

***Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium ST313 responsible for gastroenteritis in the UK are genetically distinct from isolates causing bloodstream infections in Africa**

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Abstract

1 The ST313 sequence type of *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium causes
2 invasive non-typhoidal salmonellosis amongst immunocompromised people in sub-
3 Saharan Africa (sSA). Previously, two distinct phylogenetic lineages of ST313 have
4 been described which have rarely been found outside sSA. Following the
5 introduction of routine whole genome sequencing of *Salmonella enterica* by Public
6 Health England in 2014, we have discovered that 2.7% (79/2888) of *S. Typhimurium*
7 from patients in England and Wales are ST313. Of these isolates, 59/72 originated
8 from stool and 13/72 were from extra-intestinal sites. The isolation of ST313 from
9 extra-intestinal sites was significantly associated with travel to Africa (OR 12 [95%
10 CI: 3,53]). Phylogenetic analysis revealed previously unsampled diversity of ST313,
11 and distinguished UK-linked isolates causing gastroenteritis from African-associated
12 isolates causing invasive disease. Bayesian evolutionary investigation suggested
13 that the two African lineages diverged from their most recent common ancestors
14 independently, circa 1796 and 1903. The majority of genome degradation of African
15 ST313 lineage 2 is conserved in the UK ST313 lineages and only 10/44
16 pseudogenes were lineage 2-specific. The African lineages carried a characteristic
17 prophage and antibiotic resistance gene repertoire, suggesting a strong selection
18 pressure for these horizontally-acquired genetic elements in the sSA setting. We
19 identified an ST313 isolate associated with travel to Kenya that carried a
20 chromosomally-located *bla*_{CTX-M-15}, demonstrating the continual evolution of this
21 sequence type in Africa in response to selection pressure exerted by antibiotic
22 usage.

23
24 The *S. Typhimurium* ST313 sequence type has been primarily associated with
25 invasive disease in Africa. Here, we highlight the power of routine whole-genome-
26 sequencing by public health agencies to make epidemiologically-significant
27 deductions that would be missed by conventional microbiological methods. The
28 discovery of ST313 isolates responsible for gastroenteritis in the UK reveals new
29 diversity in this important sequence type. We speculate that the niche specialization
30 of sub-Saharan African ST313 lineages is driven in part by the acquisition of
31 accessory genome elements.

32 Introduction

33

34 Serovars of *Salmonella enterica* cause infections in a diverse range of hosts. In
35 humans, Salmonellae are responsible for a broad range of clinical presentations, from
36 gastroenteritis to invasion of normally sterile compartments such as the bloodstream
37 or brain. Two serovars, *Salmonella* Typhi and *Salmonella* Paratyphi A are particularly
38 associated with both human-restricted, and invasive disease. The clinical syndrome
39 caused by these serovars is known as Typhoid or Enteric fever, and this has led to the
40 remaining 2,600 serovars being loosely described as non-typhoidal. By inference,
41 “non-typhoidal” serovars have been considered to be non-invasive in
42 immunocompetent individuals; this crude clinical distinction is misleading (1).

43

44 These “non-typhoidal” *Salmonella* (NTS) serovars typically have a broad host-range,
45 and the majority of human cases are foodborne, often originating from zoonotic
46 reservoirs (2). Whilst most infections are typically associated with self-limiting
47 gastroenteritis, in a minority (~5%) invasive disease occurs, frequently due to human
48 host immunosuppression, for example advanced HIV infection (3). NTS are a
49 significant public health burden worldwide and *S. Typhimurium* and *S. Enteritidis* are
50 the predominant serotypes observed in clinical cases in most countries. In England &
51 Wales, 48.7% of the isolates referred to the *Salmonella* Reference Service were *S.*
52 *Typhimurium* or *S. Enteritidis* ([PHE figures](#)) in 2012.

53

54 The clinical distinction between typhoidal and nontyphoidal disease is particularly
55 unhelpful in sub-Saharan Africa (sSA), where non-typhoidal serovars are amongst the
56 most common cause of bloodstream infection, a clinical condition known as invasive
57 nontyphoidal *Salmonella* (iNTS) disease (1). Whilst the high prevalence of
58 immunosuppressive illness such as HIV and malaria in sSA are clear predisposing
59 factors for the emergence of iNTS disease as a major public health problem, the huge
60 burden of disease has led to further investigation into the serovars responsible for
61 iNTS disease. *S. Typhimurium* is the serovar most commonly associated with this
62 condition (4).

63

64 Multi locus sequence typing (MLST) is a molecular approach for typing micro-
65 organisms, and uses the allelic variation of seven highly conserved *Salmonella*
66 housekeeping genes to approximate bacterial phylogeny (5). Whole genome
67 sequence studies of isolates collected from patients with iNTS disease in sSA initially
68 identified a novel sequence type (ST), ST313, of *S. Typhimurium* in 2009 (6).
69 Subsequent genome-based studies confirmed two distinct phylogenetic lineages of
70 ST313, and spatio-temporal phylogenetic reconstruction suggested that lineage 1
71 emerged around 1960 in south west Africa, whereas lineage 2 emerged around 1977
72 in Malawi (5). Both lineages are associated with antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
73 mediated by differing Tn21-like integrons on the virulence plasmid pSLT (6), and it
74 was proposed that clonal replacement of lineage 1 by lineage 2 had occurred, driven
75 by the acquisition of chloramphenicol resistance in lineage 2 (7).

76

77 It has been suggested that the link between *S. Typhimurium* ST313 and iNTS disease
78 in sSA is that, compared with the generalist *S. Typhimurium* ST19, ST313 has adapted
79 to an extra-intestinal/invasive lifestyle via genome degradation (6, 8). This would be
80 consistent with the finding of an accumulation of pseudogenes in pathways associated
81 with gastrointestinal colonization, as observed in host-restricted *Salmonella* serovars

82 such as *S. Typhi*, and in *Yersinia pestis*, *Shigella* spp, *Mycobacterium leprae* and
83 *Bordetella pertussis* (9–14). Another observation from comparative genomic studies,
84 which supports the hypothesized enhanced virulence of ST313 includes the detection
85 of novel prophages BTP1 and BTP5 (15) including the reported BTP1 phage-encoded
86 putative virulence gene, *st313-td* (16). A number of phenotypic characteristics which
87 distinguish ST313 from gastroenteritis-associated ST19 strains have also been
88 described including a reduction in motility, flagellin expression, stationary-phase
89 catalase activity and biofilm formation (17–19). Despite these phenotypes, it remains
90 to be proven whether ST313 are intrinsically more invasive than ST19.

91

92 Since April 1st 2014, every presumptive *Salmonella* isolate received by the *Salmonella*
93 Reference Service (SRS) of Public Health England (PHE) has been whole genome-
94 sequenced (WGS) to allow identification, characterization and typing in one laboratory
95 process (5, 20).

96

97 In this study we investigated the prevalence of ST313 in cases of laboratory-confirmed
98 *S. Typhimurium* infections reported in England and Wales, obtained clinical data
99 regarding the origin of isolates (faeces or blood) and contacted patients to determine
100 whether infection was associated with travel to high-incidence areas such as sSA. We
101 used a phylogenetic approach to place the UK-isolated ST313 into the evolutionary
102 context of the African ST313 lineages. We then investigated the accessory genome,
103 multi-drug resistance (MDR) determinants and the presence of pseudogenes in the
104 UK isolates to shed light on the population structure and evolution of ST313 *S.*
105 *Typhimurium*. We also compared key phenotypes of the UK-isolated ST313 with the
106 African ST313 lineage.

107 Results

108

109 Epidemiology of ST313 in the UK

110 Between January 2014 and May 2016, 2,888 *S. Typhimurium* isolates were whole-
111 genome sequenced by Public Health England, of which 79 (2.7%) were of multi-locus
112 sequence type ST313. Whole genome sequence data were available for a further 363
113 *S. Typhimurium* isolates from 2012, of which 7 (1.9%) were ST313. Of these 86 ST313
114 isolates (Supplementary Table S1), 75 were derived from human patients (5 patients
115 had two isolates sequenced, and one patient had 5 isolates sequenced), 1 from a dog
116 and 1 was isolated from an unspecified raw food sample. The sample type was
117 recorded for 72 of the 75 human patient isolates; 13 patients had one or more isolate
118 from extra-intestinal sites (blood, pus or bronchial alveolar lavage) indicating iNTS
119 disease, and 59 isolates were from faeces alone (indicating gastrointestinal infection).
120 Travel information was available for 51 of the 75 human patients of whom 8 reported
121 travel to sSA during the estimated disease incubation period and one adult male
122 reported consuming food of West African origin in London.

123

124 Of the 51 patients with travel information, 48 had sample type recorded. Of the 8
125 patients who reported travel to Africa, 6 had extra-intestinal infections. In contrast, just
126 2 of 40 patients for whom travel information was available and did not report travel to
127 Africa had extra-intestinal infection, showing that travel to Africa is significantly
128 associated with iNTS disease in the UK (OR 57.0 [95% CI: 6.7, 484.8], p-value =
129 0.0002) (Table 1A).

130

131 Phylogenetic analysis

132 Sequence data quality was sufficient to permit whole genome single nucleotide
133 polymorphism (SNP) phylogenetic analysis of the isolates from 76 of the 77 patient
134 and non-human isolates. Within the wider phylogenetic context of *S. Typhimurium*, all
135 ST313 isolates submitted to PHE formed a monophyletic group that clustered with
136 previously described African ST313 isolates (7) (Figure 1). A second maximum
137 likelihood ST313 phylogeny was generated with a closely-related ST19 strain also
138 received by PHE (strain U21) as an outlier, to study phylogenetic relationships
139 (Figure 2A). Of the 76 isolates from distinct patients/sources 12 belonged to the
140 previously described lineage 2, and 64 did not fall within any ST313 lineage that has
141 been reported to date. No lineage 1 isolates were identified. Furthermore, the African
142 associated lineages 1 and 2 did not form a monophyletic group within the novel
143 diversity observed. Both of the African lineages share more recent common
144 ancestors with UK-associated strains than with each other. Neither the food nor the
145 animal isolate belonged to lineage 2. All the UK-derived isolates in this study
146 originated from diagnostic laboratories in England and Wales. To simplify the
147 categorization/differentiation of the lineages for discussion purposes, isolates
148 belonging to lineage 1 and 2 (including those isolated in the UK) will be referred to as
149 African lineages, and the non-lineage 1 and 2 isolates will be referred to as UK
150 ST313. The UK ST313 isolates do not themselves form a coherent monophyletic
151 cluster, revealing an unappreciated level of genetic diversity within ST313 (Figure 1).

152

153 To examine the evolutionary history of ST313, a maximum clade credibility tree was
154 inferred using BEAST (Figure 3), and the topology was largely congruent with respect
155 to the Maximum Likelihood tree (Figure 1, Figure 2). The most recent common
156 ancestor (MRCA) of ST313 is estimated to have been in approximately 1787 (95%

157 highest posterior distribution (HPD), 1735 - 1836). Lineage 1 diverged from other
158 ST313 sampled in this study in approximately 1796 (95% HPD 1744-1842), while
159 lineage 2 diverged from other ST313 sampled here in 1903 (95% HPD 1876 - 1927).
160 The lineage 1 MRCA dated to around 1984 (95% HPD 1979-1987), while the lineage
161 2 MRCA dated to around 1991 (95% HPD 1986-1995). These confidence intervals
162 overlap with the confidence intervals reported for the emergence of the two lineages
163 by Okoro *et al.*, 2012 (7). The two African lineages do not form a monophyletic group,
164 and share an MRCA which is very close to that of ST313 as a whole. Both lineage 1
165 and 2 are separated from other sampled ST313 by long branches, indicating a distant
166 MRCA with other isolates and suggesting that a tight population bottleneck has
167 occurred relatively recently in evolutionary history.

168

169 **Epidemiological analysis in phylogenetic context**

170 We investigated the association between reported travel to sSA and infection with the
171 lineage 2 isolates. Of the 8 UK patients reporting travel to sSA during the seven days
172 before disease onset, 7 were infected with a lineage 2 isolate. In contrast, of the 43
173 patients who reported no travel to sSA, 2 were infected with lineage 2 (Table 1B). This
174 shows that travel to sSA was significantly associated with infection by ST313 lineage
175 2 (OR 143.5 [95% CI: 11.4,1802], p-value = 0.0001).

176

177 We investigated whether the ST313 lineage 2 isolates were more frequently
178 associated with extra-intestinal or gastro-intestinal infection. Of the 11 patients
179 infected with lineage 2 (and for which source of isolation data was available), 10
180 patients had isolates that originated from extra-intestinal sites. In contrast, for the
181 patients infected with UK ST313 isolates, 3 of 60 isolates were from extra-intestinal
182 sites (Table 1C). These data show that infection with lineage 2 is significantly
183 associated with invasive disease (OR 190.0 [95% CI: 17.9, 2014.0], p-value < 0.0001).

184

185 **Accessory genome of ST313**

186 Multi-drug resistance is a key phenotypic feature associated with both the African
187 ST313 lineages, and is encoded by tn21-like integron insertions on the pSLT virulence
188 plasmid. Analysis of the genome sequences indicated that all 76 ST313 isolates in this
189 study carried the pSLT plasmid. However, the majority of the UK ST313 isolates were
190 antibiotic-sensitive (59/64 were sensitive to all antimicrobials tested), and no
191 consistent AMR gene profile was identified. In contrast, 10 of 12 UK-isolated lineage
192 2 isolates contained the same pSLT-associated MDR locus as the African lineage 2
193 reference strain D23580 (6). Four UK-isolated lineage 2 strains exhibited an atypical
194 AMR gene profile; one isolate (U45) lacked the chloramphenicol resistance *catA* gene
195 and another (U73) carried only the beta-lactamase gene *bla*_{TEM1}. A third isolate, U1,
196 had likely acquired resistance to fluoroquinolones via a mutation in the DNA gyrase
197 subunit A gene, *gyrA*.

198

199 The last atypical UK-isolated lineage 2 isolate, U60, carried additional antibiotic
200 resistance genes including extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBL) *bla*_{CTX-M-15}
201 and *bla*_{OXA-1}, and genes conferring resistance to aminoglycosides, trimethoprim and
202 tetracycline; *aac(6')-Ib-cr*, *dfrA-14*, *tet(A)-1* (Figure 4a). Isolate U60 also encoded the
203 tellurium heavy metal resistance operon (*terBCDEF*). Comparison to lineage 2
204 reference strain D23580 identified a putative 29kb deletion in the pSLT-BT virulence
205 plasmid (6), which corresponded to the conjugal transfer region. Additionally, we
206 identified sequence reads that mapped to 97% of the IncHI2 pKST313 plasmid, a

207 novel plasmid which has recently been reported in lineage 2 isolates from Kenya and
208 is known to encode ESBL resistance loci (21).

209

210 More detailed analysis of the genome of isolate U60 showed that a copy of the *bla*_{CTX-M-15}
211 gene was inserted into the chromosome (location 1648104-1648109 on the
212 D23580 reference genome), disrupting the *ompD* locus (Figure 4b Supplementary
213 Figure S1). ESBL resistance genes have been reported previously in African ST313
214 isolates carrying plasmids such as pKST313 (21, 22) but this is the first report of a
215 chromosomally-encoded ESBL resistance gene in *S. Typhimurium* ST313.

216

217 The assembled genomes of the UK-ST313 isolates were compared to the African
218 ST313 reference strain D23580 using BLAST (Figure 2B). In agreement with
219 published data (4), the majority of the core genome, including the *Salmonella*
220 Pathogenicity Island (SPI) repertoire was conserved in the ST313 isolates in this study
221 and in 3 ST19 gastroenteritis isolates (Figure 2B). The African ST313 lineages carry
222 two prophages, BTP1 and BTP5, that are absent from ST19 strains (15). The entire
223 BTP1 and BTP5 prophages were found in most ST313 isolates that belonged to
224 African lineage 2 (12/13), but one UK-isolated lineage 2 strain, U68, lacked both
225 prophages. The complete BTP1 and BTP5 prophages were not identified in any of the
226 UK-ST313 isolates (Figure 2B), though some isolates contained partial and
227 fragmented identity to BTP1 and BTP5, indicating the presence of related prophages
228 (23, 24) which may not occupy the same attachment site. As expected, the *st313-td*
229 gene (25) was carried by all twelve lineage 2 strains isolated from the UK that
230 contained prophage BTP1. Only 1/51 UK-ST313 isolates contained the *st313-td* gene
231 (isolate U76), where it was located on a prophage with 90% identity to BTP1.

232

233 To confirm the conservation of chromosomal organization in the UK ST313 isolates,
234 representative isolate U2 was re-sequenced by PacBio long-read sequencing. The
235 assembly produced two closed circular contigs representing the chromosome and the
236 pSLT virulence plasmid (Supplementary Figure S2). Comparison with the ST313
237 lineage 2 reference genome D23580 identified no large chromosomal re-
238 arrangements, deletions or duplications, and confirmed that the BTP1 and BTP5
239 attachment sites were unoccupied and did not contain additional prophages. No
240 additional plasmids larger than the detection limit of the PacBio sequencing (~10kb)
241 were detected in isolate U2.

242

243 **Genome degradation and pseudogenes in UK and African ST313**

244 The ST313 lineages 1 and 2 responsible for iNTS disease in Africa have undergone
245 genome degradation (6, 8). The pseudogenes identified in lineage 2 representative
246 strain D23580 (6) were put into the context of the high-quality finished genome of UK-
247 ST313 isolate U2 (Figure 5). The majority (34/44) of pseudogene mutations were
248 conserved in U2. The only pseudogenes associated with characterized genes present
249 in lineage 2 but functional in UK-ST313 strain U2 were *macB*, *ssel* and *lpxO* (Figure
250 5).

251

252 **Phenotypic characterization of a subset of UK-ST313 strains**

253 Several studies have associated the ability of ST313 to cause iNTS disease with
254 particular phenotypic characteristics, such as the lack of RDAR morphotype formation,
255 reduced swimming motility and the inability to produce catalase at stationary
256 phase(18, 19, 26). We investigated these phenotypic characteristics in the context of

257 the UK-ST313 strains, using a subset of 16 UK-isolated ST313, consisting of 13 UK-
258 ST313 isolates and 3 lineage 2 isolates. The phylogenetic context of these 16 isolates
259 is shown in Supplementary Figure S3. Lineage 2 representative strain D23580 and
260 ST19 representative strain 4/74 were included as positive and negative controls.

261
262 The swimming motility of UK-isolated ST313 was highly variable between isolates
263 (Figure 6a). One lineage 2 strain, U1, showed low levels of motility. However, this
264 strain was observed to have a growth defect (data not shown). The ST313 lineage 2
265 representative strain D23580 was less motile than ST19 strain 4/74, consistent with
266 previous reports (18). However, there was no apparent association between motility
267 (as measured by migration diameter) and phylogenetic context of the lineage 2 strains
268 and the UK-ST313 strains.

269
270 The *katE* pseudogene was reported to be responsible for the lack of catalase activity
271 in ST313 lineage 2 (19). All 16 UK-isolated strains were shown to be negative for
272 stationary phase catalase activity, as was the lineage 2 representative strain D23580
273 (Figure 6b). In contrast, ST19 strains 4/74 showed considerable stationary phase
274 catalase activity, consistent with previous findings (19).

275
276 The RDAR morphotype of *Salmonella enterica* is linked to resistance to desiccation
277 and exogenous stresses (27). African lineage 2 ST313 are reported to be defective in
278 RDAR morphotype formation due to a truncated BcsG protein due to the introduction
279 of a premature stop codon (19). All the UK-isolated strains and the African lineage 2
280 reference strain D23580 did not exhibit the RDAR morphotype. In our experiments,
281 only the ST19 strain 4/74 exhibited the RDAR morphotype (Figure 6c).

282
283 These experiments did not identify any phenotypic differences between the UK-ST313
284 isolates and ST313 lineage 2, and future work is needed to identify African ST313-
285 specific phenotypes.

286 Discussion

287

288 Recent reports of iNTS disease have been associated with the novel *Salmonella*
289 Typhimurium ST313 in sSA (6, 7, 16), and suggested that ST313 was geographically
290 restricted to sSA. This prompted the investigation of the presence of this sequence
291 type amongst *S. Typhimurium* isolates from the UK.

292

293 We discovered that 2.7% of *Salmonella* Typhimurium isolates referred to Public Health
294 England are of MLST type ST313, and that this sequence type is heterogeneous in
295 terms of clinical presentation, genomic characteristics and epidemiology. The UK-
296 isolated ST313 strains are predominantly fully antimicrobial-susceptible and cause
297 gastroenteritis. We identified a significant association between travel to Africa and
298 infection with the previously described African-associated, ST313 lineage 2. We found
299 two cases of lineage 2 infection where the patient did not report travel to Africa,
300 although one of these patients reported consumption of food from West Africa in
301 London. This indicates that African lineage 2 is predominantly circulating in Africa but
302 may also be circulating in the UK and other countries – potentially via person to person
303 transmission or through exposure to food imported from Africa. People infected with
304 ST313 lineage 2 in the UK were significantly more likely to suffer from invasive disease
305 than patients infected with isolates belonging to UK-ST313 lineages. There is also an
306 increasing number of immune-compromised people in the UK with increasing organ
307 transplants and immune-modulating cancer therapies.

308

309 This study revealed novel diversity within ST313, which was previously restricted to
310 two African lineages that had exhibited recent clonal expansion (7). Here we place
311 these lineages into an evolutionary context by showing that lineage 1 and 2 do not
312 form a monophyletic group within ST313, which is suggestive of two separate
313 introductions of ST313 into sSA. African lineages 1 and 2 diverged from their MRCA
314 with UK-lineages around 1796 and 1903 respectively. These findings reflect the
315 limitations of classifying bacterial pathogens simply on the basis of sequence type,
316 and show that in the post-genomic era, the resolution offered by MLST may not be
317 sufficient to describe epidemiologically relevant population structures.

318

319 It has been estimated that 9.2% of cases of Salmonellosis in the EU can be attributed
320 to international travel, and therefore sequencing *Salmonella* isolated in Europe can
321 provide valuable information regarding the global diversity of *Salmonellae* associated
322 with human disease (28, 29). The genome of one UK-isolated lineage 2 isolate
323 associated with travel to Kenya, U60, contained sequences with high nucleotide
324 similarity to a recently described IncHI2 plasmid, pKST313, associated with Kenyan
325 ceftriaxone resistant ST313 isolates (21). The U60 plasmid encoded 4 additional MDR
326 genes and tellurium heavy metal resistance genes. Until now the *bla*_{CTX-M-15} gene has
327 only been found to be plasmid-associated in *Salmonellae*. We discovered that the
328 *bla*_{CTX-M-15} gene was chromosomally encoded in isolate U60, causing disruption of the
329 *ompD* locus. This is notable for two reasons. Firstly, chromosomal integration ensures
330 stability of ESBL-resistance even if the plasmid were lost. Secondly, *ompD* encodes
331 an outer membrane porin that is absent from *Salmonella* Typhi. OmpD has previously
332 been identified as a highly immunogenic protein (30) and so the disruption of *ompD*
333 could enhance the reported “stealth” phenotype of ST313 lineage 2 infection (17). We
334 note that OmpD is a potential vaccine target for iNTS (31) and the absence of OmpD

335 from African ST313 populations could have implications for future iNTS vaccine
336 development.

337

338 Our discovery of UK-ST313 isolates that were not associated with invasive disease
339 provides an excellent opportunity to use comparative genomics to relate genetic
340 findings that have been linked the pathology of lineage 2 ST313 into the context of
341 closely related, gastrointestinal-associated strains. We found that the only genetic
342 characteristics common to both lineages 1 and 2 and absent from the UK-ST313
343 genomes were the BTP1 and BTP5 prophages and plasmid-associated MDR loci.
344 The two African lineages do not share a common ancestor that carried either
345 prophage, suggesting independent acquisition of BTP1 and BTP5 by lineage 1 and
346 2, and whilst the MDR loci confer similar patterns of AMR they are genetically
347 distinct. This implies a strong selection pressure on ST313 in Africa to acquire and
348 maintain these mobile elements, resulting in convergent evolution of the two African
349 lineages. In contrast, there is evidence of an assortment of distinct prophage
350 repertoires in the UK-ST313 isolates, indicating an absence of selection for the
351 conservation of any particular mobile element.

352

353 Aside from the addition of mobile genetic elements and virulence factors, genome
354 degradation by the accumulation of pseudogenes and deletion events is known to
355 accompany adaption to a more invasive lifestyle (32, 33). Initial analysis of the African
356 ST313 representative strain D23580 genome reported 23 pseudogenes compared to
357 6 present in ST19 strain SL1344 (34). Here, we found that the majority of genome
358 degradation found in lineage 2 strain D23580 was conserved in UK representative
359 strain U2. The only pseudogenes associated with characterized genes that were found
360 to be specific to African lineage 2 ST313 were the SPI2-secreted effector gene *ssel*,
361 lipid A modification gene *lpxO* and macrolide efflux pump gene *macB*, each of which
362 could play a role in infection dynamics (35–37).

363

364 A number of *in vitro* phenotypes have been reported for lineage 2 ST313, that could
365 contribute to a host-adapted lifestyle (17–19, 26) and were examined in the UK-ST313.
366 Swimming motility was highly variable amongst the strains tested, and UK-ST313
367 isolates behaved identically to African lineage 2 isolates in the catalase and RDAR
368 morphotype assays. We detected no African-lineage-specific phenotypic
369 characteristics and speculate that reduced motility, defective catalase activity and loss
370 of RDAR formation are not be directly linked to iNTS disease.

371

372 A key contributing factor to iNTS disease is host immunosuppression and one
373 limitation of this retrospective study was that the underlying health status of the
374 patients was unknown. This study does highlight the extraordinary epidemiological
375 insights that routine genomic surveillance of pathogens by public health agencies can
376 offer, and the ability to understand the pathogenesis of novel pathogens. The
377 knowledge that an immune-compromised patient was infected with lineage 2 ST313
378 could impact clinical decision-making.

379

380 We have uncovered previously un-sampled diversity in the ST313 clone reflecting the
381 convergent evolution towards niche specialization that has occurred in the African
382 lineages. The routine genomic surveillance of pathogens continues to be adopted
383 internationally and will bring an unprecedented ability to monitor emerging threats.

384 Whole genome sequencing of clinical isolates represents a new window to view the
385 epidemiology and microbiology of infectious diseases.

386 **Materials and Methods**

387 **Strains and Metadata**

388 Genome sequences from a total of 363 *Salmonella* Typhimurium isolates dating from
389 2012 and 3,014 *Salmonella* Typhimurium from January 1st 2014 to March 14th 2016
390 were analyzed for this study.

391 For simplicity, isolates derived from blood culture, the infection was classed as extra-
392 intestinal. If only a faecal isolate was received for a patient, the infection was classed
393 as gastrointestinal (though this is only suggestive, not conclusive, data that the
394 infection was restricted to the gastrointestinal tract). Of these, 7/363 (1.9%) and
395 79/3,014 (2.6%) were *Salmonella* Typhimurium ST313, respectively. Full strain
396 metadata can be found in Table S1. Sequence data (FASTQs) from 23 representative
397 ST313 sequenced by Okoro *et al.* (7) were downloaded from the European Nucleotide
398 Archive (accessions available in Table S1) and analyzed in the same way as sequence
399 data generated from UK-isolated ST313 isolates.

400

401 **Sequencing**

402 DNA extraction for Illumina sequencing of *Salmonella* isolates was carried out using a
403 modified protocol of the Qiasymphony DSP DNA midi kit (Qiagen). In brief, 0.7 ml of
404 an overnight *Salmonella* culture in a 96 deep well plate was harvested. Bacterial cells
405 were pre-lysed in 220 µl of ATL buffer (Qiagen) and 20 µl Proteinase K (Qiagen), and
406 incubated with shaking for 30 mins at 56°C. Four microliters of RNase (100 mg/ml;
407 Qiagen) was added to the lysed cells and re-incubated for a further 15 minutes at
408 37°C. This step increased the purity of the DNA for downstream sequencing. DNA
409 from the treated cells was then extracted on the Qiasymphony SP platform (Qiagen)
410 and eluted in 100 µl of sterile water. DNA concentration was derived using the GloMax
411 system (Promega) and quality (optimal OD260/230 = 1.8 - 2.0) was determined using
412 the LabChip DX system (Perkin Elmer). Extracted DNA was prepared using the
413 NexteraXT sample preparation method, and sequenced with a standard 2x100 base
414 pair protocol on a HiSeq 2500 instrument (Illumina, San Diego). Raw FASTQs were
415 processed with Trimmomatic (38) and bases with a PHRED score of less than 30
416 removed from the trailing end.

417

418 PacBio sequencing was performed on the PacBio RS II instrument at the Centre for
419 Genomic Research, University of Liverpool. DNA was extracted from strain U2 using
420 the Zymo Research Quick-DNA™ Universal Kit (cat# D4069) as per the Biological
421 Fluids & Cells protocol. Extracted DNA was purified with Ampure beads (Agencourt)
422 and the quantity and quality was assessed by Nanodrop and Qubit assays. In addition,
423 the Fragment analyzer (VH Bio), was used to determine the average size of the DNA,
424 using a high sensitivity genomic kit. DNA was sheared to approximately 10kb using a
425 Covaris g-tube and spinning at 5400rpm in an Eppendorf centrifuge. The size range
426 was checked on the Fragment Analyzer. DNA was treated with exonuclease V11 at
427 37°C for 15 minutes. The ends of the DNA were repaired as described by Pacific
428 Biosciences. Samples were incubated for 20 minutes at 37°C with damage repair mix
429 supplied in the SMRTbell library kit (Pacific Biosciences). This was followed by a 5-
430 minute incubation at 25°C with end-repair mix. DNA was cleaned using 1:1 volume
431 ratio of Ampure beads and 70% ethanol washes. DNA was ligated to adapters
432 overnight at 25°C. Ligation was terminated by incubation at 65°C for 10 minutes
433 followed by exonuclease treatment for 1 hour at 37°C. The SMRTbell library was
434 purified with 1:1 volume ratio of Ampure beads. The library was size-selected on the
435 Blue Pippin (Sage) in the range 7kb-20kb. The DNA was recovered and the quantity

436 of library and therefore the recovery was determined by Qubit assay and the average
437 fragment size determined by Fragment Analyser. SMRTbell libraries were annealed
438 to sequencing primer at values predetermined by the Binding Calculator (Pacific
439 Biosciences) and complexes made with the DNA polymerase (P6/C4 chemistry). The
440 complexes were bound to Magbeads and loaded onto 3 SMRT cells. Sequencing was
441 done using 360-minute movie times. Sequence data from the 3 SMRT cells was
442 assembled using the HGAP3/Quiver assembler. This resulted in 2 contigs
443 representing the chromosome and the pSLT virulence plasmid. Terminal repeats were
444 manually trimmed to represent circular molecules, and the chromosome assembly was
445 reordered so that the sequence started at the *thrL* locus in accordance with convention
446 for *Salmonella* finished genomes. The closed sequences for the U2 chromosome and
447 pSLT virulence plasmid were 4,811,399bp and 93,862bp respectively. Prokka (39)
448 was used to annotate the two sequences, using the `-force` flag to preferentially
449 annotate CDS from reference databases FN424405 for the chromosome and
450 AE006471 for the virulence plasmid. The finished U2 genome and annotation were
451 submitted to Genbank and can be accessed using the study number PRJEB20926.

452

453 **Genomic analysis**

454 The multi-locus sequence type (ST) was determined using a modified version of SRST
455 (40). For phylogenetic analysis, processed sequence reads were mapped to the *S.*
456 Typhimurium LT2 reference genome (GenBank: AE006468) using BWA mem (41).
457 SNPs were called using GATK2 (42) in unified genotyper mode. Core genome
458 positions that had a high quality SNP (>90% consensus, minimum depth 10x, MQ
459 >=30) in at least one strain were extracted and IQ-TREE with parameters `-m TEST -`
460 `bb 1000` was used to construct a maximum likelihood phylogeny (43).

461

462 To examine the evolutionary history of ST313, four timed phylogenies were
463 constructed using BEAST v1.8.0 (44), with varying clock rate models and tree priors.
464 The resulting models were compared in terms of their tree likelihood and posterior and
465 the strict exponential and strict constant models were found to be superior. A
466 comparison using AICM calculated with Tracer v1.6.0 showed that the models had
467 very similar values, tree topologies and branching support in terms of posterior
468 probability were similar between the models. The 95% HPD for the exponential growth
469 rate estimate was -0.0026 to 0.0006; the strict, constant growth model was selected
470 as the estimate of growth rate from the exponential model was around 0 (i.e. constant).

471

472 Accessory genome analysis was performed using *de novo* assemblies of quality
473 processed FASTQs produced using SPAdes v2.5.1 using default parameters except
474 `-careful` and `-k 22, 33, 55, 77` (45). Searching for specific gene targets e.g. *st313-td*
475 was performed using BLAST+ within the BioPython framework (46) and whole
476 genome assemblies were compared to the reference ST313 strain D23580 using
477 BRIG (47).

478

479 **Microbiology**

480 Phenotypic antimicrobial susceptibility testing was carried out for all UK-isolated
481 ST313 strains. The antimicrobial susceptibility testing was done using breakpoint
482 concentrations. Briefly, an agar dilution method involving Iso-sensitest agar or Muller-
483 Hinton agar was used to determine if isolates were sensitive or resistant to a set
484 concentration of individual antimicrobials (Supplementary Table S2).

485

486 Swimming motility assays were performed based on methods previously described
487 (48). A 3µl aliquot of bacteria grown overnight in LB (Lennox Broth; 10 g/L Bacto
488 Tryptone, 5 g/L yeast extract and 5 g/L NaCl, pH7.0) was spotted onto LB (Lennox)
489 plates containing 0.3% Bacto Agar (Difco). Plates were incubated at 37°C. After
490 exactly 5 hours the migration diameter was measured and plates were photographed.

491
492 Catalase activity and RDAR morphotypes were assayed based on methods used by
493 Singletary *et al.* (19). Briefly, for catalase activity, 20 µl of 20% aqueous H₂O₂ was
494 added to 1ml of bacteria grown overnight in LB (Lennox), in 1cm diameter glass test
495 tubes. Tubes were photographed after 5 minutes incubation at room temperature and
496 the height of the bubble column measured. For RDAR morphology, 2 µl of bacteria
497 grown overnight in LB (Lennox) were spotted onto LB plates without NaCl and
498 supplemented with 40 µg/ml Congo red and 20 µg/ml Coomassie blue. Plates were
499 incubated at 25°C and 37°C for 7 days without inversion. All experiments were
500 conducted in triplicate.

501 502 **Epidemiology**

503 Food poisoning is a notifiable disease in the UK and diagnostic laboratories are
504 obliged to report the isolation of *Salmonella* from human clinical diagnostic samples.
505 However, data are frequently incomplete and detailed exposure information for cases
506 is not always available in retrospect. Therefore, targeted surveillance questionnaires
507 were attempted to obtain enhanced information, focusing primarily on collection of
508 information on clinical severity of disease, travel history and consumption of foods of
509 African origin were utilized during telephone interviews for cases reported from 2014-
510 2016 to collate relevant epidemiological data. Cases for which enhanced information
511 were available are shown in Table S1.

512
513 Collection of this epidemiological data was not attempted for the 2012 cases, but
514 limited travel data had been recorded on the SRS *Salmonella* surveillance database
515 or some isolates. It is important to emphasize that the travel information for the 2012
516 isolates is of low quality, and the absence of reported travel does not mean that
517 international travel had not occurred. Odds ratios were calculated using the
518 medcalc.org website https://www.medcalc.org/calc/odds_ratio.php.

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Tables and Figures

Table 1. Summary of key epidemiological features of ST313 sampled by PHE.
Full metadata for all isolates in this study is available in Supplementary Table S1.

A. Association between isolation source and travel to sub-Saharan Africa. Total = 48 (48 individual patient isolates with travel information and isolation source data available).

	Extra-intestinal infection	Gastro-intestinal infection
Reported travel to sub-Saharan Africa	6	2
No reported travel to sub-Saharan Africa	2	38
	Odds ratio 57.0 [95% CI: 6.7, 484.8], p-value 0.0002	

B. Association between lineage 2 infection and travel to sub-Saharan Africa. Total= 51 (51 individual patient isolates with travel information available)

	Lineage 2	Non-lineage 2
Reported travel to sub-Saharan Africa	7	1
No reported travel to sub-Saharan Africa	2	41
	Odds ratio 143.5 [95% CI: 11.4, 1802.9], p-value 0.0001	

C. Association between lineage 2 infection and extra-intestinal infection. Total = 72 (Individual human patient isolates with isolation source data available and high enough sequence quality to be included in phylogenetic analysis)

	Lineage 2	Non-lineage 2
Extra-intestinal infection	10	3
Gastro-intestinal infection	1	57
	Odds ratio 190.0 [95% CI: 17.9, 2014.0], p-value < 0.0001	

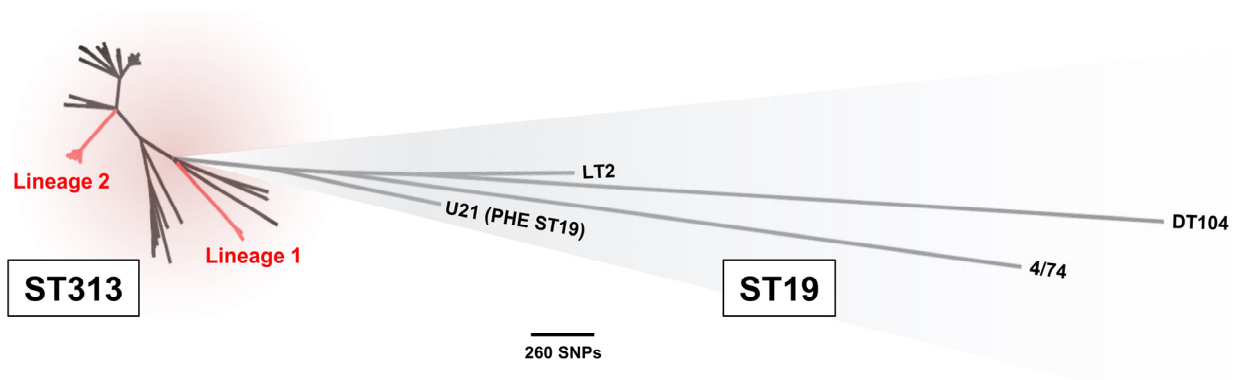


Figure 1: UK-ST313 isolates are phylogenetically distinct from African lineages. Unrooted maximum likelihood phylogeny of ST313 in the context of reference *Salmonella* Typhimurium ST19 isolates. Isolate U21 was an ST19 isolate, closely related to ST313, that was used as an outgroup in further ST313 analyses. The African epidemic ST313 lineages 1 and 2 are labelled.

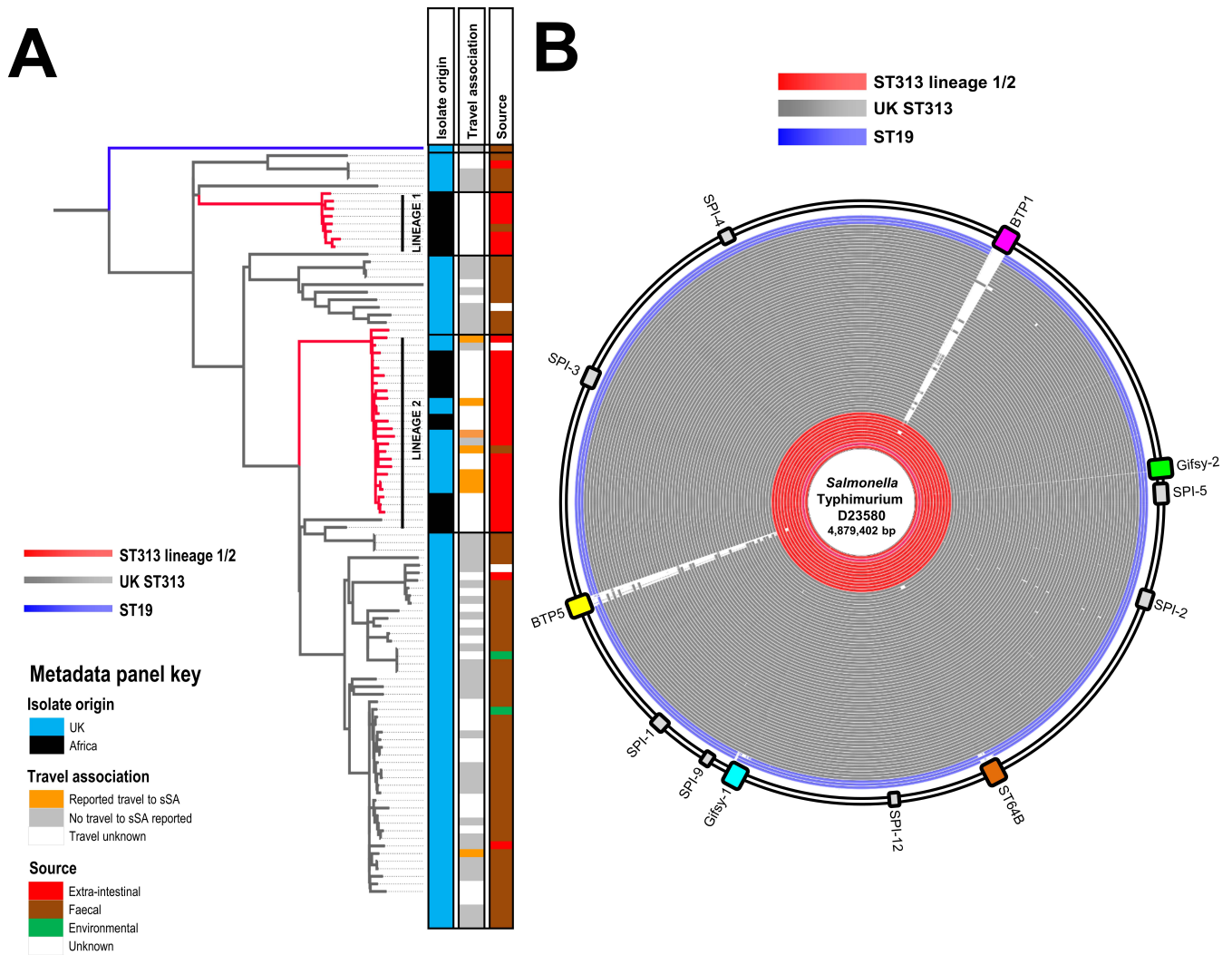


Figure 2. UK-ST313 are associated with gastrointestinal infection and do not harbour the African lineage associated prophages, BTP1 & BTP5. A. Maximum likelihood phylogeny of 77 UK-isolated ST313 strains received by PHE in the context of 24 African ST313 sequenced by Okoro *et al.* (2012). Red branches indicate ST313 lineage 1 and 2. Adjacent metadata panel showing: 1. Country isolates was associated with, Africa- orange, not Africa- blue; 2. Source, extra-intestinal- red, faecal- brown, environmental- green, unknown- grey. B. BLAST ring image showing BLAST comparison of all UK-isolated ST313 genomes (red and grey rings) along with 3 reference ST19 strains (blue rings) against lineage II representative strain D23580. The position of the prophages (coloured blocks) and *Salmonella* pathogenicity islands (grey blocks) in lineage II strain D23580 are shown around the outside of the ring.

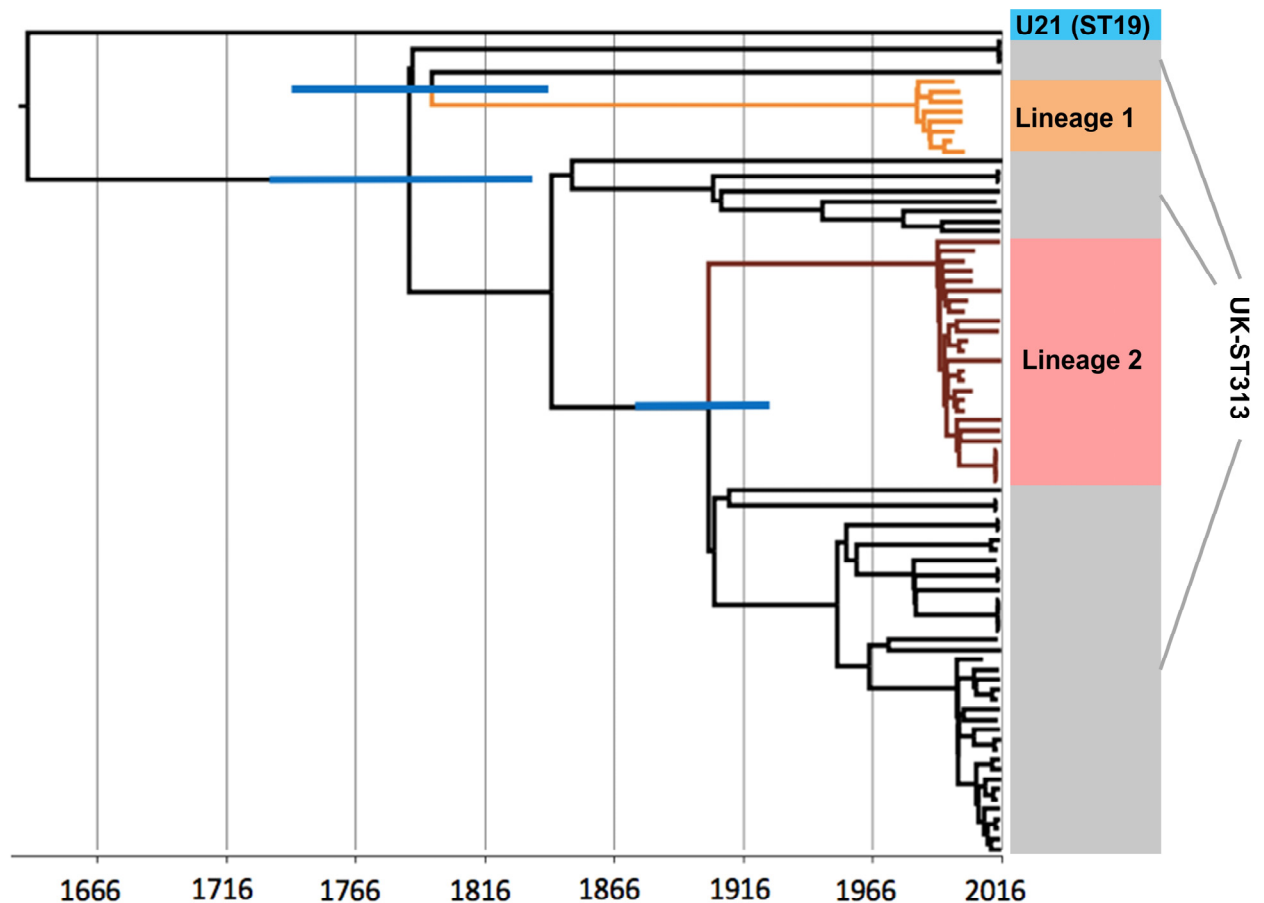


Figure 3: The timed phylogeny of all UK-isolated ST313 strains from this study and a representative sub-sample of ST313 genomes from Okoro *et al.*, 2012. Figure shows the maximum clade credibility tree from BEAST. Branches 95% HPD are displayed in blue for key nodes defining lineage 1 and lineage 2 (for tree with all 95% HPD, see supplementary figure 4). Branches belonging to lineage 1 are coloured orange and branches belonging to lineage 2 are coloured brown.

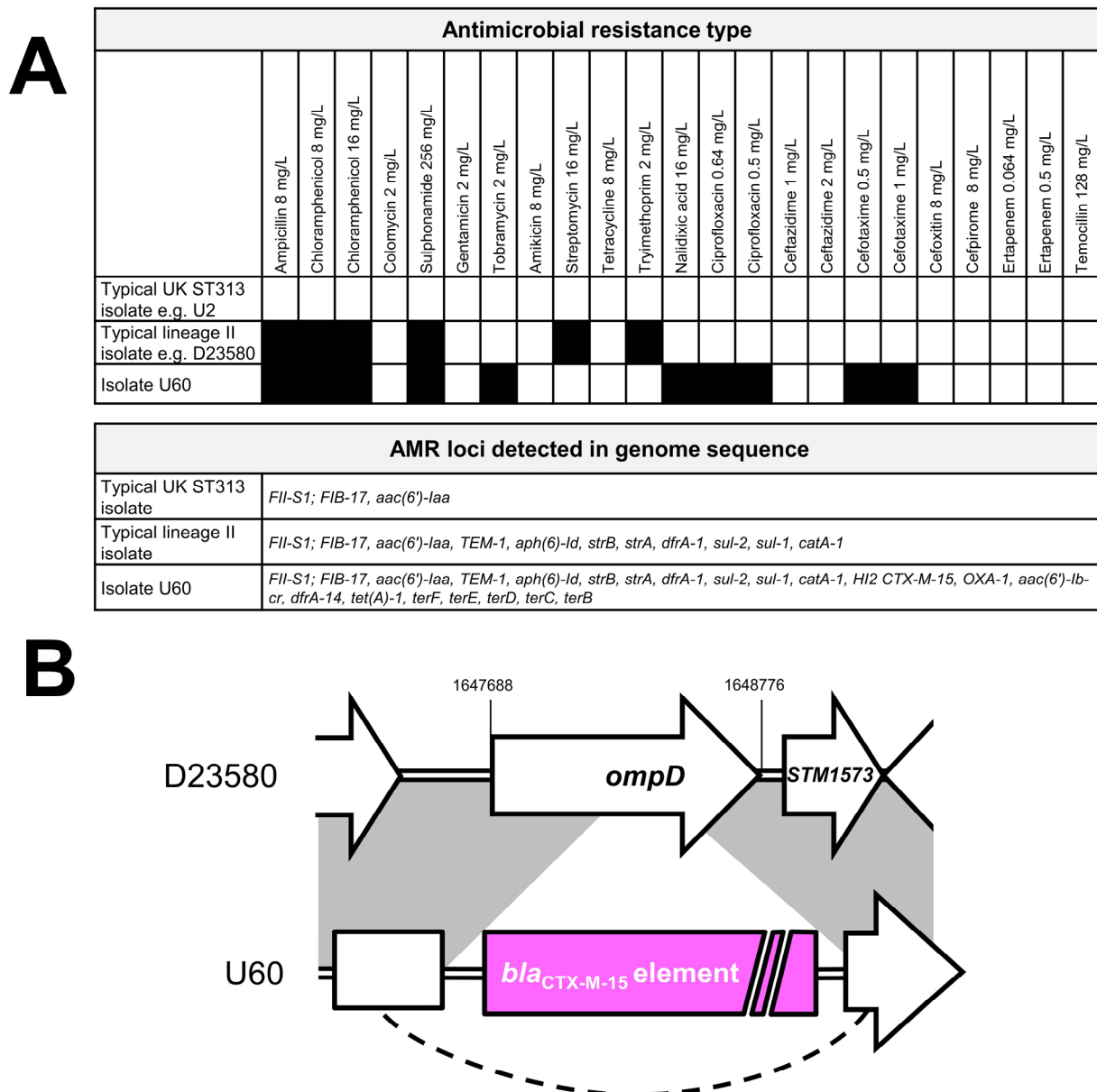


Figure 4: Isolate U60 contains additional resistance genes including a *bla*_{CTX-M-15} locus inserted into the chromosomal *ompD* locus. A. Antimicrobial resistance typing data and resistance genes detected in genome sequences for isolate U60, compared to data for typical lineage 2 and UK-ST313 isolates. B. Schematic illustrating the insertion of *bla*_{CTX-M-15} element into the chromosomal *ompD* locus in isolate U60. Further information is given in Supplementary Figure S1.

STM	STMMW	Gene name	Description	D23580	U2
0157	01631	yacH	putative outer membrane protein		
0522	-	allP	allantoin transport protein		
0523	-	allB	allantoinase		
0834	08851	ybiP	putative Integral membrane protein		
0942	09551	macB	putative ABC superfamily transport protein		
1014	10251		Probable regulation protein		
1023	10351		hypothetical on gifsy-2 prophage		
1051	10631	ssel	type III secretion effector protein (SPI-2)		
1092	-	orfX	putative cytoplasmic protein		
1093	-		putative cytoplasmic protein		
1094	11041	pipD	similar to dipeptidase A		
1228	12371		putative periplasmic protein		
1516	15161	ydeE	putative MFS family transport protein		
1548	15471		putative ribosyltransferase-isomerase		
1549	-		putative translation initiation inhibitor		
1550	-		putative cytoplasmic protein		
1551	-		putative cytoplasmic protein		
1551'	-		hypothetical protein		
1552	-		putative cytoplasmic protein		
1637	16321		putative inner membrane protein		
1862	-	pagO	PhoP activated gene		
1863	-		putative inner membrane protein		
1864	-		putative inner membrane protein		
1865	-		Putative DNA invertase		
1866	-		hypothetical		
1868	-	mig-13	phage tail assembly protein		
1868'	-		lytic enzyme		
1869'	-		hypothetical protein		
1870	-		RecE-like protein		
1896	18781		putative cytoplasmic protein		
1940	19221		putative cell wall associated hydrolase		
2238	22681		putative phage protein		
2514	25311	ratB	Secreted protein		
2589	26091		hypothetical in Gifsy-1 prophage		
2680	26941		putative cytoplasmic protein		
2932	28951	ygbE	putative inner membrane protein		
3012	29741		putative transcriptional regulator		
3075	30361		putative ABC-type cobalt transport system		
3355	33531		tartrate dehydratase		
3624	36131	yhjU	putative inner membrane protein		
3745	37341		putative cytoplasmic protein		
3768	37571		putative selenocysteine synthase		
4196	41451		putative cytoplasmic protein		
4286	42371	lpxO	putative dioxygenase		

Figure 5. The majority of pseudogenes identified in lineage 2 strain D23580 are conserved in UK-ST313 representative strain U2. Heat map adapted from Kingsley *et al.*, 2009 showing genome degradation in ST313 strain D23580 (first heat map column) in the context of strain U2 (final column). Grey indicates pseudogenes conserved in both strains, whilst red indicates genes which are not degraded, and therefore likely functional, in strain U2.

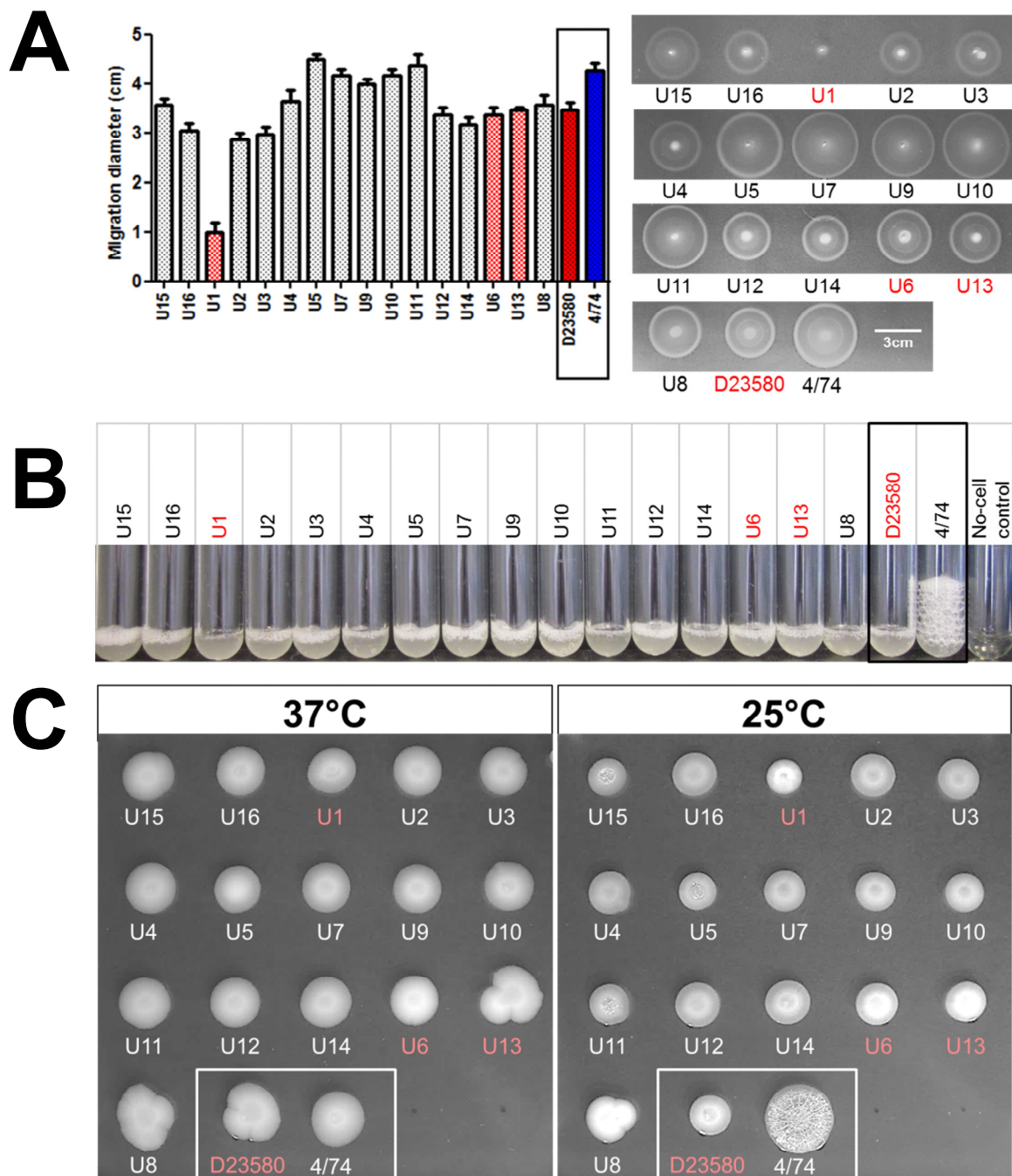


Figure 6. *In vitro* phenotypes of a subset of UK-isolated ST313 strains in the context of representative ST313 lineage 2 and ST19 strains D23580 and 4/74. UK-isolated strains that belong to African lineage 2 (U1, U6 and U13) are highlighted in red throughout. A. Migration diameter after 5 hours (average of 3 replicates is shown together with error bars representing standard deviation). A representative plate is shown, right. B. Stationary phase catalase activity represented by bubble column height after 5 minutes exposure to 20 μ l 20% H_2O_2 . C. RDAR morphology assay. RDAR phenotype forms after prolonged incubation at 25°C but not at 37°C.

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