Bacteria Are a Major Determinant of Orsay Virus Transmission and Infection in *Caenorhabditis elegans*

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Abstract

The microbiota is a key determinant of the physiology and immunity of animal hosts. The factors

governing the transmissibility of viruses between susceptible hosts are incompletely understood.

Bacteria serve as food for *Caenorhabditis elegans* and represent an integral part of the natural

environment of *C. elegans.* We determined the effects of bacteria isolated with *C. elegans* from

its natural environment on the transmission of Orsay virus in *C. elegans* using quantitative virus

transmission and host susceptibility assays. We observed that *Ochrobactrum* species promoted

Orsay virus transmission, whereas *Pseudomonas lurida* MYb11 attenuated virus transmission

relative to the standard laboratory bacterial food *Escherichia coli* OP50. We found that

pathogenic *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strains PA01 and PA14 further attenuated virus

transmission. We determined that the amount of Orsay virus required to infect 50% of a *C.*

elegans population on *P. lurida* MYb11 compared with *Ochrobactrum vermis* MYb71 was

dramatically increased, over three orders of magnitude. Host susceptibility was attenuated even

further in presence of *P. aeruginosa* PA14. Genetic analysis of the determinants of *P. aeruginosa*

required for attenuation of *C. elegans* susceptibility to Orsay virus infection revealed a role for

regulators of quorum sensing. Our data suggest that distinct constituents of the *C. elegans*

microbiota and potential pathogens can have widely divergent effects on Orsay virus

transmission, such that associated bacteria can effectively determine host susceptibility versus

resistance to viral infection. Our study provides quantitative evidence for a critical role for

tripartite host-virus-bacteria interactions in determining the transmissibility of viruses among

susceptible hosts.

Introduction

Viruses are ubiquitous and abundant[1,2]. Infection can have profound consequences for the health of an individual host. The ability of viruses to transmit from one individual to another can scale these consequences causing morbidity and mortality throughout whole populations. Many factors influence virus transmission[3–5]. Abiotic factors such as temperature[6] and humidity[7] and biotic factors such as viral load[8,9] and host immune status[10,11] all interact to determine transmission rates. Despite these findings, the determinants of virus transmissibility remain incompletely understood.

The microbiota has emerged as a host-associated factor that modulates multiple aspects of virus infection and thereby alters transmission rates among host organisms[12–14]. In general, the microbiota is critical for the proper development of the immune system and for the effective activation of antimicrobial immune responses even at sites distal to microbiota colonization[15]. More specifically, bacteria and bacterial surface structures such as lipopolysaccharide and peptidoglycan have been shown to stabilize poliovirus and reovirus *in vitro*[13,16]. These observations likely explain why microbiota depletion by antibiotic treatment was sufficient to provide protection against the same viruses in mice[13]. The bacterial symbiont *Wolbachia* protects numerous insect species from multiple viruses either by upregulating antiviral defenses or competing for intracellular nutrients[17–21]. Individual bacteria have also been found to enhance viral infection; *Serratia marcescens* promoted infection of the mosquito *Aedes aegypti* by Dengue, Zika, and Sindbis viruses by secreting a protein, enhancin, that degrades the mucus layer covering epithelial cells[14].

Caenorhabditis elegans is a nematode often found in microbially rich environments such

as rotting vegetation[22]. The first naturally occurring virus capable of infecting the *C. elegans* was

isolated from Orsay, France[23]. Orsay virus is a part of a group of nematode infecting viruses

closely related to the *Nodaviridae* family of viruses which infect arthropods and fish[23,24]. Like

other Nodaviruses, Orsay virus is a positive-sense, single-stranded RNA virus with a bipartite

genome[23]. Transmission of Orsay virus occurs horizontally through the fecal-oral route.

Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization and immunofluorescence imaging has revealed that Orsay virus

solely infects *C. elegans* intestinal cells[23,25]. Viral infection activates host defense mechanisms

including the RNA-interference response and a transcriptional program known as the

intracellular pathogen response[23,26–29].

C. elegans is a bacterivore and is propagated in the laboratory on lawns of *Escherichia coli*

OP50. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa,* an opportunistic pathogen of humans, is found in the soil and

water and can also infect *C. elegans*[30–32]. Infection of *C. elegans* with *P. aeruginosa* activates

innate immunity and stress responses, as well as behavioral avoidance responses[33–35]. Recently,

the bacteria resident in the natural environment of *C. elegans* in the wild have been of increasing

interest[22,36–38]. The intestinal lumen of free-dwelling *C. elegans* is occupied by taxonomically and

functionally diverse bacteria that can affect *C. elegans* fitness and physiology[36,37,39].

In this study, we sought to understand how bacteria that are constituents of the *C.*

elegans microbiota quantitatively affect the transmission of Orsay virus in *C. elegans.* We

observed that monoaxenic cultures of different bacterial species had widely divergent effects on

the transmission of Orsay virus and conducted genetic analysis of the bacterial determinants

involved in modulating virus transmission. Our data point to a key species-specific role for

bacteria as critical determinant of virus transmission.

Results
Wide variation in the effects of bacteria on the transmission of Orsay virus.

Orsay virus spreads horizontally through the fecal-oral route and transmission can spread

from a single animal to a population of animals on a plate[40]. We sought to assess the impact of

bacteria on Orsay virus transmission rates and utilized a collection of bacteria isolated from the

environment with wild *C. elegans* to assemble a panel of Gram-negative bacteria for comparison

with the standard laboratory bacterial food, *Escherichia coli* OP50[36,37,39,41,42]. All animals were

raised to young adulthood on lawns of *E. coli* OP50 to eliminate differences in developmental

rates caused by different bacteria[39]. We set up a transmission assay by placing infected animals

("spreaders") together with uninfected animals on a monoaxenic lawn of each test bacterium.

We quantified the incidence proportion, defined as the number of new infections produced after

24 h as determined by detection of induction of the *pals-5p::GFP* reporter, which is induced by

infection with Orsay virus (Fig. 1A-C)[27]. We observed a wide range in the measured incidence

proportion (Fig. 1B and 1C). Exposure to many of the naturally associated bacterial strains

resulted in transmission that was comparable to the incidence proportion observed with *E. coli*

OP50 with some prominent exceptions (Fig. 1B and 1C). Two *Ochrobactrum* species promoted

virus infection in nearly all individuals in the transmission assay and increased the incidence

proportion 2.7-fold and 2.9-fold compared to *E. coli* OP50 (Fig. 1B and 1C). We confirmed that

transmission from the initial spreader animals in the assay, and not multiple rounds of infection,

was responsible for the increased incidence proportion observed in the presence of

Ochrobactrum vermis MYb71 (Supp. Fig. 1A-D). On the other hand, the presence of *P. lurida*

MYb11 reduced the incidence proportion 4.1-fold compared to *E. coli* OP50 and 11-fold

compared to *O. vermis* MYb71 (Fig. 1B and C). These results present a striking divergence in the

effects of individual bacterial constituents of the *C. elegans* microbiota on the level of

transmission of Orsay virus from infected animals.

We reasoned that increased transmission of Orsay virus could be due to bacterial

modulation of host susceptibility to viral infection. To quantify the degree of host susceptibility

to Orsay virus we added Orsay virus in doses that ranged across four orders of magnitude and

then measured the fraction of individuals that became *pals-5p::GFP* positive after 24 h (Fig. 1A

and 1D, Supp. Fig. 2 and Supp. Fig. 3). We also specifically calculated the ID_{50}, or the dose of Orsay

virus required to infect 50% of the population after 24 h of exposure (Fig. 1D and 1E, Supp. Fig

2). On average, 3.6 µL of Orsay virus stock prepared as indicated in the Methods was required to

infect 50% of a population of ZD2611 animals in the presence of *E. coli* OP50 after 24 hours (Supp.

Fig. 2). We observed variability in the measured ID_{50} even when using the same batch of Orsay

virus (e.g. Fig. 1D vs Supp. Fig. 3A vs. Supp. Fig. 3B). We therefore chose to control all our

experiments internally rather than attempt to normalize between Orsay virus batches and we

report doses used in arbitrary units (a.u.), however 1 a.u. corresponds to 1 µL of Orsay virus

filtrate (Methods).

To determine quantitatively how different bacterial species modulate host susceptibility

to viral infection independently of the potential differential effects of bacteria on host shedding

of viruses, we added fixed doses of Orsay virus to plates of each bacterial species and monitored

infection using the *pals-5p::GFP* reporter. At lower doses of Orsay virus, the presence of *O. vermis*

MYb71 resulted in a higher fraction of infected animals than those observed in the presence of

E. coli OP50 or *P. lurida* MYb11 (Fig. 1D, Supp. Fig. 3). At higher doses of Orsay virus, the presence

of *P. lurida* MYb11 resulted in a reduced fraction of infected animals compared to *O. vermis*

MYb71 and *E. coli* OP50 (Fig. 1D, Supp. Fig 3). We further quantified the ID_{50} in the presence of

each bacterium and on average we observed that the ID_{50} in the presence of *E. coli OP50* was 14-

fold higher than the ID_{50} in the presence of *O. vermis* MYb71 (Fig. 1D and 1E, Supp. Fig. 3). The

ID_{50} observed in the presence of *P. lurida* was 120-fold and 1800-fold higher than the ID_{50} in the

presence of *E. coli* OP50 or *O. vermis* MYb71 respectively (Fig. 1D and 1E, Supp. Fig. 3).

We corroborated our observations from the *pals-5p::GFP* reporter by scoring the same

samples using fluorescence *in situ* hybridization to detect the RNA1 segment of the Orsay virus

genome in the intestinal cells of infected animals (Fig. 1F). As expected, we observed that at lower

doses the presence of *O. vermis* MYb71 resulted in a greater fraction of infected animals

compared to *E. coli* OP50 or *P. lurida* MYb11, while at higher doses the presence of *P. lurida*

MYb11 resulted in a reduced fraction of infected animals (Fig. 1F). Together these data establish

that individual members of the *C. elegans* microbiota can modulate host susceptibility to Orsay

virus over three orders of magnitude with dramatic consequences for the transmissibility of

Orsay virus.

We also assessed whether bacteria altered host feeding behavior as this may influence

the transmission and infection rate of Orsay virus. We quantified the number of pharyngeal

pumps per minute (ppm), a metric of *C. elegans* feeding, in the presence of each bacterium. After

6 h of exposure to *E. coli* OP50, *P. lurida* MYb11, or *O. vermis* MYb71 there were no differences

in pharyngeal pumping rates (Supp. Fig. 4A). At 24 h pumping rates were decreased in the

presence of *O. vermis* MYb71 to an average of 242 ppm compared to 261 ppm in the presence

of *P. lurida* MYb11 suggesting that changes to feeding behavior are unlikely to be responsible for

observed effects on host susceptibility to Orsay virus (Supp. Fig. 4B).

***P. aeruginosa* attenuates Orsay virus transmission.**

In view of the effect of *P. lurida* MYb11 on attenuating Orsay virus infection of *C. elegans,*

we examined the effect of the distantly related bacterium, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa,* an

opportunistic pathogen of humans that has been characterized extensively[30,43]. We observed

that in the presence of either *P. aeruginosa* strains PA01 or PA14, transmission from spreader

animals to uninfected individuals was nearly completely blocked and the incidence proportion

was 11-fold and 32-fold lower than that observed in the presence of *E. coli* OP50, respectively

(Fig. 2A). The attenuating effect of *P. aeruginosa* PA01 and PA14 on virus transmission was

further reduced 3.1-fold and 9.5-fold, respectively, compared to the incidence proportion

observed in the presence of *P. lurida* MYb11 (Fig. 2A).

We confirmed that host susceptibility to Orsay virus was reduced in the presence of *P.*

aeruginosa by performing susceptibility assays at two doses of exogenous Orsay virus (Fig 2B,

Supp. Fig. 5). At each dose, fewer animals were infected following exposure to equivalent doses

of Orsay virus in the presence of *P. aeruginosa* PA01, PA14, or *P. lurida* MYb11 as compared to

the fraction of animals infected in the presence of *E. coli* OP50 (Fig. 2B, Supp. Fig. 5). At the

highest dose of virus used, we still observed robust attenuation of infection in the presence of *P.*

aeruginosa PA14 as 0.5% of the animals were infected as compared to 54%, 70%, and 97% in the

presence of *P. aeruginosa* PA01, *P. lurida* MYb11, or *E. coli* OP50, respectively (Fig. 2B). We

confirmed that no individuals were detectably infected with Orsay virus while in the presence of

P. aeruginosa PA14 using FISH staining (Fig. 2C). FISH additionally confirmed that the presence of

P. aeruginosa PA01 and *P. lurida* MYb11 attenuated average infection to 24% and 60% of the

population respectively compared to *E. coli* OP50 which supported infection of 86% of the

population. Further, *P. aeruginosa* PA01, *P. lurida* MYb11, and *E. coli* OP50 all supported higher

levels of infection than *P. aeruginosa* PA14. (Fig. 2C). Together these results demonstrate a

striking capacity of *P. lurida* MYb11 and *P. aeruginosa* strains to sharply reduce and even

effectively block, host susceptibility to infection with Orsay virus.

We again assessed whether bacterial modulation of host feeding behavior may be

responsible for the observed effects on host susceptibility to Orsay virus. There were no

differences observed in pharyngeal pumping rate after 6 h of exposure to each bacterium (Supp.

Fig. 4A). After 24 h pharyngeal pumping rate increased in the presence of *P. aeruginosa* PA14 to

an average of 264 ppm compared to 248 ppm in the presence of *E. coli* OP50 which suggests that

changes to feeding behavior are unlikely to account for the attenuation of infection observed in

P. aeruginosa (Supp. Fig. 4B).

P. aeruginosa is a pathogen of *C. elegans* and numerous other organisms[30,44,45].

Moreover, while both PA01 and PA14 are pathogenic, PA14 is more virulent towards *C. elegans*[30].

P. lurida MYb11 promotes developmental rate and fitness, although does so at a minor cost to

overall lifespan[39,46]. The effect of O. vermis MYb71 on lifespan has not been assessed. We

assessed host lifespan under our assay conditions to examine links between bacterial

pathogenicity and host susceptibility to Orsay virus. Under our assay conditions, including a full

lawn of bacteria, which prevent *C. elegans* from avoiding undesirable bacteria, and a temperature

of 20°C, which is below the optimal virulence temperature of *P. aeruginosa,* substantial mortality

is not observed until 72 hours after exposure (Supp. Fig. 6). All bacteria enhanced mortality in

comparison to *E. coli* OP50 (Supp. Fig. 6). Interestingly, *O. vermis* MYb71 exposure led to similarly

enhanced mortality when compared to *P. aeruginosa* PA14, and both bacteria enhanced

mortality in comparison to *P. lurida* MYb11 or *P. aeruginosa* PA01 (Supp. Fig. 6). *P. lurida* MYb11

also enhanced mortality compared to *P. aeruginosa* PA01 under these conditions (Supp. Fig. 6).

The similar lifespans of animals exposed to *P. aeruginosa* PA14 and *O. vermis* MYb71 stand in

contrast to their divergent effects on host susceptibility to Orsay virus. This suggests that general

pathogenicity is unlikely to be responsible for effects on host susceptibility, although pathogenic

consequences specific to exposure to each bacterium may still contribute to the observed effects

on host susceptibility to Orsay virus.

Attenuation of Orsay virus transmission by *P. lurida* and *P. aeruginosa* is not due to effects on
Orsay virus replication, stability, or shedding.

We considered the possibility that the attenuation of Orsay virus transmission in the

presence of *P. lurida* and *P. aeruginosa* strains might be due to inhibitory effects of the bacteria

on the replication of Orsay virus once transmitted to a susceptible animal host. To evaluate this

possibility, we made use of a plasmid-based system in which viral RNA1 is expressed through a

transgene introduced into *C. elegans,* so that replication of RNA1 can be assessed independent

of the entry of exogenous virus into the host[47]. In this system, the Orsay virus RNA1 segment,

which encodes the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRP), is expressed following heat-shock.

The expressed RNA1 may then be translated to produce the RdRP which can then replicate RNA1

through a negative-strand intermediate. The expression of RNA1 via heat-shock bypasses any

differences in viral entry or pre-replication steps, allowing for a direct test of RNA1 replication

efficiency under different conditions[47]. A plasmid expressing a mutated RdRP (RNA1[D601A])

incapable of supporting further RNA1 replication after the initial heat-shock serves as a control

for heat shock efficiency[47]. Using this system, we observed that Orsay virus RNA1 replication

efficiency was unaffected by the presence of *Pseudomonas* species relative to RNA1 replication

observed in the presence of *E. coli* OP50 (Fig. 3A). Additionally, there were no differences

observed in heat-shock efficiency between the different bacteria (Fig. 3A). These data suggest

that bacteria-induced differences in RNA1 replication in the host do not explain the substantial

attenuation of Orsay virus transmission and infection rates caused by *P. aeruginosa* PA01 or PA14

and *P. lurida* MYb11.

We sought to confirm the successful replication of the plasmid expressed RNA1 of Orsay

virus by assessing whether we could detect the replication of Orsay virus RNA1 in each

Pseudomonas species. We exposed young adult wild-type (N2) or RNAi defective animals (*rde-*

1(ne219)) to exogenous Orsay virus and quantified the amount of virus present at 2 h and 24 h

post-exposure, with the difference in RNA levels at these points reflecting viral genome

replication. Animals of the RNAi defective *rde-1(ne219)* background have a defective antiviral

response leading to higher viral loads than wild-type animals[23]. The *rde-1(ne219)* mutant

therefore provides a more sensitive genetic background in which to detect viral replication

following rare infection events within a population as is expected in the presence of *P. aeruginosa*

PA14. In *rde-1(ne219)* animals viral RNA1 levels increased at 24 h relative to 2 h post exposure

regardless of the bacteria present (Fig. 3B and 3C). On the other hand, in the wild-type

background replication was not observed in animals exposed to *P. aeruginosa* PA14 and was

attenuated in animals exposed to *P. aeruginosa* PA01 compared to animals exposed to *E. coli*

OP50 or *P. lurida* MYb11 (Fig. 3B and 3C). In a wild-type background individuals exposed to *P.*

aeruginosa PA01 and *P. aeruginosa* PA14 are less likely to become infected from exogenous

Orsay virus (Fig. 2B and Supp. Fig. 5). It is therefore likely that the viral load we observed in the

wild-type populations is due to a smaller proportion of the population being infected, rather than

hampered replication[23].

We also assessed whether *P. lurida* MYb11, *P. aeruginosa* PA01, or *P. aeruginosa* PA14

was capable of rapidly degrading Orsay virus or preventing viral shedding, either of which might

account for attenuation of Orsay virus transmission. We did not observe a substantial decrease

in viral stability in the presence of any bacterium suggesting Orsay virus is not rapidly degraded

(Fig. 3D and 3E). We did observe an approximately 2-fold decrease in viral levels between *E. coli*

OP50 and *P. lurida* MYb11, however, this difference already existed within 30 min of exposure to

each bacterium and did not grow further over the course of 24 h suggesting we are measuring

differences in recovery of Orsay virus from each bacterial lawn, rather than enhanced

degradation in the presence of *P. lurid*a MYb11 (Fig. 3D and 3E). We measured rates of Orsay

virus shedding during a transmission assay. We did not observe a substantial decrease in viral

shedding in the presence of any bacterium (Fig. 3F). We observed approximately 4-fold lower

levels of Orsay virus shed in the presence of *P. lurida* MYb11 vs *E. coli* OP50, but as suggested by

our virus stability data, we believe these differences at least partly reflect differences in Orsay

virus recovery from each bacterial lawn rather than actual differences in viral shedding (Fig. 3F).

Attenuation of Orsay virus transmission by *Pseudomonas* species is dependent on regulators

of bacterial quorum sensing.

Extensive studies on *Pseudomonas* species have demonstrated the importance of quorum

sensing for regulating many community-level behaviors in response to growing population

density[48]. *P. aeruginosa* relies upon three quorum sensing systems: *las*, *rhl*, and *pqs*. These

systems are arranged hierarchically, however crosstalk between them is extensive (Fig. 4A)[48]. In

P. aeruginosa, an additional layer of regulation stems from two-component regulatory systems

such as *gacA/gacS* which regulates numerous genes that together influence quorum sensing,

virulence, and biofilm development (Fig. 4A)[49–51]. *P. aeruginosa* possesses three

exopolysaccharide biosynthetic clusters that each contribute to biofilm formation: *pel*, *psl*, and

alg. However, *P. aeruginosa* PA01 preferentially produces Psl while *P. aeruginosa* PA14 is unable

to synthesis Psl and produces Pel[52–56]. We hypothesized that quorum sensing might mediate the

effect of *Pseudomonas* strains to attenuate virus transmission, while differences in

exopolysaccharide production might mediate the enhanced attenuation of virus transmission

observed in the presence of *P. aeruginosa* PA14 compared with what was observed in the

presence of *P. aeruginosa* PA01. Therefore, we tested a panel of *P. aeruginosa* PA01 and *P.*

aeruginosa PA14 quorum sensing and biofilm mutants to determine whether quorum sensing or

biofilm formation was involved in the attenuation of Orsay virus infection mediated by *P.*

aeruginosa.

Mutations of any the regulators of the *las*, *rhl*, or *pqs* quorum sensing systems suppressed

the attenuation of Orsay virus infection caused by the presence of wild-type *P. aeruginosa* PA01

(Fig. 4B, Supp. Fig. 7). Knockout of *gacA* in *P. aeruginosa* PA01 also suppressed the attenuation

of Orsay virus infection (Fig. 4B, Supp. Fig. 7). On the other hand, mutation of any of the three

exopolysaccharide production pathways had no potent effect on the attenuation of infection (Fig.

4B, Supp. Fig. 7). These data support a role for quorum sensing regulated processes in reducing

Orsay virus infection rates but do not implicate a role for individual exopolysaccharides.

For *P. aeruginosa* PA14, mutation of *gacA* or *rhlR* suppressed the attenuation of Orsay

virus infection observed in the presence of wild-type *P. aeruginosa* PA14 (Fig. 4C, Supp. Fig. 8).

Loss of the *rhlR* regulators *rhlI* or *pqsE* alone had no effect on the attenuation of Orsay virus

infection, but simultaneous mutation of both *rhlI* and *pqsE* did suppress the attenuation of Orsay

virus infection observed in the presence of wild-type *P. aeruginosa* PA14, similar to that observed

for the *rhlR* mutant, suggesting *rhlI* and *pqsE* function redundantly to regulate *rhlR* in this context

(Fig. 4C, Supp. Fig. 8)[57]. Mutation of *lasI* or *lasR* suppressed the attenuation of Orsay virus

infection to a lesser extent (Fig. 4C, Supp. Fig. 8). Independent mutation of two genes responsible

for *pel* or *alg* exopolysaccharide production had no effect on infection rates (Fig. 4C, Supp. Fig.

8). We further confirmed that mutation of *rhlR* and *gacA* in *P. aeruginosa* PA01 or *P. aeruginosa*

PA14 suppressed the attenuation of Orsay virus infection via FISH (Fig. 4D and 4E). These data

suggest a role for quorum sensing in mediating *P. aeruginosa* PA14 suppression of Orsay virus

infection, as we observed for *P. aeruginosa* PA01. However, our results obtained in the presence

of *P. aeruginosa* PA14 suggest that there may be some differential regulation of the bacterial

effectors responsible in comparison to *P. aeruginosa* PA01, or additional non-quorum sensing

related factors that also mediate suppression.

As *P. aeruginosa* mutants could suppress the attenuation of infection observed by wild-

type *P. aeruginosa* in the presence of exogenous virus, we next confirmed that these *P.*

aeruginosa mutants similarly affected transmission from infected spreader animals. All *P.*

aeruginosa PA01 quorum sensing mutants suppressed the attenuation of transmission by

increasing the incidence proportion >6-fold compared to the wild-type *P. aeruginosa* PA01 (Fig.

4F). *P. aeruginosa* PA14 *rhlR* and *gacA* mutants suppressed the attenuation of transmission by

increasing the incidence proportion 19-fold and 17-fold respectively compared to wild-type *P.*

aeruginosa PA14, but a *lasI* mutant had minimal effect consistent with the pattern we observed

in the susceptibility assay using exogenous Orsay virus (Fig. 4F). Likewise, the magnitude of

suppression of the attenuation of Orsay virus transmission observed in the *P. aeruginosa rhlR* or

gacA mutants was greater in the *P. aeruginosa* PA01 background compared to the *P. aeruginosa*

PA14 background, potentially suggesting the existence of additional strain specific factors that

act in *P. aeruginosa* PA14 to attenuate Orsay virus transmission.

Our findings suggest the possibility that quorum sensing molecules could act directly to

attenuate infection. To explore this hypothesis, we prepared liquid *E. coli* OP50, *O. vermis* MYb71,

P. lurida MYb11, *P. aeruginosa* PA01, and *P. aeruginosa* PA14 cultures and added culture

supernatant to plates containing *E. coli* OP50 and Orsay virus. We did not observe any potent

effect on host susceptibility to infection by Orsay virus from any supernatant (Supp. Fig. 9),

although it is difficult to rule out the possibility that the compounds may act at concentrations

that are locally higher than the concentrations at which the compounds are present in our

experiments.

P. aeruginosa genes linked to virulence reduce Orsay virus transmission and infection.

We designed a candidate-based screen using a non-redundant transposon insertion

library to gain further insight into the genetic regulation of *P. aeruginosa* mediated reduction of

Orsay virus transmission and infection (Fig. 5A)[58]. We identified candidate genes to include in our

screen from three sources: *gacA*-regulated genes, *rhlR*-regulated genes (but *rhlI*- or *pqsE*-

independent), and the set of genes required for full virulence in *C. elegans* previously identified

by Feinbaum et al. (Fig 5A)[51,59,60]. Of the 211 genes tested, 18 putative hits, including *lasI*, *rhlR*,

and *gacA*, were identified with the corresponding *P. aeruginosa* PA14 mutants exhibiting

suppression of the attenuation of Orsay virus infection by wild-type *P. aeruginosa* PA14 (Fig. 6A,

Supp. Table 3). Using the 15 novel candidate genes, we performed an additional set of

susceptibility assays which confirmed six of the hits (Fig. 5B, Supp. Fig. 10, Supp. Table 3). The

identified hits grouped into two clusters based on the strength of their suppression. Transposon

insertion in the genes *ptsP*, *prpC*, and *kinB* led to marked suppression of the attenuation of Orsay

virus leading to infection of 97%, 89%, and 82% of the population respectively compared to

infection in only 4.2% of the population in the presence of wild-type *P. aeruginosa* PA14 (Fig. 5B,

Supp. Fig. 10). Transposon insertion in three additional genes, *clpA*, *glnK*, and *fabF1* resulted in

weaker, but robust suppression of the attenuation of Orsay virus leading to infection of 34%,

28%, and 17% of the population respectively (Fig 5B, Supp. Fig. 10). We additionally tested

whether transposon insertion into these genes suppressed attenuation of Orsay virus

transmission. While we observed a trend towards mutations affecting susceptibility also affecting

virus transmission, we observed a high degree of variation in the transmission assay, such that

only mutation of *ptsP* led to statistically significant suppression of Orsay virus attenuation (Fig.

5C).

We noted that all six of the hits originated from the set of genes required for full *P.*

aeruginosa PA14 virulence in *C. elegans*[60]. These hits represented only six out of the 41 tested

genes that are known to influence virulence, indicative of some degree of specificity in the

consequences of these mutations beyond their general effect on *P. aeruginosa* PA14 virulence[60].

P. lurida MYb11 *gacA* is required for attenuation of Orsay virus transmission.

We next sought to determine whether our findings from the interaction of *C. elegans* and

Orsay virus in the presence of *P. aeruginosa* could inform us further regarding the mechanisms

underlying the attenuation of Orsay virus transmission in the presence of *P. lurida* MYb11. In

particular, we identified *gacA, ptsP, prpC, and kinB* orthologs using Orthovenn2 and generated a

putative knockout allele of each gene by removing the coding potential for all but 10 amino acids

from the N and C termini (Fig. 6A)[61]. Following exposure to exogenous Orsay virus, knockout of

gacA in *P. lurida* MYb11 led to infection of 77% of the population compared to infection of 43%

of the population in the presence of wild-type *P. lurida* MYb11 from exogenous Orsay virus (Fig.

6B, Supp. Fig. 11A and 11B). These observations were confirmed via FISH, as the *gacA* mutant

supported infection of 62% of the population versus 37% infection in the presence of wild-type

P. lurida MYb11 (Fig. 6C). The *gacA* mutation also suppressed the attenuation of Orsay virus

transmission, increasing the incidence proportion 2.9-fold compared to wild-type *P. lurida*

MYb11 (Fig. 6D). These data suggest that *gacA* has a conserved role between *P. aeruginosa* and

P. lurida MYb11 in the attenuation of Orsay virus transmission and infection of *C. elegans*. On the

other hand, knockout of the *P. lurida* MYb11 orthologs of *ptsP, prpC*, or *kinB* failed to suppress

the attenuation of Orsay virus infection or transmission by *P. lurida* MYb11 (Fig. 6E, Supp. Fig.

11C and 11D)[60,62]. One explanation of these results is that these genes play different roles within

P. lurida MYb11 and *P. aeruginosa* and therefore their mutation did not have the same

consequences for Orsay virus attenuation. Alternatively, these results might suggest that *ptsP*,

prpC, and *kinB* act to attenuate Orsay virus infection via some specific effect on *P. aeruginosa*

PA14 virulence but do not influence the interaction of *P. lurida* MYb11 with *C. elegans*.

O. vermis MYb71 closely interacts with the _C. elegans_ intestinal brush border.

P. lurida MYb11 and *O. vermis* MYb71 can both be isolated from *C. elegans* natural

environment[36,39]. We were therefore curious how exposure to both bacteria simultaneously

would impact Orsay virus infection rates. When cultures of *O. vermis* MYb71 and *P. lurida* MYb11

were concentrated to 25mg/mL and then mixed, we observed that a 50% mixture of each

bacterium (v:v) attenuated infection to the same degree as pure *P. lurida* MYb11 (Fig. 7A, Supp.

Fig. 11A-B). Moreover, we also noted that mixing *O. vermis* MYb71 with *E. coli* OP50 also lead to

infection rates similar to pure *E. coli* OP50 (Fig. 7A, Supp. Fig. 11A-B). Previous studies have

identified that *Ochrobactrum* is found in large numbers in the *C. elegans* intestine following

exposure[36,39]. We investigated how the levels of *Ochrobactrum* in the intestine changed following

exposure to pure or mixed lawns of bacteria. When alone, GFP expressing *Ochrobactrum* BH3

was readily observed within the intestine at 4 or 24 h of exposure. Interestingly, exposure to a

mixed lawn of *Ochrobactrum* BH3 and *P. lurida* MYb11 reduced intestinal accumulation of

Ochrobactrum BH3 compared to the pure *Ochrobactrum* BH3 treatment (Fig 7B and 7C, Supp Fig.

11C-F). On the other hand, exposure to a mixed lawn of Ochrobactrum BH3 and *E. coli* OP50

reduced accumulation of *Ochrobactrum* BH3 at four hours compared to a pure *Ochrobactrum*

BH3 treatment, but this difference was minimal by 24 hours (Fig 7B and 7C, Supp Fig. 11C-F).

These data suggested that the presence of *Ochrobactrum* in the intestine may be important

for its ability to promote Orsay virus infection. We therefore fixed *C. elegans* exposed to *O. vermis*

MYb71 or *E. coli* OP50 for examination via electron microscopy and imaged cross sections of the

intestine. As expected from our fluorescence experiments, *O. vermis* MYb71 was readily

observed in the intestinal lumen at 4 or 24 h of exposure (Fig. 7D and 7E). The glycocalyx is the

mucus-like layer covering *C. elegans* intestinal cells and that recent work has suggested may play

a role in defense against Orsay virus[63,64]. The glycocalyx of animals exposed to *O. vermis* MYb71

was observed with regions of variable thickness and potential instances of *O. vermis* MYb71

deforming the microvilli brush border as opposed to animals exposed to *E. coli* OP50 where the

glycocalyx appeared uniform and undisturbed (Fig. 7D and 7E). A recent report observed that

Serratia marcescens promoted infection of the mosquito *Aedes aegypti* by Dengue, Zika, and

Sindbis viruses by secreting a protein, enhancin, that degrades the mucus layer covering

epithelial cells[14]. These observations lead us to speculate that *O. vermis* MYb71 mediated

disruption of the brush border and glycocalyx promotes Orsay virus infection although this

hypothesis has yet to be tested.

Discussion

In our study, we quantitatively define the effect of bacteria on the transmission of Orsay

virus in the *C. elegans* host. While the presence of *O. vermis* MYb71 enhanced the transmission

of Orsay virus, the presence of *P. lurida* MYb11 or *P. aeruginosa* strains PA01 and PA14

attenuated Orsay virus transmission. The enhancement of Orsay virus transmission by *O. vermis*

MYb71 and reduction of transmission by *P. lurida* MYb11 and *P. aeruginosa* PA01 and PA14 was

mirrored in assays assessing infection rates by exogenous virus. Our results using exogenous virus

demonstrate that host susceptibility to Orsay virus infection may vary by over three orders of

magnitude in the presence of *O. vermis* MYb71 versus *P. lurida* MYb11 which are found in the

natural environment in association with *C. elegans*[36,39]. Moreover, we observe that pathogenic

P. aeruginosa, which may be found in natural environments, can further attenuate Orsay virus

transmission[31]. Our work is also consistent with a recent study by González and Félix that also

reported that monoaxenic cultures of other bacteria from the environment of *C. elegans* impact

host susceptibility[65].

Our observations that two *Ochrobactrum* species promoted transmission of Orsay virus

are intriguing given that other *Ochrobactrum* species have also been linked to viral infections.

Ochrobactrum intermedium promoted poliovirus infection in mice and enhanced poliovirus

stability in vitro[13]. *Ochrobactrum anthropi*, an opportunistic human pathogen, was identified

using a random forest analysis as one of the most predictive features differentiating the upper

respiratory tract of human patients recovering from influenza infection versus healthy controls[66].

Our observations in the *C. elegans* host raise the speculative possibility that *Ochrobactrum*

colonization may have roles in evolutionarily diverse hosts in modulating viral infection. Further,

our electron micrographs point to an intriguing hypothesis that *Ochrobactrum* disrupts the brush

border region of epithelial cells thereby promoting viral infection. Such a mechanism would be

consistent with recent work identifying that *Serratia marcescens* produces the protein enhancin,

which promotes viral infection by degrading the mucus layer covering epithelial cells in the

mosquito *Aedes aegypti*[14]. Additional work will need to be performed to explicitly test whether

such a mechanism is at play in *Ochrobactrum* mediated enhancement of Orsay virus infection

and transmission.

P. lurida MYb11 and *P. aeruginosa* PA01 and PA14 shared the ability to attenuate Orsay

virus infection and transmission. *P. lurida* MYb11 promotes developmental rate and fitness at a

cost to overall lifespan[39,46]. In contrast, *P. aeruginosa* rapidly kills *C. elegans* and is detrimental to

host fitness[30,44]. Under our experimental conditions exposure to all three shortened lifespan

compared to exposure to *E. coli* OP50. Given that *O. vermis* MYb71 shortened lifespan to the

same extent as *P. aeruginosa* PA14 but had the opposite effect on host susceptibility to Orsay

virus, we do not believe that general virulence by any bacterium is responsible for the observed

effects on host susceptibility. Rather, unique virulence processes specific to each bacterium may

contribute to the unique effects of each bacterium on host susceptibility to Orsay virus.

We identified that *gacA* regulates the attenuation of Orsay virus by *P. aeruginosa* PA01

and PA14 and *P. lurida* MYb11. In Pseudomonads, *gacA/gacS* regulate processes related to

quorum sensing and virulence[67]. Quorum signaling influences additional aspects of *P. aeruginosa*

physiology, including swarming behaviors, biofilm formation, secondary metabolism rates, and

overall transcription patterns[48]. To gain additional insights into the *P. aeruginosa* PA14 effects on

Orsay virus transmission we conducted a candidate-based screen of genes influenced by quorum

signaling and genes that regulate virulence towards *C. elegans*[51,59,60]. We identified six additional

genes, *ptsP*, *prpC*, *kinB*, *clpA*, *glnK*, and *fabF1,* that when mutated suppressed *P. aeruginosa* PA14

attenuation of Orsay virus infection. Each of these genes, in addition to *gacA*, *rhlR*, and *lasI* has

been shown to be required for full *P. aeruginosa* PA14 virulence in *C. elegans*[60]. However, we

observed that only these six out of the total 41 virulence-related genes identified in Feinbaum *et*

al. influenced Orsay virus infection, arguing further against a role for general virulence in the

attenuation of Orsay virus transmission and infection caused by *P. aeruginosa* PA14 and *P.*

aeruginosa PA01[60]. Additionally, while mutation of the *ptsP*, *prpC*, and *kinB* orthologs of *P. lurida*

MYb11 failed to suppress the attenuation of Orsay virus, it is unclear whether these genes

influence the effect of *P. lurida* MYb11 on host lifespan or even whether *P. lurida* MYb11

pathogenicity mediated by other factors leads to attenuation of Orsay virus infection.

C. elegans is unlikely to associate with a single bacterium in its natural environment.

However, *C. elegans* shows clear behavioral preferences for grazing on certain bacteria from its

environment and may eat monoxenic lawns in the wild[68]. Our data demonstrate that individual

bacteria can have a profound impact on Orsay virus transmission rates in a species-specific

manner. Additionally, the tractability of the *C. elegans*-Orsay virus experimental system allowed

us to identify molecular determinants of viral transmission and will be useful for identifying

additional biotic factors that influence viral transmission. Our work builds on the expanding body

of knowledge showing that the microbiota can influence the interactions between viruses and

their animal hosts.

Materials and methods

<u>*C. elegans* strains and growth conditions</u>

C. elegans were maintained on NGM agar plates (17 g agar, 2.5 g peptone, 3 g NaCl per 1 L water)

containing *E. coli* OP50[41]. Strains bearing the *glp-4(bn2)* temperature sensitive mutation were

maintained at 16°C, while all other were maintained at 20°C. All assays were performed on SKA

assay plates at 20°C (17 g agar, 3.5 g peptone, 3 g NaCl per 1 L water)[30]. A full list of *C. elegans*

strains used in this study is contained within the Supplement (Supplement Table 1). For all assays

relying upon *pals-5p::GFP*, induction was manually assessed using a Nikon SMZ18

stereofluorescent microscope.

<u>Bacterial strains and growth conditions</u>

All bacteria were grown in Luria broth (10 g tryptone, 5 g yeast, 10 g NaCl per 1 L water). *E. coli*

OP50 and *P. aeruginosa* strains were grown at 37°C with shaking, while all other strains were

grown at 27°C with shaking. A full list of bacterial strains used in this study is contained within

the Supplemental Information (Supplement Table 2).

<u>Orsay virus isolation and batch testing</u>

Orsay virus was isolated from infected WUM31(*rde-1(ne219);jyIs9[pals-5p::gfp;myo-*

2p::mCherry]) individuals. Plates with gravid WUM31 were bleached to obtain eggs. Eggs were

hatched overnight in M9 solution rotating at 20°C and the L1 larvae were arrested to synchronize

the population. L1 larvae were combined with 100 μL of 6x concentrated *E. coli* OP50 liquid

culture and 50 μL of Orsay virus filtrate, plated on SKA plates, and once dried, placed at 20°C for

48 h. Four GFP positive individuals were then transferred to a new 6cm NGM plate with *E. coli*

OP50 and maintained until just starved. Twenty such 6cm plates were washed with 10 mL of M9

and the resulting suspension was Dounce homogenized. Alternatively, two 3.5 cm SKA plates

containing infected WUM31 animals were allowed to starve and then equally chunked onto eight

10 cm NGM plates with *E coli* OP50. Once these plates were just starved, the plates were washed

with 10 mL of M9 and homogenized as above. The homogenized suspension was then centrifuged

at 13,200xg for five min. The supernatant was passed through a 0.22 μm filter and aliquoted.

Each batch of virus was tested for potency and an ID_{50} calculated for ZD2611 populations in the

presence of *E. coli* OP50 (Supp. Fig. 2). On average, 3.6 μL of Orsay virus stock prepared as

indicated in the Methods was required to infect 50% of a population of ZD2611 animals in the

presence of *E. coli* OP50 after 24 hours (Supp. Fig. 2). We observed variability in the measured

ID_{50} even when using the same batch of Orsay virus (e.g. Fig. 1D vs Supp. Fig. 3A vs. Supp. Fig.

3B). We therefore chose to control all our experiments internally rather than attempt to

normalize between Orsay virus batches and we report doses used in arbitrary units (a.u.),

however 1 a.u. corresponds to 1 μL of Orsay virus filtrate.

<u>Preparation of Uninfected Individuals for transmission and susceptibility assays</u>

Prior to all assays, plates with fecund ZD2611(*glp-4(bn-2);jyIs8[pals-5p::gfp;myo-2p::mCherry]*)

were bleached to obtain eggs. Eggs were hatched overnight in M9 solution rotating at 20°C and

the L1 larvae were arrested to synchronize the population. ZD2611 L1s were dropped onto plates

containing *E. coli* OP50 and placed at 20°C for 64-72 h. At this temperature reproduction is

delayed, but not eliminated, and no L1s are observed during transmission or susceptibility assays.

The resulting young adults were washed off the plates in M9 and centrifuged at 1000xg for one

minute. After removing the supernatant, the young adults were once again washed in M9, then

centrifuged at 1000 x g for one minute. Young adults were directly dropped onto prepared plates

described below.

<u>Preparation of Bacteria for transmission and susceptibility assays</u>

Unless otherwise indicated, bacteria were cultured overnight and added to cover the assay

plates. Plates containing *E. coli* OP50 or *P. aeruginosa* strains were placed at 37°C for 24 h. Plates

containing *O. vermis* MYb71 or *P. lurida* MYb11 strains were placed at 25°C for 24 h. All plates

were then moved to room temperature for an additional 24 h before the addition of virus.

For the natural isolate transmission screen and early transmission assay cultures were grown to

late stationary phase. Cultures were then spun down for six minutes at 4000xg and reconstituted

to 25 mg/mL in their own supernatant. 150 μL of this suspension was combined with 50 μL of a

mix of M9 for transmission assays or 50 μL of a combination of Orsay virus filtrate and M9 for the

early transmission assay. This mixture was combined with young adult ZD2611 individuals and

directly added to cover assay plates before drying.

<u>Transmission assays</u>

To obtain infected spreader animals, fecund ZD2610 (*glp-4(bn-20); rde-1(ne219); jyIs8[pals-*

5p::gfp;myo-2p::mCherry]) were bleached to obtain eggs. Eggs were hatched overnight in M9

solution rotating at 20°C and the L1 larvae were arrested to synchronize the population. Arrested

ZD2610 L1s were dropped onto NGM plates containing *E. coli* OP50 and placed at 20°C for 48 h.

Animals were then washed off the plates in M9 and centrifuged at 1000xg for one min. After

removing the supernatant, the young adults were washed with M9 again then centrifuged at

1000xg for one min. Supernatant was once again removed, and individuals were immediately

mixed with 100 μL of 6x overnight *E. coli* OP50 culture and 50 μL of Orsay virus for a minimum of

18-20 h. *pals-5p::GFP*-positive ZD2610 young adults were identified and picked onto transfer

plates containing the appropriate bacteria prepared as indicated above for 4-6 h. After this

period, five spreaders were transferred to assay plates containing the same bacteria and

approximately 100 uninfected ZD2611 individuals to start the assay. Transmission assays were

scored 24 h after adding spreader individuals.

For the natural isolate transmission screen, arrested ZD2610 L1s were combined with 100 μL of

6x concentrated *E. coli* OP50 and 50 μL of Orsay virus filtrate and once dried, placed at 20°C for

64-72 h. On the day of the assay, *pals-5p::GFP*-positive ZD2610 young adults were identified and

picked onto transfer plates containing the appropriate bacteria prepared as indicated above for

4-6 h. After this period, five spreaders were transferred to assay plates containing the same

bacteria and approximately 100 uninfected ZD2611 individuals to start the assay.

Incidence proportion

Incidence proportion was calculated by dividing the number of newly infected animals by the

total non-spreader population per plate. Individual plates for which the total number of *pals-*

5p::GFP positive individuals after 24 h was less than the initial number of spreaders placed on the

plate were excluded to eliminate potential differences in incidence proportion caused by unequal

numbers of infected spreader animals. For Fig. 1C a single plate was censored from *P. lurida*

MYb11, for Fig. 2A six plates were censored from *P. aeruginosa* PA14, and for Fig. 4E 12 plates

were censored: seven from *P. aeruginosa* PA14, three from *P. aeruginosa* PA01, one from *P.*

aeruginosa PA14Δ*gacA* , and one from *P. aeruginosa* PA14Δ*lasI.*

<u>Susceptibility assays</u>

Unless otherwise indicated, Orsay virus filtrate at the indicated doses was diluted in filtered M9

solution. 200 μL total was applied to each assay plate and swirled to cover the entire bacterial

lawn. Plates were then dried before the addition of approximately 100 uninfected ZD2611

individuals prepared as indicated above. Assays were scored 24 h later using a Nikon SMZ18

stereo fluorescent microscope and the fraction of *pals-5p::GFP*-positive individuals was

calculated.

<u>Early Transmission Assay</u>

For early transmission assay, young ZD2611 adults were exposed to 0 a.u. or 5 a.u. exogenous

Orsay virus in the presence of *O. vermis* MYb71. 8 hours post infection five infected individuals

from the 5 a.u. plate were transferred to the 0 a.u. plate to assess whether transmission from

these individuals would occur. Both plates were scored 16 hours after the transfer.

Supernatant Transfer Assay

579 Assay plates were prepared with *E. coli* OP50 for susceptibility assays as indicated above. Bacteria

580 were inoculated into 6 mL of LB and allowed to grow for 48 h. Cultures were then spun at 4,000xg

581 for 6 minutes and the spent media supernatant was passed through a 0.22 μm filter. 200 μL of

582 the filtered supernatant was added to the *E. coli* OP50 assay plates just prior to the addition of

583 Orsay virus and ZD2611 young adults.

Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization

Previously published probes were obtained to target the RNA1 segment of Orsay virus[25]. Animals

were infected according to the methods described above for susceptibility assays. Animals were

processed according to the Stellaris RNA FISH Protocol for *C. elegans* (LGC Biosearch

Technologies) with minor modifications. Briefly, young adults were washed off the plate and

rinsed twice in M9. Animals were then fixed for 30 min rotating in a microcentrifuge tube at 20°C.

After washing twice with 1 mL of phosphate buffered saline animals were permeabilized in 70%

of ethanol and stored at 4°C for 1-7 d. Animals were washed with Wash Buffer A before addition

of 100 μL of hybridization buffer containing 3 μL of RNA1 probe mix. Probe was hybridized

overnight at 46°C. Animals were then washed with Wash Buffer A alone once, and then again

with Wash Buffer A containing 5 ng/mL DAPI. Lastly 100 μL of Wash Buffer B was added before

mounting animals on slides with 25 μL of Vectashield Mounting Medium. The fraction of

individuals with RNA1 staining was then quantified using a Nikon SMZ18 stereofluorescent

microscope or a Zeiss AxioImager Z1 compound fluorescent microscope.

<u>Viral Stability</u>

Assay plates with each bacterium were prepared as described above. 50 a.u. Orsay virus was added to each plate as in a susceptibility assay however no *C. elegans* were added. Plates were washed with 1 mL of ddH$_2$0 after 30 minutes or 24 h. A spike-in control was also included where 50 a.u. of Orsay virus was directly added to 1ml H$_2$0 and processed the same as all other samples. The resulting mixture was spun at 15000 rpm (max speed) at 4°C for 10 min. 1 μl of the supernatant was used to make cDNA (Promega GoScript reverse transcriptase using random primers (A2801)). Orsay virus RNA1 level was quantified by qPCR using 1 μl of 1/5 diluted cDNA (GoTaq Promega A6001) and run on QuantStudio 3 Real Time PCR system (RNA1 qPCR primers GW194 and GW195)[23].

<u>Viral Shedding</u>

Infected ZD2610 animals were prepared as indicated above with infection occurring at the L4 stage. 24 h later as young adults, 20 *pals-5p::GFP* positive animals were transferred to assay plates prepared with bacteria as indicated above for a transmission assay. These animals were allowed to shed virus onto the plate for 24 h at 20°C. Spreaders were then removed and the assay plates were washed with 1 mL of M9. The resulting mixture was spun at 15000 rpm (max speed) at 4°C for 10 min. 1 μl of the supernatant was used to make cDNA (Promega GoScript reverse transcriptase using random primers (A2801)). Orsay Virus RNA1 level was quantified by qPCR using 1 μl of 1/5 diluted cDNA (GoTaq Promega A6001) and run on QuantStudio 3 Real Time PCR system. (RNA1 qPCR primers GW194 and GW195)[23]

<u>RNA Extraction</u>

Animals were washed 5 times in M9 and collected in TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen) and stored at -

80°C before extraction. RNA extraction was performed using Direct-zol RNA microprep kits (Zymo

Research) following the manufacturer's instructions.

<u>qPCR</u>

cDNA was made using 1000 ng of RNA as template (Promega GoScript Reverse Transcriptase

using Random Primers). cDNA was diluted at 1/80 and qPCR were performed using 1 µl of diluted

cDNA (GoTaq Promega) and run on QuantStudio 3 Real Time PCR system. RNA1 levels were then

quantified via qPCR using previously published primers[23]. Orsay virus RNA levels were normalized

to the internal control host gene snb-1 (primers GCTCAGGTTGATGAAGTCGTC and

GGTGGCCGCAGATTTCTC).

<u>Plasmid-based replication experiments</u>

Adult animals carrying a transgene containing the wild-type RNA1 or RNA1D601A Orsay virus

genome segment under the control of a heat-inducible promoter were placed on the indicated

bacteria for 4 h before heat-shock at 33°C for 2 h[47]. Animals then recovered at 20°C for 20 h

before harvesting for RNA extraction and qPCR as detailed above. RNA1 levels were normalized

to the values obtained from animals bearing the wild-type RNA1 and exposed to *E. coli* OP50.

<u>Orsay virus replication in the presence of *P. lurida* MYb11 and *P. aeruginosa*</u>

Adult ERT54 (*jyIs8[pals-5p::gfp;myo-2p::mCherry]*) or WUM31 (*rde-1(ne219); jyIs8[pals-*

5p::gfp;myo-2p::mCherry)] were exposed to exogenous Orsay virus in the presence of *P. lurida*

MYb11, *P. aeruginosa* PA01, or *P. aeruginosa* PA14 prepared as in a susceptibility assay. After 2

h or 24 h, animals were harvested for RNA extraction and qPCR as detailed above. RNA1 levels

were quantified via qPCR. Within each genotype, the data for each experiment were normalized

to the 2 h timepoint.

<u>*P. lurida* MYb11 mutant construction</u>

A protocol developed for allelic exchange in *P. aeruginosa* was modified for use in *P. lurida*

MYb11[69]. Briefly, homology arms flanking the region to be deleted were obtained using

polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and cloned into the pExG2-KanR suicide vector using Hi-Fi

Assembly (New England Biolabs)[70]. DH5α *E. coli* were transformed using a standard heat shock

protocol. Successful transformants were selected for on LB+Kanamycin (50 μg/mL) plates and

colony PCR was performed to check for proper insert size in the transformants. *E. coli* bearing

the desired plasmid were grown overnight in LB+Kanamycin (50 μg/mL). Plasmids were then

obtained using a Qiagen MiniPrep Kit (Qiagen). Plasmids were assessed for the desired sequence

by Sanger sequencing and transformed into *P. lurida* MYb11 using the following electroporation

procedure. *P. lurida* MYb11 was grown overnight then placed on ice for 30 min. The culture was

spun down at 4°C and washed twice with ice-cold water. After reconstitution in 100 μL of ice-

cold water the suspension was transferred to a pre-chilled cuvette and transformed at 630 kV

using an Eporator (Eppendorf). 900 μL of LB was added, and the suspension was transferred to a

microcentrifuge tube and incubated at 27°C for 2 h with shaking. The suspension was then plated

on LB+Kanamycin (50 μg/mL) plates and grown for 48 h at 25 °C. Colonies were picked and grown

overnight in LB. Cultures were streaked onto sucrose plates (15 g agar, 10 g tryptone, 5 g yeast,

60 g sucrose per 1 L water) to perform sucrose-based counter selection[69]. Colonies that survived

were genotyped for the expected deletion.

Lifespan Analysis

Assay plates, bacteria, and ZD2611 animals were prepared as indicated above, however plates

were prepared with the addition of 50 μg of 5-fluorodeoxyuridine (FUdR) to eliminate the need

to transfer animals during the assay by preventing reproduction. 30 young adult ZD2611 animals

were added to each assay plate and assessed for survival every 24 h. Three replicate plates were

prepared per experiment and three experiments were performed in total.

Pumping Rate

Assay plates, bacteria, and ZD2611 animals were prepared as indicated above. 20 young adult

ZD2611 animals were transferred to each assay plate. At 6 h and 24 h, animals were recorded

with slow-motion video capture (1/4x) while feeding. Cycles of pharyngeal pumping were

counted and used to calculate the number of pharyngeal pumps per minute.

Mixing Susceptibility Assays and Colonization Assays

Bacteria were grown in LB for 48 h before being spun down at 4,000xg for 6 min. The resulting

cell pellets were weighed and reconstituted to 25 mg/mL in their own culture supernatant.

Concentrated bacteria were then combined with filtered M9 for colonization experiments or

filtered M9 plus 1 μL of Orsay filtrate for mixing susceptibility assays. For mixing susceptibility

assays young adult ZD2611 individuals prepared as above were added to the mixture before

addition to plates such that the bacterial lawn covered the entire plate. For colonization assays

N2 animals were prepared in the same manner to adulthood. Mixing susceptibility assays were

scored as a susceptibility assay as indicated above. Colonization assays were scored at 4 h or 24

h. Briefly, animals were picked off of the plate and anaesthetized in sodium azide before

mounting on a microscope slide. Fluorescent images of the region of the intestinal lumen behind

the pharynx were imaged using a Zeiss AxioImager Z.1 compound microscope. Images were then

imported into FIJI for analysis[71,72]. An irregular polygon tracing the region behind the pharynx

was drawn and the median fluorescence intensity measured.

Electron Microscopy

Animals were prepared for electron microscopy as indicated above for susceptibility assays.

Animals were washed off their plates in M9 and allowed to pellet by gravity. The supernatant

was removed and animals were anesthetized with sodium azide. Animals were then pipetted

into a type A 6mm Cu/Au carrier (Leica) and frozen in a high- pressure freezer (EM ICE, Leica).

This was followed by the following freeze-substitution protocol: (EM AFS2, Leica)

Freeze substitution protocol:

Cocktail 1: 2% osmium tetroxide, 0.1% uranyl acetate in anhydrous acetone

PROGRAM:

Cocktail	Temperature (start)	Temperature (end)	Time
Cocktail 1	-90 °C	-90 °C	60 h
Cocktail 1	-90 °C	-20 °C	11 h
Cocktail 1	-20 °C	-20 °C	10 h

Cocktail 1	-20 °C	0 °C	12 h
Acetone wash (4x)	0 °C	22 °C	2 h

After the washes in acetone, samples were incubated in propylene oxide for 30 min, then

slowly infiltrated in TAAB Epon (TAAB Laboratories Equipment Ltd, https://taab.co.uk) as

follows:

3:1 Propylene Oxide:TAAB Epon - 3hrs at RT

1:1 Propylene Oxide:TAAB Epon – ON at 4C

1:3 Propylene Oxide:TAAB Epon – 4 hrs at RT

100% TAAB Epon – 2 hrs at RT

Samples were embedded in fresh TAAB Epon and polymerized at 60 degrees C for 48 hrs.

Ultrathin sections (about 80nm) were cut on a Reichert Ultracut-S microtome, picked up on to

formvar/carbon coated copper grids, sections were stained with 0.2% lead citrate. The sections

were examined in a JEOL 1200EX Transmission electron microscope and images were recorded

with an AMT 2k CCD camera.

<u>Data visualization and statistics</u>

All experiments were performed three times. For transmission, qPCR, FISH-based susceptibility

assays, and lifespan assays data from each experiment are combined. For susceptibility assays

and colonization assays a single representative experiment is shown and replicates are shown in

the supplementary material. Data were analyzed in R Studio[73]. When comparing all the means of

more than two groups p-values were calculated using one-way ANOVA followed by the Tukey

HSD test. When comparing multiple experimental groups to a control group p-values were

calculated using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test. P-values for assays comparing only

two groups were calculated using Student's t-test or Welch's t-test as indicated. *E. coli* OP50 is

included in all experiments as a reference but was not included for statistical comparison unless

explicitly noted. Susceptibility assay curves were modeled using the drc[74] package in R. A two-

parameter log-logistic function was used to model the curve and ID_{50} values were calculated

using the ED function. Kaplan-Meier survival curves were made using the survival[75] package and

curves were compared using the log-rank test within the survdiff function. Plots were made using

the gdata[76], scales[77], drc[74], Rmisc[78], multcomp[79], survival[75], ggplot2[80], ggsignif[81], and cowplot[82]

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$$Incidence\ Proportion = \frac{\#\ of\ New\ Infections}{Total\ Population}$$

Figure 1: *Ochrobactrum* species and *P. lurida* MYb11 divergently modulate Orsay virus transmission and infection rates.

(A) Schematic representation of the transmission and susceptibility assays: Transmission can be assessed by combining infected spreader individuals (green nematode), uninfected reporter individuals (white nematodes), and various bacteria. Susceptibility can be assessed by combining uninfected reporter individuals with exogenous Orsay virus, and various bacteria. 24 h later, infection is assessed. This schematic was made using Biorender. **(B)** Representative images of *pals-5p::GFP* expression among individuals exposed to spreaders or no spreaders in the presence of *O. vermis* MYb71, *E. coli* OP50, or *P. lurida* MYb11. **(C)** Incidence proportion, calculated as indicated, of Orsay virus transmission quantified on different bacteria from the environment of *C. elegans*. Data shown are from three experiments combined, each dot represents the incidence proportion from a single plate, and letters denote statistical significance. Treatments with the same letter are not significantly different from one another. (n=19694 in total and n > 42 for all dots). **(D)** Dose response curves of *C. elegans* to exogenous Orsay virus. The dashed line indicates the calculated dose at which 50% of the population was infected, the ID_{50}, the exact value which is given above the x-axis for each bacterium. The solid curves represent the 95% confidence interval of the modeled log-logistic function while in the presence of each bacterium. Data are from a single representative experiment and replicates can be found in Supp. Fig. 3, Dots represent individual plates. ((a.u.), arbitrary units, see Methods) (n=8334 in total and n > 32 for all dots). **(E)** Ratios of the ID_{50} calculated on the indicated bacteria as compared to the ID_{50} calculated on *E. coli* OP50 from three separate experiments as in (D) and Supp. Fig. 3. **(F)** The fraction of individuals with staining as assessed by fluorescence *in situ* hybridization targeting the RNA1 segment of Orsay virus. Data shown are from three experiments combined, each dot represents three pooled technical replicate plates from the susceptibility assays in (D) and Supp. Fig. 3. (n=3446 in total and n > 61 for all dots). For all plots the black bar is the mean and error bars are the 95% confidence interval (C.I.). p-values determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's Honest Significant Difference (HSD) test (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Figure 2: *P. aeruginosa* attenuates Orsay virus transmission and infection rates.

(A) Incidence proportion of Orsay virus transmission quantified on different bacteria from *C. elegans'* environment and *P. aeruginosa* PA01 and *P. aeruginosa* PA14. Data shown are from three experiments combined, each dot represents the incidence proportion from a single plate. (n=9214 in total and n > 54 for all dots) **(B)** The fraction of individuals *pals-5p::GFP* positive following exposure to two doses of exogenous Orsay virus. Data are from a single representative experiment and replicates can be found in Supp. Fig. 5. Dots represent individual plates. (n=6539 in total and n > 56 for all dots) **(C)** The fraction of individuals with staining following exposure to 100 a.u. Orsay virus as assessed by fluorescence *in situ* hybridization targeting the RNA1 segment of the Orsay virus genome. Data shown are from three experiments combined, each dot represents three pooled technical replicate plates from (B) and Supp. Fig. 5. (n=2743 in total and n > 116 for all dots) For all plots the black bar is the mean and error bars are the 95% confidence interval (C.I.). p-values determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's Honest Significant Difference (HSD) test (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Figure 3: *P. aeruginosa* and *P. lurida* MYb11 do not eliminate Orsay virus replication, rapidly degrade Orsay virus, or eliminate Orsay virus shedding by infected spreader animals.

(A) Animals carrying either a wild-type (RNA1(WT)) or replication defective (RNA1(D601A)) transgenic viral RNA replicon system (Jiang et al. 2017) were used to assess Orsay virus replication efficiency independently of virus entry. P-values determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test **(B)** Orsay virus RNA1 levels of N2 and *rde-1(ne219)* animals exposed to the indicated bacterium and exogenous Orsay virus 2 and 24 h post infection (hpi). P-values were determined using Welch's t-Test For each plot, each dot represents five pooled technical replicates, the black bar is the mean, error bars are the standard deviation, RNA1 levels were quantified by qPCR, and the data shown are for three independent experiments. **(C)** Delta Ct comparing the 24 h and 2 h timepoints from (B). **(D)** Stability of Orsay virus in the presence of lawns of the indicated bacteria for the indicated time at 20°C. **(E)** Delta Ct comparing the 24 h and 30 min timepoints from (D). **(F)** Orsay virus RNA1 levels recovered from the indicated lawns after infected ZD2610(*rde-1(ne219);jyIs8[pals-5p::GFP;myo-2p::mCherry];glp-4(bn2ts)*) spreaders were allowed to shed for 24 hours mimicking a transmission assay. (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Figure 4: Mutation of *P. aeruginosa* quorum sensing regulators and the two-component response regulator *gacA* suppresses the attenuation Orsay virus infection.

(A) Diagram demonstrating the three quorum sensing systems in *P. aeruginosa*. Each system encodes the enzyme(s) (LasI, RhlI, PqsA(BCDH) to produce an autoinducer (3OC12HSL – 3-oxo-C12-homoserine lactone, C4HSL –butanoyl homoserine lactone , PQS – Pseudomonas quinolone signal) that is recognized by its cognate receptor (LasR, RhlR, PqsR) that influences gene transcription and the activity of the other quorum sensing systems. An additional level of regulation stems from the two-component *gacS*/*gacA* system. External signals are recognized by the histidine kinase GacS, which phosphorylates the response regulator GacA that indirectly influences quorum sensing processes. IM is inner membrane, OM is outer membrane. Arrows represent crosstalk between the various system. Adapted from Rutherford and Bassler, 2012 and Song, Li, and Wang, 2023. **(B-C)** The fraction of individuals *pals-5p::GFP* positive following exposure to exogenous Orsay virus in the presence of the indicated bacterium. Data are from a single representative experiment, bars represent mean, dots represent individual plates. **(B)** Wild-type *P. aeruginosa* PA01 compared to mutant *P. aeruginosa* PA01 strains using 10 a.u. of Orsay virus. Replicates can be found in Supp. Fig. 7. (n=4480 in total and n > 76 for all dots) **(C)** Wild-type *P. aeruginosa* PA14 compared to mutant *P. aeruginosa* PA14 strains using 100 a.u. of Orsay virus. Replicates can be found in Supp. Fig. 8. (n=3320 in total and n > 23 for all dots) **(D-E)** The fraction of individuals with staining following exposure to (D) 10 a.u. or (E) 100 a.u. Orsay virus as assessed by fluorescence *in situ* hybridization targeting the RNA1 segment of the Orsay virus genome. Data shown are from three experiments combined, each dot represents three pooled technical replicates from a single experiment. ((D) n=1632 in total and n > 61 for all dots. (E) n=2000 in total and n > 60 for all dots) **(F)** Incidence proportion of Orsay virus transmission in the presence of *P. aeruginosa* wild-type versus select *P. aeruginosa* mutants. Data are from three experiments, bars represent mean, dots represent individual plates. (n=20452 in total and n > 37 for all dots) For all plots error bars represent 95% C.I. For B-E, p-values were determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test. (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Figure 5: Mutation of *P. aeruginosa* PA14 genes related to virulence suppresses the attenuation of Orsay virus infection.

(**A**) Diagram describing the design and results of the screen to identify suppressors of *P. aeruginosa* PA14 Orsay virus attenuation. (**B**) The fraction of individuals *pals-5p::GFP* positive following exposure to 100 a.u. of exogenous Orsay virus. Data are from a single representative experiment. Replicates can be found in Supp. Fig. 10. (n=3779 in total and n > 55 for all dots) (**C**) Incidence proportion of Orsay virus transmission while individuals are present on *P. aeruginosa* PA14 wild-type compared to *P. aeruginosa* PA14 mutants. Data are from three experiments combined and dots represent individual plates. (n=11279 in total and n > 35 for all dots) For all plots the black bar is the mean and error bars are the 95% confidence interval (C.I.). p-values determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Figure 6: Mutation of *P. lurida* MYb11 *gacA* suppresses the attenuation of Orsay virus infection.

(A) Diagram depicting *P. aeruginosa* PA01, *P. aeruginosa* PA14, and *P. lurida* MYb11 *gacA* as well as the *P. lurida* MYb11 *gacA* deletion mutant. Percent identity of the encoded protein was assessed using Clustal Omega. The *gacA* deletion removed 194 amino acids from the protein leaving 10 amino acids from both the N and C termini. Schematic made using Biorender. **(B, E)** The fraction of individuals *pals-5p::GFP* positive following exposure to 10 a.u. exogenous Orsay virus in the presence of wild-type *P. lurida* MYb11 compared to the indicated mutants. Data are from a single representative experiment. Replicates can be found in Supp. Fig. 11. ((B) n=933 in total and n > 46 for all dots, (E) n=1725 in total and n > 78 for all dots). Bars represent mean and dots represent individual plates. **(C)** The fraction of individuals with staining following exposure to 10 a.u. Orsay virus as assessed by fluorescence *in situ* hybridization targeting the RNA1 segment of the Orsay virus genome. Data shown are from three experiments combined, each dot represents three pooled technical replicates from (B) and Supp. Fig 11A and 11B (n=1272 in total and n > 61 for all dots). **(D, F)** Incidence proportion of Orsay virus transmission in the presence of wild-type *P. lurida* MYb11 versus the indicated mutants. Data are from three experiments combined, bars represent mean, dots represent individual plates ((D) n=4534 in total and n > 42 for all dots, (F) n=8185 in total and n > 58 for all dots). For all plots error bars represent 95% confidence interval (C.I.). (B-D) p-values were determined using Student's t-Test. (E-F) p-values determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test (NS non-significant, $*p<0.05$, $**p<0.01$, $***p<0.001$).

Figure 7: *O. vermis* MYb71 closely interacts with the brush border of *C. elegans* intestinal cells.

(A) The fraction of individuals *pals-5p::GFP* positive following exposure to 1 a.u. exogenous Orsay virus in the presence of pure lawns of the indicated bacteria or mixed lawns consisting of 50% of the indicated bacteria mixed with 50% *O. vermis* MYb71 (v:v, Methods). Data are from a single representative experiment. Replicates can be found in Supp. Fig. 12. Bars represent mean and dots represent individual plates (n=908 in total and n > 36 for all dots). **(B-C)** The median fluorescence observed in the intestinal lumen of individuals following exposure for (B) 4 h or (C) 24 h to pure GFP expressing *Ochrobactrum* BH3 lawns or mixed lawns consisting of 50% of the indicated bacteria mixed with 50% GFP expressing *Ochrobactrum* BH3 (v:v, Methods). Data are from a single representative experiment. Replicates can be found in Supp. Fig. 12. Bars represent mean, dots represent individual animals. **(D-E)** Electron micrographs of animals exposed to the indicated bacterium for either (D) 4 or (E) 24 h. Scale bar is 2 microns. cy=cytoplasm, L=lumen, mv=microvilli, b=bacterium, and * denotes a bent microvilli. For all plots error bars represent 95% confidence interval (C.I.). p-values determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Supplementary Figure 1: Transmission does not occur from individuals infected during the course of a transmission or susceptibility assay.

(A-D) Individuals were exposed to 0 a.u. or 5 a.u. exogenous Orsay virus in the presence of *O. vermis* MYb71. 8 h post infection five infected individuals from the 5 a.u. plate were transferred to the 0 a.u. plate to assess whether transmission from these individuals would occur. Both plates were scored 16 h after the transfer. Data for each plot are from a single representative experiment, bars represent mean, dots represent individual plates ((B) n = 669 in total and n > 83 for all dots, (C) n = 377 in total and n > 52 for all dots, (D) n=273 in total and n > 33 for all dots). Error bars are the 95% confidence interval (C.I.). p-value determined by Student's t-test (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Supplementary Figure 2: The range of all ID$_{50}$ values calculated for each batch of Orsay virus.
(A) Dose response curves as shown in Figure 1D and Supp. Fig. 3 were measured for ZD2611(*jyIs8[pals-5p::GFP; myo-2p::mCherry];glp-4(bn2ts)*)) animals exposed to *E. coli* OP50 for each batch of Orsay virus used. The dose of virus required to infect 50% of the population, the ID$_{50}$, was calculated and plotted. Bar represents the mean and individual dots represent the ID$_{50}$ from a separate dose response curve. Error bars are the 95% confidence interval (C.I.).

Supplementary Figure 3: Replicate dose response curves shown in Figure 1D.
(A-B) Dose response curves of *C. elegans* to exogenous Orsay virus. The dashed line indicates the calculated dose at which 50% of the population was infected, the ID_{50}, the exact value which is given above the x-axis for each bacterium. The solid curves represent the 95% confidence interval of the modeled log-logistic function while in the presence of each bacterium. Data are from a single representative experiment, Dots represent individual plates((A) n = 11350 in total and n > 38 for all dots, (B) n = 7753 in total and n > 24 for all dots). ((a.u.), arbitrary units).

Supplementary Figure 4: Pharyngeal pumping rates are unaltered at 6 h and change only sightly by 24 h after exposure to novel bacteria.

(A-B) Pharyngeal pumping rate of ZD2611 animals exposed to the indicated bacteria for **(A)** 6 or **(B)** 24 h. Pumping rate was assessed via slow-motion video capture of animals feeding (Methods). Data are from three separate experiments and each dot represents a single animal. The black bar is the mean and error bars are the 95% confidence interval (C.I.). p-values determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's Honest Significant Difference (HSD) test (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Supplementary Figure 5: Replicate susceptibility assays shown in Figure 2B.
(A-B) The fraction of individuals *pasl-5p::GFP* positive following exposure to two doses of exogenous Orsay virus. Data are from a single representative experiment and dots represent individual plates ((A) n = 2729 total and n > 60 for all dots, ((B) n = 2051 total and n > 48 for all dots). The black bar is the mean and error bars are the 95% confidence interval (C.I.). p-values determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's Honest Significant Difference (HSD) test (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Supplementary Figure 6: *O. vermis* **MYb71**, *P. aeruginosa* **PA14**, *P. lurida* **MYb11**, and *P. aeruginosa* **PA01 reduce lifespan compared to** *E. coli* **OP50 .**

(**A**) Survival of ZD2611 animals following exposure to full lawns of the indicated bacteria on fluorodeoxyuridine (FUdR) containing plates at 20°C. Hashes indicate censored animals. Lines represent the Kaplan-Meier curve, while shaded area represents the 95% confidence interval. Curve and confidence interval were calculated from three separate experiments with three replicate plates for each bacteria with approximately 30 individuals per plate. Statistics were calculated with the log-rank test implemented in the survdiff function in the survival package in R followed by the Bonferroni correction. (***p<0.001)

Supplementary Figure 7: Replicate susceptibility assays shown in Figure 4B.
(A-B) The fraction of individuals *pals-5p::GFP* positive following exposure to 10 a.u. of exogenous Orsay virus. Data are from a single representative experiment and dots represent individual plates ((A) n = 2627 in total and n > 43 for all dots, (B) n = 4068 in total and n > 75 for all dots). The black bar is the mean and error bars are the 95% confidence interval (C.I.). p-values determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Supplementary Figure 8: Replicate susceptibility assays shown in Figure 4C.
(A-B) The fraction of individuals *pals-5p::GFP* positive following exposure to 100 a.u. of exogenous Orsay virus. Data are from a single representative experiment and dots represent individual plates ((A) n = 3672 in total and n > 37 for all dots, (B) n = 2728 in total and n > 23 for all dots). The black bar is the mean and error bars are the 95% confidence interval (C.I.). p-values determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Supplementary Figure 9: Supernatant from stationary phase cultures of different bacteria does not reliably attenuate or enhance Orsay virus infection in the presence of *E. coli* OP50.
(A-F) The fraction of individuals GFP positive following exposure to (A-C) 0.5 a.u. or (D-F) 5 a.u. of exogenous Orsay virus in the presence of *E. coli* OP50 saturated stationary phase supernatant from the indicated bacteria. Data from each plot are from a single experiment. The black bar is the mean, error bars are the 95% confidence interval (C.I.), and dots represent individual plates ((A) n = 384 in total and n > 35 for all dots, (B) n = 525 in total and n > 55 for all dots, (C) n = 881 in total and n > 103 for all dots, (D) n = 843 in total and n > 46 for all dots, (E) n = 1040 in total and n > 39 for all dots, (F) n = 1603 in total and n > 86 for all dots). (A-C) p-values determined using Student's t-test. (D-E) p-values determined using a one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Supplementary Figure 10: Replicate susceptibility assays shown in Figure 5B.
(A-B) The fraction of individuals *pals-5p::GFP* positive following exposure to 100 a.u. of exogenous Orsay virus. Data are from a single representative experiment and dots represent individual plates ((A) n = 1957 in total and n > 33 for all dots, (B) n = 1730 in total and n > 24 for all dots). The black bar is the mean and error bars are the 95% confidence interval (C.I.). p-values determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Supplementary Figure 11: Replicate susceptibility assays shown in Figure 6B and 6E.
(A-D) The fraction of individuals *pals-5p::GFP* positive following exposure to 10 a.u. exogenous Orsay virus in the presence of wild-type *P. lurida* MYb11 versus the indicated mutants. Data are from a single representative experiment and dots represent individual plates ((A) n = 681 in total and n > 39 for all dots, (B) n = 751 in total and n > 41 for all dots, (C) n = 2129 in total and n > 106 for all dots, (D) n = 1466 in total and n > 28 for all dots). For all plots the bar is the mean and error bars are the 95% confidence interval (C.I.). A-B) p-values determined using Student's t-test. (C-D) p-values determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test(NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

Supplementary Figure 12: Replicate assays shown in Figure 7A, 7B, and 7C.
(A-B) The fraction of individuals *pals-5p::GFP* positive following exposure to 1 a.u. exogenous Orsay virus in the presence of pure lawns of the indicated bacteria or mixed lawns consisting of 50% of the indicated bacteria mixed with 50% *O. vermis* MYb71 (v:v, Methods). Data are from a single representative experiment. Bars represent mean and dots represent individual plates ((A) n=886 in total and n > 43 for all dots, (B) n=833 in total and n > 30 for all dots). **(C-F)** The median fluorescence observed in the intestinal lumen of individuals following exposure for (C-D) 4 h or (E-F) 24 h to pure GFP expressing *Ochrobactrum* BH3 lawns or mixed lawns consisting of 50% of the indicated bacteria mixed with 50% GFP expressing *Ochrobactrum* BH3 (v:v, Methods). Data are from a single representative experiment. Bars represent mean, dots represent individual animals. For all plots error bars represent 95% confidence interval (C.I.). p-values determined using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test (NS non-significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001).

<u>Supplementary Information</u>

Supplementary Table 1: List of *Caenorhabditis elegans* strains used in this study.

Strain Name	Genotype	Source
WUM29	*virIs1[pHIP::Orsay-RNA1;pHIP::Orsay-RNA2;myo-2p::YFP];rde-1(ne219);jyIs8(pasl-5p::gfp;myo-2p::mCherry)*	Gift of Wang lab[1]
ERT54	*jyIs8[pals-5p::GFP;myo-2p::mCherry]*	CGC
WUM31	*rde-1(ne219);jyIs8[pals-5p::GFP;myo-2p::mCherry]*	Gift of Wang lab[2]
SS104	*glp-4(bn-2)*	CGC
ZD2610	*rde-1(ne219);jyIs8[pals-5p::GFP;myo-2p::mCherry]; glp-4(bn-2)*	This study
ZD2611	*jyIs8[pals-5p::GFP;myo-2p::mCherry]; glp-4(bn-2)*	This study
WUM104	*virEx[pHIP::RNA1WT-1]*	Gift of Wang lab[2]
WUM106	*virEx[pHIP::RNA1D601A-1]*	Gift of Wang lab[2]

Supplementary Table 2: List of bacterial strains used in this study.

Strain Name	Genotype	Source
Escherichia coli OP50	WT	Kim Lab
Enterobacter xiangfangensis CEN2ent1	WT	CGC[3]
Lelliottia amnigena JUb66	WT	CGC[3]
Pseudomonas mendocina MSPm1	WT	CGC[3]
Comamonas piscis BIGb0172	WT	CGC[3]
Pantoea sp. BIGb0393	WT	CGC[3]
Providencia sp. JUb39	WT	Gift of Félix Lab[4]
Klebsiella sp. JUb268	WT	Gift of Félix Lab – unpublished
Achromobacter sp. JUb24	WT	Gift of Félix Lab[4]
Ochrobactrum vermis MYb71	WT	CGC[3]
Ochrobactrum BH3	WT	Gift of Troemel Lab[5]
GFP + Ochrobactrum BH3	WT(GFP+)	Gift of Troemel Lab[5]
Pseudomonas lurida MYb11	WT	CGC[3]
Pseudomonas lurida MYb11	ΔgacA	This study
Pseudomonas lurida MYb11	ΔkinB	This study
Pseudomonas lurida MYb11	ΔprpC	This study
Pseudomonas lurida MYb11	ΔptsP	This study
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA01	WT	Gift of Dove Lab
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA01	ΔlasI	Gift of Greenberg Lab[6]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA01	ΔlasR	Gift of Greenberg Lab[6]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA01	ΔrhlI	Gift of Greenberg Lab[6]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA01	ΔrhlR	Gift of Greenberg Lab[6]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA01	ΔpqsA	Gift of Dove Lab - unpublished
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA01	ΔgacA	Gift of Dove Lab[7]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA01	Δpel	Gift of Parsek Lab[8]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA01	Δpsl	Gift of Parsek Lab[9]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA01	ΔalgD	Gift of Parsek Lab[10]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA14	WT	Kim Lab
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA14	ΔlasI	Gift of E. Drenkard and Ausubel Lab – Not published
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA14	ΔlasR	Gift of E. Drenkard and Ausubel Lab[11]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA14	ΔrhlI	Gift of E. Drenkard and Ausubel Lab[12]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA14	ΔrhlR	Gift of E. Drenkard and Ausubel Lab[11]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA14	ΔpqsE	Gift of Paczkowski Lab[13]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA14	ΔrhlI;ΔpqsE	Gift of Paczkowski Lab[13]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA14	ΔgacA	Gift of Pukkila-Worley Lab[14]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA14	ΔpelA	Gift of E. Drenkard and Ausubel Lab[15]
Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA14	ΔalgD	Gift of E. Drenkard and Ausubel Lab[16]

Pseudomonas aeruginosa PA14	Mutants from the Nonredundant PA14 Transposon Insertion Library	E. Drenkard and Ausubel Lab[14]

Supplementary Table 3: List of *P. aeruginosa* PA14 transposon insertion mutants screened in this study.

Supp. Table 3: Candidate genes screened for regulation of *C. elegans* susceptibility to Orsay virus

Bold and underlined indicate mutants with confirmed phenotype.

Identifier	Identifier	Regulon	Mutant ID
PA14_39800	fecI	gacA	5297
PA14_63160	pmrB	gacA	5751
PA14_19020	tse3	gacA	6047
PA14_43900		Virulence	6472
PA14_55170	cat	gacA	6692
PA14_42340	pscD	gacA	6764
PA14_06750	nitrite reductase;protein_id=QDL62541.1	RhlR	6811
PA14_09660		gacA	23248
PA14_43050	PA01-tssA1	gacA	23266
PA14_42470	pcrV	gacA	23320
PA14_19100	alpha/beta hydrolase;protein_id=QDL63509.1	RhlR	23291
PA14_12030		Virulence	23465
PA14_23430		Virulence	23782
PA14_09300		Virulence	23790
PA14_09300		gacA	23790
PA14_52690		Virulence	24118
PA14_46680	norM	gacA	24085
PA14_06720	protein nirF;protein_id=QDL62538.1	RhlR	24165
PA14_15080		gacA	24311
PA14_26230	hisQ	gacA	24643
PA14_28130	bswR	gacA	24728
PA14_21000	hypothetical protein;protein_id=QDL63663.1	RhlR	25384
PA14_21000	hypothetical protein;protein_id=QDL63663.1	RhlR	25384
PA14_15200		gacA	25712
PA14_42950		Virulence	25708
PA14_36290	NADP-dependent oxidoreductase;protein_id=QDL64899.1	RhlR	25752
PA14_06180	fecI	gacA	25794
PA14_58030	fumC1	gacA	25811
PA14_40310	acyl carrier protein;protein_id=QDL65222.1	RhlR	26047
PA14_39440		gacA	26130
PA14_39790		gacA	26678
PA14_42620	pscR	gacA	26713
PA14_70720		gacA	26837
PA14_52230	pirA	gacA	27108
PA14_14850		Virulence	27116
PA14_37260	OprD family porin;protein_id=QDL64986.1	RhlR	27286
PA14_55580	hemO	gacA	27752
PA14_53910	No clear ortholog	gacA	27823
PA14_48520	transglycosylase;protein_id=QDL65879.1	RhlR	27859
PA14_36310	cyanide-forming glycine dehydrogenase subunit HcnC;protein_id=QDL64901.1	RhlR	28000
PA14_21680		gacA	28071
PA14_07330		gacA	28734
PA14_10200	fvbA	gacA	28811
PA14_31370	methyltransferase domain-containing protein;protein_id=QDL64513.1	RhlR	28925
PA14_01150	eagt6	gacA	28943
PA14_09690	bfiS	gacA	28988
PA14_38950		gacA	29098
PA14_21020	non-ribosomal peptide synthetase;protein_id=QDL63665.1	RhlR	29306
PA14_09630		gacA	29508

PA14_56090	gacA	29512
PA14_42350 pscC	gacA	29579
PA14_20960 nuclear transport factor 2 family protein;protein_id=QDL63660.1	RhlR	29854
PA14_04340	gacA	29941
PA14_3885 exaB	gacA	30227
PA14_60650	gacA	30214
PA14_01140 tse6	gacA	30560
PA14_64920 methyl-accepting chemotaxis protein;protein_id=QDL67201.1	RhlR	30889
PA14_65170 rpsR	gacA	31176
PA14_58570	gacA	31335
PA14_52670	Virulence	31424
PA14_29650 psl and pyoverdine operon regulator PpyR;protein_id=QDL64369.1	RhlR	31563
PA14_43350	Virulence	31640
PA14_02910 IclR family transcriptional regulator;protein_id=QDL62237.1	RhlR	31642
PA14_42400 exsB	gacA	31713
PA14_47380 hxuA	gacA	31886
PA14_00890 pppA	gacA	31907
PA14_52660	Virulence	32331
PA14_58040	gacA	32484
PA14_23000 carbohydrate ABC transporter permease;protein_id=QDL63835.1	RhlR	32514
PA14_58250 magD	gacA	32575
PA14_27700	Virulence	32578
PA14_14340	gacA	33029
PA14_28895	gacA	33357
PA14_63770 Also hits PA14_63760	gacA	33569
PA14_31730	gacA	33612
PA14_31350 NAD(P)/FAD-dependent oxidoreductase;protein_id=QDL67941.1	RhlR	33671
PA14_69810 glnK	**Virulence**	**33817**
PA14_34130 icmF3	gacA	34003
PA14_25690 fabF1	**Virulence**	**34095**
PA14_33260 pvdS	gacA	34241
PA14_22990	gacA	34541
PA14_42450 popB	gacA	34677
PA14_42440 popD	gacA	34677
PA14_30650 gacA	**Virulence**	**34781**
PA14_31580	Virulence	34827
PA14_34050 hsiC3	gacA	34884
PA14_58010	gacA	34966
PA14_71100 YeiH family protein;protein_id=QDL67678.1	RhlR	35049
PA14_71840	gacA	35192
PA14_36300 TetR/AcrR family transcriptional regulator;protein_id=QDL64900.1	RhlR	35194
PA14_40290 protease LasA;protein_id=QDL65220.1	RhlR	35267
PA14_28350 alpha/beta hydrolase;protein_id=QDL64257.1	RhlR	35370
PA14_09350	gacA	35518
PA14_72390 kinB	**Virulence**	**35639**
PA14_09320	Virulence	35711
PA14_38770 pqqH	gacA	35762
PA14_23460	Virulence	35855
PA14_52130 wzz2	gacA	35858
PA14_05960	Virulence	36116
PA14_20580 aliphatic amidase expression-regulating protein;protein_id=QDL63629.1	RhlR	36129
PA14_04410 ptsP	**Virulence**	**36275**
PA14_58000 sodM	gacA	36454
PA14_63220	gacA	36489

PA14_37250 MFS transporter;protein_id=QDL64985.1	RhlR	36598
PA14_38820 pqqB	gacA	36607
PA14_01030 hcp1	gacA	36995
PA14_01030 hcp3	gacA	36995
PA14_00560 exoT	gacA	36955
PA14_07360	gacA	36956
PA14_00080	gacA	37111
PA14_11660 aqpZ	gacA	37239
PA14_00580	gacA	37604
PA14_54640	Virulence	37629
PA14_16160	gacA	37763
PA14_69000	Virulence	37818
PA14_19120 RhlR	**Virulence**	**37943**
PA14_38900 eraR	gacA	38131
PA14_14330 spcS	gacA	38258
PA14_49750 MFS transporter;protein_id=QDL65983.1	RhlR	38758
PA14_20970 cytochrome P450;protein_id=QDL63661.1	RhlR	38837
PA14_38440	Virulence	38983
PA14_53940	Virulence	39064
PA14_45940	Virulence	39292
PA14_30230 clpA	**Virulence**	**39351**
PA14_11120 response regulator transcription factor;protein_id=QDL62884.1	RhlR	39369
PA14_62280 hmuV	gacA	39440
PA14_00820 tagQ1	gacA	39485
PA14_39000	gacA	39587
PA14_02140 siaB	gacA	39659
PA14_38190	gacA	39754
PA14_20190 nitrous oxide reductase family maturation protein NosD;protein_id=QDL63598.1	RhlR	39889
PA14_34110 dotU3	gacA	40266
PA14_52580	Virulence	40436
PA14_35130 ArsR family transcriptional regulator;protein_id=QDL64805.1	RhlR	40419
PA14_53950 prpC	**Virulence**	**41035**
PA14_38840 exaC	gacA	41052
PA14_32880	gacA	41110
PA14_42430 exsC	gacA	41125
PA14_28000	gacA	41577
PA14_38200	gacA	41886
PA14_22980 carbohydrate ABC transporter substrate-binding protein;protein_id=QDL63833.1	RhlR	42223
PA14_36330 hcnA	gacA	42284
PA14_01010 hsiB1	gacA	42268
PA14_01010 hsiB2	gacA	42268
PA14_01010 hsiB3	gacA	42268
PA14_63120 spermidine synthase;protein_id=QDL68019.1	RhlR	42429
PA14_63120 speE2	gacA	42429
PA14_38780 pqqE	gacA	42390
PA14_00940 tssK1	gacA	42462
PA14_67530	gacA	42570
PA14_68730	Virulence	42600
PA14_05310	Virulence	42799
PA14_16180	gacA	42990
PA14_56890 mexW	gacA	43547
PA14_63800 mgtA	gacA	43710
PA14_31720	gacA	43724
PA14_15990 trmD	gacA	43735

PA14_29660 short-chain dehydrogenase;protein_id=QDL64370.1		RhlR	43837
PA14_21030 ATP-dependent Clp protease proteolytic subunit;protein_id=QDL63666.1		RhlR	44009
PA14_63130		gacA	44414
PA14_20200 nitrous-oxide reductase;protein_id=QDL63599.1		RhlR	44533
PA14_18860 No clear ortholog		gacA	44571
PA14_42270 pscJ		gacA	45034
PA14_38220		gacA	45228
PA14_09970 fpvB		gacA	45188
PA14_51380		Virulence	45262
PA14_47110		gacA	45355
PA14_38860 exaA		gacA	45932
PA14_61190 cdrB		gacA	45954
PA14_51250		gacA	46490
PA14_24990		gacA	46692
PA14_62810 secG		gacA	47247
PA14_48590		Virulence	47923
PA14_49740 hypothetical protein;protein_id=QDL67981.1		RhlR	48441
PA14_49740		gacA	48441
PA14_01020 hsiC2		gacA	48448
PA14_63580 fdnH		gacA	48501
PA14_42460 pcrH		gacA	48586
PA14_62290 phuU		gacA	48599
PA14_08360 trpC		gacA	48714
PA14_20230 regulatory protein NosR;protein_id=QDL63600.1		RhlR	48720
PA14_08370		Virulence	52692
PA14_42380 exsD		gacA	52698
PA14_30580		Virulence	52787
PA14_57990		gacA	52805
PA14_22020		Virulence	52889
PA14_62350 phuR		gacA	53271
PA14_41710		Virulence	53876
PA14_36350		gacA	54275
PA14_40030		gacA	54445
PA14_52840		gacA	54510
PA14_64940 nicotinate-nicotinamide nucleotide adenylyltransferase;protein_id=QDL67203.1		RhlR	54555
PA14_16270		gacA	54625
PA14_53640		gacA	54847
PA14_20020 hasAp		gacA	55211
PA14_33050		gacA	55625
PA14_39990		gacA	55689
PA14_02110 siaD		gacA	55715
PA14_41730		Virulence	55833
PA14_20920 class I SAM-dependent methyltransferase;protein_id=QDL63657.1		RhlR	55954
PA14_38800 pqqC		gacA	56080
PA14_01120 tsi6		gacA	56172
PA14_01100 clpV1		gacA	56461
PA14_52720		Virulence	56790
PA14_72050		gacA	57004
PA14_52260		Virulence	42741
PA14_61680		Virulence	46240
PA14_38970 ercS'		gacA	1242
PA14_31700		gacA	738
PA14_42280 pscI		gacA	383

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