

Gene Annotation of Ksed_04940, a Putative Copper Chaperone Protein in *Kytococcus sedentarius*

Lucas Haskin and Lon Knappenberger

Westfield Academy and Central School, Westfield, New York 14787 and The Western New York Genetics in Research Partnership

Abstract

Kytococcus sedentarius is a Gram-positive cocci. A gene with the locus tag of Ksed_04940 in this bacteria's genome was annotated to verify computer called information and look for possible function for the gene product. Eight GENI-ACT modules were used to gather this information. The results show the Ksed_04940 protein is likely to be extracellular, but it does not have a signal peptide. The top BLAST hits of Ksed_04940 all are copper binding proteins, whereas the top COG hit is for copper chaperone CopZ. These findings support the computer call gene of Ksed_04940 as a copper binding protein. Further the COG hit suggests that Ksed_04940 is a copper binding involved in chaperoning metal ions into intracellular compartments or to copper dependent enzymes.

Introduction

Kytococcus sedentarius is a Gram positive bacterium that is arranged in packets of eight in a cubical shape¹. *Kytococcus sedentarius* was found on a partially submerged swing set in San Diego California². It is a coccid or spherical shaped bacterium that can live on the skin (Figure 1)¹.

The genome of *Kytococcus sedentarius* is 541,278,024 bp long and codes for 2,703 genes. Of the 2,703 genes predicted, 2,639 were protein-coding genes. 72.1% of these genes were assigned with a predicted function while the remaining ones were annotated as hypothetical proteins.

The gene sequence of Ksed_04940 had the DNA coordinates of 489574...489903, containing 330 base pairs that code for 109 amino acids¹.

The purpose was of this study was to determine if the computer annotation of Ksed_04940 was correct. Annotation of Ksed_04940 also allowed a better understanding a poorly studied family within the bacterial suborder *Micrococccineae*, determined a possible function of the gene product and provided an opportunity for student original research.

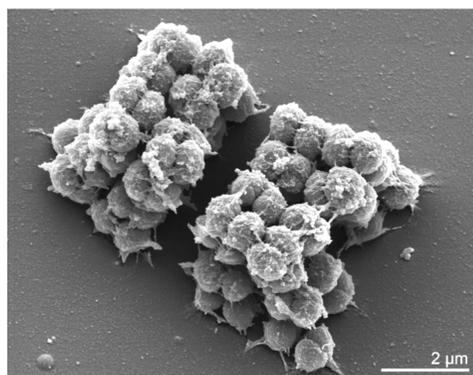


Figure 1. A scanning electron micrograph of *Kytococcus sedentarius* growing in the characteristic cuboidal packet form (Sims et al., 2009)

Materials and Methods

Modules of the GENI-ACT (<http://www.geni-act.org/>) were used to complete *Kytococcus sedentarius* genome annotation. The modules are described below:

Modules	Activities	Questions Investigated
Module 1- Basic Information Module	DNA Coordinates and Sequence, Protein Sequence	What is the sequence of my gene and protein? Where is it located in the genome?
Module 2- Sequence-Based Similarity Data	Blast, CDD, T-Coffee, WebLogo	Is my sequence similar to other sequences in Genbank?
Module 3- Cellular Localization Data	Gram Stain, TMHMM, SignalP, PSORT, Phobius	Is my protein in the cytoplasm, secreted or embedded in the membrane?
Module 4- Alternative Open Reading Frame	IMG Sequence Viewer For Alternate ORF Search	Has the amino acid sequence of my protein been called correctly by the computer?
Module 5- Structure-Based Evidence	TIGRFam, Pfam, PDB	Are there functional domains in my protein?
Module 6- Enzymatic Function	KEGG, MetaCyc, E.C. Number,	In what process does my protein take part?
Module 7- Gene Duplication/ Gene Degradation	Paralog, Pseudogene	Are there other forms of my gene in the bacterium? Is my gene functional?
Module 8- Evidence for Horizontal Gene Transfer	Phylogenetic Tree,	Has my gene co-evolved with other genes in the genome?
Module 9- RNA	RFAM	Does my gene encode a functional RNA?

Results

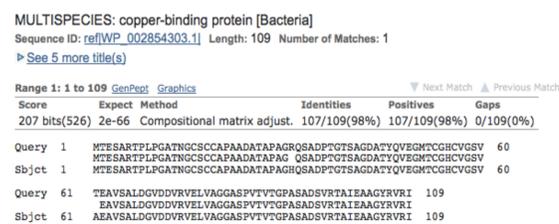


Figure 2. The results of a protein BLAST using the Non-redundant database shows a Multi-species copper-binding protein as the top hit (e-value 2e-66).

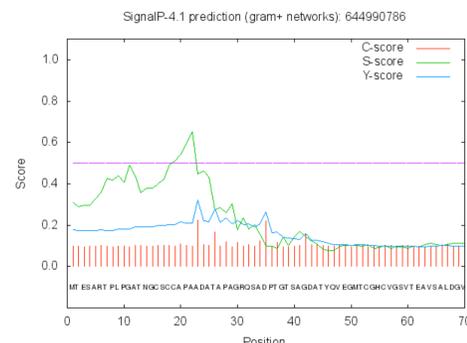


Figure 3. SignalP results that predict whether Ksed_04940 has a signal peptide. No signal peptide is predicted.

Results

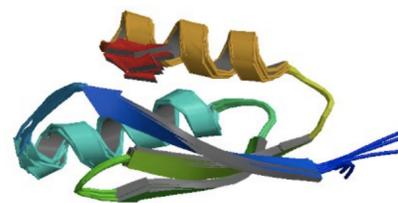


Figure 4. An image of the three-dimensional structure of the top hit of Ksed_04940 in the Protein Data Base. This is a solution structure of a putative copper-ion-binding protein from *Bacillus anthracis*.

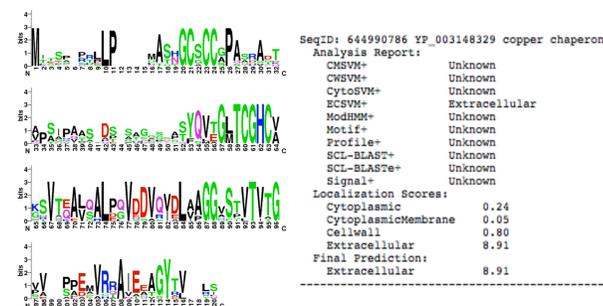


Figure 5. This is the WebLogo of the T-Coffee multisequence alignment for Ksed_04940. It shows that our gene is highly conserved throughout most of the sequence.

Figure 6. The Psort-B section of the gene notebook, and this shows the location of the gene product as extracellular. This makes sense based on the purpose of chaperone proteins.

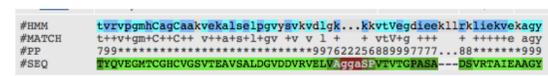


Figure 7. PFAM pairwise alignment shows a heavy metal association domain is conserved. (e value = 8.1e-13)

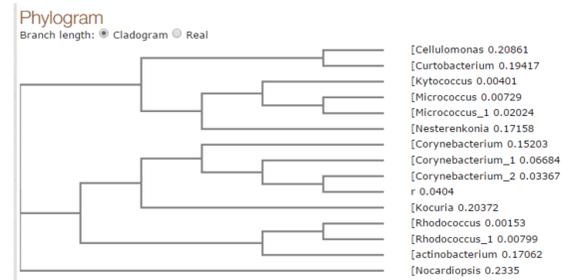


Figure 8. This graph is the phylogenetic tree for the . It shows *Micrococcus* as the closest neighbor. *Kytococcus* and *Micrococcus* are the same down to taxonomic family. This indicates Heredity and not Lateral gene transfer.

Results continued

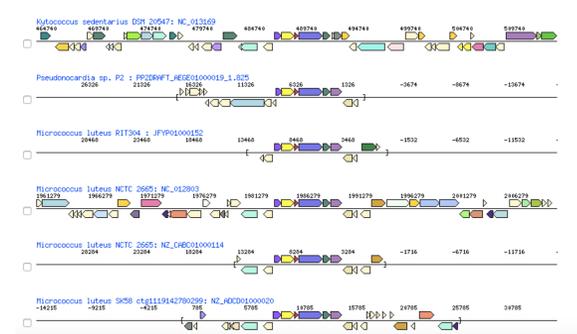


Figure 9. This is the ortholog neighborhood viewer of the gene Ksed_04930. It shows evidence of transfer by heredity. The neighborhood is conserved in *Kytococcus* and its common ancestors *Micrococcus* and *Pseudonocardia*.

Conclusions

The top BLAST hit is a Copper-binding protein, which is extracellular. Copper-binding proteins chaperone copper ions to copper-dependent enzymes and protect the cytoplasm during the transport of metal ions.³ Mutations to these proteins in Humans have been linked to human diseases such as Menkes disease (growth failure) and Wilson's disease. (liver disease)⁴.

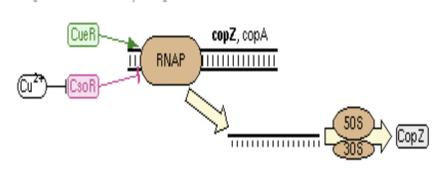


Figure 10: Illustration of a copper insertion chaperone and transporter component from *Bacillus subtilis*

Literature Cited

- <https://img-act.jgi-psf.org/notebook/pages/24057/edit>
- Longshaw, et al. Journal of Applied Microbiology 2002, 93, 810-816.
- Markossian KA1, Kurganov BI. 2003. Biochemistry (Mosc). 2003 Aug;68(8):827-37.
- http://www.trinity.edu/hunsick/copper_chaperones.htm
- Sims et al. (2009). Standards in Genomic Sciences, 12 - 20.

Acknowledgements

This project was supported by a National Science Foundation Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) Award (#1311902).