Linking phenotype, genotype and ecology: antimicrobial resistance in

the zoonotic pathogen *Streptococcus suis*

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Abstract

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major problem for human and animal health, and can co-vary with features of the bacterial genome, its ecological context, and with other traits. Here, we present an integrated study of AMR in the porcine zoonotic pathogen, *Streptococcus suis*. Collecting a diverse panel of 678 isolates, we obtained replicated measures of Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) for 16 widely used antimicrobials, from eight distinct classes. Then using whole genome sequences for each isolate, we identified 42 candidate AMR alleles, of which 21 were novel for *S. suis*. The presence of these alleles explains most of the observed variation in MIC but there was also unexplained variation, partly due to alleles of small effect, and epistatic interactions. We find that MIC varies with *S. suis* genetic background and country, but less so with clinical phenotype, serotype or over time. These ecological patterns are largely explained by allele prevalence. MIC values for different antibiotic classes positively correlate with one another, but there is limited evidence of direct pleiotropy, where single alleles confer resistance to multiple drug classes. Instead, this covariation is due to alleles for separate classes appearing together, but not necessarily in the same genomic region. The result is a significant excess of multi-drug resistant isolates. Indeed, we found more isolates that carried resistance alleles to five classes of antibiotics than isolates than carried no resistance alleles. We discuss the implications of our results for combatting AMR in *S. suis*, and for understanding multi-drug resistance in bacteria.

Importance

Streptococcus suis is a bacterium that causes serious disease with significant

welfare and economic impacts for the global pig industry, and meningitis in

humans. Antibiotics are the principal treatment for these bacteria, and so the

evolution of antibiotic resistance presents a major problem for global food

security and human health. We tested susceptibility to 16 different antibiotics

in a global sample of 678 *S. suis* isolates. Using comparative analysis of

whole genome sequences, we identified existing and novel genetic variants

that affect resistance. Results show that, in most cases, the

presence/absence of these alleles is a good predictor of resistance levels,

which could help facilitate resistance monitoring through genome sequencing.

We also observe a tendency for AMR variants to co-occur together in some *S.*

suis isolates. These multi-drug resistant isolates should be monitored as a

priority.

Introduction

The ability of bacterial pathogens to evolve resistance to antimicrobials is one of the gravest threats to human health and food security worldwide. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to a given drug can be quantified via the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC), i.e., the concentration of the drug that is sufficient to inhibit growth of a bacterial culture. While, for practical use, bacterial isolates are often categorised as either susceptible or resistant, MIC is, in principle, a continuously varying trait. Like any other such trait, it may co-vary with aspects of the population ecology, with features of their genomes, and with other phenotypic traits. AMR cannot be fully understood without considering all of these contexts. In particular, the prevalence of multi-drug resistance, implies that resistance cannot be understood on a drug-by-drug basis. In this study, we present a comprehensive portrait of AMR in the bacterium *Streptococcus suis*.

S. suis primarily exists as a commensal in pigs, colonising the nasopharynx, gut and vagina, but it also causes systemic and respiratory disease, particularly in young pigs (1). *S. suis* is also a serious zoonotic disease, being the leading cause of adult bacterial meningitis in Vietnam (2). While some autogenous vaccines are used in pig production, they are serotype-specific and give inconsistent cross protection against heterogenous *S. suis* (3). Antimicrobials therefore remain the standard treatment for *S. suis*, and as such, *S. suis* is a leading driver of antimicrobial usage in pig farms (4).

As well as being a serious problem in itself, *S. suis* also has unique benefits

as a model for studying AMR. By weight, more pork is consumed globally than

any other meat (5, 6), and *S. suis* is found in most, if not all pigs (7).

Furthermore, antibiotic consumption is higher in pigs (172 mg per population

corrected unit) than any other livestock (e.g. cattle (45 mg) and chicken (148

mg)) (8). As a result, *S. suis* is extremely diverse, and yet most lineages

experience antibiotics. These include not only antibiotics administered directly

against *S. suis*, whether as a therapeutic, prophylaxis or metaphylaxis, but

also, and perhaps more commonly, in response to many other bacterial

infections.

The strong selection pressure caused by widespread use of antimicrobials in

pig farming is expected to give rise to AMR in *S. suis*. Consistent with this,

several phenotypic studies show high MICs for each of the major classes of

antibiotics in one or more *S. suis* collections (9-13). In addition, there have

been demonstrations of individual resistance alleles affecting MIC in *S. suis*

(14-16), and also some mining of *S. suis* genome collections for known

resistance alleles (17-19). However, to our knowledge, no study has

combined complete genomic and phenotypic information in large numbers of

isolates, collected from a diverse range of populations.

To this end, we obtained replicated measures of MIC for 16 antibiotics, each

widely used in pigs, for six different *S. suis* collections, comprising 678

isolates. These collections were chosen to include the three main pig-

producing regions of the globe - namely the Americas, South East Asia and

Europe - and targeted both human and pig hosts, as well as a range of years,

serotypes and clinical phenotypes (20-22). We obtained whole genome

sequences for each of our isolates, allowing us to compare phenotype and

genotype on an unprecedented scale.

Results

Measurement of MIC for 16 antibiotics in *S. suis*

We scored 678 isolates of *Streptococcus suis* for replicated measures of

Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) for 16 antibiotics (Table S1). Four of

these are beta-lactams (amoxicillin, cefquinome, ceftiofur and penicillin),

which are typically used to treat *S. suis* infection in pigs. The other antibiotics

are all widely used in the pig industry, but found in different drug classes.

They comprise macrolide-lincosamide-streptogramin B (MLS$_B$: erythromycin,

lincomycin, tilmicosin and tylosin), tetracyclines (doxycycline and tetracycline),

and fluoroquinolones (enrofloxacin and marbofloxacin), plus one each of an

aminoglycoside (spectinomycin), a pleuromutilin (tiamulin), trimethoprim

(TMP), and a phenicol (florfenicol). Results, shown in the left hand plot of

Figure 1, reveal wide variation among our isolates in MIC for most of the

antibiotics. For a few antibiotics, especially the MLS$_B$ and tetracyclines, the

MIC values are clearly bimodal, suggesting a meaningful division between

"resistant" and "wild-type" isolates. However, for most antibiotics, the

distributions are either roughly lognormal (fluoroquinolones and phenicols) or

positively skewed (spectinomycin, pleuromutilin, TMP and beta-lactams). It is

striking that the distribution for beta-lactams, the most common treatment

against *S. suis*, are not clearly outlying. Given these distributions, and the

general lack of defined clinical breakpoints for these antibiotics in *S. suis* (23),

we treated MIC as a quantitative trait in our subsequent analyses.

Ecological and genomic predictors of MIC

Our *S. suis* isolates were collected at different times, and from different

countries, hosts and body sites, including sites associated with respiratory

and systemic disease. Isolates were also genetically heterogeneous, and

differed in their serotype; including serotypes with a known disease

association (see methods and Table S1). We first used linear models, to ask

whether MIC levels varied systematically with these ecological and genomic

factors.

S. suis is highly recombining, such that no single genealogy characterises its

diversity. As such, to model overall genomic diversity in our sample, we

identified 30 clusters of genetically-similar strains (see methods). The

resulting clusters were a highly significant predictor of MIC (p<10^{-15}; Table 1a)

showing that genetically similar isolates tend to have similar MIC values. To

account for this genetic structure, "cluster" was included as a random effect in

subsequent analyses.

A model including all potential predictors showed that country of isolation was

also a highly significant predictor of MIC. In addition, there were weaker

effects of year of collection (with a slight trend for increasing MIC over time);

for serotype (with non-disease-associated serotypes tending to have higher

MIC); and for host disease status (with non-clinical isolates having higher

MIC) (Table 1b).

Separate analyses for each antibiotic, showed that the effect of country was

driven by consistently higher MIC in the samples from Canadian pigs. This

applied to 15/16 antibiotics, and to various models and subsets of the data

(Figure S1a; Table 1c). By contrast, the other predictors (year, serotype and

clinical status) had effects that were less consistent or robust (Table 1d-f). For

example, the trend for higher MIC in non-clinical isolates (Table 1d), applied

consistently only in tetracyclines and TMP (Figure S2a).

Identification of candidate AMR alleles within *S. suis* genomes

Using a candidate locus approach, we next identified 42 known and putative

AMR alleles that were present in our dataset: nine novel alleles of known

resistance genes, 12 known resistance alleles detected in *S. suis* for the first

time, and 21 previously reported in *S. suis* (Table 2 and Table S1). Our

candidate alleles come from three sources: the antimicrobial resistance

database CARD (24), previously published *S. suis* variants not present in the

CARD database (25-27) and novel alleles detected using a subset of our data

(see methods).

Of the nine novel alleles, five are variants in genes previously associated with

resistance in other bacteria (including a promoter variant). In particular, we

discovered novel haplotypes within the loop region of the central

transpeptidase domains of the *pbp2B* and *pbp2X* genes and within the signal

peptide region of the *mraY* gene (encoding the enzyme, acetylmuramoyl-

pentapeptide-transferase, essential to cell wall biosynthesis) that were

associated with variation in beta-lactam MIC (Table 2). In addition, a variant of

the chromosomal dihydrofolate reductase gene *dhfr* (allele frequency of 0.34)

and its promoter (allele frequency of 0.13) were associated with reduced

susceptibility against trimethoprim (Table 2). Furthermore, these alleles were

independently associated with changes in MIC in at least seven different

genetic clusters (Table S2) implying that the association between these

haplotypes and MIC is either causal or directly compensatory of the causal

mechanism (28).

The remaining four novel alleles, were genes with homologies to known

resistance genes, three located on mobile genetic elements (MGEs) and one

chromosomal (Table 2). Three novel aminoglycoside genes, carried by

isolates with high spectinomycin MIC, were identified based on

aminoglycoside resistance determinant protein homologies. Although

previously undescribed, we found homologues in other bacteria using a blastn

search of the non-redundant database in Genbank (Table 2). We also

characterised a chromosomally-encoded *vgaC* homologue (37% protein

homology to *vgaC*), encoding an ABC-F ATP-binding cassette ribosomal

protection protein, that we designate *vgaF* (allele frequency of 0.25)

associated with reduced susceptibility to tiamulin.

The 12 AMR alleles detected in *S. suis* for the first time are mobile genetic

element (MGE)-linked genes that confer resistance to aminoglycosides (*n*=2),

MLS$_B$ (*n*=2), tetracyclines (*n*=5), TMP (*n*=2) and phenicol (*n*=1). Based on the

CARD and NCBI databases, these genes are associated with other gram-

positive and gram-negative bacteria (Table 2).

Overall, most of our candidate alleles (28/42) were found in fewer than 5% of

the isolates, but *ermB* (which confers resistance to the MLS_B class) and *tetO*

(which confers resistance to tetracyclines) were present in a majority of the

isolates (Table 2; Figure S3). Only about a quarter of isolates carry a

candidate allele for the beta-lactams.

Candidate AMR alleles explain most of the variation in MIC

We next investigated how well our candidate AMR alleles explain the variation

we observe in MIC. The right-hand panel of Figure 1 compares the distribution

of MIC values for isolates carrying one or more of the candidate alleles for

that antibiotic class (denoted A for 'allele'), to the remaining isolates, which

carry no such allele (N for 'no allele').

The proportion of the variation in MIC explained by our alleles varied between

antibiotics. Explanatory power was strongest (r^2>0.75) for antibiotics where

the distributions of MIC were most clearly bimodial (MLS_B and tetracyclines).

By contrast, we found no association between our alleles and MIC for the

fluoroquinolones and phenicol, where the distribution of MIC values was

roughly lognormal, consistent with our isolates representing a "wild-type"

population. For the remaining antibiotics, our alleles had intermediate

explanatory powers (Figure 1), but there were very few isolates with high MIC

that did not carry a candidate allele. This suggests that we have detected

most of the causal alleles of large effect in our dataset, removing the need to

perform additional genome-wide associations. Where our alleles show low

explanatory power (r^2<0.5), this appears to be caused mainly by isolates that

carry an allele but whose MIC is low (Figure 1).

We conjectured that the variable presence of our candidate alleles in different

ecological settings would explain the significant ecological predictors of MIC in

our linear models (Table 1).

Consistent with this hypothesis, we found that the fitted MIC in genetic

clusters was highly correlated with the candidate allele frequency in that

cluster (Figure S4), and that candidate allele frequencies are consistently

higher in Canada (Figure S3). Accordingly, when we include candidate allele

presence in our models, the effect size for country greatly decreases (Figure

S1b). Nevertheless, this cannot be the whole picture, because genetic cluster

and country remain significant predictors for all 16 antibiotics, even when

allele presence is included (Table S3). Including allele presence does

however remove the effects of the other weaker ecological predictors. For

example, disease status is no longer a significant predictor for 15/16

antibiotics (enrofloxacin remains significant but, as mentioned above, the

candidate alleles explain very little variation in this case) (Figure S2b; Table

S3).

A possible explanation for the unexplained variation in Figure 1, and the

continuing predictive power of genetic cluster and country, is the way in which

we have included our candidate alleles as predictor variables (i.e. an isolate is

scored as positive if it contains any one allele for that class).

In some cases, simple amendments to the model increase explanatory power.

Spectinomycin MIC, for example, is unchanged by some AMR genes from the

CARD database (e.g. *ant(6')-Ib* and *aph(3')-IIIa* in Figure S5). Including each

of the candidate alleles as a separate predictor (i.e., a two-level factor:

present/absent) removes the influence of these non-functional alleles, and

improves the r^2 value from 0.37 (Figure 1) to 0.69 (Figure S6a).

A similar improvement is also seen for the beta-lactams (Figure S7), and in

this case, it appears that resistance has a polygenic architecture with alleles

acting additively on log MIC (Figure S7). This implies that isolates will have

high MIC only if they carry multiple alleles. Accordingly, if we predict MIC from

the total number of candidate alleles that are carried (treating "number of

candidate alleles carried" as a continuous predictor variable), the beta-lactam

r^2 values improve from 0.16-0.53 (Figure 1) to 0.35-0.63 (Figure S6b).

These simple explanations (ineffective or small-effect alleles) apply only to

some of the antibiotics (Figure S6). In other cases, our data suggest other

complexities (Figure S8-S12). Sometimes, as is well known, alleles act

against only some of the antibiotics in a class. For example, while modification

of the ribosomal target confers cross resistance to macrolides and

lincosamides, alleles encoding mechanisms such as efflux and enzymatic

inactivation affect only some of the antibiotics within the class (29). This is

illustrated in Figure 2, where *mel* acts against erythromycin, but not against

lincomycin, while *linB* inactivates lincomycin, but not erythromycin. We also

see that some alleles generally cause high MIC, but are non-functional in

some isolates. For example, for isolates carrying *ermB*, the distributions of

MIC values are clearly bimodal (Figure 2). Some of this variation appears to

be allelic. Examining the 363 isolates with a complete *ermB* sequence in our

assemblies, we found that 68/363 were associated with low level resistance

(MICs ≤32mg/ml). Of the 363, 304 isolates carried one or more rare amino

acid variants, and these isolates had a lower mean MIC for erythromycin

(Welch's t test t = 4.1231, df = 148.35, $p<10^{-4}$). Nevertheless, some isolates

carrying the wild-type *ermB* also had low MIC. This is likely an epistatic effect

between *ermB* and its genetic background. One possible interaction of this

kind involves another candidate allele: *lnuB*, which alone has no effect on

erythromycin, but decreases MIC in the presence of *ermB* (Figure 2). The

non-linear effects of genotype, evident in Figure 2, are the most probable

explanation of the remaining unexplained variation in MIC in our data.

Covariation in MIC between antibiotic classes

Results above consider each antibiotic independently, but our data also show

strong positive covariation in MIC between different drug classes (Figure 3).

Of 120 pairwise correlations, 112 are positive, and all 8 exceptions involve

enrofloxacin, where there is little variation in MIC (Figure 1a; Figure 3 inset).

Covariances are particularly strong for beta-

lactams/pleuromutilin/TMP/aminoglycoside, along with MLS_B/tetracyclines and

MLS_B/phenicol (Figure 3).

The simplest hypothesis to explain this pattern would be that some alleles act

against more than one antibiotic class (i.e. direct pleiotropy). To test for

pleiotropy in our data, we asked whether isolates with and without candidate

alleles for a different antibiotic class, tended to differ in their MICs (Figure

S13). The strongest support for the hypothesis of direct pleiotropy was found

in the tetracyclines. Here, isolates containing candidate alleles for non-

tetracycline drugs showed higher MIC for tetracycline, whether or not they

also carried tetracycline-resistance alleles (Figure S13). The same result was

observed in doxycycline, but only for isolates carrying tetracycline-resistance

alleles. Overall, however, these were isolated results, with modest effect

sizes. No other class showed consistent evidence of pleiotropy (Figure S13),

and there was little evidence of pleiotropic effects for the most common single

alleles (*ermB*, *tetO*, and *dhfr102*; see Figure S14).

If direct pleiotropy cannot explain the observed covariation in MIC, an

alternative explanation is that alleles of different classes tend to occur

together in isolates. Consistent with this, we found that the co-occurrence

between candidate alleles from different antibiotic classes strongly predicts

the correlation in their MIC values (upper right graph in Figure 3, Mantel test

$p<10^{-4}$).

An obvious explanation for the co-occurrence of our alleles is their physical

linkage, and consistent with this, many of our candidate alleles occur together

on mobile genetic elements. One example is the integrative conjugative

element (ICE) ICESsu584 (GenBank: KT716758), which carries two

aminoglycoside resistance genes *ant6-1a* and *ant9-1a*, a lincosamide

resistance gene *lnuB* and a tiamulin resistance gene *lsaE*. This may explain

the observed covariation in MIC between spectinomycin, tiamulin and

lincosamide ("spc", "tia" and "lcm" in Figure 3). In addition, the two most

common alleles, *ermB* and *tetO* often co-occur on ICEs (19) and this may

explain the co-variation between tetracycline and MLS$_B$.

We also see physical linkage of alleles within the chromosome. The *vgaF*

homologue is often located upstream of the *pbp2B* gene (Figure S15), which

may explain the covariation between beta-lactams and pleuromutilin (Figure

3).

Furthermore, there is a general and significant trend in the data for co-

occurring alleles to be closer together in the genome (see Figure S15; Mantel

test *p*<10^{-4}). Nevertheless, the strength of the correlation is weak, and linkage

clearly cannot explain all of the co-occurrence. Some highly correlated alleles

are very distant in our genomes. For example, the *vgaF* homologue co-occurs

with the *dhfr102* variant (ρ=0.51), yet when they assemble on the same

contig, they are located a median of 367,404bp apart (Figure S15).

AMR allele clustering

A corollary of allelic co-occurrence is a high level of clustering in the number

of candidate AMR alleles carried. Our data contained a class of "globally

susceptible" isolates, which carry no candidate allele (60/678), and out of the

many isolates (525/678) that carry multiple candidate alleles (Figure 4a),

almost all of these (508/525) were "multi-drug resistant" (MDR), carrying

candidate alleles for two or more antibiotic classes. Indeed, more isolates

carry alleles for five distinct classes of antibiotic than carry no candidate allele

at all (Figure 4b).

Without a well-defined null model, it is not clear whether this co-occurrence

calls for any special explanation, (e.g. this level of MDR may simply reflect the

high number of individual AMR alleles in our *S. suis* samples). To generate

null expectations, we used three randomization procedures. First, we

randomly permuted allelic states across the isolates. Results (Table 3; "over

isolates") show that, compared to the real data, the randomized data sets had

increased levels of resistance overall, with significantly fewer susceptible

isolates, but significantly more MDR isolates (an illustrative randomisation of

this kind is shown as the narrow red bars in Figure 4).

Randomisation across isolates implicitly assumes that all alleles evolve

independently, so we next made the opposite assumption, assuming clonal

evolution, and placing each of our resistance alleles, at random, on the

consensus phylogeny of our isolates. As shown in Table 3 ("across

phylogeny") this type of randomisation had the opposite effect to

randomisation across isolates, leading to significantly more susceptible

isolates, but significantly less MDR (an illustrative randomisation is shown as

the narrow yellow bars in Figure 4).

Because these procedures make extreme assumptions of different kinds, we

next combined them, applying each to a subset of our candidate alleles. For

the 31/42 alleles that were found on MGEs (see Table 2), we randomised

across isolates, while the remaining 11 alleles were placed at random on the

phylogeny. These randomised data sets (Table 3; "both") were much closer to

the true data. However, they were much less clustered, with significantly

fewer susceptible isolates, and significant fewer MDR isolates than the true

data. Together, then, we can conclude that the clustering of AMR in our data

is greater than would be expected by chance.

We also examined our data for a "nested" pattern of resistance in which lower

frequency AMR alleles tend to appear in genetic backgrounds that already

contain an AMR allele (see (30) for details). In total 63% of our isolates were

nested in this way (Figure S16), but this value was not clearly higher than

expectations under the null model of evolution over the genealogy (Table 3,

bottom row).

Discussion

We have examined antimicrobial susceptibility to 16 commonly-used

antibiotics in *Streptococcus suis*, using replicated measures of MIC. Data

suggest that, even when some isolates have very high MIC, there is often no

natural separation into "resistant" and "susceptible". This highlights the need

to define clinical breakpoints for these antibiotics in *S. suis* to understand the

relevance of these MIC measurements in treatment.

We have described 42 candidate resistance alleles, and showed that they

explain the majority of the observed variation in MIC for 11/16 antibiotics, and

a substantial fraction of the variation for another 2/16 (Figure 1; Figure S6).

While many of these alleles were previously described, and most were found

at low frequency (Table 2; Figure S3), we detected three novel candidates

that appear in many isolates with clinically-relevant changes in MIC: *vgaF*,

dhfr102 and the *dhfr* promoter. If these resistance mechanisms are

functionally verified, they should be included in routine AMR gene testing for

S. suis.

Of particular interest are the novel haplotypes that are linked to changes in

beta-lactam MIC, because penicillin is the first line treatment for *S. suis*

infection. Functional studies will be needed to show whether the *S. suis* PBP

alleles uncovered here confer a similar mode of resistance to beta-lactams as

is seen in other streptococci (31-35). Studies have shown that cefotaxime, a

third-generation cephalosporin like ceftiofur, selectively inactivates PBP2X but

not PBP2B (36) and that mutations within the catalytic domain in PBP2X give

rise to cefotaxime, but not to penicillin, resistance (32). Our results echo this

pattern because our PBP2B haplotype has a smaller change on mean MIC of

ceftiofur than penicillin (Figure S7), and the explanatory effects of our PBP

haplotypes are different for the different beta-lactams (Figure 1). Previous

variants in PBP2X thought to confer cefuroxime resistance (25), whilst

validated by our data, were found at very low frequency in our collection

(Table 2). We show that our PBP haplotypes have additive effects on mean

log MIC such that some of our strains reach clinically relevant changes in

beta-lactam MIC (e.g. MIC > 1 mg/L for Penicillin) but that no one allele is

associated with this change. Additive effects have also previously been shown

for *tet* alleles in *S. suis* (16). Our work illustrates a need to address how these

additive effects can be incorporated in to predictive genome models of MIC.

Unlike the PBPs, the contribution of mutations in *mraY* to changes in beta-

lactam MIC might not be directly causal. It has been suggested that altered

PBPs, while conferring resistance, might be less active transpeptidases than

their wild type counterparts, and that organisms are likely to evolve

compensatory mechanisms to circumvent this problem (31). For example, the

amidotransferase enzyme encoded by *murT* enables cross-linking of cell wall

peptidoglycans by preparing lipid II used by pneumococcal PBPs (37, 38).

Mutations in *mraY* are therefore suggestive of a possible compensatory

mechanism for reduced enzymatic activity of altered PBPs in *S. suis.* In

agreement with this, Figure S7 shows that the *mraY* haplotypes are only

found in concert with an altered PBP. Polymorphisms in *mraY* were also

identified in a genome-wide association study of beta-lactam resistance in *S.*

pneumoniae (39) and could make a promising drug target for beta-lactam

resistant streptococci.

While our candidate alleles were explanatory, we also found several

complexities in the genotype-phenotype map. These include epistatic

interactions, where the effects of some candidate genes vary with their *S. suis*

genetic background. Phenotypic reversion (i.e. mutations in transcriptional

regulators or elsewhere in the genome, counteracting a resistance allele) can

be common if resistance has a fitness cost (40), and this could explain why

we see many isolates carrying candidate alleles but with low MIC (Figure 1).

These complexities have consequences for diagnostic investigation of AMR of

S. suis using whole genome sequences. While the predictive power is quite

high for many antibiotics, we should expect many Type I errors. These results

also caution against using AMR allele presence as a measure of phenotypic

resistance more generally.

We have also shown suggestive links between antibiotic exposure and non-

susceptibility. In particular, antibiotic usage is much higher in Canada than the

UK (41, 42) and this is reflected in consistently higher MIC, and consistently

higher frequency of the same candidate AMR alleles (Figures S1, S3).

Results for Vietnam are more difficult to interpret, partly due to a lack of

official records of antibiotic usage (although see (43)), and partly because our

Vietnamese sample is relatively small and genomically homogeneous (see

methods).

When considering results for all of the 16 antibiotics together, we have shown

that our data contain a significant excess of MDR. This is evident both in

highly correlated MIC values and, indirectly, via the co-occurrence of alleles.

Notably, we have found that isolates with candidate resistance alleles to five

different drug classes are more common than isolates with no resistance

alleles at all (Figure 4b).

While linkage between resistance alleles plays some role in explaining this

pattern (Figure S15), we argue that it cannot do so alone. One possible factor

is resistance to one antibiotic somehow facilitates the evolution of resistance

to a second. We found limited evidence of direct pleiotropy (where AMR

alleles to a previously administered drug provide some action against a novel

drug; Figure S13-S14), and so this might plausibly involve indirect pleiotropy,

(e.g., mitigation of a cost to antibiotic resistance that applies to multiple drug

classes).

However, a simpler explanation for the observed pattern in MDR is correlated

selection pressures, where isolates are exposed to many antibiotics, or to

none (30). Some forms of correlated selection lead to a characteristic pattern

of nested MDR, where rarer alleles tend to be found on backgrounds

containing more common alleles (30). But while we found some nestedness in

our data, it was not clearly above chance levels (Figure S16; Table 3).

Correlated selection pressures might also result if isolates have very different

durations of carriage (44). It is notable, in this respect, that we have found

higher levels of non-susceptibility in isolates from the tonsils of pigs without

clinical disease (Table 1; Figure S2).

Two final aspects of our results highlight the fact that AMR is not a problem

that can be tackled one disease at a time. First, we have found high levels of

resistance in *S. suis* even to antibiotics other than beta-lactams that are

typically used to treat this infection. In fact, resistance alleles to four of the

seven other classes were more common (Figure S16). This must reflect a

"bystander selection effect", common in opportunistic pathogens that are part

of the healthy microbiota and frequently exposed to antibiotics used as growth

promoters or therapeutics. Second, many of the rarer AMR alleles in our

sample were not previously known in *S. suis*, but are common in other

bacteria, both gram negative and gram positive. This raises the possibility of

S. suis acting as a reservoir for AMR alleles in other bacteria. Indeed *S. suis*

shares conserved chromosomal insertion sites with many human pathogens,

such as *S. pyogenes, S. pneumoniae*, and *S. agalactiae* (17). Given that *S.*

suis causes human clinical disease, a direct exchange of AMR alleles

between *S. suis* and other human pathogens is plausible.

Material and Methods

Streptococcus suis isolates

We assembled a collection of 678 *S. suis* isolates, including isolates from the

UK (*n*=423), Canada (*n*=205) and Vietnam (*n*=50) (Table S1).

In the UK, isolates came from three different collections. The first collection in

2009-2011 sampled non-clinical and clinical isolates from pigs across England

and Wales (described in Weinert *et al.* 2015 (20)). The second collection in

2013-2014 sampled non-clinical isolates from five farms (described in Zou *et*

al. 2018 (22)). The third collection during 2013–2014 targeted clinical isolates

from pigs across England and Wales (described in Wileman *et al.* 2019 (21)).

In pigs that showed clinical symptoms consistent with *S. suis* infections (e.g.

meningitis, septicaemia and arthritis), the site of isolation was classified as

'systemic' if recovered from systemic sites. The site of recovery was classified

as 'respiratory' if derived from lungs with gross lesions of pneumonia. *S. suis*

isolates from the tonsils or tracheo-bronchus of healthy pigs or dead pigs

without any typical signs of *S. suis* infections were defied as 'non-clinical'.

Isolates that could not confidently be assigned to these categories (e.g. a

tonsil isolate from a pig with systemic signs) were classified as unknown.

Altogether, the UK isolates were classified by clinical status as 'systemic'

(*n*=94), 'respiratory' (*n*=50), 'non-clinical' (*n*=197) or 'unknown' (*n*=82),

respectively.

The Canadian pig *S. suis* isolates from 1983-2016 were collected to target

similar numbers of clinical and non-clinical isolates and were also classified by

clinical status as 'systemic' (*n*=81), 'respiratory' (*n*=30), 'non-clinical' (*n*=55) or

'unknown' (*n*=39).

The Vietnamese isolates were collected to sample related populations from

human and pig (described in Weinert *et al.* 2015 (20)). These comprised

'systemic' isolates (*n*=28) from human clinical cases of meningitis from

provinces in southern and central Vietnam, and 'systemic' (*n*=4) or 'non-

clinical' isolates (*n*=18) from pigs, collected between 2000 and 2010. These

isolates were exclusively serotype 2 or serotype 14 and belong to one genetic

population (Table S1).

Antimicrobial susceptibility testing

The minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) for a range of antibiotics were

determined by the micro-broth dilution method, which was performed and the

results interpreted in accordance with CLSI Approved Standards, M100-S25

(2015), Vet01S 3rd Edition (2015) and de Jong *et al.* (2014) (9, 45). MIC

measurements for some of our isolates were previously published (9). For the

remaining MIC measurements, the MICs were determined for sixteen different

antimicrobial compounds, representing nine antimicrobial classes at LGC,

Fordham, UK (formerly Quotient Bioresearch, Fordham, UK) for the UK and

the Canadian isolates. MIC testing of antibiotics for the Vietnamese isolates

was performed at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Ho Chi Minh

City, Vietnam, in collaboration with the Department of Veterinary Medicine,

University of Cambridge, UK.

Whole genome sequencing, assembly and inference of population

structure

Genome DNA extractions and whole genome sequencing of newly sequenced

S suis in this study were as previously described by Weinert *et al.* (2015) (20).

Briefly, single colonies of strains were grown up in broth culture, DNA was

extracted using DNeasy kits (Qiagen), Illumina library preparations were

performed as described by Quail *et al.* 2008 (46) and the whole genomes

sequenced on the HiSeq2000 according to the manufacturer's instructions

(Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) at the Welcome Trust Sanger Institute,

Cambridge, UK. Sequencing generated 125bp paired end reads, which were

assessed for quality using Sickle (47) after the removal of adapter sequences.

Sequencing reads that passed the quality threshold were put forward for *de-*

novo assembly generation using Spades v.3.10.1 (48) utilising a variety of

parameters conditions. Our 678 isolates were combined with 401 additional

genomes given in Table S4 to increase robustness of *S. suis* population

structure estimation, although these isolates were unavailable for MIC testing.

Draft genomes were annotated using Prokka v1.12-beta (v2.8.2). (49) and

bacterial species assignment was performed by a combination of MLST

assignment and FastQ Screen v.0.11.1 using a custom database (50). We

mapped the Illumina reads back to the *de-novo* assembly to investigate

polymorphic reads in the samples (indicative of mixed cultures) using BWA

v.0.7.16a (51). Genomes that exhibited poor sequencing quality (i.e poor

assembly as indicated by a large number of contigs, low N50 values or a high

number of polymorphic reads) or that which were inconsistent with an *S. suis*

species assignment were excluded from the analysis.

In order to group our *S. suis* isolates in to different genetic clusters, we used

the program hierBAPs in R (52). First, we inferred core genes from our

isolates using Roary (v2.8.2) (53), aligned them using MACSE (54), and

stripped regions that could not be aligned unambiguously due to high

divergence, indels or missing data. This conserved region of the core genome

was used as input in hierBAPS. We also constructed a neighbour joining tree

of the core genome by importing the fasta alignment in to R v.3.4.1 (55). We

computed a distance matrix using the function *dist.dna* with Kimura's 2-

parameter distance model of sequence evolution ("K80") (56) and created a

neighbour-joining tree using the function *nj*, both from the R package *ape* (57,

58). We midpoint rooted the tree using the *midpoint* function in the R package

Phangorn (59).

Known AMR allele detection

ARIBA (60) identifies AMR determinants (or any sequence of interest) directly

from paired sequencing reads using a public or custom reference database

and relies on mapping the reads to reference sequence clusters followed by

the formation of local assemblies of the mapped reads. The tool is further able

to confirm the intactness of resistance genes as well to identify known or

novel SNPs within a gene of interest.

The AMR alleles in *S. suis* were identified using ARIBA v2.10.0 based on the

public AMR database, CARD (24), which was further supplemented with a

custom database (given in the Supplement). The custom database contained

gene sequences not present within the CARD database at the time of testing.

These were previously published *S. suis* AMR genes, single nucleotide

polymorphisms (SNPs) in genes known to confer antibiotic resistance and

AMR genes found in other bacteria. In addition, we investigated whether there

were additional novel resistance alleles in known resistance genes (described

below). The sequence identity threshold against a reference was set at 90%.

Only paired-end sequence reads that passed the quality control thresholds

were used as input for ARIBA. To identify genes falling under the 90%

identity threshold, we also performed blast searches of the draft assemblies

against the non-redundant NCBI protein or nucleotide databases to identify

variants or chimeric alleles of known resistance determinants that might not

be present in the CARD database. Examples of allelic variants identified this

way include *tet*, *aad*, *ant* and *cat* (Table 2).

Novel AMR candidate allele detection

We identified novel resistance alleles by a range of methods. Candidate

alleles that might encode novel resistance mechanisms were identified by

scanning literature describing experimental studies and others found by

Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS) in related bacterial species, for

example, alleles of *pbp*s, *mraY*, *dhfr* and *folP* (33, 61-63) along with their

promoter regions. To avoid over-fitting our generalised linear models, gene or

promoters of interest in a "training" subset of the collection (n=205) were then

extracted, aligned and ranked from the highest to lowest MIC values, using

MUSCLE (64) in SEAVIEW (65). Manual sequence analysis was then

performed to identify either amino acid or nucleotide variations that associated

with high MIC.

Kinetic and structural studies have previously established that beta-lactam

resistance is conferred by substitutions within PBPs in *Streptococcus*

pneumoniae (33, 66) and other streptococci (34, 35, 67). While mutations are

present throughout the entire PBPs, we noted statistically significant

mutations (Table S2) in altered PBP2B and PBP2X expressing alleles in

strains exhibiting high penicillin (≥ 1mg/L) and ceftiofur MICs (≥ 2mg/L),

respectively. In PBP2B, the residue variations were present in loop regions,

K479T/A, D512E/Q/K/A, K513E/D and T515S, within the *S. suis*

transpeptidase domain (residues 351-681). In PBP2X, the mutations were

located at positions M437L, S445T, T467S and Y525F, also in loop regions

within its catalytic domain (residues 265–619). As multiple amino acid variants

were identified within the *pbp2X* and *pbp2B*, many of which were in the same

genomic region (Table 2), we grouped the variants in to haplotypes. We did

this by scoring haplotype presence if the isolate had all of the amino acid

variants associated with high MIC in a given gene.

In addition to allelic differences in PBP2B and PBP2X, we also detected

mutations in *mraY*. Found immediately upstream of *pbp2X*, *mraY* encodes an

acetylmuramoyl-pentapeptide-transferase enzyme which is essential to lipid

cycle reactions in the peptidoglycan cell wall biosynthesis pathway. Residue

substitutions were present at either A4S/T together with M6I/L or M6I/L

together with G8S within the signal peptide regions of the protein and were

associated with variation in both penicillin and ceftiofur MIC. These were

scored as two separate haplotypes in further analyses. The distribution of

these mutations was statistically significant at ≥ 1mg/L for both ceftiofur and

penicillin (Table S2).

Not all isolates with high tiamulin MICs possessed a *lsaE* gene, suggesting an

additional mechanism in *S. suis* conferring resistance to pleuromutilins. Using

the CARD RGI (resistance gene identifier) protein homology models, a *vgaC*

homologue was identified as a candidate gene associated with variation in

tiamulin MIC. The gene, designated as *vgaF* in this work, encodes an ABC-F

ATP-binding cassette ribosomal protection protein and shares 37.14%

homology to the reference. Located within the chromosome, *vgaF* is found

intact (~1386bp) in statistically significant numbers in isolates with MIC ≥

8mg/L (Table S2) but is truncated (<750bp) in others. Plasmid borne *vga*

homologues including *vgaC* are frequently detected in staphylococci and have

been shown to confer cross resistance to pleuromutilins, lincosamides and

streptogramin A antibiotics. A chromosome based *vga*(A) gene variant,

encoding an ATP-binding cassette protein conferring resistance to

streptogramin A and related antibiotics in *S. aureus* has also been described

(68).

An amino acid substitution (I102-L) was detected in the dihydrofolate

reductase (DHFR) gene, *dhfr*, in the majority of isolates with trimethoprim

MICs of 0.12mg/L or greater. Similar substitutions of isoleucine to leucine at

position 100 in *S. pneumoniae* (62, 69) and *Streptococcus pyogenes* (70) is

known to cause resistance to TMP. Additionally, we also identified

polymorphisms within the promoter region (0-30bp upstream) of the *dhfr*

gene; an A5G substitution and insertions, in isolates exhibiting MICs ≥ 1mg/L.

All of these alleles might be causal, compensatory or linked to high MIC

because of population structure. We therefore examined our alleles and

showed that susceptible and resistance alleles were found repeatedly in

different BAPs clusters, which were significant using binomial sign tests when

defining a cutoff (Table S2).

The *pbp*, *mraY* and *vgaF* genes were unable to be included into the custom

database in ARIBA because of the sequence divergence. Therefore, we

manually aligned the genes in all 678 isolates using MUSCLE (64) in

SEAVIEW (65).

Similarly, analysis for known variants in *gyrA* and *parC* were also performed

by manually aligning the alleles. *tet(O/W/32/O)* was scored by using blastn as

ARIBA was unable to differentiate mosaic sequence patterns

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Serotype inference from whole genomes

Serotypes were determined *in silico* using the Athey *et al.* (2016) (71)

serotype database, which we implemented in ARIBA. Failed ARIBA runs and

sequence non-matches were designated as not available (NA).

Statistical analyses

All general linear models were fit in R v. 3.3 (55) using the built-in function *lm*

for models with solely fixed effects, or via Reduced Maximum Likelihood,

using the function *lme* from the package nlme v. 3.1-141 (72), when BAPs

cluster was included as a random effect. The response MIC values were log

transformed. Our data for host and country is confounded because all of our

human samples came from Vietnam (human *S. suis* has a higher prevalence

in South East Asia (73)). Therefore, we coded "Country" as separate

populations – Canada, UK, Vietnam-pig and Vietnam-human. We classified

"serotypes" into either disease-associated or non-disease associated

according to Wileman *et al.* (2019) (21).

For the Mantel tests using the data plotted in Figure 3 and Figure S15, the

test statistic was the Pearson correlation coefficients of the off-diagonal matrix

elements (excluding the diagonals for correlation matrices, and, with missing

data, including all observations that were pairwise complete), and generated a

null distribution from 10,000 random permutations of the row/column ordering

for one of the matrices. Given the hypotheses, these tests were one-tailed.

Inferring physical linkage of candidate alleles

The coordinates of candidate alleles in *S. suis* draft genomes were obtained

using a custom python script (given in the Supplement). This script identifies

the allele locations by performing blastn of the alleles against local databases

of each draft genome. For each allele pairing, the number of genomes that

contained both alleles were computed and whether these alleles were found

on the same contig. For the isolates where the alleles were found on the

same contig, a distribution of base pair distances was computed. The median

base pairwise distance between two alleles was used to generate the

heatmap in Figure S15.

Description of randomisation tests

For the permutation tests shown in Table 3, and illustrated in Figure 4, we

used two approaches. For permutation "over isolates", we randomly permuted

the present/absent records for each allele, independently, over the strains.

This preserves the overall frequency of each allele, and the mean number of

alleles per strain, but effectively assumes free recombination among all sites.

We then assigned each of the candidate alleles, at random, to one of the 679

branches of our core genome phylogeny (described above), choosing each

branch with a probability proportional to its molecular branch length (thereby

accounting for the fact that the substitutions are more likely to occur along

lineages that have undergone more molecular evolution). The resistance

allele was then treated as present in all strains that descend from the

randomly chose branch. For the combined approach (labelled "both"),

permutation over isolates was applied to candidate alleles found on Mobile

Genetic Elements (Table 2), and permutation over phylogeny applied to the

remaining alleles. To assign *p*-values, we report the proportion of the

randomly permuted data sets whose value of the test statistic was more

extreme (i.e., closer to the tails of the distribution) than the value for the true

data, doubled for a two-tailed test.

Data availability

Whole genome sequence assemblies are available from NCBI under Project ID

PRJNA628943. The gene *cat* from isolate FX419 has accession MT367165. The

gene *aadE1* from isolate CF2D3-1A has accession MT383663. The gene *aadE2*

from isolate BH3D7-4E has accession MT383664. The gene *ant1* from isolate

CF2D3-1C has accession MT383665. The gene *tetM1* from isolate 1129711 has

accession MT383666. The gene *tetM2* from isolate LSS85 has

accession MT383667. The gene *tetM3* from isolate SS981 has

accession MT383668. The gene *tetO1* from isolate D16-010262 has

accession MT383669. The gene *vgaF* from isolate 1230091 has

accession MT431628. All R and Python scripts for conducting statistical tests and

figures are given in the supplement. The ARIBA custom database is given in the

supplement.

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Contributions

LAW and NTH conceived the study. AWT, SMW, RZ, MG, NF, TMW, JP, DJM

contributed isolates. NFH, ELM, PLKY, HDP, NTH collected new data. NFH,

ELM, GGRM, JJW and LAW analysed data. JJW produced all figures. LAW,

NFH, ELM and JJW wrote the manuscript.

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Table 1. Ecological and genomic predictors of MIC

Analysis	#strains	Fixed effects	Df	F	p
(a)	678	Antibiotic	15	1404.125	$<10^{-15}$
		genetic cluster	29	40.644	$<10^{-15}$
(b)	450	Antibiotic	15	972.3107	$<10^{-4}$
		Year	1	6.6078	0.0102
		Serotype	1	6.6261	0.0101
		Disease Status	2	2.9760	0.0511
		Country	3	92.5155	$<10^{-4}$
(c)	678	Antibiotic	15	1457.4043	$<10^{-4}$
		Country	3	139.5902	$<10^{-4}$
(d)	557	Antibiotic	15	1144.3846	$<10^{-4}$
		Disease Status	2	9.9619	$<10^{-4}$
(e)	542	Antibiotic	15	1131.6347	$<10^{-4}$
		Serotype	1	8.7216	0.0032
(f)	652	Antibiotic	15	1350.8781	$<10^{-4}$
		Year	1	0.1591	0.69

Table 2. AMR determinants of *Streptococcus suis*

AMR gene	Name in figures	Resistance conferred (Antibiotic Class)	No. of isolates	Reported in *S. suis*	Reported in other species (CARD and NCBI)	Reported genetic location in *S. suis* or other species
ant(4')-Ib	ant4Ib	Aminoglycoside	1	This report	*Staphylococcus aureus, Staphylococcus epidermidis, Enterococcus spp.*	Plasmid
ant(6')-Ia/aadE	ant6Ia	Aminoglycoside	56	(19)	*Staphylococcus epidermidis, Streptococcus spp., Enterococcus fecalis*	Plasmid, ICE
ant(6')-Ib	ant6Ib	Aminoglycoside	12	This report	*Campylobacter spp., Bacillus subtilis, Clostridium spp.*	Pathogenicity Island
ant(9')-Ia/spw/aad9	ant9Ia	Aminoglycoside	45	(19)	*Staphylococcus aureus, Enterocoocus spp., Staphylococcus spp.*	Plasmid, ICE
aph(3')-IIIa	aph3IIIa	Aminoglycoside	46	(74)	*Campylobacter spp., Staphylococcus spp., Streptococcus spp., Enterococcus spp.*	Plasmid, transposon
ant1 *	ant1	Aminoglycoside	12	This report	*Campylobacter spp., Clostridium difficile, Lactobacillus amylovorus*	Plasmid, ICE
aadE1 *	aadE1	Aminoglycoside	2	This report	*Enterococcus faecium, Staphylococcus aureus*	Plasmid
aadE2 *	aadE2	Aminoglycoside	5	This report	*Clostridium spp., Campylobacter fetus*	ICE
ermB	ermB	MLS$_B$ (Macrolide)	370	(75)	*Campylobacter spp., Clostridium spp., Enterococcus spp., Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Proteus mirabilis, Shigella spp., Staphylococcus spp., Streptococcus spp., Vibrio vulnificus.*	Plasmid, ICE
ermG	ermG	MLS$_B$ (Macrolide)	1	This report	*Clostridium difficile, Enterococcus faecium*	Conjugative transposon
ermT	ermT	MLS$_B$ (Macrolide)	3	This report	*Enterococcus faecium, Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus spp.*	Plasmid
mefA	mefA	MLS$_B$ (Macrolide)	11	(75)	*Streptococcus spp., Enterococcus faecium, Haemophilus parainfluenzae, Proteus mirabilis*	Transposon, ICE
mel/msrD	mel	MLS$_B$ (Macrolide)	9	(75)	*Streptococcus spp., Enterococcus faecium, Haemophilus parainfluenzae, Proteus mirabilis.*	Transposon, ICE
lnuB	lnuB	MLS$_B$ (Lincosamide)	3	(17)	*Enterococcus spp., Staphylococcus spp., Streptococcus agalactiae*	Plasmid
linB	linB	MLS$_B$ (Lincosamide)	42	(76)	*Streptococcus suis*	
lnuC	lnuC	MLS$_B$ (Lincosamide)	9	(77)	*Campylobacter spp., Clostridium difficile, Streptococcus agalactiae.*	Plasmid
lsaE	lsaE	Pleuromutilin	43	(17)	*Enterococcus spp., Staphylococcus spp., Streptococcus agalactiae.*	Plasmid, ICE
tet44	tet44	Tetracycline	4	This report	*Clostridium spp.*	ICE
tetM	tetM	Tetracycline	81	(19)	*Streptococcus spp., Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus spp., Enterococcus spp., Klebsiella pneumonia, Neisseria meningitides, Clostridium difficile, Salmonella enterica*	Plasmid, ICE
tetM1 *	tetM1	Tetracycline	34	This report	*Staphylococcus spp., Streptococcus spp., Enterococcus spp., Bacillus spp., Clostridium spp.*	Plasmid, transposon
tetM2 *	tetM2	Tetracycline	43	This report	*Enterococcus spp., Clostridium difficile.*	
tetM3 *	tetM3	Tetracycline	13	This report	*Streptococcus pneumoniae, Streptococcus pyogenes, Enterococcus spp., Clostridium spp.*	Transposon, ICE
tetO	tetO	Tetracycline	465	(19)	*Streptococcus suis, Campylobacter spp.*	ICE, plasmid
tetO1 *	tetO1	Tetracycline	2	This report	*Dorea spp.,* uncultured bacterium	Conjugative transposon
tetW	tetW	Tetracycline	8	(16)	*Streptococcus agalactiae, Clostridium difficile, Chlamydia trachomatis.*	Plasmid

tet40	tet40	Tetracycline	7	(17, 26)	Clostridium difficile		Composite mobile genetic element, ICE
tetL	tetL	Tetracycline	12	(19)	Streptococcus spp., Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus spp., Enterococcus spp., Klebsiella pneumoniae.		Plasmid
tet(O/W/32/O) †	tetO:W:32:O	Tetracycline	20	(73)	Streptococcus suis		ICE
dfrF	dfrF	TMP	11	This report	Clostridium difficile, Enterococcus spp., Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus agalactiae		plasmid
dfrK	dfrK	TMP	7	This report	Staphylococcus aureus, Staphylococcus epidermidis.		plasmid
vgaF*	vgaF	Pleuromutilin	173	This report	Not known		Chromosome. Found as an intact gene (~1386bp) or truncated (<750bp)
cat*	cat	Florfenicol	3	This report	Enterococcus faecalis, Streptococcus iniae, Listeria monocytogenes, Staphylococcus aureus		Plasmid, Transposon
dhfr*	DHFR102	TMP	235	This report	Mutations in I100L in Streptococcus spp. and Staphylococcus aureus		dhfr : I102L
dhfr promoter*	DHFRPromoter	TMP	86	This report	None reported		dhfr : A5G upstream/indels 0-30bp upstream
pbp2B/penA*	PBP2B:hap	Penicillin	181	This report	Mutations in other locations in Streptococcus pneumonia and Group B Streptococcus spp		pbp2B : K479T/A, D512E/Q/K/A, K513E/D,T515S
pbp2X*	PBP2X:hap	Ceftiofur	93	This report	None reported		pbp2X : M437L, S445T, T467S Y525F
pbp2X	PBP2X594:596	Penicillin	15	(25)	Streptococcus suis. Mutations in other locations in Streptococcus pneumonia, Group B Streptococcus sp. and Streptococcus uberis		pbp2X : L594Y/F, V596G
pbp2X	PBP2X569	Penicillin	10	(25)	Streptococcus suis		pbp2X : N569Q
mraY*	MraY:hap	Penicillin	62	This report	None reported		mraY : A4S/T, M6I/L G8S
parC†	ParC79	Fluoroquinolone	4	(27)	Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Streptococcus spp., Staphylococcus aureus		parC : S79
gyrA†	GyrA81	Fluoroquinolone	13	(27)	Escherichia coli, Klebsiella spp., Streptococcus spp., Staphylococcus aureus		gyrA : S81
gyrA†	GyrA85	Fluoroquinolone	1	(27)	Escherichia coli, Klebsiella spp., Streptococcus spp., Staphylococcus aureus		gyrA : E85

*novel determinants reported in this study
† Not documented in the CARD database
MLS$_B$ Macrolide Linocsomide Streptogramin B
TMP Trimethoprim

statistic	value	over isolates		over genealogy		both	
		null: mean (range)	p	null: mean (range)	p	null: mean (range)	p
proportion susceptible	0.088	0.014 (0.001-0.032)	$<10^{-4}$	0.621 (0.001-0.855)	0.033	0.054 (0.001-0.086)	$<10^{-4}$
proportion MDR	0.748	0.881 (0.842-0.928)	$<10^{-4}$	0.109 (0.006-0.900)	8×10^{-4}	0.667 (0.609-0.928)	0.020
proportion nested	0.631	0.272 (0.226-0.326)	$<10^{-4}$	0.753 (0.487-0.923)	0.065	0.708 (0.655-0.860)	$<10^{-4}$

Table 3: Evidence of clustering of AMR in *S. suis*

  Figure legends

Figure 1. Candidate AMR alleles explain most of the variation in MIC. a)

Histograms of log transformed MIC measures for each of our 16 different

antibiotics, across our panel of 678 *S. suis* isolates. Antibiotics are coloured

by their class (Beta: beta-lactams; MLS$_B$: macrolide-lincosamide-

streptogramin B; Tetra: tetracyclines; Fluoro: fluoroquinolones; Amino:

aminoglycoside; Pleuro: pleuromutilin; TMP: trimethoprim and Phen:

phenicol). **b)** Histograms showing the predictive power of our candidate AMR

alleles. The left-hand histograms (labelled N) show the MIC values for isolates

that carry no allele for that antibiotic class, while the right-hand histograms

(labelled A) show the MIC values for isolates carrying one or more such allele.

If all resistance alleles perfectly explain MIC, then we expect to see histogram

distributions on the bottom left (low MIC, no allele) and the top right (high MIC,

presence of candidate allele(s)). For the first antimicrobial in each class, we

show the number of candidate AMR alleles in square brackets, along with the

number of isolates where candidate alleles are absent or present. r^2 values

show the proportion of the variance explained by the binary

presence/absence of these alleles.

Figure 2. Genotype-specific MIC values for lincomycin and erythromycin

show epistatic interactions. The middle panels show the MIC values for

lincomycin and erythromycin (both in the MLS$_B$ class), for a range of

genotypes with mean MIC values shown as black empty circles. Genotypes

are classified in the lower panel, according to the subset of the 8 candidate

alleles for the MLS$_B$ class that they contain, and the number of isolates with

each genotype are shown in the upper panel. The plots illustrate several

complexities of the genotype-phenotype map, including alleles that confer

resistance to only one of the two drugs, and epistatic interactions, i.e.,

resistance effects that vary with the genetic background.

Figure 3. Covariation in MIC values for different antibiotic classes. The

matrix represents correlation coefficients between log(MIC) values for pairs of

antibiotics. The greyscale runs from white (-0.14) to black (1). Correlations are

strongest for most antibiotics in the same class (as indicated by colour), but

there are also strong correlations between classes. All values are positive,

except for some values involving enrofloxacin (enr), which does not even

correlate strongly with the MIC for the other Fluoroquinolone, marbofloxacin

(mar). The inset figure plots the correlation coefficients on the *y*-axis (with

values involving enrofloxacin shown in yellow). The *x*-axis shows the co-

occurrence of candidate alleles conferring resistance to each pair of

antibiotics. These were calculated as

$\rho_{\text{allele pres/abs}} = (p_{ij} - p_i p_j)/\sqrt{p_i(1 - p_i)p_j(1 - p_j)}$, where p_i and p_j are the

proportions of the isolates carrying candidate resistance alleles against each

of the classes, and p_{ij} is the proportion of isolates carrying alleles against

both classes. The trend suggests that much of the covariance in MIC values

is due to co-occurring resistance alleles.

Figure 4 Clustering of AMR alleles in *S. suis*. Histograms of the number of

candidate resistance alleles carried by each isolate (upper panel), or the

number of antibiotic classes to which these alleles confer resistance (lower

panel). The true data (thicker blue bars), are compared to two comparison

data sets, in which the presence/absence records of each allele was

randomized over isolates (thinner red bars), or where the appearance of each

allele was placed at random on a consensus genealogy of the isolates

(thinner yellow bars). These randomization procedures suggest that the co-

occurrence of candidate resistance alleles, and especially alleles conferring

resistance to different drug classes, is more clustered than would be expected

by chance.

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