

1 Genome Announcement

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3 **Genome sequence of the plant pathogenic bacterium *Dickeya dadantii* 3937**

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6 Jeremy D. Glasner¹, Ching-Hong Yang², Sylvie Reverchon³, Nicole Hugouvieux-Cotte-
7 Pattat³, Guy Condemine³, Jean-Pierre Bohin⁴, Frédérique Van Gijsegem⁵, Shihui Yang²,
8 Thierry Franza⁵, Dominique Expert⁵, Guy Plunkett III⁶, Michael J. San Francisco⁷, Amy O.
9 Charkowski⁸, Béatrice Py⁹, Kenneth Bell¹⁰, Lise Rauscher⁵, Pablo Rodriguez-Palenzuela¹¹,
10 Ariane Toussaint¹², Maria C. Holeva¹⁰, Sheng Yang He¹³, Vanessa Douet⁹, Martine
11 Boccara¹⁴, Carlos Blanco¹⁵, Ian Toth¹⁰, Bradley D. Anderson¹, Bryan S. Biehl¹¹, Bob Mau¹,
12 Sarah M. Flynn¹⁰, Frédéric Barras⁹, Magdalen Lindeberg¹⁶, Paul Birch¹⁰, Shinji Tsuyumu¹⁷,
13 Xiangyang Shi¹⁸, Michael Hibbing¹, Mee-Ngan Yap⁸, Mathilde Carpentier¹⁴, Elie Dassa¹⁹,
14 Masahiro Umehara¹⁷, Jihyun F. Kim²⁰, Michael Rusch¹, Pritin Soni¹, George F. Mayhew¹,
15 Derrick E. Fouts²¹, Steven R. Gill²¹, Frederick R. Blattner⁶, Noel T. Keen¹⁸, and Nicole T.
16 Perna⁶

17

18 ¹ Genome Center, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 425 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706,
19 USA

20 ² Department of Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, WI 53211, USA

21 ³ Microbiologie, Adaptation et Pathogenie, UMR 5240 CNRS, Université Lyon 1
22 Villeurbanne 69622, INSA-Lyon, 69621 Villeurbanne Cedex, France

23 ⁴ UMR 8576 CNRS/U.S.T.L., Batiment C9, 59655 Villeneuve d'Ascq Cedex, France.

24 ⁵ Laboratoire Interactions Plantes-Pathogènes, UMR 217 INRA/INA-PG/UPMC, 16 rue
25 Claude Bernard, 75005 Paris, France

26 ⁶ Department of Genetics and Genome Center of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin –
27 Madison, 425 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706, USA

28 ⁷ Department of Biological Sciences, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409, USA

29 ⁸ Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, WI 53706,
30 USA

31 ⁹ Université de la Méditerranée, Laboratoire de Chimie Bactérienne, CNRS UPR9043,
32 13402 Marseille Cedex 20, France.

33 ¹⁰ Scottish Crop Research Institute, Invergowrie, Dundee DD2 5DA, UK

34 ¹¹ Departamento de Biotecnología-UPM, E.T.S. Ingenieros Agrónomos, E-28040 Madrid,
35 Spain

36 ¹² Service de Conformation de Macromolécules Biologiques et de Bioinformatique (SCMBB),
37 Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium

38 ¹³ MSU-DOE Plant Research Laboratory, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
39 48824-1312, USA

40 ¹⁴ Atelier de Bioinformatique, Université Paris 6, 75005 Paris, France

41 ¹⁵ CNRS UMR 6026, Université de Rennes I, 35042 Rennes cedex, France

42 ¹⁶ Magdalen Lindeberg, Department of Plant Pathology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
43 14853, USA

44 ¹⁷ Institute for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Shizuoka University, Shizuoka #422-
45 8529, Japan

46 ¹⁸ Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521, USA

47 ¹⁹ Unité des Membranes Bactériennes CNRS URA 2172, Département de Microbiologie
48 Fondamentale et Médicale, Institut Pasteur, 75724 Paris Cedex 15, France

49 ²⁰ Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology

50 ²¹ The Institute for Genomic Research, Rockville, MD 20850, USA

51

52 Corresponding author : Nicole T. Perna

53 Mailing address : Department of Genetics and Genome Center of Wisconsin, University of

54 Wisconsin – Madison, 425 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706, USA

55 Phone : 608-890-0171

56 Fax : 608-265-9485

57 E-mail : ntperna@wisc.edu

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61 **Abstract**

62 *Dickeya dadantii* is a plant pathogenic enterobacterium responsible of the soft rot disease of

63 many plants of economic importance. We present here the sequence of strain 3937, a strain

64 widely used as a model system for research on the molecular biology and pathogenicity of this

65 group of bacteria.

66 *Dickeya dadantii*, formerly *Erwinia chrysanthemi* (11), is the causative agent of soft rot
67 disease in a wide range of plants species, including many economically important crops (10).
68 Soft-rot results from maceration of plant tissues following degradation of pectin, the major
69 component of primary cell walls (7). *D. dadantii* is a devastating opportunistic pathogen in
70 storage organs and fleshy tissues particularly when compromised by bruising, excess water,
71 low oxygen levels or high temperature. *D. dadantii* is also associated with systemic
72 infections, vascular disorders, foliar necroses, and latent infections in growing plants. We
73 sequenced and annotated the complete genome of *Dickeya dadanti* strain 3937, a strain widely
74 used as a model system for research on molecular biology and pathogenicity of this group of
75 bacteria. Two whole genome shotgun libraries were prepared in plasmid pHOS2 with target
76 insert sizes of 2-3 Kb and 10-12 Kb. We collected approximately 67,000 dual-end sequences,
77 67% from small insert clones and 33% from the larger insert library. Sequences were
78 assembled into contigs using the Celera assembler (9), and this assembly was transferred to
79 SeqMan II (LaserGene) for finishing. Primer-walking was employed to close gaps covered by
80 clones available from the shotgun libraries. Remaining gaps were closed by sequencing PCR
81 products generated using primers designed from the ends of assembled and ordered contigs.
82 PCR products spanning each ribosomal RNA operon were sequenced separately to resolve
83 sequence differences between copies. We used Glimmer 2.0 (3) for initial prediction of
84 protein coding regions. We added, deleted and revised endpoints of genes based on
85 comparisons to other genomes and genes and proteins in the Genpept database. tRNA
86 sequences were identified using tRNAscan-SE (8) with additional examination to identify
87 specific tRNAs not distinguishable by their anticodons alone. rRNA genes were identified by
88 comparison to other enterobacterial sequences using BLASTN. Additional functional RNA
89 genes were identified by sequence similarity to known *E. coli* K-12 RNA genes or entries in
90 the RFAM database (5, 6). The *D. dadantii* gene products were annotated using the RAST

91 automated pipeline (1) and manually augmented by domain experts using ASAP (4). This
92 rich manual annotation is not fully represented in GenBank, but is publicly available in its
93 entirety through ASAP (<https://asap.ahabs.wisc.edu/asap/home.php>).

94 The complete circular chromosome of *D. dadantii* 3937 is 4,922,802 base pairs with
95 57% GC content. There are no extrachromosomal elements. In ASAP, there are 4,543
96 predicted or known protein-coding genes, 22 rRNA genes organized into seven operons, 75
97 predicted tRNAs, and 20 noncoding RNA genes. Orthologs of the *D. dadantii* proteins in
98 other sequenced enterobacteria were identified as best-matching proteins from pairwise
99 BLASTP searches. Not surprisingly, the largest number of putative orthologs, 2992, is found
100 in *Pectobacterium atrosepticum*, which is both phylogenetically and phenotypically most
101 similar to *D. dadantii* (2). Interestingly, these account for only 67% of the *P. atrosepticum*
102 and 66% of the *D. dadantii* predicted protein-coding genes, underscoring the differences
103 between these pectinolytic bacteria.

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105 **Nucleotide sequence accession number.** The sequence has been deposited in Genbank as
106 accession number CP002038.

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