Complete Genome Sequences of Three Important Methicillin-Resistant Clinical Isolates of *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius*

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We report the first complete genome sequences of three predominant clones (ST68, ST71, and ST84) of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* in North America. All strains were isolated from canine infections and have different SCCmec elements and antibiotic resistance gene patterns.

*S. pseudintermedius* is a Gram-positive opportunistic pathogen (1) that primarily causes infections in canines but is also relevant to human medicine (2–4), particularly with the worldwide expansion of methicillin-resistant clonal lineages (5–8). While a complete genome is publicly available for a European methicillin-resistant S. pseudintermedius (MRSP) isolate (9), no complete MRSP genomes from dominant clonal lineages in North America are available. Here, we present the complete circular chromosomes of MRSP strains NA45, 081661, and 063228, which were isolated from canine infections in 2006 and 2008 and represent three dominant sequence types (ST) in North America, namely, ST84, ST71, and ST68, respectively (10).

All isolates were sequenced using Roche/454 (Roche Diagnostics, Switzerland), Illumina MiSeq (Illumina, Inc., USA), and Ion Torrent technologies (Thermo, Fisher Scientific, USA), and Ion Torrent technologies (Pacific Biosciences, USA). All genomes were mapped using the Argus Whole Genome Mapping System (Opgen, Inc., USA). *De novo* assemblies were individually produced and merged using Geneious version 9.1.3 (11) and CLC Genomics Workbench version 9.0 (https://www.qiagenbioinformatics.com). PacBio reads and whole-genome maps were used for scaffolding and genome closure (12). Automated annotation for strain 063228 was performed using the RAST server (http://rast.nmpdr.org), while the NCBI Prokaryote Genome Annotation Pipeline (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/annotation_prok) was used for NA45 and 081661.

The total number of high-quality reads for strain NA45 were 29,463 (PacBio), 583,182 (Illumina), 279,674 (Roche), and 4,660,374 (Ion Torrent), resulting in >250-fold overall coverage. The NA45 genome is 2,841,212 bp with a 37.3% GC content, 2,665 predicted coding sequences, and 77 predicted RNAs. High-quality reads for strain 081661 were 4,660,374 (Ion Torrent), resulting in >250-fold overall coverage. The 081661 genome is 2,731,109 bp with a 37.5% GC content, 2,610 predicted coding sequences, and 87 predicted RNAs.

High-quality reads for strain 063228 were 24,585 (PacBio), 15,886,636 (Illumina), 113,288 (Roche), and 3,864,512 (Ion Torrent), resulting in >250-fold overall coverage. The 063228 genome is 2,766,566 bp with a 37.4% GC content, 2,734 predicted coding sequences, and 77 predicted RNAs.

The 081661 genome shared 99% identity over 96% of the published ST71 European isolate E140, with the major differences resulting from prophage composition (9). In addition to the methicillin resistance gene *mecA*, all strains contained the beta-lactamase gene *blaZ*, the kanamycin and streptomycin resistance genes *aph(3’)-III and ant(6)-Ia*. Strains 063228 and 081661 also harbor genes conferring resistance to gentamicin-kanamycin [aac(6’)-Ie-aph(2’)-Ia], macrolides-lincosamides-streptogramins B [erm(B)], while strain 063228 had additional lincosamide and tetracycline resistance genes *bmu(A) and tet(M)* (13). The methicillin resistance gene *mecA* was found on the staphylococcal cassette chromosome *mec* (SCCmec) SCCmecV in 063228, on SCCmecII-III in strain 081661, and on a novel SCCmec element in strain NA45. This 43,922-bp cassette has *mecA* integrated in the opposite direction compared to all other SCCmec elements (14) and contains the recombine gene *ccrC6*.

The complete genomes of these three strains belonging to three predominant clones causing infections in dogs in the United States permits further comparative genomic analyses and gives new insights into the molecular epidemiology and biological characteristics of *S. pseudintermedius*.

**Accession number(s).** These whole-genome projects have been deposited in DDBJ/ENA/GenBank under the accession numbers CP016072, CP016073, and CP015626. The versions described in this paper are the first versions, CP016072.1, CP016073.1, and CP015626.1.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We acknowledge the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine Bacteriology Lab for isolating strains 081661 and 063228 and for technical assistance and susceptibility testing, as well as Faye Hartmann at the Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine for providing strain NA45.
We also thank the Canine Health Foundation and the Center of Excellence in Livestock Diseases and Human Health for funding and support.

**FUNDING INFORMATION**

This work, including the efforts of Stephen Anthony Kania, was funded by the Canine Health Foundation. This work, including the efforts of Stephen Anthony Kania, was funded by the Center of Excellence in Livestock Diseases and Human Health.

The funders had no role in study design, data collection and interpretation, or the decision to submit the work for publication.

**REFERENCES**


