

# GldI Is a Lipoprotein That Is Required for *Flavobacterium johnsoniae* Gliding Motility and Chitin Utilization

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Cells of *Flavobacterium johnsoniae* glide rapidly over surfaces by an unknown mechanism. Seven genes (*gldA*, *gldB*, *gldD*, *gldF*, *gldG*, *gldH*, and *ftsX*) that are required for gliding motility have been described. Complementation of the nonmotile mutants UW102-41, UW102-85, and UW102-92 identified another gene, *gldI*, that is required for gliding motility. *gldI* mutants formed nonspreading colonies, and individual cells were completely nonmotile. They were also resistant to bacteriophages that infect wild-type cells, and they failed to digest chitin. Introduction of wild-type *gldI* on a plasmid restored colony spreading, cell motility, phage sensitivity, and the ability to digest chitin to the *gldI* mutants. *gldI* encodes a predicted 199-amino-acid protein that localized to the membrane fraction. Labeling studies with [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate indicated that GldI is a lipoprotein. GldI is similar to peptidyl-prolyl *cis/trans*-isomerases of the FK506-binding protein family and may be involved in folding cell envelope protein components of the motility machinery.

Many members of the *Cytophaga-Flavobacterium-Bacteroides* group exhibit rapid gliding motility. Cells of *Flavobacterium johnsoniae* glide over surfaces at speeds of up to 10  $\mu\text{m/s}$ . Cells suspended in liquid do not swim, but their motility apparatus continues to function, since latex spheres that bind to a cell are rapidly propelled along multiple paths on the cell surface (27). The mechanism of *F. johnsoniae* gliding motility is not known, but several models have been proposed. Lapidus and Berg (22) suggested that outer membrane components are driven along tracks by periplasmic and cytoplasmic membrane proteins that obtain energy from the proton motive force. McBride et al. (24) postulated that coordinated export and import of polysaccharide, protein, or other macromolecules may form “conveyor belts” along the cell surface which propel cells.

Techniques to genetically manipulate *F. johnsoniae* have been developed (25), and a number of genes and proteins that are required for gliding have been described (1, 18–20, 24). Strains with mutations in *gldA*, *gldB*, *gldD*, *gldF*, *gldG*, or *gldH* form nonspreading colonies, and individual cells lack the gliding movements and ability to propel latex spheres along their surfaces that are characteristic of wild-type cells. Mutations in any of these genes also result in resistance to bacteriophages that infect wild-type cells (1, 18–20, 24) and loss of the ability to utilize the insoluble polysaccharide chitin (24). GldA, GldF, and GldG are thought to form an ATP-binding cassette transporter (18), and GldB, GldD, and GldH are lipoproteins that are required for gliding (24).

This paper describes the identification of *gldI*, which encodes another lipoprotein that is required for *F. johnsoniae* gliding motility, chitin utilization, and bacteriophage sensitivity. The GldI sequence is similar to the sequences of members of the FK506-binding protein (FKBP) family of peptidyl-prolyl *cis/trans*-isomerases (PPIases), which are involved in protein folding.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Bacterial and bacteriophage strains, plasmids, and growth conditions.** *F. johnsoniae* UW101 (derived from the *F. johnsoniae* type strain ATCC 17061) was the wild-type strain used in this study, and all mutants were derived from this strain. The 50 nonmotile mutants of *F. johnsoniae* (obtained from J. Pate) were previously described (5, 20, 39). The bacteriophages active against *F. johnsoniae* that were used in this study were  $\phi\text{Cj1}$ ,  $\phi\text{Cj7}$ ,  $\phi\text{Cj13}$ ,  $\phi\text{Cj23}$ ,  $\phi\text{Cj29}$ ,  $\phi\text{Cj42}$ ,  $\phi\text{Cj48}$ , and  $\phi\text{Cj54}$  (5, 28, 39). The *Escherichia coli* strains used were DH5 $\alpha$ MCR (GibcoBRL Life Technologies) and S17-1 (33). *E. coli* strains were grown in Luria-Bertani medium at 37°C, and *F. johnsoniae* strains were grown in Casitone-yeast extract (CYE) medium at 30°C as previously described (25). To observe colony spreading, *F. johnsoniae* was grown on PY2 agar medium (1) at 25°C. Chitin utilization was observed essentially as previously described (24), except that MYA medium (0.5 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 0.05 mM FeSO<sub>4</sub>, 0.04 mM EDTA, 20 mM potassium phosphate [pH 7.25], 0.1 g of yeast extract per liter, 15 g of agar per liter) was used instead of PY2 agar medium. Chitin powder (practical grade from crab shells; Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Mo.) was prepared as a 2% slurry essentially as described previously (30), and 3 ml of the chitin slurry was allowed to dry on top of solid MYA medium in 9-cm-diameter petri dishes. For radiolabeling experiments, cells were grown in SDY medium (0.5 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 0.05 mM FeSO<sub>4</sub>, 0.04 mM EDTA, 0.2 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 18.7 mM NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, 22.2 mM glucose, 0.1 g of yeast extract per liter, 20 mM potassium phosphate [pH 7.25]) as previously described (24). Antibiotics were used at the following concentrations when needed: ampicillin, 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ; erythromycin, 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ; kanamycin, 30  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ; tetracycline, 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ . Plasmids and primers used in this study are listed in Table 1.

**Cloning of *gldI*.** GldI was cloned from a cosmid library of wild-type *F. johnsoniae* DNA in pCP26 essentially as previously described (20). Cosmids were transferred into the nonmotile mutant UW102-41 by conjugation, and complemented (spreading) colonies were isolated. The cosmids pCP500 and pCP507, which share a 7-kbp region of overlap (Fig. 1), each complemented UW102-41. Subclones were generated to determine the minimal region required for complementation. pMM258 was constructed by inserting the 6.3-kbp SacI fragment of pCP500, which has 3.0 kbp of vector DNA (including *tetR* and *tetA*) and 3.3 kbp of *F. johnsoniae* DNA (including *ppiB*, *fjo20*, and *fjo21*), into pCP11. pMM259 was constructed by inserting the 6.6-kbp SacI fragment of pCP507, which has the same 3.0-kbp fragment of vector DNA and 3.6 kbp of *F. johnsoniae* DNA (including *fjo19* and *gldI*), into pCP11. pMM268 was constructed by cloning the 2.3-kbp EcoRI-EcoRV fragment of pMM259 spanning *fjo19* into the *SmaI* site of pCP11. To construct a clone carrying just *gldI*, a 1,032-bp fragment spanning *gldI* was amplified by PCR using primers 476 and 459. This fragment was cloned into the EcoRV site of pT7Blue and transferred as a SacI-XbaI fragment into pCP11

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TABLE 1. Plasmids and primers used in this study<sup>a</sup>

Plasmid or primer	Description <sup>b</sup>	Reference
<b>Plasmids</b>		
pT7Blue	ColE1 <i>ori</i> ; Ap <sup>r</sup>	Novagen
pHP45Ωkan	Plasmid carrying Km <sup>r</sup> cassette with transcriptional terminators at each end; Ap <sup>r</sup> Km <sup>r</sup>	8
pCP11	<i>E. coli</i> - <i>F. johnsoniae</i> shuttle plasmid; Ap <sup>r</sup> (Em <sup>r</sup> )	25
pCP23	<i>E. coli</i> - <i>F. johnsoniae</i> shuttle plasmid; Ap <sup>r</sup> (Tc <sup>r</sup> )	1
pCP26	<i>E. coli</i> - <i>F. johnsoniae</i> shuttle cosmid; Km <sup>r</sup> Tc <sup>r</sup> (Em <sup>r</sup> )	20
pCP500	Cosmid clone carrying <i>gldI</i> ; Tc <sup>r</sup> (Em <sup>r</sup> )	This study
pCP507	Cosmid clone carrying <i>gldI</i> ; Tc <sup>r</sup> (Em <sup>r</sup> )	This study
pMM258	6.3-kbp SacI fragment of pCP500 (spanning <i>ppiB</i> , <i>fjo20</i> , and <i>fjo21</i> ) in pCP11; Ap <sup>r</sup> Tc <sup>r</sup> (Em <sup>r</sup> )	This study
pMM259	6.6-kbp SacI fragment of pCP507 (spanning <i>fjo19</i> and <i>gldI</i> ) in pCP11; Ap <sup>r</sup> Tc <sup>r</sup> (Em <sup>r</sup> )	This study
pMM268	2.3-kbp EcoRI-EcoRV fragment of pMM259 (spanning <i>fjo19</i> ) in pCP11; Ap <sup>r</sup> (Em <sup>r</sup> )	This study
pMM291	1,032-bp fragment spanning <i>gldI</i> in pCP11; Ap <sup>r</sup> (Em <sup>r</sup> )	This study
pMM292	Identical to pMM291 except that <i>gldI</i> is inserted in the opposite orientation; Ap <sup>r</sup> (Em <sup>r</sup> )	This study
pMM296	pMM291 with the Km <sup>r</sup> cassette from pHP45Ωkan inserted upstream of <i>gldI</i> ; Ap <sup>r</sup> Km <sup>r</sup> (Em <sup>r</sup> )	This study
pMM297	Identical to pMM296 except that the Km <sup>r</sup> cassette is inserted in the opposite orientation; Ap <sup>r</sup> Km <sup>r</sup> (Em <sup>r</sup> )	This study
pTB39	Recombinant <i>gldB-his</i> in pCP23; expresses GldI with a carboxy-terminal His tag; Ap <sup>r</sup> (Tc <sup>r</sup> )	24
pTB45	Recombinant <i>gldI-his</i> in pCP23; expresses GldI with a carboxy-terminal His tag; Ap <sup>r</sup> (Tc <sup>r</sup> )	This study
<b>Primers</b>		
459	5' GAATAAACGAGCTAACGGC 3'; primer used for construction of <i>gldI</i> -containing plasmids pMM291 and pMM292	
476	5' TCTTACATGACTTTGACTCAGG 3'; primer used for construction of <i>gldI</i> -containing plasmids and pTB45	
574	5' TTATTAATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGTTGGTTTAATGTATCTTTTTAGTTTGAGCTGC 3'; primer used during construction of pTB45	

<sup>a</sup> Antibiotic resistance phenotypes are indicated as follows: Ap<sup>r</sup>, ampicillin resistance; Em<sup>r</sup>, erythromycin resistance; Km<sup>r</sup>, kanamycin resistance; Tc<sup>r</sup>, tetracycline resistance. Unless indicated otherwise, antibiotic resistance phenotypes are those expressed in *E. coli*. Antibiotic resistance phenotypes listed in parentheses are those expressed in *F. johnsoniae* but not in *E. coli*.

<sup>b</sup> For primers, both the sequence and description are given.

to generate pMM291 and pMM292. pMM292 is identical to pMM291 except that *gldI* is inserted in the opposite orientation. pMM296 was generated by inserting the 2.1-kbp *Bam*HI fragment of pHP45Ωkan, which carries a kanamycin resistance cassette with transcription termination signals on each end, into the *Sma*I site of pMM291. pMM297 was identical to pMM296 except that the kanamycin resistance cassette was inserted in the opposite orientation. For complementation analyses, plasmids were introduced into the *F. johnsoniae* mutants by conjugation or electroporation as previously described (20, 25).

**Construction of pTB45.** A modified version of *gldI* which encodes GldI-His (GldI containing eight histidine residues at the carboxy terminus) was constructed to allow isolation and detection of recombinant GldI-His from *F. johnsoniae* extracts. *gldI* was amplified using elongase (Life Technologies) and primers 476 and 574. The product was cloned into the *Sma*I site of pCP23 to generate pTB45.

**Nucleic acid sequencing.** Nucleic acid sequencing was performed by the dideoxynucleotide procedure using an automated sequencing system (Applied

Biosystems). Sequences were analyzed with MacVector and AssemblyLign software (Oxford Molecular Group Inc., Campbell, Calif.), and comparisons to database sequences were made using the BLAST (2) and FASTA (29) algorithms. Predictions regarding cellular localization were made using PSORT (<http://PSORT.NIBB.AC.JP/>) (26).

**Microscopic observations of cell movement.** Wild-type and mutant cells of *F. johnsoniae* were examined for movement over glass and agar surfaces and for their ability to propel polystyrene latex spheres by phase-contrast microscopy as previously described (24).

**Measurements of bacteriophage sensitivity.** Sensitivity to *F. johnsoniae* bacteriophages was determined essentially as previously described by spotting 2.5 μl of phage lysates (6 × 10<sup>7</sup> PFU/ml) onto lawns of cells in CYE overlay agar (20). The plates were incubated for 24 h at 25°C to observe lysis.

**Cell fractionation and Western blot analyses.** *F. johnsoniae* cells were disrupted with a French press and fractionated into soluble and membrane fractions by centrifugation at 223,160 × g for 60 min as described previously (18). Proteins

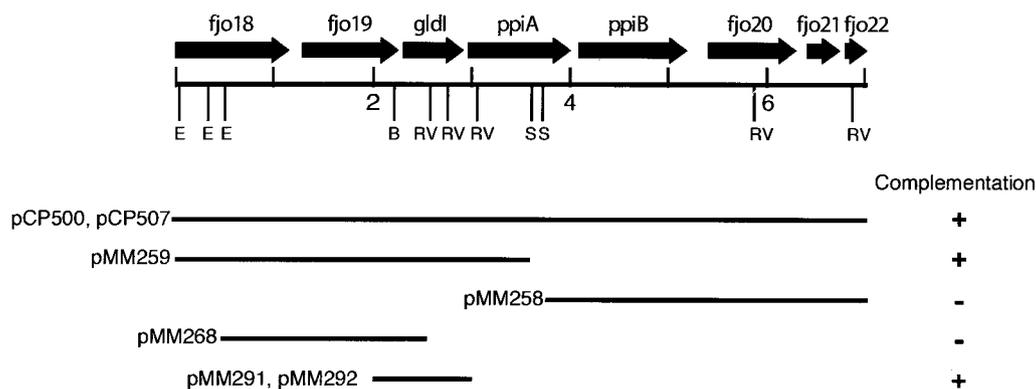


FIG. 1. Map of the *gldI* region of *F. johnsoniae*. Restriction sites are indicated as follows: B, BglII; E, EcoRI; RV, EcoRV; and S, SacI. Kilobase pair positions 2, 4, and 6 are indicated. The presence (+) or absence (-) of complementation of *gldI* mutants by fragments cloned into shuttle vectors is indicated beneath the map.

were separated by sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE), and Western blot analyses were performed as previously described (18) except that GldI-His was detected using His-Tag monoclonal antibody (Novagen, Madison, Wis.). Protein concentrations were measured with the bicinchoninic acid reagent (Pierce, Rockford, Ill.).

**In vivo radiolabeling with [ $^3\text{H}$ ]palmitate and [ $^3\text{H}$ ]glutamate.** To identify lipoproteins, cells of wild-type and mutant strains of *F. johnsoniae* were incubated for 3 h in SDY broth containing 50  $\mu\text{Ci}$  of [ $^3\text{H}$ ]palmitate or [ $^3\text{H}$ ]glutamate per ml. Specifically, [9,10- $^3\text{H}$ ]palmitate (48 Ci/mmol; Perkin-Elmer Life Sciences, Boston, Mass.) or L-[3,4- $^3\text{H}$ ]glutamic acid (51 Ci/mmol; Perkin-Elmer Life Sciences) was used to label the proteins. Radiolabeled proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and detected by autoradiography as previously described (24). To determine whether GldI is a lipoprotein, cells expressing GldB-His and cells expressing GldI-His were labeled with [ $^3\text{H}$ ]palmitate and [ $^3\text{H}$ ]glutamate as previously described (24). Cells were lysed, recombinant His-tagged proteins were isolated using Ni-NTA His-Bind resin (Novagen) and separated by SDS-PAGE, and radiolabeled proteins were detected by autoradiography as described previously (24).

**Genetic nomenclature.** Genes required for gliding motility were given the name *gld* followed by a letter. Open reading frames (ORFs) that exhibited strong sequence similarity to genes of known function were named after the corresponding genes. ORFs of unknown function that did not exhibit strong similarity to previously described genes were given the provisional name *fjo* (for "*F. johnsoniae* ORF") followed by a number.

**Nucleotide sequence accession number.** The sequence reported in this paper has been deposited in the GenBank database under accession number AF527792.

## RESULTS

**Identification of *gldI*.** UW102-41 is a spontaneous nonmotile mutant of *F. johnsoniae* UW101 (5). Cells of UW102-41 formed nonspreading colonies on PY2 agar (Fig. 2B), whereas wild-type cells formed spreading colonies (Fig. 2A). Wild-type cells also exhibited rapid motility in wet mounts and actively propelled latex spheres along their surfaces, while UW102-41 cells did not exhibit motility in wet mounts and failed to propel latex spheres. A cosmid library containing wild-type *F. johnsoniae* DNA in pCP26 was transferred by conjugation into UW102-41, and spreading colonies were obtained. pCP500 and pCP507, which share a 7-kbp region of overlap, were isolated from two of the complemented mutants. Introduction of either plasmid into UW102-41 restored the ability of cells to glide over glass surfaces, to propel latex spheres, and to form spreading colonies.

The nucleotide sequence of the 7-kbp region of overlap between pCP500 and pCP507 was determined, and eight genes were identified (Fig. 1). Plasmids carrying portions of this DNA were used to determine the minimal region required for complementation of UW102-41. Introduction of pMM259 (which contains *fjo19* and *gldI*), pMM291 (which contains *gldI*), or pMM292 (which contains *gldI*) into UW102-41 resulted in complementation (Fig. 1 and 2C). The colonies spread over agar, and cells exhibited rapid gliding motility in wet mounts and propelled latex spheres. In contrast, introduction of pMM258 (which contains *ppiB*, *fjo20*, and *fjo21*) and pMM268 (which contains *fjo19*) into UW102-41 did not restore colony spreading, cell movement, or sphere movement. To determine whether *gldI* on pMM291 was expressed from its native promoter or from a promoter in the vector, the omega kanamycin resistance cassette (8), which has transcription terminators at each end, was inserted 313 bp upstream of the *gldI* start codon in pMM291 to generate pMM296 and pMM297. This cassette has previously been shown to disrupt expression of *F. johnsoniae* genes (24). pMM296 and pMM297 restored colony

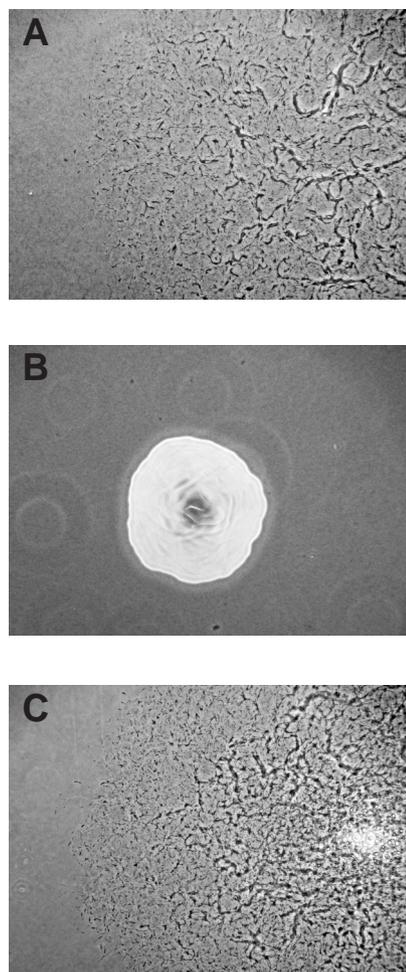


FIG. 2. Photomicrographs of *F. johnsoniae* colonies. Colonies were grown for 30 h at 25°C on PY2 agar medium. Photomicrographs were taken with a Kodak DC290 digital camera mounted on an Olympus IMT-2 inverted microscope. (A) Wild-type *F. johnsoniae* UW101; (B) *gldI* mutant UW102-41; (C) UW102-41 complemented with pMM291, which carries *gldI*. Bar, 1 mm.

spreading, motility, and sphere movement to UW102-41, indicating that the 1,032-bp region contained on pMM291 was sufficient for expression of *gldI*.

**Identification of additional *gldI* mutants.** Strain UW102-41 is one of 50 spontaneous and chemically induced nonmotile mutants isolated by Chang et al. (5) and Wolkin and Pate (39). The genes that are mutated in 18 of these mutants have been identified (1, 18–20, 24). pCP500 was introduced into the remaining 32 mutants to determine whether *gldI* or nearby genes are defective in any of these mutants. Introduction of pCP500 restored motility to UW102-85 and UW102-92 in addition to UW102-41 but did not restore motility to the other mutants. Introduction of pMM291, which spans just *gldI*, was sufficient to restore motility to UW102-85, UW102-92, and UW102-41. The exact sites of the mutations in each mutant were determined by amplification and sequencing of the *gldI* genes. Each mutation was the result of insertion or deletion of a single

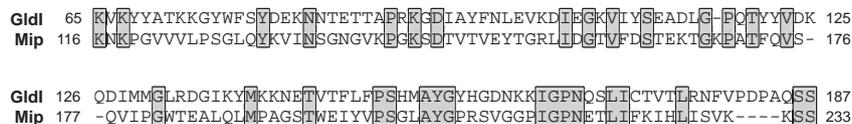


FIG. 3. Alignment of *F. johnsoniae* GldI sequence with *L. pneumophila* Mip sequence. Identical residues are boxed and shaded. The numbers are amino acid residue positions starting from the amino terminus of each protein. Full-length GldI has 218 amino acids, and Mip has 233 amino acids. Gaps introduced to maximize alignment are indicated by dashes.

nucleotide. UW102-41 had a G deleted at position 42 (numbered from the A of the *gldI* start codon), while UW102-85 had a G inserted at position 342, and UW102-92 had a C deleted at position 91.

**Analysis of *gldI* and surrounding DNA.** *gldI* encodes a predicted primary product of 218 amino acid residues. The amino-terminal sequence (MNYLKISIIYSLFLFAVLLAGCKHHEE) contains a hydrophobic region terminated by a cysteine (underlined), which is characteristic of lipoproteins. Lipoproteins undergo a series of modifications that result in cleavage of the signal peptide and covalent attachment of multiple lipid moieties to the amino-terminal cysteine (13). These modifications result in localization to either the cytoplasmic membrane or the outer membrane, depending on the particular protein. The predicted molecular mass of the final GldI protein (after cleavage of the signal peptide but without lipid modifications) is 22.3 kDa. The GldI sequence is similar to the sequences of PPIases of the FKBP family (Fig. 3), such as the *Legionella pneumophila* macrophage infectivity potentiator Mip (27% identity over 139 amino acids) (7) and *Neisseria meningitidis* MC58 Mip (29% identity over 137 amino acids) (36). Given the moderate level of similarity, we cannot conclude that GldI functions as a PPIase, but critical regions of PPIases, such as the AYG triplet at residues 154 to 156 that is thought to be part of the active site of other FKBP (11, 31), are present in GldI. GldI is predicted to have a basic isoelectric point (pI 9.49), a trait that it shares with *L. pneumophila* Mip (predicted pI 8.76) but not with *N. meningitidis* Mip (predicted pI 5.32).

The two genes that lie immediately downstream of *gldI* (*ppiA* and *ppiB*) encode putative PPIases that are similar to each other (58% identity over 328 amino acids). The amino-terminal 200-amino-acid sequences of PpiA and PpiB are similar to the sequences of members of the cyclophilin/rotamase family of PPIases, such as *Treponema pallidum* PpiB (32). *F. johnsoniae* PpiA and PpiB exhibit 56% identity over 174 amino acids and 53% identity over 163 amino acids to *T. pallidum* PpiB, respectively. Also, *F. johnsoniae* PpiA and PpiB each have a carboxy-terminal domain of approximately 125 residues that is similar to those of members of the FKBP family of PPIases (up to 56% amino acid identity), but they exhibit more limited similarity (36 and 32% identity, respectively, over 52 amino acid residues) to *F. johnsoniae* GldI. The functions of PpiA and PpiB in *F. johnsoniae* are not known, and there is no evidence linking either gene to gliding motility. The remaining genes in the 7-kbp region encode proteins with functions apparently unrelated to PPIases or to gliding motility. Fjo18 is similar to putative voltage-gated chloride channel proteins such as *Pseudomonas syringae* PSPT04619 (42% identity over 382 amino acids) (3). Fjo19 is similar to *Mycoplasma genitalium* MgpA (25% identity over 295 amino acids) whose exact func-

tion is not known (9). Fjo20 is similar to members of the drug/metabolite transporter family (National Center for Biotechnology Information [NCBI] conserved domain COG5006), Fjo21 does not display significant similarity to proteins of known function, and Fjo22, which is only partially sequenced, is similar to *E. coli* aquaporin AqpZ (84% identity over 78 amino acids) (4).

**Mutation of *gldI* does not alter growth rate.** Disruption of a gene encoding a PPIase involved in protein folding could cause growth defects and result in loss of motility as a secondary effect. The growth rates at 30°C of wild-type cells and of cells of the *gldI* mutant UW102-41 were determined in a medium containing Casitone and yeast extract (CYE) and in a medium containing glucose as the primary carbon and energy source (SDY). The growth rates were similar for the two strains. The doubling times in CYE medium were 45 min ( $\pm 4$  min) for wild-type cells and 42 min ( $\pm 5$  min) for the *gldI* mutant. In SDY medium, the doubling times were 144 min ( $\pm 9$  min) for wild-type cells and 140 min ( $\pm 8$  min) for the *gldI* mutant.

**Localization of GldI-His and effects of mutations in *gldI* on other Gld proteins.** To determine the probable localization of GldI, pTB45 expressing GldI-His was introduced into *F. johnsoniae* UW102-41. GldI-His was functional, since it restored motility to UW102-41 (data not shown). His-Tag monoclonal antisera was used to detect GldI-His in cell extracts. GldI-His migrated with an apparent molecular mass of approximately 27 kDa and was found primarily in the membrane fraction (Fig. 4). The similarity of GldI to PPIases involved in protein folding suggested that it might be required for folding and stability of proteins involved in gliding motility. Western

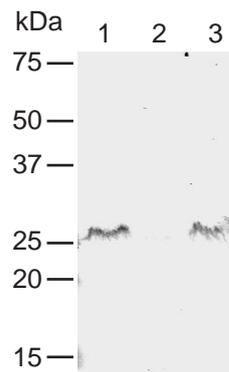


FIG. 4. Localization of GldI-His. Cells of *F. johnsoniae* UW102-41 expressing GldI-His from pTB45 were fractionated, and GldI-His was detected by Western blot analysis. Lane 1, whole cells; lane 2, soluble fraction; lane 3, membrane fraction. Equal amounts of protein were loaded in each lane.

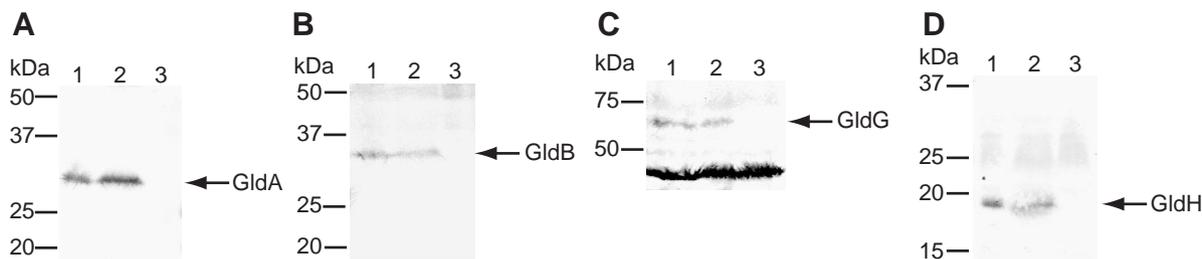


FIG. 5. Effect of mutation in *gldI* on other Gld proteins. Cell extracts (20 μg of protein per lane) were examined for GldA (A), GldB (B), GldG (C), and GldH (D) proteins by Western blot analysis. In panels A to D, lane 1 contains wild-type cells and lane 2 contains cells of the *gldI* mutant UW102-41, while lane 3 contains cells of the *gldA* mutant *F. johnsoniae* CJ288 (A), cells of the *gldB* mutant *F. johnsoniae* CJ569 (B), cells of the *gldFG* mutant *F. johnsoniae* CJ787 (C), and cells of the *gldH* mutant *F. johnsoniae* CJ1043 (D).

blots developed with antibodies against GldA, GldB, GldG, and GldH were used to determine the effect of a mutation in *gldI* on the level of each of these proteins. Cells of wild-type *F. johnsoniae* and of the *gldI* mutant UW102-41 had approximately equal amounts of GldA, GldB, GldG, and GldH proteins (Fig. 5).

**GldI is a lipoprotein.** Sequence analysis suggested that *F. johnsoniae* GldI may be a lipoprotein. To detect lipoproteins, cells were labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate as described in Materials and Methods. In a parallel experiment, cells were labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]glutamate to label essentially all proteins. A limited subset of wild-type cell proteins were labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate, and the results confirmed that, as previously described (24), label from [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate was not rapidly incorporated into amino acids (Fig. 6A, compare lanes 1 and 2). The lipoprotein profiles

of cells with mutations in *gldI* were largely similar to those of wild-type cells, but a band of approximately 70 kDa was not present in the lipoprotein profile of the *gldI* mutant and the intensities of several other bands were lower than those from the wild-type cells (Fig. 6A, lane 3). The 70-kDa lipoprotein, which is much larger than GldI, was also missing in cells with mutations in *gldB*, *gldD*, and *gldH* (24). The presence of abundant lipoproteins of 22 to 27 kDa complicated detection of GldI (predicted molecular mass of 22.3 kDa after cleavage of signal peptide but without lipid modification).

To determine whether GldI was labeled, *F. johnsoniae* UW102-41 expressing recombinant GldI-His from pTB45 was utilized. Cells were incubated with [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate or [<sup>3</sup>H]glutamate, and proteins were isolated using Ni-NTA His-Bind resin. The eluted proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE, and radiolabeled proteins were detected by autoradiography. Cells expressing the lipoprotein GldB-His from pTB39 (24) were processed similarly as a control. GldI-His, which migrated with an apparent molecular mass of 27 kDa, was labeled by [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate, which suggests that it is a lipoprotein (Fig. 6B, lane 3). Cells carrying pTB39 produced radiolabeled GldB-His but, as expected, did not produce a labeled protein with a size similar to that of GldI-His (Fig. 6B, lane 1). This suggests that the 27-kDa band observed in Fig. 6B, lane 3, is GldI-His, rather than some other labeled protein. Incubation with [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate resulted in more intense labeling of GldI-His than did incubation with [<sup>3</sup>H]glutamate (Fig. 6B, lanes 3 and 4), despite the fact that label from [<sup>3</sup>H]glutamate was more readily incorporated into most proteins (Fig. 6A, lanes 1 and 2). This suggests that labeling was not the result of metabolism of [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate into amino acids before incorporation into GldI-His.

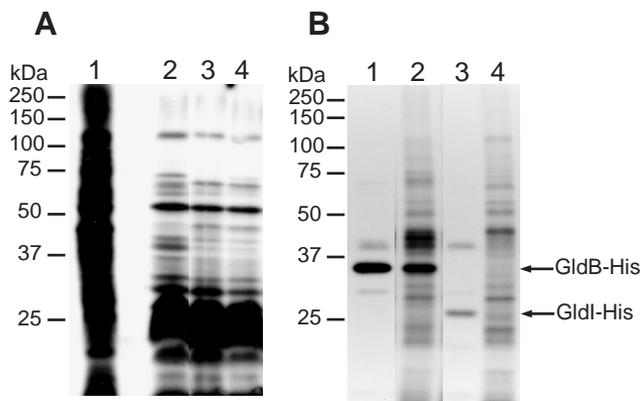


FIG. 6. GldI is a lipoprotein. (A) Cells of *F. johnsoniae* were labeled with either [<sup>3</sup>H]glutamate (to label nearly all proteins) or [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate (to label lipoproteins). Proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and detected by autoradiography. Lane 1, wild-type cells labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]glutamate; lane 2, wild-type cells labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate; lane 3, cells of the *gldI* mutant UW102-41 labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate; lane 4, cells of UW102-41 complemented with pMM291 (which carries *gldI*) labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate. (B) Radiolabeling of GldB-His and GldI-His. Cells of *F. johnsoniae* were labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate or [<sup>3</sup>H]glutamate. Proteins were isolated by precipitation with Ni-NTA His-Bind resin, separated by SDS-PAGE, and detected by autoradiography. Lane 1, cells expressing GldB-His from pTB39, labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate; lane 2, cells expressing GldB-His from pTB39, labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]glutamate; lane 3, cells expressing GldI-His from pTB45, labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]palmitate; lane 4, cells expressing GldI-His from pTB45, labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]glutamate.

**The *gldI* mutant UW102-41 is resistant to bacteriophage infection.** Many nonmotile mutants of *F. johnsoniae* are resistant to infection by bacteriophages (38). The sensitivity of *F. johnsoniae* strains UW101, UW102-41, and CJ1172 (UW102-41 carrying pMM291) to the *F. johnsoniae* bacteriophages φCj1, φCj13, φCj23, φCj28, φCj29, φCj42, φCj48, and φCj54 was tested. *F. johnsoniae* UW101 was lysed by these phages (Fig. 7A), whereas the *gldI* mutant UW102-41 was resistant to each of the phages (Fig. 7B). Introduction of wild-type *gldI* on pMM291 into UW102-41 restored bacteriophage sensitivity in addition to restoring gliding motility (Fig. 7C).

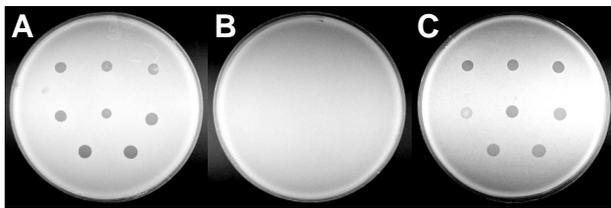


FIG. 7. Effect of mutation in *gldI* on bacteriophage resistance. Bacteriophages ( $2.5 \mu\text{l}$  of lysates containing approximately  $6 \times 10^7$  phage/ml) were spotted onto lawns of cells in CYE overlay agar. Bacteriophages were spotted onto three strains of *F. johnsoniae*, the wild-type strain (A), the *gldI* mutant strain UW102-41 (B), and strain UW102-41 complemented with pMM291 (which carries *gldI*) (C). The plates were incubated at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h to observe lysis. Bacteriophages were applied to the bacteria in the following order from left to right: for the top row,  $\phi\text{Cj1}$ ,  $\phi\text{Cj13}$ , and  $\phi\text{Cj23}$ ; for the middle row,  $\phi\text{Cj28}$ ,  $\phi\text{Cj29}$ , and  $\phi\text{Cj42}$ ; for the bottom row,  $\phi\text{Cj48}$  and  $\phi\text{Cj54}$ . The diameter of the petri dish is 9 cm.

**The *gldI* mutant UW102-41 is defective in chitin utilization.** Wild-type cells of *F. johnsoniae* digest chitin (34), while many nonmotile mutants fail to utilize this insoluble polysaccharide (5, 24). The effect of a mutation in *gldI* on chitin utilization was determined in MYA medium supplemented with chitin as the primary carbon, energy, and nitrogen source. Wild-type cells readily digested chitin (Fig. 8A), while cells of the *gldI* mutant UW102-41 failed to digest chitin (Fig. 8B). Complementation with pMM291 restored the ability to digest chitin (Fig. 8C) in addition to restoring gliding motility. Similar results were obtained when utilization of chitin was tested on PY2 medium with chitin (data not shown). PY2-chitin medium contains peptone and yeast extract and allows growth of strains regardless of whether they are able to utilize chitin.

## DISCUSSION

The mechanism responsible for *F. johnsoniae* gliding motility is not known. Seven genes (*gldA*, *gldB*, *gldD*, *gldF*, *gldG*,

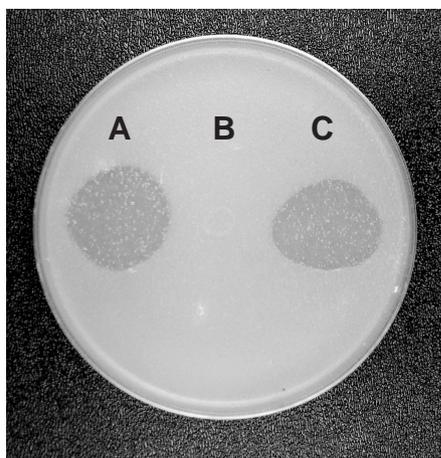


FIG. 8. Effect of mutation in *gldI* on the ability to utilize chitin. Approximately  $4 \times 10^7$  cells of wild-type *F. johnsoniae* (A), the *gldI* mutant strain UW102-41 (B), and strain UW102-41 complemented with pMM291 (which carries *gldI*) (C) were spotted on MYA-chitin medium and incubated for 6 days at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ .

*gldH*, and *ftsX*) that are required for gliding have previously been described (1, 18–21). GldA, GldF, and GldG are thought to constitute an ABC transporter that is required for cell movement. The functions of the other proteins in gliding are not known. The results presented in this paper identify another gene, *gldI*, that is required for gliding. Mutations in *gldI* eliminated gliding motility, and introduction of a wild-type copy of *gldI* on a plasmid restored motility to the mutants.

GldI exhibits sequence similarity to PPIases involved in protein folding. PPIases catalyze the isomerization of peptide bonds that are N terminal to proline residues (10) and are found in bacteria, archaea, and eukaryotes. Bacterial PPIases may be cytoplasmic, periplasmic, or membrane associated. PPIases can generally be assigned to one of three families that appear to have evolved independently: the cyclophilins, parvulins, and FKBP. GldI is similar to bacterial members of the FKBP family, such as *L. pneumophila* Mip (7). *L. pneumophila* Mip is a cell surface protein that is involved in virulence and contributes to the ability of cells to survive within phagocytic cells (6, 14, 15). GldI may be involved in protein folding in the cell envelope. Cells with mutations in *gldI* exhibited normal growth rates, indicating that *gldI* is not essential for growth. GldI may be required for proper assembly of the motility apparatus or may play a role in the function of the apparatus during cell movement. One model to explain gliding proposes that export and import of macromolecules result in cell movement. If these transported macromolecules are proteins, GldI may be required to facilitate their folding and transport.

GldI appears to be a lipoprotein. *F. johnsoniae* produces many additional lipoproteins at least three of which, GldB, GldD, and GldH, are required for gliding (24). It is not known why such a large fraction of the identified Gld proteins are lipoproteins. The Gld proteins may assemble to form a multi-protein complex in the cell envelope, and membrane anchoring of the Gld lipoproteins may facilitate formation of this complex.

The properties of *gldI* mutants were similar to those of previously studied *gld* mutants (1, 18–20, 24). In addition to complete loss of cell movement and colony spreading, cells of *gldI* mutants, like those of other *gld* mutants, failed to propel latex spheres, were resistant to a variety of bacteriophages that infect wild-type cells, and failed to digest chitin. It has previously been suggested that gliding motility, chitin utilization, and bacteriophage infection may each rely on one or more transporters that are defective in the *gld* mutants, but the exact roles of the transporters in cell movement are not known (24).

During the course of this analysis, we found that *F. johnsoniae* UW101 digested chitin 5 to 10 times more rapidly than we have previously reported (24). Apparently the “wild-type” strain that we had used in previous work was a spontaneous mutant with decreased ability to utilize chitin. This strain, which was formerly referred to as *F. johnsoniae* UW101 and which we now refer to as *F. johnsoniae* MM101, was used to isolate all of the Tn4351-induced mutants that we have previously described (1, 18–21, 24). *F. johnsoniae* MM101 was obtained from J. Pate in 1990 and has been stored at  $-80^\circ\text{C}$  since then. *F. johnsoniae* MM101 had probably been maintained without selection for the ability to digest chitin and had lost some but not all ability to attack this insoluble polysaccha-

ride. *F. johnsoniae* MM101 forms spreading colonies and exhibits wild-type gliding motility.

The wild-type strain used in the present study (UW101) was recently revived from a lyophil prepared by J. Pate in 1982 and was the parent strain for the *gldI* point mutants described in this study (5). UW101 was also the parent for the strains with point mutations in *gldA*, *gldB*, *gldD*, *gldF*, *gldG*, and *gldH* that have been previously described (1, 5, 18–20, 24, 39). UW101 was originally derived from the *F. johnsoniae* type strain, ATCC 17061. The type strain is composed of two stable colony types (yellow and nonpigmented) that appear identical except for pigmentation. UW101 (and MM101) cells are descendants of a yellow colony of *F. johnsoniae* ATCC 17061. MM101 appears to be identical to UW101 except for the partial defect in ability to use chitin. Apparent defects in chitin utilization for strains derived from *F. johnsoniae* ATCC 17061 have previously been reported (12).

To determine whether UW101 or MM101 is more similar to the parent strain, *F. johnsoniae* ATCC 17061 was obtained from the American Type Culture Collection, and a single yellow colony was isolated. We refer to this strain as *F. johnsoniae* FJ1. FJ1 was indistinguishable from UW101 in all properties tested, including motility and the ability to digest chitin. Analysis of 4 kbp of DNA from *F. johnsoniae* strains UW101, MM101, and FJ1 revealed identical sequences, confirming that they are all derived from the same parent. The decreased chitin utilization ability of MM101 does not alter any of our conclusions from previous studies (1, 18–21, 24), but it is important to be aware of the history of each nonmotile mutant so that comparison of chitin degradative ability is made to the appropriate wild-type parent strain.

Gliding motility is not confined to the *Cytophaga-Flavobacterium-Bacteroides* group (23). *Myxococcus xanthus*, a gliding member of the delta subgroup of *Proteobacteria*, has two motility systems, the S (social) and A (adventurous) gliding motility systems (16, 17). S-motility relies on pilus extension and retraction (35, 40). The mechanism of A-motility is not known but may involve polysaccharide secretion (37). There are many differences between the gliding behavior of *F. johnsoniae* and *M. xanthus* (23). Cells of *F. johnsoniae* move much faster than cells of *M. xanthus* and exhibit behaviors such as rotary movements and sphere movements that are not characteristic of *M. xanthus*. *F. johnsoniae* does not appear to have multiple motility systems, since single mutations in *gld* genes result in the complete loss of motility. Finally, although many genes involved in *F. johnsoniae* gliding and *M. xanthus* motility systems have been identified, there is little sequence similarity between the known motility genes of these bacteria. This may indicate that gliding evolved independently in the *Cytophaga-Flavobacterium-Bacteroides* group and in the myxobacteria. The motility systems of *F. johnsoniae* and *M. xanthus* exhibit some common features despite the limited sequence similarity of known motility genes. Transporters have been linked to gliding of both organisms, and it is possible that the motility systems share additional features (1, 18, 37, 41, 42).

A number of proteins required for *F. johnsoniae* gliding have been identified, but the mechanism of movement remains uncertain. Further analysis of *gldI* and other *gld* genes and proteins will help to determine the mechanisms of *F. johnsoniae* gliding motility and chitin utilization.

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