Whole genome sequence analysis of *Salmonella* Typhi isolated in Thailand before and after the introduction of a national immunization program

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S. Typhi in Thailand before and after immunization

Abstract

Vaccines against *Salmonella* Typhi, the causative agent of typhoid fever, are commonly used

by travellers, however, there are few examples of national immunization programs in endemic

areas. There is therefore a paucity of data on the impact of typhoid immunization programs on

localised populations of *S.* Typhi. Here we have used whole genome sequencing (WGS) to

characterise 44 historical bacterial isolates collected before and after a national typhoid

immunization program that was implemented in Thailand in 1977 in response to a large

outbreak; the program was highly effective in reducing typhoid case numbers. Thai isolates

were highly diverse, including 10 distinct phylogenetic lineages or genotypes. Novel

prophage and plasmids were also detected, including examples that were previously only

reported in *Shigella sonnei* and *Escherichia coli*. The majority of *S.* Typhi genotypes

observed prior to the immunization program were not observed following it. Post-vaccine era

isolates were more closely related to *S.* Typhi isolated from neighbouring countries than to

earlier Thai isolates, providing no evidence for the local persistence of endemic *S.* Typhi

following the national immunization program. Rather, later cases of typhoid appeared to be

caused by the occasional importation of common genotypes from neighbouring Vietnam,

Laos, and Cambodia. These data show the value of WGS in understanding the impacts of

vaccination on pathogen populations and provide support for the proposal that large-scale

typhoid immunization programs in endemic areas could result in lasting local disease

elimination, although larger prospective studies are needed to test this directly.

Author Summary

Typhoid fever is a systemic infection caused by the bacterium *Salmonella* Typhi. Typhoid

fever is associated with inadequate hygiene in low-income settings and a lack of sanitation

infrastructure. A sustained outbreak of typhoid fever occurred in Thailand in the 1970s, which

peaked in 1975-1976. In response to this typhoid fever outbreak the government of Thailand

initiated an immunization program, which resulted in a dramatic reduction in the number of

typhoid cases in Thailand. To better understand the population of *S*. Typhi circulating in

Thailand at this time, as well as the impact of the immunization program on the pathogen

population, we sequenced the genomes of 44 *S*. Typhi obtained from hospitals in Thailand

before and after the immunization program. The genome sequences showed that isolates of *S*.

Typhi bacteria isolated from post-immunization era typhoid cases were likely imported from

neighbouring countries, rather than strains that have persisted in Thailand throughout the

immunization period. Our work provides the first historical insights into *S*. Typhi in Thailand

during the 1970s, and provides a model for the impact of immunization on *S*. Typhi

populations.

Introduction

Salmonella enterica subspecies *enterica* serovar Typhi (*S.* Typhi) is a human restricted

bacterial pathogen and the etiological agent of typhoid fever. *S.* Typhi is transmitted faeco-

orally and can establish asymptomatic carriage in a small subset of an exposed population (1).

Recent estimates (2-4) place the global burden of typhoid fever at 25-30 million cases

annually, of which 200,000 are associated with deaths. Typhoid fever occurs most commonly

in industrialising countries, specifically in locations with limited sanitation and related

infrastructure (5); children and young adults are among the most vulnerable populations in

these settings (6-8). Antimicrobial therapy together with water sanitation and hygiene

(WASH) interventions are the major mechanisms by which typhoid fever is controlled (9,

10). However, none of these approaches are optimal and resistance against antimicrobials has

become increasingly common in *S.* Typhi since the 1970s (11-13). A number of typhoid

vaccines are licenced for use (14-18), however, they are not widely used as a public health

tools in endemic areas, with the exception of controlling severe outbreaks such as those

following natural disasters (19-22).

A sustained typhoid fever outbreak occurred in Thailand in the 1970s. A sharp increase in

cases was observed in 1973-1974, which finally peaked in 1975-1976. In response, the

government of Thailand established a national typhoid immunization program, which

represented the first programmatic use of a typhoid vaccine in the country (23). The

immunization program targeted over 5 million school aged children (7-12 years) each year in

Bangkok between 1977 and 1987 (80% of the eligible population). Thus, Thai school children

were eligible to receive a single locally produced heat/phenol-inactivated subcutaneous dose

of 2.5 x 10^8 *S.* Typhi organisms annually (14, 23), before the program was halted in the early

1990s because of high rates of adverse reactions caused by the vaccine (22). To our

knowledge this is the only such programmatic use of a vaccine for controlling Typhoid fever

in children in Thailand. Data from four teaching hospitals in Bangkok showed a 93%

reduction in blood culture confirmed infections with *S.* Typhi between 1976 (n=2,000) and

1985 (n=132) (14, 23). Notably, no significant decline was observed in isolation rates of

Salmonella Paratyphi A (*S*. Paratyphi A), a *Salmonella* serovar distinct from *S*. Typhi that

causes a clinical syndrome indistinguishable from typhoid fever, but for which *S*. Typhi

vaccines provide little or no cross-protection (14). This observation suggests that the

reduction in *S*. Typhi infections was not attributable to improvements in infrastructure and

hygiene practices only (5, 14, 20, 23). While the inactivated *S*. Typhi vaccine was found to be

highly efficacious (22, 23), it is no longer used as a consequence of being overly reactogenic

(14, 16, 23, 24). A Vi capsular polysaccharide vaccine (15) and live-attenuated oral vaccine

of strain Ty21a (16) have since replaced this vaccine for travellers to endemic locations (5,

21, 24).

The typhoid immunization program in Thailand provided a unique opportunity to investigate

the impact of immunization on *S*. Typhi populations circulating within an endemic area. Here

we present an analysis of a historical collection of 44 *S*. Typhi isolates obtained from patients

in Thailand between 1973 and 1992 (before and during the immunization program). As *S*.

Typhi populations demonstrate little genetic diversity, we used whole genome sequencing

(WGS) to characterise these isolates, and core genome phylogenetic approaches to compare

the historic isolates from Thailand to a recently published global *S*. Typhi genomic

framework (4).

Materials and methods

Ethics statement

This is a retrospective study of bacterial isolates unlinked to patient information and was not

subject to IRB approval.

Bacterial isolation and antimicrobial susceptibility testing

Forty-four *S*. Typhi isolated from patients with suspected typhoid fever attending hospitals in

Bangkok, Nonthaburi, Loi, and Srakaew, in Thailand between 1973 and 1992 were available

for genome sequencing in this study (**Fig 1** and **Table S1**). At the time of original isolation,

bacterial cultures were transferred on nutrient agar slants to the department of Enteric

Diseases, Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences (AFRIMS), Bangkok,

Thailand for identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing. At AFRIMS, bacterial

isolates were subcultured on Hektoen Enteric agar (HE) and identification was performed by

biochemical testing on Kligler iron agar slants, tryptone broth for indole, lysine decarboxylase

medium, ornithine decarboxylase medium, urease test, mannitol and motility media (Becker

Dickenson, Thailand). Serological agglutination was performed using *Salmonella* O antisera

and *Salmonella* Vi antiserum (Difco, USA). Bacterial strains were stored frozen at -70°C in

10% skimmed milk or lyophilised in 10% skimmed milk; lyophilized ampoules were stored at

2-8°C. Prior to DNA extraction for sequencing, lyophilized bacteria was rehydrated with

trypticase soy broth, inoculated on McConkey agar and incubated at 37°C for 18-24 hours. If

bacteria was stored frozen in skimmed milk, organisms were inoculated directly onto

McConkey agar after thawing and then incubated at 37°C for 18-24 hours.

Antimicrobial susceptibility testing against ampicillin, chloramphenicol, cephalothin,

gentamicin, kanamycin, neomycin, sulfisoxazole, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, and

tetracycline was performed by disk diffusion according to Clinical and Laboratory Standards

Institute (CLSI) (25-28).

Genome sequencing and SNP analysis

Genomic DNA from the 44 *S.* Typhi from Thailand was extracted using the Wizard Genomic

DNA Extraction Kit (Promega, Wisconsin, USA). Two μg of genomic DNA was subjected to

indexed WGS on an Illumina Hiseq 2000 platform at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, to

generate 100 bp paired-end reads. For analysis of SNPs, paired end Illumina reads were

mapped to the reference sequence of *S.* Typhi CT18 (accession no: AL513382) (29) using the

RedDog (v1.4) mapping pipeline, available at https://github.com/katholt/reddog. RedDog

uses Bowtie (v2.2.3) (30) to map reads to the reference sequence, then high quality SNPs

called with quality scores above 30 are extracted from the alignments using SAMtools

(v0.1.19) (31). SNPs were filtered to exclude those with less than 5 reads mapped or with

greater than 2.5 times the average read depth (representing putative repeated sequences), or

with ambiguous base calls. For each SNP that passed these criteria in any one isolate,

consensus base calls for the SNP locus were extracted from all genomes (ambiguous base

calls and those with phred quality scores less than 20 were treated as unknowns and

represented with a gap character). SNPs with confident homozygous allele calls (i.e. phred

score >20) in >95% of the *S.* Typhi genomes (representing a 'soft' core genome of common

S. Typhi sequences) were concatenated to produce an alignment of alleles at 45,893 variant

sites. The resultant allele calls for 68 of these SNPs were used to assign isolates to previously

defined lineages according to an extended *S.* Typhi genotyping framework (32) code

available at https://github.com/katholt/genotyphi). SNPs called in phage regions, repetitive

sequences (354 kb; ~7.4% of bases in the CT18 reference chromosome, as defined previously

(33) or recombinant regions (~180kb; <4% of the CT18 reference chromosome, identified

using Gubbins (v1.4.4) (34)) were excluded, resulting in a final set of 1,850 SNPs identified

in an alignment length of 4,275,037 bp for the 44 isolates. SNP alleles from Paratyphi A

strain 12601 (35) were also included as an outgroup to root the tree. For global context, raw

read data (4) were also subjected to genotyping analysis and those isolates sharing the

genotypes that were observed in the Thai collection (n=340; details in **Table S2**) were

subjected to the same SNP analyses, resulting in a final set of 9,700 SNPs for a total of 386

isolates.

Phylogenetic and SNP analysis

Maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenetic trees (**Figs 1-2**) were constructed using the 1,850

and 9,700 bp SNP alignments, respectively, using RAxML (v 8.1.23) (36) with a generalized

time-reversible model and a gamma distribution to model site specific recombination

(GTR+Γ substitution model; GTRGAMMA in RAxML), with Felsenstein correction for

ascertainment bias. Support for ML phylogenies was assessed via 100 bootstrap

pseudoanalyses of the alignments. For the larger tree containing global isolates, clades

containing only isolates from only a single country were collapsed manually in R using the

drop.tip() function in the *ape* package (37). Subtrees were extracted for each subclade, which

are therefore each rooted by the other subclades. Pairwise SNP distances between isolates

were calculated from the SNP alignments using the dist.gene() function in the *ape* package

for R (37).

Accessory genome analysis

Acquired antimicrobial resistance (AMR) genes were detected, and their precise alleles

determined, by mapping to the ARG-Annot database (38) of known AMR genes using SRST2

v0.1.5 (39). Plasmid replicon sequences were identified using SRST2 to screen reads for

replicons in the PlasmidFinder database (40, 41). Raw read data was assembled *de novo* with

SPAdes (v 3.5.0) (42) and circular contigs were identified visually and extracted using the

assembly graph viewer Bandage (v0.7.0) (43). These putative plasmid sequences were

annotated using Prokka (v1.10) (44) followed by manual curation. Where IncHI1 plasmid

replicons were identified using SRST2, and their presence confirmed by visual inspection of

the assembly graphs, IncHI1 plasmid MLST (pMLST) sequence types were determined using

SRST2 (13, 45, 46). Where resistance genes were detected from short read data, Bandage was

used to inspect their location in the corresponding *de novo* assembly graph in order to

determine whether they were encoded in the bacterial chromosome or on a plasmid.

Assembled contigs were concatenated and putative prophage genomes were identified with

the PHAge Search Tool (PHAST) (47), and their novelty determined by BLASTN analysis

against the GenBank database. Pairwise alignments between novel and known prophage

sequences were visualised using the *genoPlotR* package for R (48).

Nucleotide sequence and sequence read data accession numbers

Raw sequence data have been submitted to the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) under

project PRJEB5281; individual sample accession numbers are listed in **Tables S1 and S2**.

Assembled phage and protein sequences were deposited in GenBank, accession numbers are

listed in **Table 1**.

Results

The population structure of S. Typhi in Thailand

All 44 *S*. Typhi isolates collected between 1973 and 1992 were subjected to WGS and SNP

analysis. Genome-wide SNPs were used to construct a ML phylogeny and isolates were

assigned to previously defined genotypes (32) using a subset of SNPs (see **Methods**). These

analyses subdivided the population into ten distinct genotypes, each corresponding to a

specific lineage in the ML phylogeny (**Fig 1**). Genotype 3.2.1 (which includes the reference

genome CT18, isolated from Vietnam in 1993 (29)) was the most common (n=14, 32%),

followed by genotype 2.1.7 (n=10, 23%). Genotypes 2.0 (n=1, 2%) and 4.1 (n=3, 7%) were

observed only in 1973 (pre-vaccine period). Genotypes 2.1.7 (n=10, 23%), 2.3.4 (n=1, 2%),

3.4.0 (n=2, 5%), 3.0.0 (n=3, 7%), 3.1.2 (n=2, 5%), were observed only after 1981 (post-

vaccine period). Each of these post-immunization genotypes was from a single location and

time period (**Fig 1**), consistent with short-term localised transmission. The only exceptions

were the two *S*. Typhi 3.1.2 isolates, that were from Srakaew in 1989 and Bangkok in 1992

and separated by just 4 SNPs. Genotypes 3.2.1 and 2.4.0 were observed amongst both pre-

and post-vaccine isolates.

Thai S. Typhi in the context of a global genomic framework

Based on the Thai *S*. Typhi genotyping results we hypothesised that the post-immunization

typhoid infections in Thailand resulted from occasional re-introduction of *S*. Typhi from

outside the country, as opposed to long-term persistence of *S*. Typhi lineages within Thailand.

To explore this possibility, and to provide a global context for our analysis, we examined

1,832 *S*. Typhi genomes from a recently published global collection that included isolates

from 63 countries (4). Genome-wide SNP-based ML trees for each of these genotypes,

showing the relationships between Thai and global isolates, are shown in **Fig 2**. In general,

post-vaccine Thai isolates were closely related to recent isolates sourced from neighbouring

countries including Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (**Fig 2**), consistent with regional endemic

circulation. In contrast, most pre-vaccine isolates had no close neighbours in the global

collection, particularly 2.0.0 strains (**Fig 2A**), suggesting they may have been Thailand-

specific lineages that have died out following the vaccine program. The *S*. Typhi genomes in

the global collection were mainly isolated 2-3 decades after the Thai isolates as we did not

have access to contemporaneous isolates from these countries that could identify specific

transfer events. However, all but three of the post-vaccine Thai isolates shared shorter SNP

distances with isolates from neighbouring countries than they did with pre-vaccination Thai

isolates (see **Fig 3**), consistent with these cases being caused by occasional re-introduction of

genotypes circulating in the region. Notably, Thai *S*. Typhi 3.2.1 that were isolated in 1986-7

clustered separately from the 1973 pre-vaccine isolates ($\geq$60 SNPs apart), but closely with

isolates from Vietnam and Cambodia (differing by as few as 7 SNPs; **Fig 2H**). Post-vaccine

Thai *S*. Typhi 2.4 formed two distinct groups that were not consistent with direct descendance

from earlier isolates (**Fig 2E**). These data are therefore consistent with transfer of *S*. Typhi

into Thailand from neighbouring countries during the post-immunization program era,

although the long-term circulation of ancestral populations in Thailand remains an unlikely

alternative explanation.

Acquired antimicrobial resistance

We identified acquired AMR genes in the genomes of four *S*. Typhi genotype 3.2.1 that were

isolated in Srakaew in 1986 (**Fig 1, Table 1**). These isolates shared the same four AMR

genes: *sul1* (sulphonamides)*, catA1* (chloramphenicol)*, tet(B)* (tetracyclines), and *aadA1*

(aminoglycosides) which were carried on near-identical plasmids of IncHI1 plasmid sequence

type 2 (PST2). Although the presence of insertion sequences (IS) in these plasmids prevented

the complete sequences from being assembled, the regions of these plasmids encoding the

AMR genes were identical in all assemblies. This commonality suggests they are a single

plasmid (referred to as pTy036_01 in **Fig 1** and **Table 1**) that was likely acquired in a

common ancestor of this clade. The chromosomal and IncHI1 plasmid sequences for these

four isolates were very closely related to those of a 1993 Vietnamese isolate (Viety1-

60_1993) in the global *S*. Typhi collection (45), consistent with regional transfer.

Other plasmids and mobile genetic elements

We identified three non-AMR related plasmids amongst the Thai isolates (**Fig 1, Table 1**).

Ty004 (genotype 2.2) carried two novel plasmids that assembled into circular sequences,

pTy004_01 and pTy004_02. The largest, pTy004_01, was a novel variant of the cryptic

plasmid pHCM2 (29, 49) (**Fig 4**). Ty004 was isolated in Bangkok in 1973, making

pTy004_01 the earliest example of a pHCM2-like plasmid reported to date. pTy004_01 was

distant from other pHCM2-like plasmids in the global *S*. Typhi genome collection, sharing

92% coverage and 99% nucleotide identity with the reference sequence pHCM2 of *S*. Typhi

CT18 (genotype 3.2.1) which was isolated approximately 20 years later in Vietnam (29). The

pTy004_01 sequence (**Fig 4**) appears to be ~2 kbp larger than pHCM2, and encodes an

additional tRNA-Lys as well as an insertion of a hypothetical protein (*orf17*) into a putative

DNA polymerase gene (HCM2.0015c in pHCM2, divided into *orf16* and *orf18* in

pTy004_01). Plasmid pTy004_02 was ~38 kbp in size and similar to *E. coli* plasmid pEQ2

(65% coverage, 98% nucleotide identity), encoding genes for conjugation, chromosomal

partitioning, addiction systems and an abortive infection protein (*orf44*). Three isolates

(Ty031, Ty042, and Ty049) all of genotype 3.0.0 and obtained from Srakaew in 1986, carried

a ~40 kbp cryptic plasmid that we named pTy031_01. This plasmid was similar to that carried

by *Enterobacter hormaechei* strain CAV1176 (83% coverage, 96% identity) and encoded

genes for chromosomal partitioning, addiction systems, and a putative restriction modification

system (*orf33-orf34*).

PHAST analysis revealed the presence of novel intact prophages in three Thai *S*. Typhi

isolates (**Fig 1**, **Table 1**). Two *S*. Typhi 3.1.2, isolated from Srakaew in 1989 and Bangkok in

1992, shared a novel phage STYP1 that was similar to fiAA91-ss infective for *Shigella sonnei*

(**Fig 5A**). However, the *S*. Typhi phage lacked the cytolethal distending toxin *cdt* genes and

the IS2*1* element found in phage fiAA91-ss (50). This prophage sequence had a mosaic

architecture, incorporating a number of putative insertions of phage tail fiber genes that were

not present in the fiAA91-ss reference genome (**Fig 5A**). Additionally, a single isolate of

genotype 4.1 obtained from Bangkok in 1973 contained a novel SfIV-like phage, here named

STYP2, that lacked the serotype conversion gene Gtr cluster and IS*1* element of phage SfIV

(51). Again, the novel Thai phage variant also encoded novel tail fiber genes not in the SfIV

reference genome, as well as a Dam methylase gene *(orf37)* (**Fig 5B).**

Discussion

These data provide a historical insight into the population structure of *S*. Typhi in Thailand in

1973 (pre-immunization program, n=11) and 1981-1992 (post- immunization program,

n=33). It has been reported that the national *S*. Typhi immunization program in Thailand,

which commenced in 1977, was highly effective in reducing the burden of typhoid fever (14).

Our data are consistent with the hypothesis that the vaccine program successfully depleted the

endemic *S*. Typhi population to the extent that most subsequent typhoid cases resulted from

sporadic introduction of non-indigenous *S*. Typhi, rather than long-term persistence of the

pre-vaccine era population. It is apparent that these introductions were sometimes

accompanied by limited local transmissions, resulting in small, localized outbreaks, but we

found no evidence to suggest that these result in the establishment of stable local source

populations. Notably, the post-immunization *S*. Typhi isolates from Loi (in the north of

Thailand near the border with Laos, from which it is separated by the Mekong river) were

most closely related to Laos isolates, whilst those from the capital Bangkok and nearby

Nonthaburi and Srakaew districts were closely related to other isolates from across Southeast

Asia (**Fig 2**), suggesting there may have been multiple routes of import into Thailand.

Our study is limited by the sample of isolates available for analysis, which was small and

reflects opportunistic sampling of sporadic local cases in the four sites and historical storage.

A larger collection of historical isolates from Thailand and neighboring countries in the 1970s

and 1980s would help to further elucidate the epidemiological patterns of *S.* Typhi before and

after the vaccination program. However, from our data, it is notable that the Thai isolates

cluster according to site, consistent with limited local transmission rather than dissemination

of lineages between locations. The only exception to this was two genotype 3.1.2 isolates,

which were collected from Srakaew in 1989 and Bangkok in 1992 and differed by only 4

SNPs. This is consistent with either transfer between these cities in Thailand following an

initial introduction into the country, or two independent transfers into Thailand from a

common source. The phylogenetic structure is most suggestive of the latter, but denser

samples from Thailand and/or potential source populations would be required to resolve this

with confidence.

While our sample is small, this study is nevertheless the largest to date exploring genetic

diversity amongst *S.* Typhi from Thailand. An earlier global haplotyping study that included

seven Thai isolates (52) identified five distinct haplotypes in Thailand (H3, 1989; H42, 1990;

H50, 2002; Vi- H52, 1990; H79, 2002), three of which are related to genotypes that we

identified amongst Thai strains in this study (H79, 2.3.4; H52, 3.4; H42, 3.1.2) (32).

Genotype 4.3.1 (H58) was not found amongst our historical Thai isolates. This is consistent

with previously published spatiotemporal analyses of the global isolate collection, which

showed this rapidly expanding clone only began spreading throughout Asia after 1990 (4). To

our knowledge the only evidence to date of the presence of 4.3.1 (H58) in Thailand comes

from the global study (4), in which three isolates were identified from 2010-2011, most likely

introduced from India. Therefore, our genomic snapshot of the Thai *S.* Typhi population is

consistent with previous insights and is likely reasonably representative for the study period.

In the years following the vaccination program the prevalence of Typhoid fever in Thailand

has continued to decline (53, 54)**.** The vaccination program has been credited with reducing

disease incidence in Thailand and was followed by increased economic development in the

region as well as improvements to both water and sanitation systems that have likely

improved the control of such outbreaks (53, 54). Consequently, Typhoid fever is longer

considered a serious public health threat in Thailand (53).

The presence of novel plasmids and prophages in the Thai isolates is also noteworthy. While

small plasmids of unknown function have been observed in *S.* Typhi previously (55), they are

infrequent compared to the IncHI1 MDR plasmid and the cryptic plasmid pHCM2 (33) .

Presumably, such plasmids are ephemeral; possibly because their maintenance imposes a

fitness burden on the host cells so a strong selective advantage is required for retention (56,

57). It is also possible that the lack of previous reports regarding the diversity of small

plasmids in *S.* Typhi reflects a technological complexity, however, this is bypassed with high-

throughput WGS and we detected negligible small plasmid content in the global collection of

1,832 genomes using the same screening approach (58). Notably, few of the Thai plasmids

share nucleotide sequence homology with those previously described in *S.* Typhi, but were

closely related to those found in other *Enterobacteriaceae*. The novel pHCM2-like plasmid

(pTy004_01) and two additional plasmids (pTy004_02 and pTy031_01) harbored genes

associated with phage resistance, which could provide protection against phage predation (59-

62). We also observed two novel prophages integrated into Thai genomes, which both

showed variation in their phage tail structural regions compared to close neighbors found in

Shigella/E. coli. These regions are typically responsible for binding of phage to host receptors

(63-65), thus the variation in these regions may be associated with recent adaptations to the *S.*

Typhi host. While genomic data from more recent *S.* Typhi collections shows limited

evidence for genetic exchange with other organisms (4), the detection amongst older Thai

isolates of both phage and plasmids that have been previously associated with *E. coli/Shigella*

suggests that genetic exchange may have been more common in the past or in certain

localized populations.

Overall, these data provide valuable historical insights into the *S*. Typhi populations

circulating in Thailand during the 1970s and 1980s, and early examples of the two most

common *S*. Typhi plasmids, as well as other mobile elements identified within the *S*. Typhi

population. Importantly, while genomic epidemiology has been applied to study typhoid

transmission, antimicrobial resistance evolution and antibiotic treatment failure in various

settings (66-68), this study provides an important proof-of-principle demonstration that this

approach can also provide useful insights into the impact of typhoid vaccines on circulating

bacterial populations. This should motivate the adoption of WGS methods to monitor *S*.

Typhi populations during future immunization programs and other large-scale interventions,

which could potentially identify differential impacts on distinct genotypes.

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Table 1. **Summary of mobile genetic elements observed in** *S.* **Typhi isolates from Thailand**

Isolate	Genotype	Name	Replicons detected and/or attachment sites	Size (no. putative genes)	Accession number	Function
004	2.0.0	pTy004_01	FIB (pHCM2)	108, 998 bp (133)	KX833209	Cryptic, Phage defence (Rha protein)
		pTy004_02	X1	38, 266 bp (49)	KX833212	Phage defence (Abortive Infection)
031	3.0.0	pTy031_01	N/A	40, 835 bp (53)	KX833210	Phage defence (Restriction Modification)
042						
049						
036	3.2.1	pTy036_01	HI1	~215 kbp	N/A.	AMR (*sul1*, *catA1*, *tet(B)*, *aadA1*)
046						
051						
052						
054	3.1.2	Prophage STYP1	*attL* CAAGCTGGTCAG	28,946 bp (39)	KX833211	Cryptic
055			*attR* CAAGCTGGTCAG			

Isolate	Genotype	Name	Replicons detected and/or attachment sites	Size (no. putative genes)	Accession number	Function
013	4.1.0	Prophage STYP2	*attL*	34, 780 bp (50)	KX833213	Cryptic
			ATTCGTAATGCGAAGG			
			TCGTAGGTTCGACTCCT			
			ATTATCGGCACCAT			
			attR			
			ATTCGTAATGCGAAGG			
			TCGTAGGTTCGACTCCT			
			ATTATCGGCACCA			

Figure 1. Genomic analysis of Thai S. Typhi.

(A) Maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree (outgroup rooted). Strains are labelled with their

three digit name code, year of isolation (pink shading indicates post-vaccine isolates); source

location (shaded by city, as indicated in panel B); and plasmid content (any antibiotic

resistance genes are indicated in italics). Branch lengths are indicative of the number of SNPs.

(B) Locations from which S. Typhi were isolated in Thailand. (C) Total number of positive

blood cultures of S. Typhi (black) and Paratyphi A (grey) between 1970 and 1985;

immunization period is indicated in pink; reproduced using data from reference (14).

Figure 2. Zoomed in phylogenies showing relationships of Thai S. Typhi to global

isolates. Maximum likelihood trees including S. Typhi isolates from the Thai and global

collections are shown, for each genotype that was observed amongst the Thai isolates.

Colored branches and nodes indicate country of origin, according to the inset legend. Year of

isolation is shown to the left; pink and red, Thai isolates obtained before and after the

introduction of the immunization program; grey and black, non-Thai isolates obtained before

and after the introduction of the immunization program. Thai isolates are also labelled to

indicate their city of origin: L, Loi; B, Bangkok; S, Srakaew; N, Nonthaburi. SNP distances

between isolates as well as AMR plasmids are labelled, with any resistance genes indicated in

italics. Branch lengths are indicative of the number of SNPs.

Figure 3. SNP distances for Thai and global collection isolates.

SNP distance between post-vaccine Thai isolates and their closest pre-vaccine Thai and post-

vaccine global collection relatives, colored points indicate country of origin.

Figure 4. Blast comparison of novel plasmid pTy004_01 with pHCM2 (AL513383).

Shaded regions indicate areas of sequence homology, intensity of shading indicates relative

nucleotide similarity. Arrows represent protein coding genes, direction indicates coding

strand.

Figure 5. Blast comparison of novel phages observed in Thai S. Typhi isolates to nearest

known phage sequences.

(A) Novel phage STYP1 compared to Shigella sonnei phage fiAA91-ss (NC_022750). (B)

Novel phage STYP2 compared to Shigella flexneri phage SfIV (NC_022749). Shaded regions

indicate areas of sequence homology, intensity of shading indicates relative nucleotide

similarity. Arrows represent protein coding genes (direction indicates coding strand), colored

by encoded protein functions: red, DNA packaging module; orange, virion morphogenesis

module; yellow, cargo genes; blue, DNA replication and lysogenic cycle maintenance; green,

lysis module.

A

2.1.7	032	**1986** Srakaew
	050	**1986** Srakaew
	030	**1986** Srakaew
	040	**1986** Srakaew
	037	**1986** Srakaew
	048	**1986** Srakaew
	034	**1986** Srakaew
	047	**1986** Srakaew
	045	**1986** Srakaew
	028	**1986** Srakaew

2.0.0 004 **1973** Bangkok pTy004_01, pTy004_02
2.3.4 016 **1981** Nonthaburi
2.2.0 014 **1981** Nonthaburi
018 **1981** Nonthaburi

2.4.0 023 **1985** Loi
027 **1985** Loi
009 **1973** Bangkok
021 **1984** Bangkok
020 **1984** Bangkok
022 **1984** Bangkok

3.4.0 026 **1985** Loi
025 **1985** Loi

4.1.0 013 **1973** Bangkok Prophage STYP2
005 **1973** Bangkok
007 **1973** Bangkok

3.0.0 042 **1986** Srakaew pTy031_01
031 **1986** Srakaew pTy031_01
049 **1986** Srakaew pTy031_01

3.1.2 054 **1989** Srakaew Prophage STYP1
055 **1992** Bangkok Prophage STYP1

3.2.1 012 **1973** Bangkok
003 **1973** Bangkok
011 **1973** Bangkok
006 **1973** Bangkok
008 **1973** Bangkok
002 **1973** Bangkok
1993 CT18 Vietnam
036 **1986** Srakaew pTy036_01: *aadA1, catA1, sul1, tet(B)*
052 **1986** Srakaew pTy036_01: *aadA1, catA1, sul1, tet(B)*
051 **1986** Srakaew pTy036_01: *aadA1, catA1, sul1, tet(B)*
033 **1987** Srakaew
053 **1986** Srakaew
046 **1986** Srakaew pTy036_01: *aadA1, catA1, sul1, tet(B)*
039 **1986** Srakaew
043 **1986** Srakaew

87 SNPs

B

C

No. blood culture confirmed cases vs Year. Total Typhoid (black), Total Paratyphoid (grey).