Full Title: Genome wide identification of genes required for bacterial plant infection by Tn-seq Short title: Dickeya dadantii virulence genes in chicory Kevin Royet¹, Nicolas Parisot², Agnès Rodrigue¹, Erwan Gueguen¹* and Guy Condemine¹ 1 Univ Lyon, Université Lyon 1, INSA de Lyon, CNRS UMR 5240 Microbiologie Adaptation et Pathogénie, F-69622 Villeurbanne, France. 2 Univ Lyon, INSA-Lyon, INRA, BF2I, UMR0203, F-69621, Villeurbanne, France *Corresponding author. erwan.gueguen@univ-lyon1.fr

Abstract

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Soft rot enterobacteria (*Dickeya* and *Pectobacterium*) are major pathogens that provoke diseases on plants of agricultural importance such as potato and ornamentals. Long term studies to identify virulence factors of these bacteria focused mostly on plant cell wall degrading enzymes secreted by the type II Out secretion system and the regulation of their expression. To identify new virulence factors we performed a Tn-seq genome-wide screen of a transposon mutant library during chicory infection followed by high-throughput sequencing. This allowed the detection of mutants with reduced but also increased fitness in the plant. Virulence factors identified differed from those previously known since diffusible ones (secreted enzymes, siderophores or metabolites) were not detected by this screen. In addition to genes encoding proteins of unknown function that could be new virulence factors, others could be assigned to known biological functions. The central role of the FlhDC regulatory cascade in the control of virulence was highlighted with the identification of new members of this pathway. Scarcity of the plant in certain amino acids and nucleic acids required presence of the corresponding biosynthetic genes in the bacteria. Their products could be targets for the development of antibacterial compounds. Among the genes required for full development in chicory we also identified six genes involved in the glycosylation of the flagellin FliC. We showed that absence of this modification reduces virulence of D. dadantii on celery. Since homologues of these genes are present in other Dickeya and Pectobacterium strains, this modification could be an important factor for soft rot enterobacteriale virulence.

Author summary

Identification of virulence factors of plant pathogenic bacteria has relied on the test of individual mutants on plants, a time-consuming method. New methods like transcriptomic or

proteomic can now be used but they only allow the identification of genes induced during the infection process and non-induced genes may be missed. Tn-seq is a very powerful method to identify genes required for bacterial growth in their host. We used for the first time this method in a plant pathogenic bacteria to identify genes required for the multiplication of *Dickeya dadantii* in chicory. We identified about 100 genes with decreased or increased fitness in the plant. Most of them had no previously described role in bacterial virulence. We unveiled important metabolic genes and regulators of motility and virulence. We showed that *D. dadantii* flagellin is glycosylated and that this modification confers fitness to the bacteria during plant infection. Our work opens the way to the use of Tn-seq with bacterial phytopathogens. Test by this method of large collections of environmental pathogenic strains now available will allow an easy and rapid identification of new virulence factors.

Introduction

Dickeya are broad-host range phytopathogenic bacteria belonging to the Pectobacteriaceae family [1] that provoke the soft rot disease on many plant species. They are the cause of significant losses on economically important crops such as potato, chicory and ornamentals. Identification and studies on the virulence factors of these bacteria have been performed mostly on the model strain *D. dadantii* 3937 and focused mainly on three domains/aspects, known to be important for disease development: plant cell wall degrading enzymes, the type III secretion system and iron metabolism [2]. Secretion of plant cell wall degrading enzymes has long ago been identified as the bacteria main virulence factor. Many studies focused on the identification and characterization of these secreted enzymes, mostly

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pectinases [3], of the regulators controlling their production (kdgR, pecS, pecT, hns, gacA) [4-8], of the genes whose expression is coregulated with that of these secreted enzyme genes [9, 10], and of the mechanism of their secretion by the Out type II secretion system [11]. Although of a lesser importance for *Dickeya* virulence, the same type of approach has been used to identify Hrp type III secretion system regulators and effectors [12-14]. Moreover, competition for iron within the plant is strong. D. dadantii acquires this metal through production of two siderophores, chrysobactin and achromobactin [15-17]. More recently, omics approaches have also been used to identify genes induced during plant infection [18] [19] [20]. These studies now provide a clearer picture on a complex network of factors required for D. dadantii virulence [2, 21]. However, these approaches may have missed some important factors not targeted by these analyses. Subsequently, more global screens need to be performed to identify these factors. Libraries of transposon-induced mutants were tested on plants to find mutants showing reduced virulence with *Pectobacterium carotovorum* and P. atrosepticum, two other soft rot enterobacteria [22, 23]. These studies identified auxotrophs, mutants defective in production or secretion of exoenzymes and in motility. Other mutants with a more complex phenotype were not characterized at this time. Moreover, the number of tested mutants was limited by the necessity to test individually each mutant on plant. This type of work has never been performed on *Dickeya* strains. To have a more complete view of the genes required for the virulence of *Dickeya*, we used a high-throughput sequencing of a saturated transposon library (Tn-seq) to screen tens of thousands random insertion mutants of D. dadantii in laboratory medium and during infection of chicory. Tnseq has been extensively used to uncover essential genes required for mouse colonization by human pathogens Vibrio cholerae [24], Pseudomonas aeruginosa [25] and Streptococcus pneumoniae [26]. Thus, Tn-seq is a very powerful method to identify genes required for bacterial growth in their host. However, this technology has not yet been employed to unveil genes required for the multiplication of a phytopathogen in a plant host. By applying this technique to screen a *D. dadantii* mutant library in chicory, we identified metabolic pathways and bacterial genes required for growth *in planta*. Among them, we found a cluster of genes required for flagellin glycosylation, a modification known to be important for several plant pathogenic bacteria virulence.

Results and discussion

Characterization of *D. dadantii* 3937 *Himar1* transposon library

Many tools are available to perform Tn-seq [27]. In order to perform a Tn-seq experiment with *D. dadantii* 3937, we used a *Himar9* mariner transposon derivative carrying *Mmel* restriction sites in the inverted repeats (IR) and a kanamycin resistance cassette between the IRs [28]. We realized a biparental mating between *E. coli* and *D. dadantii* on M63 agar medium without carbon source and amino acids. We obtained approximately 300 000 colonies that were pooled. Subsequent DNA sequencing (see below) showed the presence of transposon insertions in amino acid biosynthesis pathways, demonstrating that mating on M63 minimal medium does not prevent the acquisition of auxotroph mutants. To identify essential genes, mutants were grown in LB medium during several generations. Two DNA libraries were prepared from two cultures and subjected to high-throughput sequencing. The mariner transposon inserts into TA dinucleotides. The TPP software [29] was used to determine the number of reads at each TA site for each biological replicate. *D. dadantii* genome has 171,791 TA sites that can be targeted by the *Himar9* transposase. Pairs of biological replicates were compared. 37,794 and 48,101 unique insertions in TAs were detected in each sample, which corresponds to 22 and 28% density of insertion, respectively

(Table 1). The average number of reads per TA is 88 and 75, respectively. The results were reproducible with a Pearson correlation coefficient of 72% (Fig. S1) The location of the unique insertions showed an even distribution around the chromosome (Fig. 1A). For each gene, we calculated a log₂FC corresponding to a ratio between the measured number of reads and the expected number of reads. The density plot (Fig. 1B) indicates that essential and nonessential genes are easily distinguishable, confirming the good quality of our Tn-seq libraries. Indeed non essential genes are expected to have a positive FC, whereas essential genes are expected to have none or few insertions. Then, gene essentiality of the Tn-seq input libraries was determined by using the TRANSIT software [29]. We decided to use the Hidden Markov Model (HMM) method which predicts essentiality and non-essentiality for individual insertion sites since it has been shown to give good prediction in datasets with density as low as 20% [29]. The HMM analysis led to the identification of 665 genes essential for growth in LB (ES), representing 14% of the genes of D. dadantii 3937, a number in the range of those found for this type of analysis with bacteria. 552 genes were categorized as Growth Defect genes (GD, i.e. mutations in these genes lead to loss of fitness), 125 as growth advantage genes (GA, i.e mutations in these genes lead to gain of fitness) and 3320 as non-essential genes (NE) (Table S2 and Fig. 1B)).

TABLE 1 Tn-Seq analysis of *Dickeya dadantii* 3937

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Mutant pool	Total no. of reads	No. of reads containing Tn end	No. of reads normalized ^a	No. of mapped reads to unique TA sites	No. of mapped reads to unique TA sites after LOESS correction	Density (%) ^b	Mean read count per TA ^c
LB #1	23,152,186	22,647,343	18,748,028	13,166,770 (70 %)	12,904,900 (69 %)	28 %	75
LB #2	30,105,412	27,963,154	18,748,028	15,535,291 (83 %)	15,195,582 (81 %)	22 %	88
Chicory #1	18,925,029	18,748,028	18,748,028	17,535,146 (94 %)	14,906,888 (79 %)	24 %	87
Chicory #2	27,607,717	26,555,297	18,748,028	17,477,706 (93 %)	16,955,724 (90 %)	23 %	99

^a The number of reads were normalized for each sample according to the Chicory #1 sample.

^b Dickeya dadantii 3937 genome has 171,791 TA sites. The density is the % of TAs for which mapped reads has been assigned by the TPP software.

^c The mean value of mapped reads per TA.

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Genes necessary for chicory leaf maceration. We used chicory leaf infection as a model to identify D. dadantii genes required for growth in plant tissues. Biological duplicates were performed to insure the reproducibility of the results. Each chicory was inoculated with 10⁷ bacteria from the mutant pool and after 2 days more than 10¹⁰ bacteria were collected from the rotten tissue. Sequencing transposon insertion sites in these bacteria followed by the TPP analysis indicated a density of unique insertion in TAs comparable to that of the input datasets (23-24%). Surprisingly, the results were more highly reproducible than in LB with a very high Pearson correlation coefficient of 98% (Fig. S1). In order to test the statistical significance of the identified genes conferring to D. dadantii a loss or a gain of fitness in planta, we performed the RESAMPLING (permutation test) analysis of the TRANSIT software. Applied to our Tn-seq datasets and selecting only genes achieving a FDR adjusted p-value (q-value) ≤ 0.05, we identified 122 genes out of 4666 required for fitness in planta, as shown with the volcano plot of RESAMPLING results comparing replicates grown in LB versus in planta (Fig. S2). From these 122 genes, we applied an additional cutoff by removing 20 genes with a mean read count in LB <5 (less than 5 reads in average per TA). These genes were categorized as ES or GD in LB. We also removed from the analysis 6 genes with a log₂FC comprised between -2 and 2. By applying all these criteria, we retained only 96 genes for a further analysis (Fig. 2). 92 of them were identified as GD genes in the chicory (log₂FC ≤2), the 4 left as GA genes in the chicory $(\log_2 FC \ge 2)$. Some of these genes, in bold in Fig. 2, were already known to play a role in D. dadantii virulence, confirming the validity of the Tn-seq approach. Using the Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) [30], we discovered that certain metabolic pathways and biological functions are very important for growth in chicory (Table S3). We highlight some of them in the next sections of the article.

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Analysis of the genes of D. dadantii required for plant colonization. (i) Metabolism. Chicory appears as an environment in which amino acids, nucleic acids and some vitamins (pyridoxal) are scarce. Of the 92 genes identified as GD genes in planta, 8 are involved in purine and 7 in pyrimidine metabolisms (Table S3). In the purine metabolism pathway, the inosine monophosphate (IMP) biosynthesis pathway that produces IMP from Lglutamine and 5-phosphoribosyl diphosphate is particularly important for D. dadantii in planta since 5 out of the 10 genes of this pathway were significantly GD genes in planta (Fig. 3). IMP is the precursor of adenine and guanine. Next, IMP can be converted in xanthosine 5'-phosphate (XMP) by the IMP dehydrogenase GuaB. guaB gene was also a GD gene in planta, with a strong log₂FC of -10.06 (Fig. 3). In the pyrimidine synthesis, the uridine monophosphate (UMP) biosynthesis pathway that converts L-glutamine to UMP, a precursor of uracyl, is very important in planta since carAB, pyrB, pyrC and pyrE, involved in this enzymatic pathway, were all required for growth in planta (Fig. 3). This pyrimidine biosynthesis pathway is specific to bacteria. It is noteworthy that in the human pathogen S. pneumoniae, mutants of this pathway have a fitness defect in the nasopharynx of infected mice [26]. Hence, it looks that the pyrimidine biosynthesis pathway is particularly important for multiplication of some bacterial species in the host. Mutants in genes involved in the synthesis of sulfur-containing amino acids (cysIJQ, metB), lysine (lysA) and leucine (leuABC) are disadvantaged in chicory (Fig. 2 and Fig. 4A). These amino acids are known to be present in low concentration in plant tissues. Other amino acids seem to be present in quantity sufficient for growth of D. dadantii auxotrophs. Low level of certain amino acids probably induced the stringent response in the bacteria. Reduced growth in the plant of the relA mutant, unable to synthesize the alarmone ppGpp, supports this hypothesis. Glucose is the main sugar present in plant tissue, present as a circulating sugar or

a cellulose degradation product. Mutants in the PTS glucose transport system genes ptsI and

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ptsG had a reduced growth in bacteria (Fig. 2) showing its importance as a carbon source in planta. Degradation of cell wall pectin by a battery of extracellular enzymes is the main determinant of *Dickeya* pathogenicity. Mutants unable to produce or to secrete these enzymes by the type II Out secretion system were not disfavored in chicory since these mutants could use for their growth the pectin degradation compounds produced by enzymes secreted by other bacteria. The redundancy of oligogalacturonate specific porins (KdgM and KdgN) and inner membrane transporters (TogT and TogMNABC) allow entry of these compounds into the bacteria even in a mutant in one of these transport systems. However, kduI mutants, blocked in the intracellular part of the pectin degradation pathway, had a limited growth in planta, confirming the importance of the pectin degradation pathway in the disease progression. (ii) Stress resistance. Plant is an hostile environment for the bacteria that has to cope with antimicrobial peptides, ROS, toxic compounds and acidic pH [31]. We observed that the pump AcrABTolC, that can efflux a wide range of compounds [32], was important for survival in chicory (Fig. S3). Stress can lead to the accumulation of phospholipids in the outer membrane. This accumulation makes the bacteria more sensitive to small toxic molecules [33]. Such a phospholipid accumulation probably occured when the bacteria infected chicory since mlaC and mlaF mutants, which are unable to prevent phospholipid accumulation in the outer membrane, had a reduced growth in plant. Production of exopolysaccharides (EPS) was shown to protect the bacteria during the first steps of infection [9]. We observed that rffG and wzx mutants unable to synthesize EPS had a growth defect in chicory. A set of genes required to repair or degrade altered proteins (clpA, degO, trxB) were also important for survival in planta. No gene directly involved in detoxification of ROS was detected in our analysis. However, ROS can create DNA damage. The two helicases involved in DNA repair, UvrD and HelD, gave growth advantage in plant. Osmoregulated periplasmic

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glycans (OPG) are polymers of glucose found in the periplasm of α , β and γ proteobacteria. Their exact role is unknown but their absence leads to avirulence in certain bacteria such as D. dadantii [34]. This absence induces a membrane stress that is sensed and transduced by the Rcs envelope stress response system. This system controls the expression of many genes, including those involved in motility, and those encoding plant cell wall degrading enzymes through the RsmA-RsmB system [35-37]. Thus, mutants defective in OPG synthesis are expected to have a reduced virulence. Indeed, in our experiment, mutants in the two genes involved in OPG synthesis, opgG and opgH were non competitive in chicory (Fig. 2). (iii) Iron uptake. D. dadantii produces two types of siderophores, achromobactin and chrysobactin, that are required for the development of maceration symptoms in the iron limited environment of plant hosts [38]. Once iron loaded, the siderophores are imported into the bacteria. Import through the outer membrane requires a specific outer membrane channel and the energy transducing complex formed by TonB ExbB and ExbD. While the absence of synthesis of one of the siderophores can be compensated by the presence of siderophore secreted by other bacteria in the growth medium, mutants of the TonB complex are totally unable to acquire iron and thus are unable to grow in the plant. In accordance, tonB was essential in chicory while the genes coding for siderophore synthesis or secretion were not. Similarly a mutant devoid of the iron-loaded chrysobactin transport gene (fct) was noncompetitive. (iv) Regulation. Mutants in several genes controlling virulence factor production have a growth defect in the plant. The master regulator FlhDC acts as a regulator of both flagella and virulence factor synthesis in many bacteria such as Yersinia ruckeri, Edwardsiella tarda and Ralstonia solanacearum [39-41]. In D. dadantii FlhDC has recently been shown to control, in addition to flagellar motility, type III secretion system and virulence factor synthesis through several pathways [42]. We observed that flhC gave a growth advantage in chicory. In

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addition, we uncovered that some genes regulating flhDC in other bacteria regulated D. dadantii virulence, probably by controlling flhDC expression. rsmC is a poorly characterized gene in D. dadantii but that has been studied in P. carotovorum. It negatively controls motility and extracellular enzyme production through modulating transcriptional activity of FlhCD [43]. HdfR is a poorly characterized LysR family regulator that controls the std fimbrial operon in S. enterica and FlhDC expression in E. coli [44]. rsmC mutants were overrepresented in the chicory (Fig. 4B), indicating a gain of virulence for these mutants. hdfR conferred fitness benefits during growth in chicory and could also act in D. dadantii as activator of *flhDC* expression. The GGDEF proteins are c-di-GMP synthase. Their genes are often located next to their cognate EAL diguanylate phosphodiesterase gene. ecpC (yhjH) encodes an EAL protein that was shown to activate virulence factor production in D. dadantii [45]. gcpA, which is located next to ecpC encodes a GGDEF protein. However, a gcpA mutant could not be constructed and analysed in this previous study. We observed that gcpA mutants (Dda 03858) were overrepresented in chicory (Fig. 2). This increased virulence is a phenotype opposite to that described for the ecpC mutants, indicating that overproduction of c-di-GMP could reduce D. dadantii virulence. Of the eighteen regulators of the LacI family present in D. dadantii, four were found to be involved in plant infection [46]. One of those, LfcR, which has been found important for infection of chicory, Saintpaulia and Arabidopsis, was identified as important for chicory infection in our experiment. LfcR is a repressor of adjacent genes [46]. Surprisingly none of these genes appeared to play a role for chicory infection suggesting that other targets of LfcR probably remain to be discovered. Finally, it is noteworthy to mention that the ackA and pta genes were GD in planta. These genes constitute the reversible Pta-AckA pathway. The steady-state concentration of acetylphosphate (acetyl-P), a signaling molecule in bacteria, depends upon the rate of its formation catalyzed by Pta and of its degradation catalyzed by AckA [47]. The GD phenotype of *D. dadantii ackA* and *pta* mutants during infection suggests that acetyl-P might play a crucial signaling role in the adaptation of *D. dadantii* to the plant tissue.

(v) Motility. Motility is an essential virulence factor of *D. dadantii* required to move on the surface of the leaf, enter the wounds and propagate into the plant tissue [48-50]. Accordingly, all the genes required for flagella synthesis, the flagella motor and genes regulating their synthesis (*flhC*, *flhD*, *fliA*) (see above) were necessary for fitness during chicory infection (Fig. 4C and 5A). All the genes responsible for the transduction of the chemotaxis signal (*cheA*, *B*, *R*, *W*, *X*, *Y* and *Z*) also confered a benefit *in planta* (Fig. 2). No methyl-accepting chemoreceptor gene mutant was found. Like other environmental bacteria, *D. dadantii* encodes many such proteins (47). They probably present some redundancy in the recognized signal which prevented their detection by our screen.

D. dadantii flagellin is modified by glycosylation

A group of six genes located between *fliA* and *fliC* retained our interest since insertions in these genes led to a growth defect in chicory (Fig. 5A). Dda3937_03424 encodes an O-linked N-acetylglucosamine transferase and Dda3937_03419 encodes a protein with a nucleotide diphospho sugar transferase predicted activity. The other ones could be involved in the modification of sugars (predicted function of Dda3937_03423: nucleotide sugar transaminase, Dda3937_03422: carbamoyl phosphate synthase, Dda3937_03421: oxidoreductase; Dda3937_03420: methyltransferase). Their location let suppose that this group of genes could be involved in flagellin glycosylation. Analysis by SDS-PAGE of FliC produced by the wild type, and the A4277 and A3422 strains (Dda3937_03424 and Dda3937_03419 mutants, respectively) showed that in the two latter strains the molecular

weight of the protein diminished (Fig. 5B). The molecular weight determined by mass spectroscopy was 28,911 Da for FliC_{A4277}, 31,034 Da for FliC_{A3422} and 32,258 Da for the WT FliC. Thus, in the wild type strain FliC is modified by the products of the genes Dda 03424 to Dda 03419, probably by multiple glycosylation with a disaccharide. Absence of modification did not alter D. dadantii motility (data not shown). Glycosylation of Gram negative bacteria flagellin is limited to a few bacterial species. However, this modification has been described in the plant pathogens *Pseudomonas syringae* pv tabaci and Burkholderia cenocepacia. Absence of this modification lowered the ability of these bacteria to cause disease on tobacco and Arabidopsis, respectively [51, 52]. Virulence of the glycosylation mutant A4277 was tested on several plants. While no difference could be observed when infecting chicory leaves (data not shown), length of rotten tissue was significantly reduced on celery leaves compared to the wild type strain (Fig. 5C). Glycosylation prevents flagellin epitope recognition and reduces induction of plant defense reactions. Thus, glycosylation mutants are more efficiently killed by the plant. Glycosylation genes can be found in the flagellar gene clusters of other *Dickeya* strains but also in *Pectobacterium* strains. This type of modification that confers an increased virulence to the bacteria could be common feature of flagellin in soft rot enterobacteriales.

Additional genes could be involved in virulence

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Several genes have a log₂FC >4 or <-4 but do not satisfy the statistical permutation test (Table S4). However, most of them belong to the categories described above and could be required for growth *in planta*. Among those with a log₂FC< -4 can be found genes involved in amino acid and nucleic acid synthesis (*cysH*, *ilvC*, *pyrF*, *pyrD*, *purC*, *thrC*, *metA*, *cysK*, *lysC*), flagella and motility (*flgJ*, *fliO*, *flgC*, *fliS*, *flgG*, *flgA*, *flgL*, *cheW*, *fliN*, *fliP*, *fliK*, *fliG*,

fliL), pectin and glucose metabolism (kduD, pgi), EPS synthesis (gmd), flagella glycosylation (vioA) and regulation (zur, ecpC and the general RNA chaperone hfq).

Among the genes with a $log_2FC > 4$, three regulators can be noticed: pecS, pecT and $Dda3937_00840$. pecS and pecT are known regulators of D. dadantii controlling the expression of many factors involved in virulence [5, 6]. Thus, their mutation could confer an increased fitness of the bacteria in chicory. D. dadantii possesses a functional expI-expR quorum sensing system which does not seem to control plant virulence factor production [53]. However, several LuxR family regulator genes which are not associated with a luxI gene are present in the genome of the bacteria. Mutants of one of them $(Dda3937_00840)$ were overrepresented in the chicory. Its product is probably a repressor of genes conferring an increased fitness in planta.

Validation of the Tn-seq results.

To validate the Tn-seq results, we performed coinoculation experiments in chicory leaves with the wild type strain and various mutants in genes conferring a growth advantage, a growth defect or no fitness benefit in a 1/1 ratio. We calculated a competitivity index (CI) by counting the number of each type of bacteria in the rotten tissue after 24 h. We found a correlation between the competitivity index of mutants with the log₂FC of the corresponding genes with a Pearson coefficient of 0.50 (Fig. 6), indicating that Tn-seq is a reliable technique to identify genes involved in plant colonization and virulence. Additional validations were performed by inoculation of uncharacterized leucine and cytosine auxotroph mutants in chicory leaves which confirmed that these mutants are unable to grow in plant and are thus avirulent (Fig S4).

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Conclusion This Tn-seq experiment highlights new factors required for D. dadantii successful rotting of chicory. Many genes known to be important for pathogenesis were not found in this screen because their products are secreted and can be shared with other strains in the community. This includes all the proteins secreted by the type II secretion system and small molecules such as siderophores and butanediol. Other categories of genes were not found: for example, no genes involved in response to acidic or oxidative stresses were identified. However, chicory has been described as an inadequate model to study the response of D. dadantii to oxidative stress [54]. Similarly, the type III hrp genes were not identified in our study. The Hrp system is not necessary for D. dadantii virulence and in our experimental conditions (high inoculum on isolated chicory leaves) the necrotrophic capacities of D. dadantii (production of plant cell wall degrading enzymes) is probably sufficient to provoke the disease. Studies on other host plants will allow to determine all the full virulence repertoire of the bacteria. Our results give also some information on the metabolic status of the plant. The amount of nucleic acids and of the cysteine, leucine, methionine, threonine and isoleucine amino acids is too low in chicory to allow the multiplication of mutant bacteria. Some enzymatic steps involved in their synthesis are specific to bacteria and fungi. Thus, they could be good target for the development of specific inhibitors [55] to fight D. dadantii. While Tn-seq has been used to study genes required for the infection of animals, there has been no genome-wide study of factors necessary for a plant pathogen to develop and provoke disease on a plant. Besides the genes of known function described in the Results section, this study allowed the identification of several genes of unknown function required for chicory

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rotting. Repetition of this experiment with other strains or on other plants will tell if these genes encode strain or host specific virulence factors. Methods Bacterial strains and growth conditions. Bacterial strains, phages, plasmids and oligonucleotides used in this study are described in Table S1. D. dadantii and E. coli cells were grown at 30 and 37°C respectively in LB medium or M63 minimal medium supplemented with a carbon source (2 g/L). When required antibiotics were added at the following concentration: ampicillin, 100 ug/L, kanamycin and chloramphenicol, 25 ug/L. Media were solidified with 1.5 g/L agar. Transduction with phage PhiEC2 was performed according to [56]. The motility of each mutant was compared with that of the wild-type strain on semisolid (0.4%) LB agar plates as previously described [57]. **Construction of the transposon library** 5 mL of an overnight culture of D. dadantii strain A350 and of E. coli MFDpir/pSamEC were mixed and centrifuged 2 min at 6000 g. The bacteria were resuspended in 1 mL of M63 medium and spread onto a 0.45 µm cellulose acetate filter placed on a M63 medium agar plate. After 8h, bacteria were resuspended in 1 mL M63 medium. An aliquot was diluted and spread onto LB agar + kanamycin plates to estimate the efficiency of mutagenesis. The other part was inoculated in 100 mL of LB medium + kanamycin and grown for 24 h at 30°C. To confirm that the bacteria that grew were D. dadantii strains with a transposon but without plasmid pSamEC, we checked that all the grown bacteria were kan^R, amp^S and diaminopimelate (DAP) prototrophs (MFDpir is DAP). The bacteria were frozen in 40% glycerol at -80°C and represent a library of about 300 000 mutants.

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DNA preparation for high-throughput sequencing

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An aliquot of the mutant library was grown overnight in LB medium + kanamycin. To identify essential genes in LB, the culture was diluted 100-fold in LB and grown for 6 h. To infect chicory, the overnight culture was centrifuged and resuspended at $OD_{600} = 1$ in M63 medium. Chicories cut in half were inoculated with 10 µL of this bacterial suspension and incubated at 30°C with maximum moist. After 60 h, the rotten tissue was collected and filtered through a cheesecloth. The bacteria were collected by centrifugation and washed twice in M63 medium. DNA was extracted from 1.5 mL aliquots of bacterial suspension adjusted to OD₆₀₀=1.5 with the Promega Wizard Genomic DNA purification kit. Next steps of the DNA preparation methods were adapted from [25]. All DNA gel-extraction were performed onto a blue-light transilluminator of DNA stained with gel-green (Biotium) to avoid DNA mutation and double-stranded breaks. 50 µg of DNA samples were digested with 50 U MmeI in a total volume of 1.2 mL for one hour at 37°C according to manufacturer's instructions, then heat-inactivated for 20 minutes at 80°C, purified (QIAquick PCR purification kit, Qiagen) and concentrated using a vacuum concentrator to a final volume of 25 μL. Digested DNA samples were run on a 1% agarose gel, the 1.0–1.5 kb band containing the transposon and adjacent DNA was cut out and DNA was extracted from the gel according to manufacturer's instructions (QIAquick Gel Extraction Kit, Qiagen). This allowed recovery of all the fragments containing genomic DNA adjacent to transposons (1201 bp of transposable element with 32-34 bp of genomic DNA). A pair of single-stranded complementary oligonucleotides containing an unique 5-nt barcode sequence (LIB AdaptT and LIB AdaptB) was mixed and heated to 100°C, then slowly cooled down in a water bath to obtain double-stranded adaptors with two-nucleotide overhangs. 1 µg DNA of each sample was ligated to the barcoded adaptors (0.44 mM) with 2000 U T4 DNA ligase in a final volume of 50 μL at 16°C overnight. Five identical PCR reactions from the ligation product were performed to amplify the transposon adjacent DNA. One reaction contained 100 ng of

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DNA, 1 unit of Q5 DNA polymerase (Biolabs), 1X Q5 Buffer, 0.2 mM dNTPs, 0.4 µM of the forward primer (LIB PCR 5, which anneals to the P7 Illumina sequence of the transposon) and the reverse primer (LIB PCR 3, which anneals to the P5 adaptor). Only 18 cycles were performed to keep a proportional amplification of the DNA. Samples were concentrated using a vacuum concentrator to a final volume of 25 µL. Amplified DNA was run on a 1.8% agarose gel and the 125 bp band was cut-out and gel extracted (QIAquick PCR purification kit, Qiagen). DNA was finally dialysed (MF-Millipore™ Membrane Filters) for 4 hours. Quality control of the Tn-seq DNA libraries (size of the fragments and concentration) and High-throughput sequencing on Illumina HiSeq 2500 was performed by MGX (CNRS sequencing service, Montpellier). 6 DNA libraries were multiplexed on one flow-cell. After demultiplexing, the total number of reads was comprised between 18 and 31 millions (Table 1). **Bioinformatics analysis:** Raw reads from the fastO files were first filtered using cutadapt v1.11 [58] and only reads containing the *mariner* inverted left repeat (ACAGGTTGGATGATAAGTCCCCGGTCTT) were trimmed and considered bona fide transposon-disrupted genes. Trimmed reads were then analyzed using a modified version of the TPP script available from the TRANSIT software v2.0.2 [29]. The mapping step was modified to select only reads mapping uniquely and without mismatch in the D. dadantii 3937 genome (Genbank CP002038.1). Then, the counting step was modified to accurately count the reads mapping to each TA site in the reference genome according to the Tn-seq protocol used in this study. Read counts per insertion were normalized using the LOESS method as described in [59]. We next used the TRANSIT software (version 2.0) to compare the Tn-seq datasets.

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Strain construction. To construct the A4277 strain, gene Dda3937 03424 was amplified with the oligonucleotides 19732+ and 19732-. The resulting fragment was inserted into the pGEM-T plasmid (Promega). A uidA-kan^R cassette [60] was inserted into the unique AgeI site of the fragment. The construct was recombined into the D. dadantii chromosome according to [61]. Recombination was checked by PCR. Protein techniques. Flagella were prepared from overnight LB grown cells. Bacteria were pelleted, resuspended in 1/10 volume of water and passed 20 fold through a needle on a syringe. Cells and cells debris were removed by centrifugation 5 min at 20,000 g [57]. Proteins were analyzed by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). Coinoculation experiments. To determine the competitivity index, the wild type strain and the mutant to test, marked with an antibiotic resistance gene, were grown overnight in M63 + glycerol medium. Bacteria were washed in M63 medium and the OD_{600} was adjusted to 1.0. Bacteria were mixed to a 1:1 ratio and diluted 10-fold. 10 µL of the mixture were inoculated into chicory leaves. The wound was covered with mineral oil and the leaves were incubated at 30°C at high humidity. After 24 h the rotten tissue was collected, homogenized, diluted in M63 and spread onto LB and LB + antibiotic plates. After 48 h at 30°C, colonies were counted. The competitivity index is the ratio (number of mutant bacteria/number of WT bacteria) in the rotten tissue / (number of mutant bacteria/number of WT bacteria) in the inoculum. **Plant inoculation experiments.** Bacteria to test were grown overnight in M63 + glycerol medium. Bacteria were washed in M63 medium and the OD₆₀₀ was adjusted to 1.0. Bacteria were diluted 10-fold (for celery infection) or 100-fold (for chicory infection) in the same

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medium. 10 µL of the bacterial suspension were inoculated into leaves in a hole made with a pipet tip. The wound was covered with mineral oil and the leaves were incubated at 30°C at high humidity for 2 days (celery) or 24 h (for chicory). Length or rotten tissue was measured. Nucleotide sequence accession numbers. The transposon sequence reads we obtained have been submitted to the ENA database under accession number PRJEB20574. Acknowledgment We thank Geraldine Effantin, Veronique Utzinger and Matthias Schulz for technical assistance, the members of the MTSB team and Xavier Charpentier for discussion, Nicole Cotte-Pattat for critical read of the manuscript and James Paslesvert for encouragements. **Funding** This work was supported by the CNRS, INSA and funded by a grant from the University Lyon I to E.G. (BOR UCBL). K.R was supported by a PhD grant from the Ministère de l'éducation nationale et de la recherche. **Author contributions** Conceived and designed the experiments: EG GC. Performed the experiments: KR NP GC. Analyzed the data: KR NP EG GDC. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: NP AR EG GC. Wrote the paper: KR EG GC. **Legend of figures** Fig. 1. Quality control of the Tn-seq *D. dadantii* 3937 libraries. (A) Frequency and distribution of transposon sequence reads across the entire D. dadantii

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3937 genome. The localization of transposon insertions shows no bias throughout the genome of D. dadantii 3937. B) Density plot of log₂FC of measured read counts versus expected reads count per gene. Fig 2. Genes identified by Tn-seq exhibiting a fitness change in chicory compared to LB. Data were obtained with the TRANSIT software. From left to right: (a) classification of the genes with the HMM method performed in the LB dataset. (b) Number of TA sites left after removing the first 10% bp of 5' and 3' extremities, in order to minimize Tn insertions that would not result in complete inactivation of a given gene. (c) Mean read number per gene in the LB or chicory dataset. (d) Ratio of read number between chicory and LB expressed in log₂. (e) FDR adjusted p-values (q-value). Genes for which a role in *D. dadantii* virulence has been described before are in bold. Fig 3. Scheme of the purine and pyrimidine biosynthesis pathways in *D. dadantii* that produce XMP (purine metabolism) and UMP (pyrimidine metabolism) from Lglutamine. In red are indicated the growth defect genes in chicory that pass the permutation test (q-value < 0.05). The log₂FC of read numbers between chicory and LB for each gene is indicated in bracket. Some genes do not pass the permutation test (in black) but have a strong negative log₂FC. PRPP: 5-phosphoribosyl-1-pyrophosphate; GAR: 5'-phosphoribosyl-1-glycinamide ; FGAM: 5'-phosphoribosyl-N-formylglycinamide; AIR: 5'-phosphoribosyl-5aminoimidazole; CAIR: 5'-phosphoribosyl-5-aminoimidazole carboxylic acid; SAICAR: 5'phosphoribosyl-4-(N-succino-carboxamide)-5-aminoimidazole; AICAR: 5-aminoimidazole-4-carboxamide ribonucleotide; IMP: inosine monophosphate; XMP: xanthine monophosphate; UMP: uridine monophosphate.

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Fig 4. Examples of essential and important genes revealed by Tn-seq. Number of reads at each transposon location in the sample grown in LB or in chicory. Data are averaged from biological replicates and normalized as described in the methods section. Three regions of the genome representative of Tn-seq results are shown, with the predicted genes represented at the bottom of each panel. Peaks represent read number at TA sites. Black arrows represent genes that pass the permutation test (q-value ≤ 0.05). (A) Essentiality of leucine biosynthetic genes in chicory. (B) Insertions in the 5' region of rsmC generate growth advantage for the bacteria in chicory. (C) Importance of genes involved in motility for growth in chicory. Fig 5. Modification of FliC revealed by Tn-seq analysis and SDS-PAGE. (A) Importance of 6 genes located between fliA and fliC for growth in chicory. Log₂FC are indicated in bracket. Dda3937 03425 and Dda3937 03426 are duplicated transposase genes that have been removed from the analysis. Black arrow: GD in chicory (q-value ≤ 0.05); white arrow: genes that do not pass the permutation test (q-value > 0.05). (B) Analysis by SDS-PAGE of FliC produced by the wild type (lane 2), the A3422 (lane 3) and A4277 (lane 4) strains. MM (lane 1) is the Molecular Marker. (C) (C) Maceration of celery leaves by the Wild Type and A4277 (glycosylation) mutant. Length of rotten tissue was measured 48 h post infection. Box plot were generated by BoxPlotR from 9 data points. The calculated median value is 109 for the WT strain, 40 for the A4277 strain. Fig 6. Correlation between the competitivity index (IC) of several mutant strains with the log₂FC of the corresponding genes. IC values were determined in chicory leaves as described in Methods. The IC values for dltB, anrB, phoS and phoH are from [62]. Each

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value is the mean of 5 experiments. Fig S1. Biological reproducibility of the Tn-seq results. Pairs of Tn-seq assay results are compared, with the total number of reads per gene plotted. Analysis of DNA samples corresponding to two independent cultures of the mutant pool grown (A) in LB medium (correlation coefficient R = 0.72) and (B) in chicory (correlation coefficient R = 0.98). Values represent average numbers of reads per gene from the pairs of biological replicates. Fig S2. Volcano plot of resampling results comparing replicates grown in chicory versus in LB. Significant hits have q-value < 0.05 or $-\log_{10}$ q-value > 1.3. Growth defect (GD) or growth advantage (GA) genes are indicated by a red frame. Fig S3. acrAB are essential in chicory. Number of Tn-seq reads at each insertion site in the acrA acrB region in samples grown in LB or in chicory. Data are averaged from biological replicates and normalized as described in Methods. dnaX which encodes both the tau and gamma subunits of DNA polymerase is represented by a grey arrow. dnaX is essential gene in LB. acrAB represented by black arrows are GD in chicory (q-value ≤ 0.05). Fig S4. Pathogenicity tests on chicory with leucine (A5969) and cytosine (A5968) mutants of D. dadantii. Each leaf was inoculated with 10⁶ bacteria. Length of rotten tissue was observed after 24h. References Adeolu M, Alnajar S, Naushad S, R SG. Genome-based phylogeny and taxonomy of 1. the 'Enterobacteriales': proposal for Enterobacterales ord. nov. divided into the families

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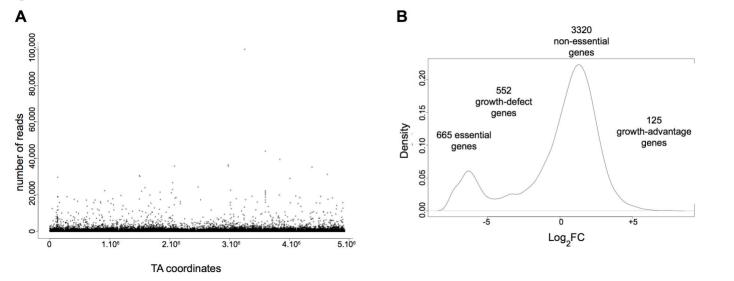
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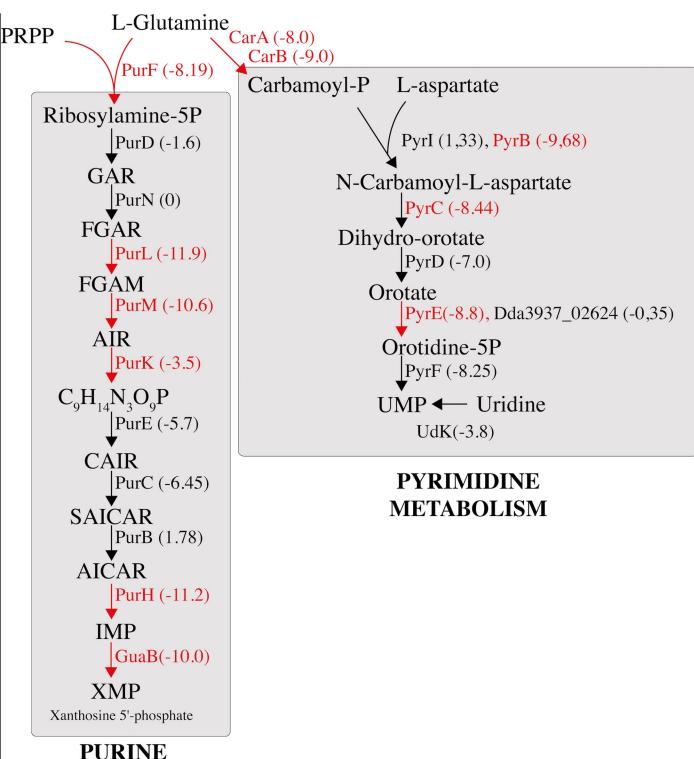
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Figure 1

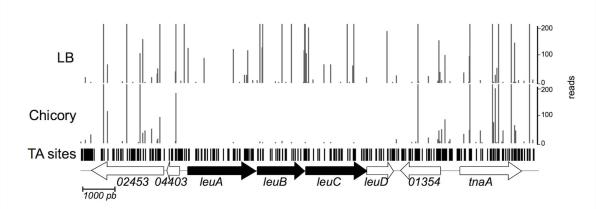


			HMM	RESAMPLING				
Locus	Gene		State in LB ^a	Mean reads ^c				
				No. of TAsb	LB	Chicory	log ₂ FC ^d	q-value
Dda3937_00335	glpD	glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase	GD	33	650	0	-12.56	0.00
Oda3937_03379 Oda3937_03564	purL opgG	phosphoribosylformyl-glycineamide synthetase Glucans biosynthesis protein G precursor	NE GA	73 40	378 1976	0 1	-11.91 -11.41	0.00 0.00
Oda3937_00244	purH		NE	37	145	Ô	-11.25	0.00
Oda3937_00432	hflK	FtsH protease regulator	GD	28	339	0	-11.12	0.03
Oda3937_02515	purM		NE NE	21 26	344 129	0	-10.57	0.00
Oda3937_02627 Oda3937_00004	guaB		NE	33	151	0	-10.06 -9.97	0.00
Dda3937_03563	opgH		GA	62	1409	2	-9.79	0.00
Oda3937_01284	pyrB		NE	17	159	0	-9.68	0.00
Oda3937_03924 Oda3937_01389	rffG carB		NE NE	23 48	317 249	1 0	-9.38 -9.23	0.02
Oda3937_01389	acrA		NE	34	196	0	-9.23	0.00
Oda3937_03300	acrB	multidrug efflux system protein	NE	89	422	1	-8.90	0.00
Oda3937_03258	pyrE		NE	14	175	0	-8.81	0.00
Oda3937_02336 Oda3937_02506	nlpI nlpB (bamC)	lipoprotein outer membrane protein assembly factor BamC	GD NE	33 20	27 47	0	-8.69 -8.69	0.00
0da3937_04018	pta	phosphate acetyltransferase	GD	36	579	2	-8.59	0.02
Oda3937_03554	pyrC	dihydro-orotase	NE	25	343	1	-8.44	0.00
da3937_04573	lpxM		NE	33	63	0	-8.31	0.00
0da3937_01116 0da3937_02099	glnG purF		NE NE	26 32	39 107	0	-8.22 -8.19	0.00
da3937_02099 da3937_04019	ackA		NE	29	45	0	-8.16	0.00
0da3937_02189	yejM	Membrane-anchored periplasmic protein, alkaline phosphatase superfamily	GA	34	4160	15	-8.08	0.00
Oda3937_01390	carA		NE	21	69	0	-8.05	0.00
Oda3937_01426	ptsI		NE	33 16	45 44	0	-7.85	0.00
0da3937_00161 0da3937_00210	cysQ cvsI		NE NE	40	252	1	-7.81 -7.65	0.02
0da3937_04075	lysR		NE	13	2385	13	-7.51	0.00
da3937_02526		conserved protein	NE	18	50	0	-7.50	0.00
0da3937_03888	metB		NE	21	118	1	-7.34	0.01
da3937_00195 da3937_02532	relA IfcR	(p)ppGpp synthetase I/GTP pyrophosphokinase Fructose repressor FruR, LacI family	NE NE	55 15	256 399	2	-7.12 - 7.04	0.00 0.00
da3937_02226	fliF		NE	46	476	4	-7.04	0.00
Oda3937_02206	flgE	Flagellar hook protein flgE	NE	50	597	5	-7.00	0.00
Oda3937_04507	gnd	phosphogluconate dehydrogenase (NADP(+)-dependent, decarboxylating)	GD	36	7	0	-6.91	0.00
Oda3937_00697	degQ		NE	28	80	1	-6.87	0.01
0da3937_03631 0da3937_00361	trxB yrfF (igaA)	thioredoxin-disulfide reductase intracellular growth attenuator protein	GD GD	25 38	16 22	0	-6.85 -6.78	0.03
da3937_00588	cysB		NE	29	90	1	-6.75	0.00
da3937_03783	prc		NE	46	243	2	-6.71	0.00
Oda3937_00433	hflX	predicted GTPase	GD	27	16	0	-6.69	0.04
Oda3937_03427 Oda3937_02223	fliC		NE NE	33 42	96 236	1 3	-6.61	0.03
Oda3937_02223 Oda3937_04419	fliI hdfR		NE	29	117	1	-6.56 -6.34	0.00
Oda3937_00209	cysJ		NE	41	180	2	-6.25	0.00
Oda3937_02209	flgH	Flagellar L-ring protein flgH	NE	23	586	8	-6.22	0.01
Oda3937_02246	fabF		GD	41	10	0	-6.15	0.00
Oda3937_00301 Oda3937_02212	uvrD flgK		NE NE	42 63	29 116	0	-6.11 -6.07	0.00
Oda3937_04046	purU		NE	28	51	1	-5.84	0.00
Oda3937_03965	flhA		NE	49	106	2	-5.80	0.00
Oda3937_02205	flgD		NE	22	227	4	-5.73	0.01
Oda3937_01352 Oda3937_02784	leuC flhC		NE NE	21	139 477	3	-5.73	0.01
Oda3937_02784 Oda3937_02782	motB		NE	20 40	109	9	-5.66 -5.55	0.01
Oda3937_02210	flgI		NE	26	163	4	-5.49	0.00
da3937_02222	fliJ		NE	14	182	4	-5.44	0.03
Oda3937_02219	fliM		NE	27	143	3	-5.40	0.00
Oda3937_02774 Oda3937_02777	flhB ohoP		NE	32 31	186 282	5 8	-5.31	0.00
0da3937_02777 0da3937_02783	cheB motA		NE NE	24	39	1	-5.14 -5.06	0.00
da3937_00565	tonB		NE	14	106	3	-5.00	0.05
da3937_00427	fbp		GA	33	805	27	-4.92	0.01
da3937_02781	cheA		NE	50 43	151	5	-4.89 4.85	0.00
da3937_03422 da3937_02577	lvsA		NE NE	23	379 332	13 0	-4.85 -4.79	0.02
da3937_02207	flgF		NE	21	35	1	-4.76	0.00
da3937_02230	fliD		NE	47	93	3	-4.75	0.00
0da3937_04301	leuA	2-isopropylmalate synthase	NE	36	35	1	-4.69	0.02
Oda3937_02778 Oda3937_02228	cheR fliT	Chemotaxis protein methyltransferase CheR Flagellar biosynthesis protein fliT	NE GD	30 16	462 8	18 0	-4.67 -4.63	0.05
da3937_02228 da3937_04404	fii I leuB		NE NE	16	285	12	-4.63 -4.63	0.05
da3937_02214	fliR	Flagellar biosynthesis protein fliR	NE	33	268	11	-4.56	0.00
da3937_03727	kduI	4-deoxy-L-threo-5-hexosulose-uronate ketol-isomerase	NE	26	70	3	-4.54	0.03
Oda3937_03267		O-antigen, teichoic acid lipoteichoic acids export membrane protein	ES	107	89	4	-4.33 4.37	0.05
da3937_00415 da3937_02337	epd pnp		NE GD	26 50	316 5	16 0	-4.27 -3.97	0.02
0da3937_02537 0da3937_01683	pnp purK		NE	16	90	0	-3.49	0.00
da3937_00689	yrbF (mlaF)	predicted toluene transporter subunit	GA	9	1254	114	-3.47	0.01
da3937_02829	helD		NE	26	99	9	-3.46	0.01
da3937_02252 da3937_00726	ptsG toIC		NE NE	37 34	81	8	-3.38 -3.35	0.03
da3937_00726 da3937_02363	tolC clpA		NE NE	44	184 64	8	-3.35 -3.02	0.00
da3937_02470	corC		NE	13	159	21	-2.90	0.02
da3937_00692	yrbC (mlaC)	predicted ABC-type organic solvent transporter	GA	23	740	106	-2.81	0.01
da3937_02045	envC	murein hydrolase activator	NE	17	71	12	-2.59	0.00
da3937_01807 da3937_03668	nuoM sufB		NE NE	29 32	57 116	10 21	-2.47 -2.44	0.03
da3937_03668	sujB trkG		NE NE	36	65	13	-2.44	0.00
0da3937_02080 0da3937_03042	fct		NE NE	80	244	51	-2.35 -2.25	0.03
ua373/_ 03042			NE	24	279	59	-2.23	0.03
da3937_01287	argI							
da3937_01287 da3937_02456	rsmC	global regulatory protein RsmC	NE	10	116	221,705	10.90	0.028
		global regulatory protein RsmC hypothetical protein						

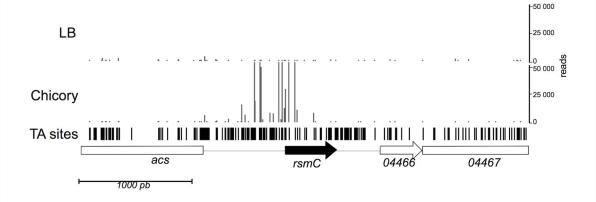
METABOLISM



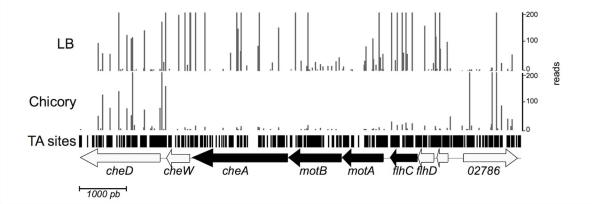




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