825) was subjected to BLAST analysis using the EzTaxon-e server (Kim et al. 2012). Multiple alignments with the corresponding closely related sequences (retrieved from the GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ databases) were performed using CLUSTAL_X version 1.83 (Thompson et al. 1997). Phylogenetic trees were constructed with Neighbour-Joining (Saitou and Nei 1987), Maximum-Parsimony (Fitch 1971) and Maximum-Likelihood (Felsenstein 1981) algorithms using the MEGA version 5.0 software packages (Tamura et al. 2011). Kimura's two-parameter model was used to calculate evolutionary distance matrices (Kimura 1980). The topologies of the resultant trees were evaluated by bootstrap resampling method of Felsenstein (1985) with 1000 replicates. The DNA–DNA relatedness values between strain YIM C01544^T and the closely related strains of the genus *Lysobacter* were calculated using fluorometric micro-well-based DNA–DNA hybridization studies (Ezaki et al. 1989; Christensen et al. 2000).

Phenotypic characterisation

Gram staining was performed using standard Gram's reaction and confirmed by KOH lysis test (Cerny 1978). Morphology was examined by light microscopy

(BH-2; Olympus) and scanning electron microscopy (QUANTA200; FEI). Growth at various temperatures (4–50 °C) and NaCl tolerance (0–15 %, w/v) were tested on ISP 2 plates (7 days, 28 °C). The pH range (pH 4.0–11.0, at intervals of 1.0 pH unit) for growth was tested in ISP 2 medium (28 °C, 7 days) using the buffer system described by Xu et al. (2005). Anaerobic growth was checked in a Whitley A35 anaerobic workstation containing CO₂, N₂ and H₂ gas mixture. Catalase activity was determined by assessing the production of bubbles on addition of a drop of 3 % (v/v) H₂O₂ on the bacterial cell. Oxidase activity was determined based on oxidation of tetramethyl-p-phenylenediamine (Kovacs 1956). Hydrolysis of starch and Tweens 20, 40, 60 and 80 were determined as described by Collins et al. (1977). Other phenotypic and enzyme activities were tested using the API 20NE (bioMérieux), API 50CH (bioMérieux) and Biolog GN III Micro Plate assays according to manufacturer's instructions.

Chemotaxonomy

Polar lipids were extracted as described by Minnikin et al. (1979) and identified by two-dimensional TLC (Collins and Jones 1980). Quinones were extracted (Collins et al. 1977) and analyzed using HPLC (Kroppenstedt 1982). Cellular fatty acid analysis was performed by using the Microbial Identification System (Sherlock Version 6.1; MIDI database: TSBA6; Sasser 1990). Biomass for fatty acid analysis was obtained from cells grown on tryptose soy agar (TSA; Difco) at 28 °C for 4 days. The G + C content of genomic DNA of strain YIM C01544^T was determined according to the method of Mesbah et al. (1989).

Results

Molecular analysis

The strain YIM C01544^T showed high 16S rRNA gene sequence similarities with *Lysobacter niastensis* GH41-7^T (97.6 %), *L. soli* DCY21^T (97.5 %), *L. enzymogenes* DSM 2043^T (97.3 %), *L. antibioticus* DSM 2044^T (97.1 %) and *L. panacisoli* CJ29^T (97.1 %), and had low levels of similarities (<97.0 %) with other members of the genus *Lysobacter*. Based on the sequence analysis data and

neighbour-joining phylogenetic tree (Fig. 1), strains *L. niastensis* KACC 11588^T, *L. soli* KCTC 22011^T, *L. enzymogenes* BCRC 11654^T and *L. antibioticus* BCRC 11653^T were considered for DNA–DNA hybridization studies with strain YIM C01544^T to determine its taxonomic position within the genus *Lysobacter*. In addition, comparative studies were also done with *L. panacisoli* CJ29^T, *L. gummosus* KCTC 12132^T and *L. capsici* YC 5194^T as they formed a cluster with strain YIM C01544^T but have low 16S rRNA gene sequence similarities. Strain YIM C01544^T exhibited relatively low levels of DNA–DNA relatedness (Supplementary Table S1) with *L. niastensis* KACC 11588^T (46.9 %), *L. soli* KCTC 22011^T (42.3 %), *L. enzymogenes* BCRC 11654^T (26.8 %) and *L. antibioticus* BCRC 11653^T (19.2 %), which were well below the threshold point (70 %) for distinguishing novel prokaryotic species (Stackebrandt and Goebel 1994).

Phenotypic characteristics

Cells of strain YIM C01544^T were observed to be Gram-staining negative, aerobic and rod-shaped (1.0–1.8 × 0.3 µm) (Fig. S1). The strain was able to grow over a wide range of temperature (4–30 °C) and pH (6.0–10.0) on ISP 2 agar, and could tolerate up to 2 % NaCl (w/v). Optimal growth was observed at 22–28 °C, 0–1 % NaCl (w/v) and pH 7.0–8.0. The strain was found to be positive for catalase test but negative for oxidase activity. It can hydrolyse Tween 60, but not starch and Tweens 20, 40 and 80. The differential phenotypic characteristics of strain YIM C01544^T and related type strains of the genus *Lysobacter* are summarized in Table 1. Detailed biochemical features as indicated by the API 20NE (bioMérieux), API 50CH (bioMérieux) and Biolog GN III Micro Plate assays are listed in Supplementary Table S2.

Chemotaxonomy

The polar lipids of strain YIM C01544^T consisted of DPG, PG, PE, two unidentified phospholipids (PLs) and two unidentified polar lipids (Ls) (Supplementary Fig. S2). Ubiquinone-8 (Q-8) was the only quinone detected. The cellular fatty acids detected were iso-C_{15:0} (47.8 %), iso-C_{17:1}ω9c (10.3 %), iso-C_{11:0} 3OH (7 %), Summed Feature 4 (iso-C_{17:1} I and/or anteiso B)

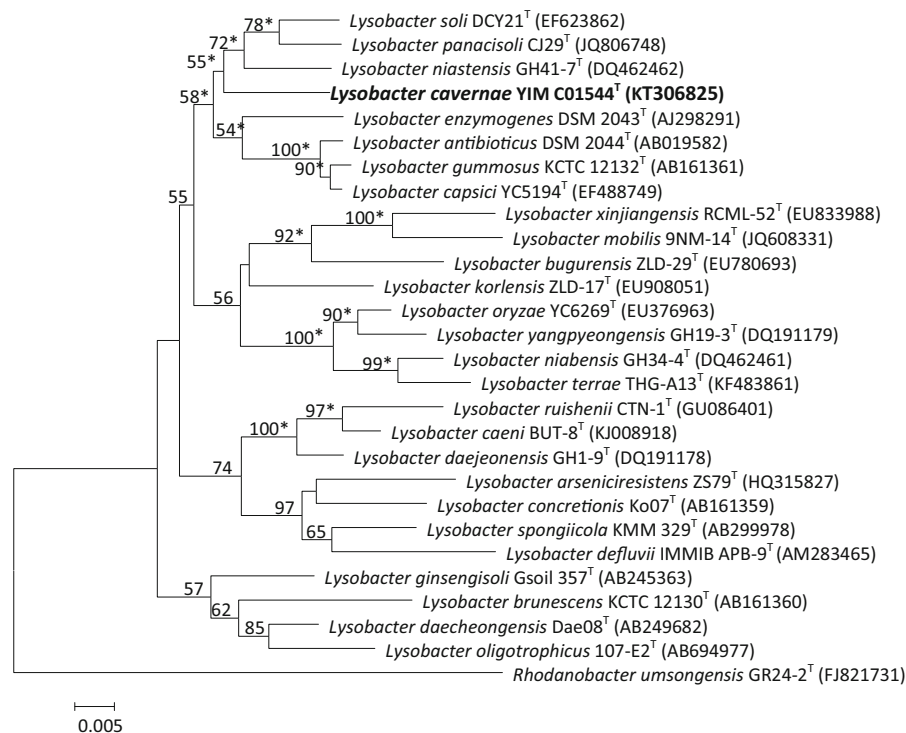


Fig. 1 Neighbour-joining phylogenetic tree based on 16S rRNA gene sequences of strain YIM C01544^T and members of the genus *Lysobacter*. Bootstrap values (expressed as percentages of 1000 replications) of above 50 % are shown at the branch points. Asterisks at nodes, denotes branches

recovered using the maximum-parsimony and maximum-likelihood methods. *Rhodanobacter umsongensis* GR24-2^T was used as outgroup. Bar 0.005 substitutions per nucleotide position

(6.7 %), Summed Feature 3 (C_{16:1}ω6c and/or C_{16:1}ω7c) (4.3 %), iso-C_{11:0} (4.3 %), iso-C_{17:0} (3.9 %), anteiso-C_{15:0} (3.5 %), iso-C_{16:0} (2.6 %), C_{16:0} (1.9 %), C_{17:0} cyclo (1.2 %), iso-C_{15:0}ω9c (0.7 %), iso-C_{14:0} (0.7 %) and Summed Feature 1 (C_{13:0} 3OH and/or C_{15:1} i H) (0.6 %). The genomic G + C content was determined to be 64.9 mol %.

Discussion

The chemotaxonomic features of strain YIM C01544^T including the presence of Q-8 as quinone, iso-C_{15:0} and iso-C_{17:1}ω9c as major fatty acids and DPG, PG and PE as major polar lipids are consistent with the characteristics of the genus *Lysobacter* (Christensen and Cook 1978; Saddler and Bradbury 2005; Weon et al. 2006; Luo et al. 2012; Wei et al. 2012; Fukuda et al. 2013). However, strain YIM C01544^T could be differentiated from the related type strains of the genus

Lysobacter by many physiological characteristics. For example, the temperature range for growth of strain YIM C01544^T is low compared to those of reference type strains (Table 1). Salt tolerance is consistent with that of *L. gummosus* KCTC 12132^T and *L. capsici* YC 5194^T (Christensen and Cook 1978; Park et al. 2008) but differs from the other type strains (Weon et al. 2006; Srinivasan et al. 2010; Choi et al. 2014). Strain YIM C01544^T was found to be negative for oxidase reaction unlike strains *L. niastensis* KACC 11588^T, *L. soli* KCTC 22011^T, *L. antibioticus* BCRC 11653^T, *L. gummosus* KCTC 12132^T and *L. capsici* YC 5194^T (Weon et al. 2006; Srinivasan et al. 2010; Christensen and Cook 1978; Park et al. 2008) and was found to be positive for nitrate reduction unlike *L. antibioticus* BCRC 11653^T, *L. panacisoli* CJ 29^T, *L. gummosus* KCTC 12132^T and *L. capsici* YC 5194^T (Christensen and Cook 1978; Choi et al. 2014; Park et al. 2008). In addition, the major fatty acids were similar to the type strain *L. niastensis* KACC 11588^T, *L. soli* KCTC

Table 1 Differential characteristics of strain YIM C01544^T and closely related species of the genus *Lysobacter*. 1, YIM C01544^T; 2, *L. niastensis* KACC 11588^T; 3, *L. soli* KCTC 22011^T; 4, *L. enzymogenes* BCRC 11654^T; 5, *L. antibioticus* BCRC 11653^T; 6, *L. panacisoli* CJ 29^T; 7, *L. gummosus* LMG 8763^T; 8, *L. capsici* YC 5194^T

	1	2	3	4	5	6 ^ε	7 [§]	8 [#]
Cell size (μm)	1.0–1.8 × 0.3	2.0–4.0 × 0.5–0.6	0.6–0.9 × 0.2–0.5	38.0 × 0.5	6.5 × 0.4	0.4–0.45 × 1.0–2.0	0.4 × 2.0	0.3–0.5 × 2.0–2.0
Gliding motility	–	–	+	+	+	–	+	–
NaCl tolerance (w/v, %)	0–2	0–1	0–1	0–1	0–1	0–1	0–2	0–2
pH range for growth	6–10	4–9	5–10	4–10	5–9	5–11	4–9	5.5–8.5
Temperature range for growth (°C)	4–30	10–40	4–42	10–40	4–40	10–40	10–40	15–37
Oxidase activity	–	+	+	+	+	–	+	+
Aesculin hydrolysis	+	–	+	+	+	+	+	+
β-galactosidase	+	–	–	+	+	+	+	–
Nitrate reduction	+	+	w	–	–	–	–	–
Urease activity	–	–	+	–	–	–	–	–
Assimilation of								
Cellobiose	–	–	–	–	+	–	–	–
D-fucose	–	–	+	–	–	–	–	w
D-glucose	–	w	+	+	–	–	+	–
D-lyxose	–	–	+	–	–	–	–	–
D-maltose	–	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
D-mannitol	–	+	–	–	–	–	–	–
D-mannose	+	–	+	+	+	+	+	+
D-ribose	+	–	–	–	–	–	–	+
D-xylose	–	w	–	+	+	+	–	–
Gentiobiose	–	–	–	w	+	–	–	–
L-arabinose	–	–	+	+	+	–	–	–
Methyl α-D-glucoside	+	–	–	+	+	–	–	w
N-acetyl glucosamine	+	+	+	+	–	–	+	–
Sucrose	–	–	–	w	w	+	–	–
Trehalose	–	+	–	+	+	–	+	w
DNA G + C content (mol %)	64.9	66.6 [¥]	65.4 [*]	69 [§]	69.2 [§]	65.6	65.7	65.4

Data from other studies are as indicated: [¥] Weon et al. (2006); ^{*} Srinivasan et al. (2010); [§] Christensen and Cook (1978); ^ε Choi et al. (2014); [#] Park et al. (2008)

22011^T, *L. enzymogenes* BCRC 11654^T and *L. antibioticus* BCRC 11653^T but the presence of C_{17:0} cyclo was seen only in strain YIM C01544^T.

Strain YIM C01544^T and type species of the genus, *L. enzymogenes*, formed separate sub-clades in the phylogenetic dendrogram (Fig. 1). The two shared a DNA relatedness value of 26.8 % clearly distinguishing them as separate species. Apart from the molecular characteristics, the proposed new strain can be distinguished from the type species by many phenotypic characters (Table 1). The type species exhibited gliding motility, and was found to be positive for oxidase activity unlike strain YIM C01544^T. The two also differed in the assimilation of several key carbon sources including L-arabinose, D-glucose, D-maltose, D-ribose and trehalose. Strain YIM C01544^T could reduce nitrate and tolerate 2 % NaCl (w/v) in the growth medium but not the type species. *L. enzymogenes* could grow at pH 4 and 40 °C unlike the new strain. Morphologically, cell size of the type species (38.0 × 0.5 µm) is much larger and longer than the proposed new taxon (1–1.8 × 0.3 µm) under similar conditions of growth. Based on the phenotypic, chemotaxonomic and molecular characteristics, strain YIM C01544^T is determined to represent a novel species within the genus *Lysobacter*, for which the name *Lysobacter cavernae* sp. nov. is proposed.

Description of *Lysobacter cavernae* sp. nov

Lysobacter cavernae (ca.ver'nae. L. gen. n. *cavernae*, of a cave; referring to the source of the organism)

Cells are Gram-staining negative, aerobic, rod-shaped (1.0–1.8 × 0.3 µm) and non-motile. Colonies are yellow and circular on ISP 2 agar medium. Growth occurs at temperature range 4–30 °C, pH 6.0–10.0 and 0–2 % NaCl (w/v). Positive for catalase and nitrate reduction tests, but negative for oxidase activity. Cells can hydrolyse casein, gelatin, aesculin and Tween 60, but not starch and Tweens 20, 40 and 80. The polar lipids detected include diphosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylethanolamine, two unidentified phospholipids and two unidentified polar lipids. The predominant quinone is Q-8. The major components of fatty acid are iso-C_{15:0} and iso-

C_{17:1ω9c}. The G + C content of the genomic DNA of the type strain is 64.9 mol %.

The type strain YIM C01544^T (= KCTC 42875^T = DSM 101561^T = CPCC 100816^T) was isolated from a soil sample of Sigangli Cave, Yunnan province, South-West China.

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