1   Analyses of symbiotic bacterial communities in the plant pest *Bemisia tabaci* reveal high

2   prevalence of *Hemipteriphilus asiaticus* on the African continent

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Running Head: *Hemipteriphilus asiaticus* in African whiteflies

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Abstract

Microbial symbionts are widespread in insects and some of them have been associated to adaptive changes. Primary symbionts (P-symbionts) have a nutritional role that allows their hosts to feed on unbalanced diets (plant sap, wood, blood). Most of them have undergone genome reduction, but their genomes still retain genes involved in pathways that are necessary to synthesize the nutrients that their hosts need. However, in some P-symbionts, essential pathways are incomplete and secondary symbionts (S-symbionts) are required to complete parts of their degenerated functions. The P-symbiont of the phloem sap-feeder *Bemisia tabaci*, *Portiera aleyrodidarium,* lacks genes involved in the synthesis of vitamins, cofactors, and also of some essential amino-acids. Seven S-symbionts have been detected in the *B*. tabaci species complex. Phenotypic and genomic analyses have revealed various effects, from reproductive manipulation to fitness benefits, notably some of them have complementary metabolic capabilities to *Portiera*, suggesting that their presence may be obligatory. In order to get the full picture of the symbiotic community of this pest, we investigated, through metabarcoding approaches, the symbiont content of individuals from Burkina Faso, a West African country where *B. tabaci* induces severe crop damage. While no new putative *B. tabaci* S-symbiont was identified, *Hemipteriphilus,* a symbiont only described in *B. tabaci* populations from Asia*,* was detected for the first time on this continent. Phylogenetic analyses however reveal that it is a different strain than the reference found in Asia. Specific diagnostic PCRs showed a high prevalence of these S-symbionts and especially of *Hemipteriphilus* in different genetic groups. These results suggest that *Hemipteriphilus* may affect the biology of *B. tabaci* and provide fitness advantage in some *B. tabaci* populations.

Keywords: *Bemisia tabaci, Hemipteriphilus asiaticus,* secondary symbionts

Introduction

Many insects feed on nutrient-imbalanced diet (plant sap, wood, blood), and there is strong experimental evidence that microbial symbionts can promote utilization of these resources by the synthesis of essential nutrients, like amino-acids and vitamins (for review see 1). These obligatory symbionts, also called primary symbionts (P-symbionts), are intracellular, strictly maternally inherited and, for most of them, have evolved with their hosts for millions of years (review in 2). They are often housed inside specialized cells, bacteriocytes, within a dedicated organ, the bacteriome, localized in the host's abdomen, which constitutes a stable environment for the symbionts and facilitates their transmission to offspring (3, 4). As a consequence of this lifestyle, their genomes are extremely reduced (5, 6). Their minimal genomes retain genes involved in pathways that complement essential nutrients lacking in their host' diets (7). However, in some bacterial symbionts, gene repertoire seems insufficient to meet the metabolic demand of their hosts (review in 8). For example, in aphids, in the subfamily Lachninae, the P-Symbiont *Buchnera aphidicola* has lost its ability to synthesize tryptophan and riboflavin (9). These deficiencies can be compensated by the acquisition of alternative symbionts that can mediate equivalent functions. Indeed, in addition to their P-symbiont, insects often harbour facultative symbionts, also termed secondary symbionts (S-symbionts). These "non-essential" symbionts are predominantly vertically transmitted but can also be horizontally transmitted, and have a wide range of effects from mutualism to parasitism (review in 10). Several studies have shown that these co-resident S-symbionts can complement the metabolic network of the P-symbionts leading to an inter-dependency between the symbiotic partners. Thus, all the members of the aphid subfamily Lachninae depend on a second co-obligate symbiont to complement specific gene losses of the P-symbiont *Buchnera* (9, 11; review in 12). These co-symbionts are numerous with eleven identified up to now: ten γ-proteobacteria and one α-proteobacteria. This inter-dependency between the symbiotic partners is not restricted to aphids

and *Buchnera*, it has been described in other hemiptera like in Cicadas where the P-symbiont

Sulcia has almost always been detected with one or more co-obligate symbionts (12).

Like other phloem-sap feeders, the whitefly *Bemisia tabaci* harbours a P-symbiont, *Portiera*

aleyrodidarum (13), that synthetizes essential nutrients. However, *Portiera* has a tiny genome,

around 355kb (14-17) and, while this γ-proteobacterium has the capacity to synthesize

carotenoids and most essential amino-acids (14), it lacks almost all the genes involved in the

synthesis of vitamins and cofactors. Moreover, pathways involved in the synthesis of some

essential amino acids are incomplete (18). Seven S-symbionts have been identified in the

cryptic species complex of *B. tabaci*: *Hamiltonella defensa*, *Arsenophonus sp.*, *Cardinium*

hertigii, *Rickettsia sp.*, *Wolbachia pipientis, Fritschea bemisiae* and *Hemipteriphilus asiaticus*

(19-22). They are all localized in the same bacteriocytes as the P-symbiont but some can also

be found in the hemolymph (23). Their roles remain poorly understood but range from

reproductive parasitism (24) to fitness benefits such as thermal tolerance (25, 26). Moreover,

the analysis of their genomes suggests that some of them could play a nutritional role. For

example, *Hamiltonella* can provide vitamins and cofactors, and could also complete the missing

steps of the lysine pathway of *Portiera* (18). Because of these complementations, presence of

S-symbionts is expected in all whitefly individuals. In a sampling performed in West Africa in

2007 and 2009, *B. tabaci* individuals were indeed predominantly found infected with S-

symbionts, but in some populations no S-symbiont were recorded (27). In this former study,

prevalence of S-symbionts was determined with an *a priori* method, *i. e.* through PCRs using

specific primers targeting the six symbionts identified in *B. tabaci* at the time, thus leaving the

possibility that other, undescribed endosymbionts were present. Since, a seventh S-symbiont,

Hemipteriphilus asiaticus (hereafter *Hemipteriphilus*), has been described in *B. tabaci* (19-20).

This makes it possible that *Hemipteriphilus,* as well as other bacterial symbionts, are in fact

present in the S-symbiont free *B. tabaci* individuals.

In order to get a full picture of the symbiont diversity, we investigated the symbiont content of

individuals sampled in Burkina Faso (West Africa) using a metagenomic approach. In this

country, *B. tabaci* is a pest of primary importance, with a severe impact on economic activity

(28). Indeed, *B. tabaci* is a cryptic species complex (42 species reported till now based on a

657bp portion of the mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase 1 (*mtCOI*) DNA sequence: 29-33), and

in Burkina Faso individuals belong either to SSA (Sub-Saharan Africa), ASL (Africa Silver-

Leafing) or MED (Meditteranean) species (34). Using universal bacterial primer sets we

detected few bacterial species and, more importantly, no new putative S-symbiont. However,

the S-symbionts known in *B. tabaci* were found, except *Fritschea*, and notably *Hemipteriphilus*

that is described for the first time in Africa. Interestingly, phylogenetic analyses revealed that

this *Hemipteriphilus* differs from the reference strain identified in Asia (20). In addition,

diagnostic PCRs revealed high prevalence of S-symbionts in these populations, and notably

Hemipteriphilus in ASL and MED individuals, which questions its possible role in the biology

of *B. tabaci*.

Results

Among the 630 individuals sampled in Burkina Faso in 2015 and 2016, the majority, almost 84%, belonged to the MED species, more especially to the MED-Q1 genetic group (81% ; 3% belonged to MED-Q3). ASL and SSA (more precisely SSA2) genetic groups represented 10.5% and 3% of individuals respectively (34).

Bacterial community characterization

The bacterial community of *B. tabaci* collected in Burkina Faso was characterized by a metagenomic approach, without *a priori* assumptions, using universal bacterial primers targeting the *16SrDNA* gene and an Illumina sequencing technology. Between 107,000 to 927,000 reads were obtained per sample (average : 215,000 reads). The majority of the reads belonged to the known *B. tabaci* P- and S-symbionts and, in most field individuals, sequences from *Portiera* constituted the majority of reads (up to 98.6%; 71.8% on average). We detected bacterial taxa belonging to the genera *Alkanindiges* at extremely low abundances since they represented between 0 and 6% of the sequences obtained per individual, both in field and lab samples. They may represent gut bacteria or contaminations. Overall, no new S-symbiont has been detected.

All the known *B. tabaci* S-symbionts have been found except *Fritschea*. However, it is not surprising since this S-symbiont seems to be scarce worldwide in *B. tabaci* (35). As already shown, there is a link between symbiotic bacterial communities and genetic groups: *Hamiltonella* was found to be the most common S-symbiont in MED-Q1, and *Arsenophonus* in MED-Q3 and SSA2 individuals. *Hemipteriphilus* is the only S-symbiont presents in all genetic groups except SSA2 (*i.e.* in MED-Q1, MED-Q3 and ASL). It was not detected in individuals of the laboratory lines.

Phylogenetic analysis of *Hemipteriphilus asiaticus*

Twenty individuals positive for *Hemipteriphilus,* belonging to MED-Q1, MED-Q3 and ASL genetic groups, were used for phylogenetic analysis. They originated from eight localities and, when possible, in each locality, the three genetic groups were represented (Table 1). The *16SrRNA* sequences (483bp) obtained with the new primers designed in the present study were 100% identical in all the individuals (*i. e.* 8 MED-Q1, 7 MED-Q3 and 5 ASL). This sequence showed the highest similarity with the ones of *Candidatus Hemipteriphilus asiaticus* endosymbiont and *Rickettsia* of *B. tabaci* available in the genbank database. *16SrRNA* gene is highly conserved (36) we thus designed new primers on two other loci, *GltA* and *GroEL,* using the sequences of the *Hemipteriphilus* isolate YH-ZHJ available in Genbank (20). The 190bp sequences of *GltA* were identical in all our 20 samples, but one substitution was found in the *GroEL* sequences (269bp) between MED individuals (Q1 and Q3) and ASL individuals, whatever their sampling locality.

Analyses of the concatenated sequences obtained for the three loci (942bp in total) revealed ~97% identity between the *Hemipteriphilus* strains identified in Burkina Faso and the YH-ZHJ reference isolate from the China *B. tabaci* species (between 1 to 13 different bases according to the gene). We also analysed the phylogenetic relationships of *Hemipteriphilus* and other close Rickettsiales, *Rickettsia*, *Orientia tsutsumagushi* and *Sitobion miscanthi L Type Symbiont* SMLS (Figure 1), and showed that *Hemipteriphilus* is closer to SMLS than to *Orientia tsutsumagushi* and *Rickettsia*, which is concordant with analyses of Bing *et al.* (20) and Li *et al.* (37).

This phylogenetic analysis thus confirms the presence of *Hemipteriphilus* in MED-Q1, MED-Q3 and ASL genetic groups in Burkina Faso. It also reveals that they represent different strains

than the one found in Asia, and that the strain found in ASL differs slightly from the strains in

MED-Q1 and MED-Q3.

Distribution and prevalence of bacterial endosymbionts in field populations

The presence of the P- and S-symbionts was checked in 334 individuals from nine localities in

Burkina Faso (Figure 2) and several host plants (vegetables, ornamental plants and weeds) by

specific diagnostic qPCRs. All the S-symbionts described so far in *B. tabaci* were targeted

except *Fritschea bemisiae* because this bacterium was not found in the *16SrRNA* metagenomic

analysis. The infection status of individuals for the P-symbiont as well as the S-symbionts

(*Hamiltonella*, *Arsenophonus*, *Cardinium*, *Rickettsia*, *Wolbachia, Hemipteriphilus*) are

presented in Figure 3. *Portiera* was found in all but five individuals from different sampling

sites. PCRs done on the actine host gene as well as the detection of S-symbionts ensured the

extraction quality, but we cannot exclude that the quantity of *Portiera* was under the real-time

PCR detection threshold in these samples. The fact that these five individuals all belong to

MED-Q1 can be explained by the high prevalence of this genetic group (262/334).

More than 98% of individuals harboured at least one S-symbiont and, as expected, the

prevalence of the S-symbionts genera depended on the genetic group (Fisher's Exact Test, P =

0.0005 ; see data analysis of 21). *Arsenophonus* is the most frequent symbiont in SSA2 and

MED-Q3 individuals (89% and 79% respectively), while 96% of individuals belonging to

MED-Q1 harbour *Hamiltonella*. Interestingly, *Hemipteriphilus* is dominant in ASL samples

with 82% of individuals infected while 50% harbour *Arsenophonus*. More generally

Hemipteriphilus is very frequent in all biotypes, except SSA2 in which it has not been found.

For the first time, this symbiont is described in MED-Q1, MED-Q3 and ASL genetic groups.

In all of them, its prevalence is high: 77% in MED-Q1, 53% in MED-Q3 and 82% in ASL.

Globally, the symbiotic composition in these four genetic groups corresponds to what is known

in literature (meta-analysis in Zchori-Fein *et al.* (21); see Gnankiné *et al.* (27) for previous data

obtained in Burkina Faso), except for *Hemipteriphilus*. The symbiotic composition is not

influenced by the locality for MED-Q1 (Fisher's Exact Test, P = 0.1414), which is the only

genetic group found in all the localities (Figure S1).

Co-infection by several S-symbionts is frequent (69%), mostly double-infections which

represent 90% of multiple infections. However, the presence of three or even four S-symbionts

within the same host individual has also been detected (20 and 2 individuals respectively; Figure

3). An exception is the biotype SSA2 in which only single infections have been found. Some

associations of symbionts are frequent and others never found. We never found *Rickettsia-*

Cardinium, *Rickettsia-Wolbachia* and *Wolbachia-Arsenophonus* combinations. On the other

hand, in the MED-Q1 individuals *Hamiltonella* and *Hemipteriphilus* co-occur frequently: this

assemblage represents 76% of bi-infections in this genetic group (193/253). In MED-Q3 and

ASL, *Hemipteriphilus* is often associated with *Arsenophonus* (58% and 92% respectively).

These results show that *Hemipteriphilus* often co-infect individuals with another S-symbiont,

especially the two more frequent S-symbionts, that are also the ones confined to bacteriocytes.

Influence of *Hemipteriphilus* on the P-symbiont density

As it is the first time that *Hemipteriphilus* has been detected in *B. tabaci* individuals from the

African continent, we aimed at determining whether its presence has an impact on the P-

symbiont. We thus compared the density of *Portiera* in presence and in absence of

Hemipteriphilus (Figure 4). Results indicated that the presence of *Hemipteriphilus* does not

affect the density of *Portiera* (n=282, Wilcox rank test, W=8364, P=0.0847).

Discussion

The whitefly *B. tabaci* is one of the most devastating agricultural pests worldwide. In Africa, damage induced by this species complex are huge and result in severe impacts on the economic activity of many countries. Effective control requires understanding its ability to spread and determining factors involved in its important polyphagy. In this context, heritable bacterial symbionts are of primary importance since they may provide their hosts with important ecological traits. In the present study, we aimed at describing the symbiotic bacterial communities, diversity and prevalence in *B. tabaci* populations from Burkina Faso (West Africa). In this survey, several *B. tabaci* genetic groups were found: ASL (Africa Silver-Leafing) and MED (Meditteranean, MED-Q1 and MED-Q3), as previously reported by Gnankiné *et al.* (27), and, in addition, SSA (Sub-Saharan Africa), that was detected for the first time in this country, but only in one locality (Lilboure), and only on one host plant, cassava (34).

The metagenomic analysis of the bacterial symbionts did not reveal the presence of symbionts not yet described in *B. tabaci*. However, *Hemipteriphilus* is described for the first time in Africa: it was detected in all the genetic groups found in Burkina Faso except SSA, *i. e.* MED-Q1, MED-Q3 and ASL. *Hemipteriphilus* has been described for the first time in 2013 by Bing *et al.* (20) in *B. tabaci* samples from China belonging to the China1 biotype. Since, it has also been found in China2, Asia (I and II), Indian Ocean and SSA (SSA6) genetic groups, but only in countries of the Asian continent: Indian and Pakistan (22, 38, 39). In the present study, *Hemipteriphilus* was detected in the African continent, with a very high prevalence in the MED and ASL genetic groups from Burkina Faso: 53% in MED-Q3, 77% in MED-Q1, reaching 82% in ASL. On the other hand, it has not been found in SSA2. Since its description, *Hemipteriphilus* has been relatively under-studied. To our knowledge, only two field surveys have been done so

far. They both found the presence of *Hemipteriphilus* in Asia I and II species but with high

differences in prevalence: the infection rate was high in Central India (89%: 51 out of 57

individuals checked were infected; 38), but lower in Pakistan (between 5% and 39%; 22). Based

on all these results, the presence of *Hemipteriphilus* should be sought in population studies

when *a priori* methods based on specific PCRs are used to describe the bacterial community

associated with the *B. tabaci* complex species. This is especially true as we describe here that

Hemipteriphilus can also infect the worldly distributed MED-Q1.

Our phylogenetic analyses on *Hemipteriphilus* based on three genes, *16SrRNA*, *GroEL* and *GltA*

revealed that 3% of nucleotide sites differ between the MED strain identified in the present

study and the reference YH-ZHJ isolate described in the China *B. tabaci* species (20). It also

revealed a substitution in the *GroEL* sequence between the *Hemipteriphilus* found in MED and

in ASL, yet found in sympatry. Therefore, the present data confirm the existence of

polymorphism in the *Hemipteriphilus* genus with at least three strains present in *B. tabaci*.

Naturally, in further studies, an extended sampling should be done in more continents,

countries, on more species/genetic groups, and more molecular markers should be developed

in order to get a more accurate idea of the diversity of *Hemipteriphilus* strains in this complex

species. Anyway, *Hemipteriphilus* is not an isolated case: several S-symbionts (*Wolbachia*,

Arsenophonus, *Cardinium* and *Rickettsia)* are represented by more than one strain in *B. tabaci*

(35, 40)*,* with up to 6 phylogenetic groups identified for *Arsenophonus* (41).

To date the influence of *Hemipteriphilus* on its host is not known. In *B. tabaci*, it has been

suggested that some S-symbionts could play a nutritional role, in collaboration with the P-

symbiont. Indeed, several data suggest that *Hamiltonella* and *Arsenophonus* could have an

impact on the *B. tabaci* metabolism and dietary requirements. These two S-symbionts are

almost fixed in some genetic groups (27, 41, present study). For instance, *Hamiltonella* is

widespread in MEAM1 and MED-Q1 (review in 21 and 35). Moreover, *Hamiltonella* possesses

some genes involved in amino-acid biosynthesis pathways that are lost or non-functional in the

P-symbiont (18). In addition, recent experiments demonstrated that this S-symbiont can supply

B. tabaci with the production of B vitamins (42-43). Even if there is no evidence of fixation in

any genetic group in the field, *Hemipteriphilus* could confer a benefit to its host under some

environmental conditions, for example, according to the nutritional quality of the host plants.

Indeed, previous research demonstrated that aphid performance is associated with the amino-

acid composition of the phloem sap (44-45). It could explain why *Hemipteriphilus* was not

present in the SSA species which, contrary to MED and ASL which have been found in several

host plant species, has only been detected on cassava in Burkina Faso (34). Analysis of the

genome of *Hemipteriphilus,* with a special focus on genes involved in metabolic pathways,

would give further insight into its putative nutritional role.

The presence of another closely relative S-symbiont, *Sitobion miscanthi L Type Symbiont*

(SMLS), has also been recently highlighted in the aphid *Sitobion miscanthi* (46). It also belongs

to the Rickettsiaceae family and, similarly to *Hemipteriphilus*, is widely distributed in some

populations of its host (see survey in China in 47). It has been suggested that SMLS could

stimulate the proliferation of the P-symbiont *Buchnera* and thus improve the aphids' fitness.

Indeed, *Buchnera*'s density is significantly higher in SMLS-infected individuals and laboratory

experiments revealed that infected individuals show higher values of some fitness traits (37).

However, our results did not reveal any influence of *Hemipteriphilus* on the *Portiera* density.

Clearly, life history traits should be measured on *Hemipteriphilus*-infected and -free *B. tabaci*

individuals. Anyway, the high frequency of these two newly reported S-symbionts in some field

populations of these phloemophagous insects could suggest they bring benefit to their hosts.

Clearly, further research on the infection dynamics of these S-symbionts, and their role on their

host phenotype and adaptation are needed.

Compared to the previous field survey done in Burkina Faso by Gnankiné *et al.* (27), data on

the infection with S-symbionts are highly similar except for the presence of *Hemipteriphilus,*

which was not described at that time. In particular, the infection rate involving at least one S-

symbiont were higher than 90% in the two studies. In MED-Q1 genetic group, *Hamiltonella* is

the more frequent S-symbiont (96% in the present study, 89% in 27) while *Arsenophonus* is the

most common bacteria in MED-Q3 and ASL individuals (previous study/present study,

respectively 93%/79% and 40%/50%). Interestingly, *Hamiltonella* and *Arsenophonus* are

mutually exclusive which is not the case of *Hemipteriphilus* that is often found in co-infection

with these S-symbionts: it was involved in almost 80% of co-infection by two S-symbionts.

Conclusion

In summary, these data showed the high stability of the symbiotic community in the *B. tabaci*

complex species found in Burkina Faso and reveal the presence of another player whose role

deserves to be studied. The stability and the high indicence of S-symbionts in *B. tabaci* (in the

present study, we found that more than 98% of individuals harbour at least one S-symbiont),

together with genomic studies, suggest that they can have central roles in shaping the fitness of

this pest in different environments. Understanding their possible contribution to successfull

invasion, widespread distribution, and more generally, on the population dynamics of this

whitefly is critical for the implementation of effective pest management programs.

Materials and methods

Sampling

Sampling was done in nine localities in Burkina Faso, Western Africa (Figure 1), in March and April (dry season) 2015 and 2016 on vegetables, ornamental plants and weeds as described in Romba *et al.* (34). The species and biotypes (hereafter genetic groups) of the individuals (adults) were determined in Romba *et al.* (34) according to the PCR-RFLP method developed in Henri *et al.* (48). Total DNA was extracted from single whiteflies. Three species were found, ASL (Africa Silver-Leafing), SSA (Sub-Saharan Africa) and MED (Meditteranean). Within the MED species, two genetic groups, MED-Q1 and MED-Q3, were identified.

Characterization of the bacterial community

Seventy-two field-collected whiteflies from Burkina Faso were used to characterize the bacterial community through qPCRs using primers specific to each symbiont. They were chosen in order that all genetic groups, all localities and all host plants were represented (Table 1). We also included 18 adults coming from laboratory lines belonging to MED-Q1 and MED-Q2 genetic groups reared for years in the « Laboratoire de Biométrie et Biologie Evolutive ». The universal bacterial primer set 319F-*TCG-TCG-GCA-GCG-TCA-GAT-GTG-TAT-AAG-AGA-CAG*-CCT-ACG-GGN-GGC-WGC-AG and 805R-*GTC-TCG-TGG-GCT-CGG-AGA-TGT-GTA-TAA-GAG-ACA-G*GA-CTA-CHV-GGG-TAT-CTA-ATC-C was used to amplify 486 bp of the V3-V4 hypervariable regions of the *16SrDNA* gene (49). The primers were synthesized with overhang adapters (in italic) for index attachment and Illumina sequencing adapters. For each sample, triplicates were performed, consisting of three PCR reactions using 4µL of DNA template and 25 cycles of PCR. Each amplification product was checked on an agarose gel to verify that there was specific amplification only. For some of them, a bioanalyzer

verification was also performed. Then, all the replicates were pooled by sample before

purification and to proceed to the further preparation of the library according to the protocol

outlined by Illumina (« 16S metagenomic Sequencing Library Preparation »), n°15044223

Rev.B. The pooled library was PE-sequenced using the Illumina MiSeq reagent kit version 3

for 600 cycles (2x300pb) by Biofidal (Vaulx enVelin, France).

The sequencing data in FASTQ format were processed and analyzed with the QIIME2 software

suite version 2018.8 (50). The raw Illumina reads were imported into QIIME2, demultiplexed,

and then denoised, trimmed and filtered with DADA2 pipeline to remove noisy and chimeric

sequences, to construct denoised paired-end sequences and to dereplicate them (51). This

produced a table containing representative sequences also called amplicon sequence variant or

ASV. The taxonomy assignment of ASVs was then performed by using feature-classifier

classify-sklearn against the database Greengenes 13_8 (99% OTUs from 515F/806R region of

sequences) (52-53).

Primer design

We designed new primers for *Hemipteriphilus* using sequences available in Genbank (20) with

the Primer3 software (https://bioinfo.ut.ee/primer3-0.4.0/). We aligned sequences of

Hemipteriphilus with sequences of *Rickettsia* from *B. tabaci* in order to design primers specific

to *Hemipteriphilus* that do not amplify sequences from *Rickettsia*. These primers were tested

on individuals harbouring *Rickettsia* but not *Hemipteriphilus* and we didn't detect any

amplification. Multiple sequence alignments were done using the MUSCLE algorithm (54)

implemented in CLC DNA Workbench 8.0 (CLC Bio). Three sets of primers targeting three

different genes of *Hemipteriphilus*, *ADNr16S*, the citrate synthase *GltA* and the chaperonin

GroEL were designed (Table 2).

Phylogenetic analysis of *Hemipteriphilus asiaticus* strains

PCRs targeting *GltA*, *GroEL* and *ADNr16S* genes of *Hemipteriphilus* were carried out on 20 positive samples (Table 1) with sets of primers designed specifically for this study (Table 2). DNA was amplified in a final volume of 25μL containing 200μM dNTPs, 200nM of each primer, 0.5IU DreamTaq DNA polymerase (ThermoFisher) and 2μL of DNA. All PCR amplifications were performed under the following conditions: initial denaturation at 95°C for 2min followed by 35 cycles at 94°C for 30sec, 56°C for 30sec, 72°C for 1min and a final extension at 72°C for 10min. PCR products were sequenced using the Sanger method by the platform Biofidal (Vaulx en Velin, France).

The nucleotide polymorphism was analyzed by aligning the sequences obtained using the MUSCLE algorithm (54) implemented in CLC DNA Workbench 8.0 (CLC Bio) and inspecting them by eye. Moreover, we studied the phylogenetic relationships of the *Hemipteriphilus asiaticus* strains found in our samples with the reference strain described in *B. tabaci* (isolate YH-ZHJ; 20) as well as other symbionts belonging to the Rickettsiales family, *Rickettsia*, *Orientia tsutsumagushi* and *Sitobion miscanthi L Type Symbiont* (SMLS). Phylogenetic trees were constructed with CLC DNA Workbench 8.0 (CLC Bio) using maximum-likelihood method for each sequence separately and for the concatenated data set (substitution model: GTR + G + T). The robustness of nodes was assessed with 100 bootstrap replicates.

Prevalence of bacterial endosymbionts

Three hundred four individuals were screened for the presence of the P-symbiont *Portiera aleyrodidarum* and six secondary symbionts, *Hamiltonella defensa*, *Arsenophonus sp.*, *Cardinium hertigii*, *Rickettsia sp.*, *Wolbachia pipientis* and *Hemipteriphilus asiaticus* (hereafter *Portiera, Hamiltonella, Arsenophonus, Cardinium, Rickettsia, Wolbachia* and *Hemipteriphilus*) using specific PCR primers (Table 3). We did not check for the presence of

Fritschea bemisiae in these individuals because this bacterium was not detected in the *16SrRNA*

metagenomic analysis. We also amplified one host gene (actin) using the following primers:

wf-B actin-For:5'-TCT-TCC-AGC-CAT-CCT-TCT-TG-3' and wf-B actin-Rev: 5-CGG-TGA-

TTT-CCT-TCT-GCA-TT-3' to ensure the quality of DNA extractions. DNA was amplified in

a final volume of 10μL containing 5μL of Sso Advanced SYBR Green Supermix (Bio-Rad),

2μL of water, 0.5μL of each primer (final concentration of 500nM) and 2μL of DNA samples.

The reaction conditions for amplification were 95°C for 30sec followed by 40 cycles of 95°C

for 10sec, 55°C to 63°C (according to the primers' set) for 30sec (see Table 3 ; 63°C for Actine)

and 72°C for 30sec. The specificity of the amplified products was controlled by checking

melting curves (65°C to 95°C). To assess the efficiency of the reaction, standard curves were

plotted using dilutions of previously amplified and purified PCR products. Amplification and

detection of DNA were done on the real-time CFX96 instrument (Bio-Rad).

Statistical analysis

Data analysis were performed using the R statistical software (http:// www.R-project.org).

The infection status of *B. tabaci* individuals was graphically represented using the Mondrian

shiny   application   (Siberchicot,   Charif,   Terraz   &   Vavre: https://cran.r-

project.org/web/packages/Mondrian/).

Data availability

Nucleotide sequences obtained in this study are accessible in GenBank database under

accession numbers MW353022 and MW353023 for *GroEL* (MED and ASL species

respectively), MW343733 for *16SrRNA* and MW353021 for *GltA*.

All datasets generated and analyzed on the bacterial community characterization are available

in Dryad at: https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.547d7wm91.

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                                    Tables and figures

607   **Table 1:** Samples used for the phylogenetic analyses of *Hemipteriphilus asiaticus*

Locality	Host plant	Sample name	Biotype
Tanghin/Ouagadougou	Eggplant	TangO22	MED-Q1
	Lantana camara	TangOE56	MED-Q3
	Potato	TangO14	ASL
	Tomato	TangOE35	ASL
Tiebele/Pô	Chilli pepper	TiebPE11	MED-Q1
	Potato	TiebP13	ASL
Boulmiougou/Ouagadougou	Bell pepper	BoulOE33	MED-Q1
	Cucumber	BoulOE44	MED-Q3
	Cucumber	BoulOE46	MED-Q3
	Zucchini	BoulOE51	MED-Q3
	Tomato	BoulOE15	ASL
Boulbi/Komsilga	Eggplant	BoulkE11	MED-Q1
	Eggplant	BoulKE33	MED-Q3
	Zucchini	BoulkE39	MED-Q3
Koubri/Kombissiri	Bell pepper	KoubKE11	MED-Q1
	Zucchini	KoubK45	MED-Q3
Werra/Koudougou	Eggplant	WerrkE24	MED-Q1
	Tomato	WerrE11	ASL
Loumbila/Oubritenga	Chilli pepper	LoumOE14	MED-Q1
Bonyolo/Réo	Eggplant	BonyRE13	MED-Q1

610   **Table 2:** PCR primers and conditions used for phylogenetic analysis of *Hemipteriphilus asiaticus*

Targeted gene	Primers	Primer sequences	Annealing temperature/ Product size
GltA	**HA_GltA_62F** **HA_GltA_259R**	5'- AGCAGCAGGTATTGCCTCAT -3' 5'- TGCCCTGGGATCATAATTCTT -3'	56°C / 198bp
ADNr16S	**HA_16S_36F** **HA_16S_555R**	5'- ATTAGTGGCAAACGGGTGAG -3' 5'- CTCTAGCCTAGCAGTTTTAG -3'	56°C / 519bp
GroEL	**HA_GroEL_318F** **HA_GroEL_1008R**	5'- GCCAATGGCGATAGTGAGAT -3' 5'- GCACTGCTACACCAGTTTGC -3'	56°C / 691bp

613   All these primers have been designed in this study.

Table 3: PCR primers and conditions used for symbionts' screening (qPCR)

Symbiont	Targeted gene	Primers	Primer sequences	Annealing temperature/ Product size	Reference
Portiera	*ADNr16S*	**Port73-F** **Port266-R**	5' – GTGGGGAATAACGTACGG – 3' 5' – CTCAGTCCCAGTGTGGCTG – 3'	60°C / 193bp	Caspi-Fluger *et al.*, 2011
Rickettsia	*GltA*	**GltA 375F_Rick** **GltA 574R_Rick**	5'- TGGTATTGCATCGCTTTGGG-3' 5'- TTTCTTTAAGCACTGCAGCACG-3'	60°C / 199bp	Caspi-Fluger *et al.*, 2011
Hamiltonella	*dnaK*	**dnaK-F** **dnaK-R**	5'- GGTTCAGAAAAAAGTGGCAG -3' 5'- CGAGCGAAAGAGGAGTGAC -3'	60°C / 155bp	Moran *et al.*, 2005
Cardinium	*ADNr16S*	**CFB-F** **CFB-R**	5'-GCGGTGTAAAATGAGCGTG-3' 5'-ACCTMTTCTTAACTCAAGCCT-3'	59°C / 395bp	Weeks *et al.,* 2003
Wolbachia	*FtsZ*	**F2** **R2**	5'- TTGCAGAGCTTGGACTTGAA -3' 5'-CATATCTCCGCCACCAGTAA-3'	55°C / 400bp	Vavre *et al*, 1999
Arsenophonus	*ADNr23S*	**ArsF3** **ArsR3**	5'- GTCGTGAGGAARGTGTTARGGTT -3' 5'- CCTYTATCTCTAAAGGMTTCGCTGGATG -3'	63°C / 765bp	Duron *et al.,* 2008
Hemipteriphilus asiaticus	*GltA*	**HA_GltA_62F** **HA_GltA_259R**	5'- AGCAGCAGGTATTGCCTCAT -3' 5'- TGCCCTGGGATCATAATTCTT -3'	56°C / 198bp	This study

Figure 1

Phylogeny constructed using Maximum Likelihood analysis (model GTR + G + T) based on the trimmed and concatenated sequences of three

genes, *16SrDNA* (483bp), *GroEL* (269bp) and *GltA* (190bp) (942bp in total). Boostrap values are shown at the nodes (100 replicates). Sequences

obtained from *Hemipteripilus asiaticus* found in the present study in *B. tabaci* from Burkina Faso (indicated by the biotype of their host, MED-

Q1, MED-Q3, ASL) were compared to the YH-ZHJ strain found in China1 biotype individuals of *B. tabaci* from China and to other closely related

symbionts belonging to the Rickettsiales family: *Rickettsia*, *Sitobion miscanthi L Type Symbiont* (SMLS) and *Orientia tsutsumagushi*. The genbank

accession numbers of the sequences obtained from other studies are indicated in the brackets.

Figure 2: Sampling localities in Burkina Faso

Both prevalence of symbionts and phylogenetic analysis of *Hemipteriphilus asiaticus* were done on individuals from the nine localities indicated

except Lilbouré (indicated by a square) for which no sample was used for the phylogenies.

Figure 3

Infection status of *Bemisia tabaci* individuals collected in Burkina Faso according to their biotype, determined through specific qPCRs. Each graph

corresponds to one biotype, with the different bacterial symbionts shown on the x-axis. Each bacterium is represented by a colour (red: Portiera

(P), blue: *Rickettsia* (R), green: *Hamiltonella* (H), purple: *Cardinium* (C), orange: *Wolbachia* (W), yellow: *Arsenophonus* (A), brown:

Hemipteriphilus (HA)) and the corresponding coloured bar indicates its prevalence. On the y-axis host individuals are ranked and grouped together

according to their infection status: when the graph is read horizontally, the colour combinations represent individuals sharing the same symbiotic

community. n indicates the number of individuals checked.

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Figure 4: *Portiera* densities according to the presence of *Hemipteriphilus*

Relative *Portiera* densities (ratio of the number of copies of *Portiera* (ADNr16S) and host (actine) genes) in absence (-) or presence (+) of *Hemipteriphilus* within the same host individuals.