



Sequencing of *HpmA* Gene in *Proteus mirabilis* of UTIs among rheumatoid arthritis patients

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Abstract

Study has done during February to May 2016 at Baghdad hospitals. There were fifty urine samples collected from rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients.

Bacteriological investigation of urine samples from RA patients, to isolate and diagnose of *Proteus mirabilis* bacterium that also these patients suffering from UTIs has done. In addition, the study had detected phenotypically *Proteus mirabilis* α -hemolysin activity.

Molecular identification has done by using a specific primer to *hpmA* gene that encode for α -Hemolysin as a virulence factor of *Proteus mirabilis* by using PCR and it was found that 7(100%) of isolates gave positive result, for *hpmA* at 709 bp. Three *P. mirabilis* isolates were sequenced for the *hpmA* genes. The *hpmA* genes that were sequenced presented 100%, 99%, 100% respectively identity with CP015347.1, CP021550.1, CP021550.1 stain at NCBI global databases.

Keywords: *P. mirabilis*, virulence factors gene *hpmA*, Sequencing

INTRODUCTION

Rheumatoid arthritis RA is an autoimmune disease with no certain etiology that could likely be triggered by environmental factors. In genetically susceptible individuals' RA has associated with genetic predisposition. Different immunological and microbiological data results support that there could be a link between urinary tract infections (UTI) and RA, this has mainly caused by *Proteus* bacterium [1]

Proteus mirabilis is a Gram-negative bacterium [2]. Different set of virulence factors can be detected by *P. mirabilis*, that able to access and colonize the host urinary tract including toxins like hemolysin and its function of pore formation, biofilm formation and regulation of pathogenesis [2]. Since *Proteus mirabilis* had many virulence factors that were important for inflicting UTIs, these factors had an importance role to make an infection in different areas of the urinary tract [3].

Alpha (α) hemolysin *hpmA* has produced by *P. mirabilis* that used to damage the kidney tissues. This α -hemolysin has related to the cell, calcium-independent, former of pores which encodes by two genes, *hpmA* and *hpmB*, that regulate the *HpmA* (166 kDa) proteins [3]. *HpmA* α -hemolysin is responsible for damaging tissue and activating when its N-terminal peptide has cleaved, so the results can be activating *HpmA* (140 kDa) [4].

The objectives of current study were isolating and identifying the *P. mirabilis* from urine samples of RA patients. Detecting the genes encodes of α - Hemolysin by PCR technique, sequencing of gene encoded *Proteus* haemolysin, genotyping of *P. mirabilis* strains by using genetic markers such α -hemolysin genes and detecting a phylogenetic tree of *P. mirabilis* based in the *HpmA* gene.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Midstream patients urine samples have collected and controlled in sterilized wide-container from one hundred RA patients. These RA patients had obtained from Rheumatology consultation clinic / Baghdad Teaching Hospital and they diagnosed by clinic's rheumatologists from February to May 2016 at Baghdad hospitals. Extraction of the *Proteus mirabilis* DNA of the study from bacterial cells using Genomic DNA Mini kit which supplemented by the manufacturing company (Promega, US). DNA electrophoresis in agarose gel, it has performed according to Sambrook, and Russell, 2006 [5].

Thermal cycles program to amplify the DNA:

Specific primers had used for detecting the *Proteus mirabilis* virulence gene encodes for α -hemolysin sequence according to

Cestari *et al.*, 2013 [6]. These primers had provided by Promega Company (USA) and prepared according to the information of the supplying company, which listed at table (1).

DNA Sequencing of *hpmA* gene

Three samples had sequenced through PCR-sequences by MacroGen company/ Korea sending. The nucleotide substitution had determined by comber the data that obtained from gene bank publish which available at NCBI <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Single polymerase chain reaction technique was used in investigation of the genes responsible for the virulence factor in *P. mirabilis* through the use of pieces of the DNA with limited number of nucleotides (oligonucleotide), which act a primers specialized for virulence genes in *P. mirabilis* and it include *hpmA*. *hpmA* gene which responsible for producing hemolysin. *P. mirabilis* α -hemolysin is different from other *Proteus spp.*, its organized by two genes, (*hpmA* and *hpmB*), that encode for the *HpmA* and *HpmB* proteins respectively [7][8].

The results of the current study have shown that *hpmA* gene was present in 7 isolates out 7 isolates at rate (100%) from urine samples of RA patient as shown in fig (1). These results matches with the result recorded by Ali and Yousif, (2015) for they mentioned that the rate of this gene in *P. mirabilis* isolates has 100%, that isolates from Patients that were suffering from urinary tract infection[9]. While Cestari *et al.*, 2013 found the ratio of this gene in bacterial isolates 96.24 % presented amplification for the *hpmA* and *hpmB* genes by PCR. [6]. The α -hemolysin acts as a destroyer to the leukocyte membrane through creating small holes in the leukocyte membrane and epithelial cell. So its presence is vital factor in supplying the bacteria with iron and because of having the cytotoxic effects, this could lead to destroy the host kidney tissue [10].

The presence of the *hpmA* gene in the isolates was in line with the descriptions by Uphoff and Welch (1990) who showed the need to cleave the N-terminal peptide of the *HpmA* by *HpmB* to activate and transport the hemolytic *HpmA* protein to outside the cell[8]. This suggested that *HpmA* was a factor in the pathogenesis of *P. mirabilis* samples isolated from human urine [10]. Other result reported by Swihart and Welch, 1990 referred to all *P. mirabilis* strains had *HpmA* but *HlyA* has not detected in *P. mirabilis* isolates and has found in only 2 of the 24 *P. vulgaris* strains examined. Since *P. mirabilis* composes most (97%) of the *Proteus* urinary tract isolates, this suggests that *HpmA* was the

predominant *Proteus* hemolysin and might play a role in extra intestinal infections caused by *Proteus spp.* [11].

These positive isolates with *hpmA* gene were also checked to confirm their ability to produce hemolysin on blood agar and it was found that all of the isolates (100%) had the ability to produce hemolysin. These results agree with the results of Sosa *et al.* (2006) and AL-Jumaa *et al.* (2011), who demonstrated that all isolates (100%) of *Proteus* bacterium isolated from different clinical sources exhibit hemolysis on blood agar plates, but Mishara *et al.* (2001) found that (85.14%) of *Proteus* isolates produce β-hemolysis, while other isolates produce α-hemolysis on blood agar plate [12][13][14].

Study results demonstrate that the detection of *hpmA* gene by PCR was sensitive enough to be used for the discovering of these virulence factors produced by *P. mirabilis* and The PCR technique had shown to be precise, fast, cheap and more accurate, therefore this suggests that *HpmA* could use as diagnostic feature of the *P. mirabilis* bacterium.

DNA SEQUENCING ANALYSIS

Analysis DNA sequence of *HpmA* gene

Three samples had sequenced through PCR-sequences by Macrogen company/ Korea sending .The nucleotide substitution had determined by comber the data that obtained from gene bank publish which available at NCBI (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>).

The results of gene sequence analysis *HpmA* has shown that there was one polymorphism in 3 isolates of the gene *Hpm A* as shown in fig (2,3,4) and table (1). In the isolation of *P. mirabilis* (MF993443) has found Adenine nucleotide substitutions to Guanine at locus 1004761. However the results shown silent variation, this type of variation do not lead to a change in the sequence of amino acid in the protein and do not alter function of protein as shown in table (1) [15].

Samples (MF993443) presented 99 % identity for *hpmA* compared to the same genes of the CP015347.1. While samples, (MF993444, MF993445) respectively presented 100 % identity for *HpmA* compared to the same genes of the CP021550.1, CP021550.1 respectively strain.

Table (1): Primer sequence of *hpm A* gene and PCR condition.

Genes	Sequence (5' to 3')	PCR condition	Size (bp)	References
<i>hpmA</i>	F- GTTGAGGGGCGTTATCAAGAGTC	95 ° C 5min 1x 95 ° C 30sec 62° C 30sec 30x 72 ° C 20 sec 72 ° C 5min 1x	709	(Cestari <i>et al.</i> , 2013)
	R-GATAACTGTTTTGCCCTTTTGTGC			

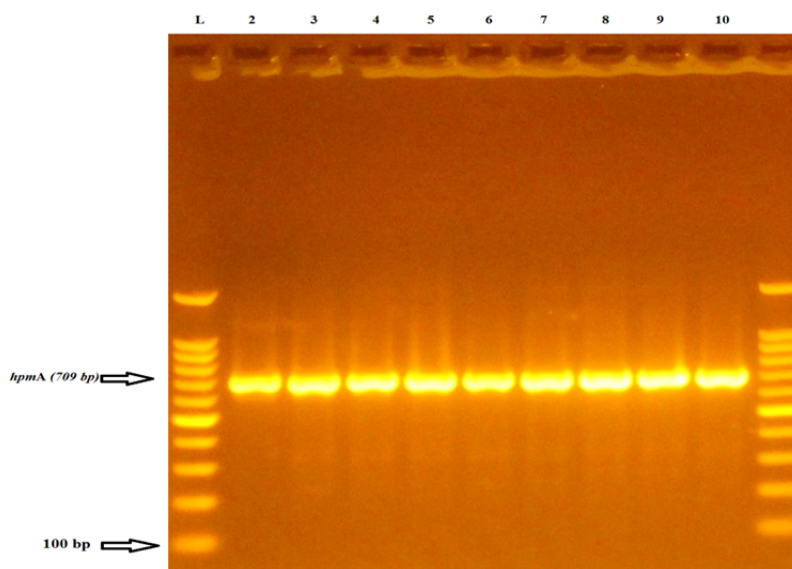


Figure (1): Agarose gel electrophoresis (2% agarose, 75 V for 1:45 hour) of *hpmA* and PCR products (709bp) codify for α-hemolysin of *P. mirabilis* isolates. Lane 1DNA ladder) , 100-1100bp molecular marker, lanes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 isolates were positive results.

Table (1): Type polymorphism of in the *HpmA* gene sequence in *Proteus mirabilis*

No. Of sample	Type of substitution	Location	Nucleotide	Nucleotide change	Amino acid change	Predicted effect	Range of nucleotide	Sequence ID	Score	Expect	Identities	SOURCE
1	Transition	1004761	A>G	GAA>GAG	Glutamic acid> Glutamic acid	Silent	1004493 to 1005095	ID: CP015347.1	1109	0.0	99%	<i>Proteus mirabilis</i> HPMA
2		-----					3580709 to 3581335	ID: CP021550.1	1158	0.0	100%	<i>Proteus mirabilis</i> HPMA
3		-----					3580708 to 3581337	ID: CP021550.1	1164	0.0	100%	<i>Proteus mirabilis</i> HPMA

Figure (2): Isolate number (1)

Proteus mirabilis strain AOUC-001, complete genome

Sequence ID: CP015347.1Length: 4272433Number of Matches: 1

Related Information

Range 1: 1004493 to 1005095GenBankGraphicsNext MatchPrevious Match

Alignment statistics for match #1

Score	Expect	Identities	Gaps	Strand
1109 bits(600)	0.0	602/603(99%)	0/603(0%)	Plus/Minus
Query 1	ATGTTGGTATCGATGTTGGCGTTAATCTTGATTATAGCGGTGTAACGAAGCCAGTTAAGA	60		
Sbjct 1005095	ATGTTGGTATCGATGTTGGCGTTAATCTTGATTATAGCGGTGTAACGAAGCCAGTTAAGA	1005036		
Query 61	AAGCAATCGAAGATGGTGTTAACACAACCAAAACCGGGTAACAATACCGATTAACTAAAA	120		
Sbjct 1005035	AAGCAATCGAAGATGGTGTTAACACAACCAAAACCGGGTAACAATACCGATTAACTAAAA	1004976		
Query 121	AAGTTACAGCAAGAGATGCAATTGCTAATTTAGCTAACCTTAGCAATTTAGAGACCCCCA	180		
Sbjct 1004975	AAGTTACAGCAAGAGATGCAATTGCTAATTTAGCTAACCTTAGCAATTTAGAGACCCCCA	1004916		
Query 181	ATGTCGGTGTGAAGTTGGTATTAAGGTGGTGGTAGTCAGAAATCACAACCGATAGCC	240		
Sbjct 1004915	ATGTCGGTGTGAAGTTGGTATTAAGGTGGTGGTAGTCAGAAATCACAACCGATAGCC	1004856		
Query 241	AAGCCGTTTCAACCTCTATCAATGCAGGAAAAATCAACATTGATAGTAATAATAAGTTAC	300		
Sbjct 1004855	AAGCCGTTTCAACCTCTATCAATGCAGGAAAAATCAACATTGATAGTAATAATAAGTTAC	1004796		
Query 301	ATGATCAAGGTACTCACTATCAATCAACCCAAAGAGGTATTTCTCTCACAGCAAACACCC	360		
Sbjct 1004795	ATGATCAAGGTACTCACTATCAATCAACCCAAAGAGGTATTTCTCTCACAGCAAACACCC	1004736		
Query 361	ACACAAGTGAGGTCGCGCAAGATAAACATCAAACGACATTCCATGAAACAAAAGGCGGTG	420		
Sbjct 1004735	ACACAAGTGAGGTCGCGCAAGATAAACATCAAACGACATTCCATGAAACAAAAGGCGGTG	1004676		
Query 421	GACAAGTTGGTGTCACTACTAAAACGGGCAAGTATACCCTTGCTATTAAGGTGAAG	480		
Sbjct 1004675	GACAAGTTGGTGTCACTACTAAAACGGGCAAGTATACCCTTGCTATTAAGGTGAAG	1004616		
Query 481	GCCAAACAACGATAACGCCTTAATGAAACAAAAGGCTAAAGGTAGCCAATTTACCTCAA	540		
Sbjct 1004615	GCCAAACAACGATAACGCCTTAATGAAACAAAAGGCTAAAGGTAGCCAATTTACCTCAA	1004556		
Query 541	ATGGCGATATTTGATTAATGTAGGTGAAGATGCCATTATGAAGGTGCTCAATTTGATG	600		
Sbjct 1004555	ATGGCGATATTTGATTAATGTAGGTGAAGATGCCATTATGAAGGTGCTCAATTTGATG	1004496		
Query 601	CAC	603		
Sbjct 1004495	CAC	1004493		

hemolysin [Proteus mirabilis]

Sequence ID: WP_080047776.1Length: 1577Number of Matches: 1

See 1 more title(s)

Related Information

Identical Proteins-Identical proteins to WP_080047776.1

Range 1: 863 to 1062GenPeptGraphicsNext MatchPrevious Match

Alignment statistics for match #1

Score	Expect	Method	Identities	Positives	Gaps	Frame
398 bits(1023)	3e-126	Compositional matrix adjust.	200/200(100%)	200/200(100%)	0/200(0%)	+3
Query 3	VGIDVGVNLDYSGVTKPVKKAIEDGVNNTKPGNNTDLTKKVTARDAIANLANLSNLETPN	182				
Sbjct 863	VGIDVGVNLDYSGVTKPVKKAIEDGVNNTKPGNNTDLTKKVTARDAIANLANLSNLETPN	922				
Query 183	VGVEVGKGGGSQKSQTSQAVSTSNAGKINIDSNNKLHDQGHYQSTQEGISLTANTH	362				
Sbjct 923	VGVEVGKGGGSQKSQTSQAVSTSNAGKINIDSNNKLHDQGHYQSTQEGISLTANTH	982				
Query 363	TSEVAQDKHQTTFHETKGGGQVGVSTKTGSDITVAIKGEGQTTDNALMETKAKGSQFTSN	542				
Sbjct 983	TSEVAQDKHQTTFHETKGGGQVGVSTKTGSDITVAIKGEGQTTDNALMETKAKGSQFTSN	1042				
Query 543	GDISINVGEDAHYEGAQFDA	602				
Sbjct 1043	GDISINVGEDAHYEGAQFDA	1062				

Figure (3): Isolate number (2)

Proteus mirabilis strain AR_0159, complete genome

Sequence ID: CP021550.1Length: 4055152Number of Matches: 1

Related Information

Range 1: 3580709 to 3581335GenBankGraphicsNext MatchPrevious Match

Alignment statistics for match #1

Score	Expect	Identities	Gaps	Strand
1158 bits(627)	0.0	627/627(100%)	0/627(0%)	Plus/Minus
Query 1	CATCTAAAAC	TGACAGCTTAAATGTTGGTATCAATGTTGGCGTTAATCTTGATTATAGCG	60	
Sbjct 3581335	CATCTAAAAC	TGACAGCTTAAATGTTGGTATCAATGTTGGCGTTAATCTTGATTATAGCG	3581276	
Query 61	GTGTAACGAAGCCAGTTAAGAAGGCAATCGAAGATGGTGTAAACACAACCAACCGGGTA	120		
Sbjct 3581275	GTGTAACGAAGCCAGTTAAGAAGGCAATCGAAGATGGTGTAAACACAACCAACCGGGTA	3581216		
Query 121	ACAATACCGATTAACTAAAAAAGTTACAGCAAGAGATGCAATTGCTAATTTAGCTAACC	180		
Sbjct 3581215	ACAATACCGATTAACTAAAAAAGTTACAGCAAGAGATGCAATTGCTAATTTAGCTAACC	3581156		
Query 181	TTAGCAATTTAGAGACCCCAATGTCGGTGTGAAGTTGGTATTAAGGTGGTGGTAGTC	240		
Sbjct 3581155	TTAGCAATTTAGAGACCCCAATGTCGGTGTGAAGTTGGTATTAAGGTGGTGGTAGTC	3581096		
Query 241	AGAAATCAAAAACCGATAGCCAAGCCGTTCAACCTCTATCAATGCAGGAAAAATCAACA	300		
Sbjct 3581095	AGAAATCAAAAACCGATAGCCAAGCCGTTCAACCTCTATCAATGCAGGAAAAATCAACA	3581036		
Query 301	TTGATAGTAATAATAAGTTACATGATCAAGGTAAGTACTACTATCAATCAACCAAGAGGGTA	360		
Sbjct 3581035	TTGATAGTAATAATAAGTTACATGATCAAGGTAAGTACTACTATCAATCAACCAAGAGGGTA	3580976		
Query 361	TTTCTCTCACAGCAAACACCCACACAAGTGAGGCCGCGCAAGATAAACATCAAACAACAT	420		
Sbjct 3580975	TTTCTCTCACAGCAAACACCCACACAAGTGAGGCCGCGCAAGATAAACATCAAACAACAT	3580916		
Query 421	TCCATGAAACAAAAGGCGGTGGACAAGTTGATGTCAGTACAAAACGGGCAGTGATATTA	480		
Sbjct 3580915	TCCATGAAACAAAAGGCGGTGGACAAGTTGATGTCAGTACAAAACGGGCAGTGATATTA	3580856		
Query 481	CCGTTGCTATTAAGGTGAAGGCCAAACAAGTATAACGCCTTAATGGAAACAAAGGCTA	540		
Sbjct 3580855	CCGTTGCTATTAAGGTGAAGGCCAAACAAGTATAACGCCTTAATGGAAACAAAGGCTA	3580796		
Query 541	AAGGTAGCCAATTTACCTCAAATGGCGATATTTGATTAATGTAGGTGAAGATGCCCAT	600		
Sbjct 3580795	AAGGTAGCCAATTTACCTCAAATGGCGATATTTGATTAATGTAGGTGAAGATGCCCAT	3580736		
Query 601	ATGAAGGTGCTCAATTTGATGCACAAA	627		
Sbjct 3580735	ATGAAGGTGCTCAATTTGATGCACAAA	3580709		

hemolysin [Proteus mirabilis]

Sequence ID: WP_087741119.1Length: 1577Number of Matches: 1

See 1 more title(s)

Related Information

Identical Proteins-Identical proteins to WP_087741119.1

Range 1: 856 to 1063GenPeptGraphicsNext MatchPrevious Match

Alignment statistics for match #1

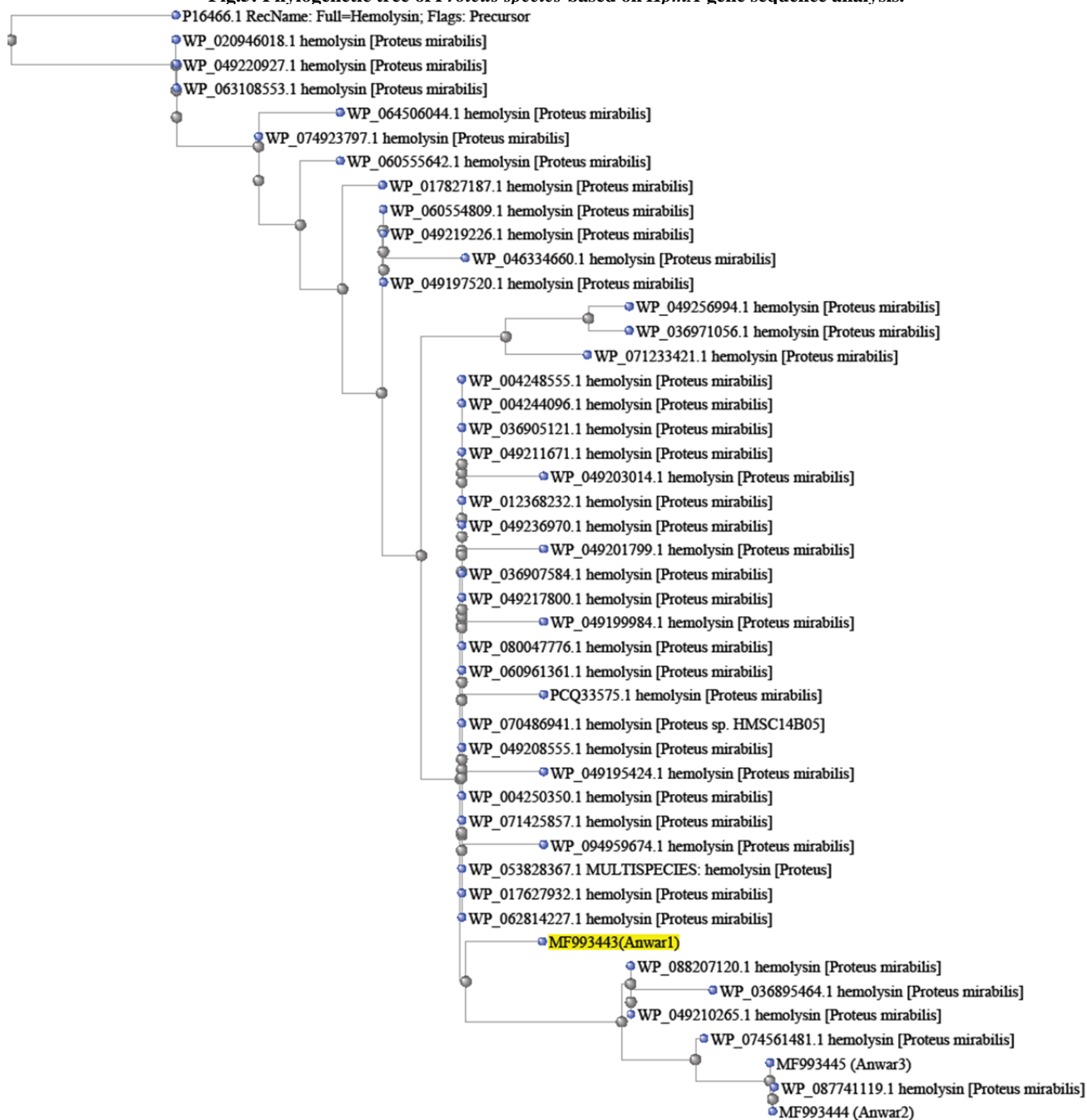
Score	Expect	Method	Identities	Positives	Gaps	Frame
413 bits(1062)	2e-131	Compositional matrix adjust.	208/208(100%)	208/208(100%)	0/208(0%)	+3
Query 3	SKTDSLNVGINVGNLDYSGVTKPVKKAIEDGVNNTKPGNNTDLTKKVTARDAIANLANL	182				
Sbjct 856	SKTDSLNVGINVGNLDYSGVTKPVKKAIEDGVNNTKPGNNTDLTKKVTARDAIANLANL	915				
Query 183	SNLETPNVGVEVGKGGGSQKSKTDSQAVSTSNAGKINIDSNNKLHDQGHYQSTQEGI	362				
Sbjct 916	SNLETPNVGVEVGKGGGSQKSKTDSQAVSTSNAGKINIDSNNKLHDQGHYQSTQEGI	975				
Query 363	SLTANTHTSEAAQDKHQITFHETKGGGQVDVSTKTGSDITVAIKGEGQTTDNALMETKAK	542				
Sbjct 976	SLTANTHTSEAAQDKHQITFHETKGGGQVDVSTKTGSDITVAIKGEGQTTDNALMETKAK	1035				
Query 543	GSQFTSNGDISINVGEDAHYEGAQFDAQ	626				
Sbjct 1036	GSQFTSNGDISINVGEDAHYEGAQFDAQ	1063				

Figure (4): Isolate number (3)

Proteus mirabilis strain AR_0159, complete genome
 Sequence ID: CP021550.1Length: 4055152Number of Matches: 1
 Related Information
 Range 1: 3580708 to 3581337GenBankGraphicsNext MatchPrevious Match

Alignment statistics for match #1				
Score	Expect	Identities	Gaps	Strand
1164 bits(630)	0.0	630/630(100%)	0/630(0%)	Plus/Minus
Query 1	AACATCTAAAAC	TGACAGCTTAAATGTTGGTATCAATGTTGGCGTTAATCTTGATTATAG		60
Sbjct 3581337	AACATCTAAAAC	TGACAGCTTAAATGTTGGTATCAATGTTGGCGTTAATCTTGATTATAG		3581278
Query 61	CGGTGTAACGAAGCCAGTTAAGAAGGCAATCGAAGATGGTGTTAACACAACCAAACCGGG			120
Sbjct 3581277	CGGTGTAACGAAGCCAGTTAAGAAGGCAATCGAAGATGGTGTTAACACAACCAAACCGGG			3581218
Query 121	TAACAATACCGATTAACTAAAAAAGTTACAGCAAGAGATGCAATTGCTAATTTAGCTAA			180
Sbjct 3581217	TAACAATACCGATTAACTAAAAAAGTTACAGCAAGAGATGCAATTGCTAATTTAGCTAA			3581158
Query 181	CCTTAGCAATTTAGAGACCCCAATGTCGGTGTGAAGTTGGTATTAAGGTGGTGGTAG			240
Sbjct 3581157	CCTTAGCAATTTAGAGACCCCAATGTCGGTGTGAAGTTGGTATTAAGGTGGTGGTAG			3581098
Query 241	TCAGAAATCAAAAACCGATAGCCAAGCCGTTCAACCTCTATCAATGCAGGAAAAATCAA			300
Sbjct 3581097	TCAGAAATCAAAAACCGATAGCCAAGCCGTTCAACCTCTATCAATGCAGGAAAAATCAA			3581038
Query 301	CATTGATAGTAATAATAAGTTACATGATCAAGGTACTCACTATCAATCAACCAAGAGGG			360
Sbjct 3581037	CATTGATAGTAATAATAAGTTACATGATCAAGGTACTCACTATCAATCAACCAAGAGGG			3580978
Query 361	TATTTCTCTCACAGCAAACACCCACACAAGTGAGGCCGCGCAAGATAAACATCAAACAAC			420
Sbjct 3580977	TATTTCTCTCACAGCAAACACCCACACAAGTGAGGCCGCGCAAGATAAACATCAAACAAC			3580918
Query 421	ATTCCATGAAACAAAAGGCGGTGGACAAGTTGATGTCAGTACCAAAACGGGCAGTGATAT			480
Sbjct 3580917	ATTCCATGAAACAAAAGGCGGTGGACAAGTTGATGTCAGTACCAAAACGGGCAGTGATAT			3580858
Query 481	TACCGTTGCTATTAAGGTGAAGGCCAAACAAGTATAACGCCTTAATGGAAACAAAGGC			540
Sbjct 3580857	TACCGTTGCTATTAAGGTGAAGGCCAAACAAGTATAACGCCTTAATGGAAACAAAGGC			3580798
Query 541	TAAAGGTAGCCAATTTACCTCAAATGGCGATATTTGATTAATGTAGGTGAAGATGCCCA			600
Sbjct 3580797	TAAAGGTAGCCAATTTACCTCAAATGGCGATATTTGATTAATGTAGGTGAAGATGCCCA			3580738
Query 601	TTATGAAGGTGCTCAATTTGATGCACAAAA			630
Sbjct 3580737	TTATGAAGGTGCTCAATTTGATGCACAAAA			3580708
hemolysin [Proteus mirabilis] Sequence ID: WP_087741119.1Length: 1577Number of Matches: 1 See 1 more title(s) Related Information Identical Proteins-Identical proteins to WP_087741119.1 Range 1: 855 to 1063GenPeptGraphicsNext MatchPrevious Match				

Alignment statistics for match #1						
Score	Expect	Method	Identities	Positives	Gaps	Frame
415 bits(1066)	4e-132	Compositional matrix adjust.	209/209(100%)	209/209(100%)	0/209(0%)	+2
Query 2	TSKTDSLNVGINVGVNLDYSGVTKPVKKAIEDGVNNTKPGNNTDLTKKVTARDAIANLAN					181
Sbjct 855	TSKTDSLNVGINVGVNLDYSGVTKPVKKAIEDGVNNTKPGNNTDLTKKVTARDAIANLAN					914
Query 182	LSNLETPNVGVEVGIKGGGSQKSKTDSQAVSTSINAGKINIDSNNKLHDQGHYQSTQEG					361
Sbjct 915	LSNLETPNVGVEVGIKGGGSQKSKTDSQAVSTSINAGKINIDSNNKLHDQGHYQSTQEG					974
Query 362	ISLTANTHTSEAAQDKHQTTFHETKGGGQVDVSTKTGSDITVAIKGEGQTTDNALMETKA					541
Sbjct 975	ISLTANTHTSEAAQDKHQTTFHETKGGGQVDVSTKTGSDITVAIKGEGQTTDNALMETKA					1034
Query 542	KGSQFTSNGDISINVGEDAHYEGAQFDAQ					628
Sbjct 1035	KGSQFTSNGDISINVGEDAHYEGAQFDAQ					1063

Fig.5: Phylogenetic tree of *Proteus species* based on *HpmA* gene sequence analysis.

Through the sequencing of the α -hemolysin at *P. mirabilis*, it was observed that this hemolysin consists of two genes, *hpmA* and *hpmB* [7]. Detecting and characterizing *P. mirabilis* hemolysin *HpmA* has required to elucidate its importance as a virulence factor, in addition to its probable relationship with other factors produced by *P. mirabilis* that together contribute to cytotoxicity in the UTIs of humans [7].

Mordi and Momoh found a change in the amino acid or replacement with other amino acid might lead to change in the nature of protein or output and thus lead to the emergence of strains resistant or sensitive to antibiotics [16].

In previous studies for *P. mirabilis* strains had used isolates from patients with UTIs in Brazil, from 2000 to 2009.

The *hpmA* and *hpmB* genes had sequenced in the local isolation samples presented 98 % identity for *hpmA* and *hpmB* compared to

the same genes of the HI4320 (wild strain) (NCBI GenBank Number NC_010554.1) and when the two samples of this study were compared there was 100 % identity among the genes [17].

Genotyping which works to establish the relationship between bacteria strain on the basis of their genetic content uses many genotyping methods that had become important in the field of genealogy between breeds in the field of epidemiological studies furthermore in field of classification of bacteria, identification of sources, method of infection and the differentiation of strain of high virulent bacteria to prevent their spread and elimination [18]. Other studies whom found molecular mimicry or similarity between *Proteus* and self antigens, patients infected with *Proteus* microbes would produced not only antibodies against this microbe but also against the self tissue molecules [19]. Molecular mimicry sequence ESRRAL in *P. mirabilis* haemolysin, which has the

same shape and charge distribution as the RA susceptibility sequence EQRRAA [20].

Therefore, the study found great importance in the genetic sequence of *P. mirabilis* virulence factors and explored its variation. In conclusion the isolates had polymorphism in *HpmA* genes .

A phylogenetic tree of based in the *HpmA* gene

Molecular phylogenetic is the branch of phylogeny that analyses hereditary molecular differences, mainly in DNA sequences, to gain information on an organism's evolutionary relationships [21]. The identified genetic profile of any bacteria by a specific genotyping method can be as unique as fingerprint [21].

However, phylogeny estimated from a single gene should be treated with caution [22][23]. The phylogenetic tree derived from genes *HpmA* gene sequences of clinical strains of 3 sample *Proteus mirabilis* with other sequences available at NCBI showed in (Fig.5). As to be seen in the this figure, *P. mirabilis* (MF993443) lies in the same branch of the phylogenetic tree with *P. mirabilis* (WP_088207120.1).

Sequences of 16SrRNA with the size of 1.5 Kb has considered and widely used in bacterial taxonomy because it contains high conservation region which had variable region in different species. Furthermore, the most importance was that 16SrRNA gene could sequenced easily [23].

On the other hand, the sensitivity of this approach has questioned particularly among human bacterial closely related *Enterobacteriaceae*, which includes many common pathogens because of the high degree of conservation in species [23].

Therefore, the using of other genes rather than 16S rRNA gene the distinction between bacteria at the species level has very important issue [24].

Results indicated that the *HpmA* gene was a suitable and efficient molecular marker for the distinction of *P. mirabilis* and could used as an alternative molecular tool for examining phylogenetic relationships of the *P. mirabilis* and a powerful tool for the study of different microorganisms.

The genome sequence gives a significant clue to understand the regulatory and metabolic network that link chromosomal genes [15]. In current study the sequence of the *HpmA* genes has used as a molecular clock to estimate relationships among bacteria (phylogeny), but more recently it has also become important as a means to identify an unknown bacterium up to the genus or species level.

By combining of molecular phylogeny with traditional approach, such as morphological, physiological and biochemical characteristics, bacteria identification could achieved more accurately [25] [26].

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