

# Temocillin Resistance in the Enterobacter cloacae Complex Is Conferred by a Single Point Mutation in BaeS, Leading to Overexpression of the AcrD Efflux Pump

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François Guérin, François Gravey, Sophie Reissier, Malo Penven, Charlotte Michaux, et al.. Temocillin Resistance in the Enterobacter cloacae Complex Is Conferred by a Single Point Mutation in BaeS, Leading to Overexpression of the AcrD Efflux Pump. Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, 2023, 67 (6), pp.e00358-23. 10.1128/aac.00358-23. hal-04117033

HAL Id: hal-04117033

https://hal.science/hal-04117033

Submitted on 29 Jun 2023

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- 1 Temocillin resistance in *Enterobacter cloacae* complex is conferred by a single point
- 2 mutation in BaeS leading to an overexpression of AcrD efflux pump

4 Running title: Temocillin resistance in ECC

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19 <u>Keywords:</u> ECC; *E. asburiae*; BaeSR, AcrD, MdtABC.

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- 21 Word count: abstract = 249 words; text = 2,872 words; 3 Tables; 1 Figure; 64 References; 2
- 22 Supplemental materials.

#### 24 **ABSTRACT**

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Enterobacter cloacae complex (ECC) has become a major opportunistic pathogen with antimicrobial resistance issues. Temocillin, an 'old' carboxypenicillin remarkably stable towards β-lactamases, has been used as an alternative for the treatment of multidrug-resistant ECC infections. Here, we aimed at deciphering the never-investigated mechanisms of temocillin resistance acquisition in Enterobacterales. By comparative genomic analysis of two clonally-related ECC clinical isolates, one susceptible (Temo\_S; MIC of 4 mg/L), and the other resistant (Temo\_R; MIC of 32mg/L), we found that they only differed by 14 SNPs including one non-synonymous mutation (Thr175Pro) in the twocomponent system (TCS) sensor histidine kinase BaeS. By site-directed mutagenesis in E. coli CFT073, we demonstrated that this unique change in BaeS was responsible for a significant (16-fold) increase in temocillin MIC. Since the BaeSR TCS regulates the expression of two RND-type efflux pumps (namely AcrD and MdtABCD) in E. coli and Salmonella, we evidenced by qRT-PCR that mdtB, baeS, and acrD genes were significantly overexpressed (15-, 11-, and 3-fold, respectively) in Temo\_R. To confirm the role of each efflux pump in this mechanism, multi-copy plasmids harboring mdtABCD or acrD were introduced into either Temo\_S or the reference strain E. cloacae subsp. cloacae ATCC 13047. Interestingly, only the overexpression of acrD conferred a significant increase (from 8- to 16fold) of the temocillin MIC. Altogether, we have shown that temocillin resistance in ECC can result from a single BaeS alteration, likely resulting in the permanent phosphorylation of BaeR leading to AcrD overexpression and temocillin resistance by enhanced active efflux.

## INTRODUCTION

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Widely encountered in natural environments, members of the *Enterobacter cloacae* complex (ECC) are also commensals of the gut microbiota of both animals and humans (1). The ECC presents a high genetic diversity and comprises 12 different genetic clusters: C-I (Enterobacter asburiae), C-II (Enterobacter kobei), C-III (E. cloacae subsp. hoffmannii), C-IV (E. roggenkampii), C-V (Enterobacter ludwigii), C-VI (Enterobacter hormaechei subsp. oharae or E. hormaechei susbp. xiangfangensis), C-VII (E. hormaechei subsp. hormaechei), C-VIII (E. hormaechei subsp. steigerwaltii), C-IX (E. bugandensis), C-X (Lelliota nimipressuralis), C-XI (E. cloacae subsp. cloacae), and C-XII (E. cloacae subsp. dissolvens) (2-4). From a clinical point of view, ECC has recently become a major opportunistic pathogen associated with many hospital-acquired infections and outbreaks. Often multidrug-resistant, ECC belongs to the ESPAKE group (<u>E</u>nterococcus faecium, <u>S</u>taphylococcus aureus, <u>K</u>lebsiella pneumoniae, <u>A</u>cinetobacter baumannii, <u>P</u>seudomonas aeruginosa, and <u>E</u>nterobacter spp.), which comprises nosocomial pathogens with limited antimicrobial treatment options (5). All ECC members harbor a chromosomal *bla*<sub>AmpC</sub> gene coding for an AmpC-type cephalosporinase conferring an intrinsic resistance to aminopenicillins and first- and second-generation cephalosporins (6). Due to its high genomic plasticity, ECC is also able to easily develop acquired resistances. For instance, there is a large proportion of ECC clinical isolates resistant to third-generation cephalosporins (3GC) due to AmpC overproduction and/or acquisition of plasmid-mediated extendedspectrum β-lactamases (ESBLs) (7). Therefore, only a limited number of carbapenem-sparing therapeutic options remain for the treatment of 3GC-resistant ECC infections, including neglected and disused antibiotics such as colistin, fosfomycin, and temocillin (8). Temocillin, a  $6-\alpha$ -methoxy derivative of ticarcillin, is an antibiotic commercialized in the early 1980s and only used in a few European countries (Belgium, France, Luxembourg, and the UK)

mainly due to the concomitant marketing of 3GCs (8,9). The use of this antibiotic in clinics has been based on its multiple advantageous characteristics such as (i) a narrow spectrum almost restricted to Enterobacterales, (ii) a remarkable stability towards hydrolysis by numerous βlactamases including ESBLs and AmpC-type cephalosporinases, and (iii) a minimal risk of Clostridioides difficile infection by the preservation of intestinal microbiota (10). In addition, the frequency of resistant mutants in vitro appears low (ranging from  $1 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $1 \times 10^{-10}$ ) (11-13) whereas no in vivo development of temocillin resistance has been detected after treatment so far (13,14). Therefore, it has recently become a useful alternative to carbapenems for the treatment of infections caused by ESBL-producing Enterobacterales (9,10). Surprisingly, mechanisms of temocillin resistance have been very poorly studied with the exception of intrinsic resistance in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, mainly driven by active efflux (15,16). Whereas hydrolysis of temocillin by class B- and D-type β-lactamases is well known, mechanisms of acquired chromosomal-encoded resistance have never been reported in Enterobacterales. Two-component systems (TCS) are universal signal transduction systems in bacteria and participate in various important cellular processes such as pathogenicity, antibiotic resistance, environmental stresses, quorum sensing, and biofilm production (17,18). These environmental response systems are typically composed of a sensor histidine kinase (HK) and a cognate response regulator (RR) (19). HKs are usually transmembrane proteins, which are able to perceive environmental signals. When stimulated, HK triggers its autophosphorylation. The phosphate group is then transferred to an aspartate residue on the cognate RR located in the cytoplasm (20). The phosphorylated RR can therefore bind to promoter regions of target genes leading to expression regulation (20). Among TCS identified in Enterobacterales, several of them are known to be involved in antibiotic resistance such as BaeSR, CpxAR, EnvZ/OmpR,

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- 92 EvgAS, PhoPQ, PmrAB, and RcsBCD (21). Nonetheless, only two TCSs have been characterized
- so far in ECC, namely PhoPQ and CrrAB, which are both involved in colistin heteroresistance
- 94 (22-24).
- Here, by comparing a temocillin-susceptible and -resistant ECC clinical isolates, we identified
- a mutation in the HK BaeS of the TCS BaeSR. By using knockout mutants and overexpressing
- 97 strains of genes known to be regulated by BaeSR, we identified the genetic basis of acquired
- 98 temocillin resistance in ECC, which will pave the way for a better understanding of
- 99 mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance deployed by this worrisome pathogen.

#### RESULTS

# E. asburiae isolates have different antibiotic susceptibility profiles

Two clinical isolates, first identified as belonging to the *E. cloacae* complex by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry, were recovered from the same urinary specimen (Table 1). By *hsp60* sequencing, both isolates were shown to belong to the cluster C-I (namely *E. asburiae*) and were presumably clonally related. A comparison of antibiotic susceptibility profiles showed that these isolates only differed by their susceptibility to three β-lactams: ticarcillin, temocillin, and aztreonam (Table 2). Indeed, *E. asburiae* Temo\_R exhibited 32-, 8-, and 4-fold higher MICs of ticarcillin, temocillin, and aztreonam, respectively, compared to those determined for the *E. asburiae* Temo\_S strain (Table 2). Note that no change in MICs was observed in the presence of Phe-Arg-β-naphthylamide (PAβN) for these three antibiotics (data not shown).

## E. asburiae isolates are clonally related

By genome sequencing, we determined that the two strains belonged to the sequence type ST24 and confirmed that they were isogenic with a difference of only 14 single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). Detailed analysis revealed that around one third of the SNPs (5/14) occurred within noncoding regions. On the seven SNPs appearing in coding regions, six led to synonymous mutations, and three were responsible for an amino acid change (Table 3). The three non-synonymous mutations were found in three different genes coding for a hypothetical protein (Leu118Phe), the TCS sensor HK BaeS (Thr175Pro), and a beta-1,3-glucosyltransferase (Ile38Val) (Table 3).

## Unique Thr175Pro change in BaeS confers temocillin resistance

TCS systems, including BaeRS, have been associated with antibiotic resistance. Therefore, the consequence of the amino-acid change found in the BaeS sequence was of high interest to investigate in the context of temocillin resistance. In order to confirm the role of the

Thr175Pro mutation in BaeS, we introduced it in the *baeS* gene of *E. coli* CFT073 by site-directed mutagenesis. As expected, we demonstrated experimentally that this unique point mutation was alone responsible for a significant (16-fold) increase in MICs of temocillin, ticarcillin, and aztreonam (Table 2). Note that the mutation was located in a transmembrane domain of BaeS, which is not in the vicinity of the histidine residue (His<sub>250</sub>) within the cytoplasmic catalytic domain (Figure S1).

# Temocillin resistance is due to overexpression of AcrD efflux pump system

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The BaeSR TCS regulates the expression of two efflux pump systems (namely AcrAD-TolC and MdtABCD) belonging to the RND (Resistance-Nodulation-cell Division) superfamily in E. coli and Salmonella (25,26). In addition, baeS is part of the mdtABCD-baeSR operon (27). Then, we compared by qRT-PCR the expression of mdtB and acrD genes as well as baeS in both E. asburiae Temo R and Temo S clinical isolates. We evidenced that these three genes were significantly overexpressed in E. asburiae Temo\_R as compared to E. asburiae Temo\_S with a fold change of 15, 11, and 3 for mdtB, baeS, and acrD, respectively. These results strongly suggested that decreased susceptibility to ticarcillin, temocillin, and aztreonam in E. asburiae Temo R was likely related to an increase of the efflux mediated by MdtABCD and/or AcrD RND-type efflux pump systems. To confirm the role of these two RND-type efflux pump systems, both mdtABCD and acrD genes (together with their own promoters) were cloned into the pBAD202/D-TOPO vector and expressed in E. asburiae Temo\_S strain. We observed that the overexpression of acrD, but not mdtABCD, was able to confer temocillin resistance (64 mg/L) with a 16-fold increase in MIC (Table 2). The overexpression of acrD also led to an increase in MICs of ticarcillin (32-fold) and aztreonam (4-fold) while overexpression of mdtABCD only conferred a four-fold increase in ticarcillin MIC (Table 2). The same mutants and trans-complemented strains were also

obtained in the reference strain *E. cloacae* susbsp. *cloacae* ATCC 13047 (C-XI). Although we showed that the deletion of *baeS* (ECL\_03405), *mdtB* (ECL\_03403) or *acrD* (ECL\_03767) did not modify susceptibility profiles to  $\beta$ -lactams, we confirmed that the sole overexpression of *acrD* conferred significant increase (8 fold) in MICs of temocillin (Table 2).

## DISCUSSION

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This study deciphers for the first time the genetic basis of temocillin resistance in Enterobacterales, which is a cross-resistance to carboxypenicillins (ticarcillin and temocillin) and aztreonam. Indeed, mechanisms of temocillin intrinsic resistance/acquired susceptibility have only been studied in P. aeruginosa (15,16). In this species, it was demonstrated that temocillin was a substrate of the RND-type efflux system MexAB-OprM while its uptake marginally requires anion-specific porins OpdK and OpdF (15,16). Here, we showed that temocillin resistance was due to a unique point non-synonymous mutation in the baeS gene (leading to the Thr175Pro change) encoding the HK of the TCS BaeSR. In E. coli, BaeSR is a well-known TCS involved in the regulation of the envelope stress response (28,29). It is worth notifying that this TCS can be induced by a pleiotropic number of compounds including indole, copper, zinc, ethanol, sodium tungstate tannin, and flavonoid (26,30-37). BaeSR is also one of the most studied TCS associated with multidrug resistance in E. coli, Salmonella, and A. baumannii. However, it has never been linked to temocillin resistance and intriguingly enough, has never been studied in ECC, species in which only 2 TCS have been described so far to be linked with antibiotic resistance. Indeed, PhoPQ and CrrAB have been both associated with colistin hetero-resistance (22-24). BaeSR system has been linked to antibiotic resistance in different bacterial species throughout the regulation of genes encoding for efflux pump systems. In E. coli and Salmonella, the overexpression of BaeR has been shown to regulate expression of acrD and mdtA, both part of the AcrAD-ToIC and MdtABC efflux pumps, conferring resistance to different classes of antibiotics such as novobiocin, some β-lactams or deoxycholate (25-27,38,39). In addition, BaeR overexpression slightly reduced susceptibility to cephalosporins by decreasing the expression of outer membrane proteins in E. coli (40), whereas in Salmonella, overexpression

of BaeR also increased polymyxin susceptibility by altering the expression of polymyxin
resistance-associated genes (41). In A. baumannii, BaeSR affects polymyxin susceptibility by
regulating the expression of efflux pump systems such as MacAB and AdeIJK while it is also
involved in tigecycline resistance by activating the expression of AdeABC, AdeIJK, and MacAB-
TolC (42-44).
As opposed to other antibiotics, very few studies have linked temocillin with RND-type efflux
pumps with only the AcrAD-TolC system being involved in its export. The AcrD RND-type efflux
pump functions in cooperation with AcrA and TolC, and the AcrAD-TolC system and effluxes
structurally-diverse compounds including SDS, novobiocin, and deoxycholate as well as
aminoglycosides and dianionic $\beta$ -lactams such as carbenicillin, oxacillin, nafcillin, and
aztreonam (25,45-47). Very recently, it was also demonstrated in S. Typhimurium that AcrD
expelled unreported substrates such as temocillin, dicloxacillin, cefazolin, and fusidic acid (48).
Interestingly, the overexpression of $acrD$ in an $\Delta acrB\Delta acrD$ E. $coli$ strain increased MICs of
both temocillin and aztreonam by 8-fold (48).
In ECC, temocillin resistant mutant carried a Thr175Pro point mutation in the BaeS-encoding
gene, known to regulate together with BaeR, efflux pump systems in other bacterial species.
Recently in <i>E. coli</i> , five different gain-of-function mutations in <i>baeS</i> were identified as
constitutively activating the BaeSR TCS with increased expression of MdtABC efflux pump (49).
These modifications likely alter the BaeS structure with constitutive elevation of kinase activity
and/or reduction of phosphatase activity, which in turn cause permanent phosphorylation of
BaeR. Phosphorylated BaeR will then be able to bind mdtABCD-baeSR and acrD promoter
regions and increase corresponded genes expression (49). In this study, DGE analysis through
RNAseq revealed that the mutation C310T in the baeS51 mutant (leading to Arg104Cys amino
acid change) was responsible for a 37- and 6-fold change in expression of $mdtARCD$ -haeSR and

acrD, respectively, as compared to the parental strain (49). This difference of change in
expression is similar to what we observed here between <i>E. asburiae</i> Temo_R and Temo_S
strains, possibly due to the expression of the mdtABCD-baeSR operon, which is directly
controlled by BaeR whereas acrD is indirectly regulated (50).
In conclusion, we describe for the first the genetic basis of temocillin resistance in
Enterobacterales through a single mutation (Thr175Pro) in BaeS and as a consequence, an
increase of AcrD-mediated efflux (Figure 1).

# **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

<b>Bacterial strains and growth conditions.</b> Bacterial strains used in this study are listed in Table								
1. The two clinical isolates (Temo_S and Temo_R) were recovered from a single urine sample								
from the same patient. The <i>E. cloacae</i> subsp. <i>cloacae</i> ATCC 13047 reference strain (51) was								
used to construct deletion and trans-complemented strains while E. coli CFT073 (52) was used								
to construction the $\it baeS^{Thr175Pro}$ point-mutation strain by site-directed mutagenesis. All strains								
were cultured with constant agitation (200 rpm) at 35°C in Luria-Bertani (LB) medium.								
Antimicrobial susceptibility testing. MICs were determined using the broth microdilution								
reference method according to the guidelines recommended by the European Committee on								
Antimicrobial Susceptibility (EUCAST; <a href="http://www.eucast.org/">http://www.eucast.org/</a> ). The following antibiotics were								
tested: amoxicillin, ticarcillin, temocillin, piperacillin, cefoxitin, cefotaxime, cefepime,								
aztreonam, ertapenem, gentamicin, ciprofloxacin, tigecycline, colistin, and chloramphenicol.								
All experiments were performed in biological triplicate. MICs of ticarcillin, temocillin, and								
aztreonam were also determined by broth microdilution in the absence or presence of the								
efflux pump inhibitor PA $\beta$ N at the concentration of 40 mg/L.								
Whole-genome sequencing and bioinformatic analysis. The genome sequences of both <i>E</i> .								
asburiae Temo_S and Temo_R clinical isolates were determined by WGS at the "Plateforme								
de microbiologie mutualisée" (P2M) of the Pasteur International Bioresources network								
(Institut Pasteur, Paris, France). DNA was extracted using the MagNAPure 96 system (Roche								
Diagnostics GmbH, Mannheim, Germany). The libraries were prepared using the Nextera XT								
kit (Illumina, San Diego, CA), and the sequencing was performed using an Illumina NextSeq								
500 system generating 150-bp paired-end reads.								
FastQ files were trimmed using the fqCleanER tool								
(https://gitlab.pasteur.fr/GIPhy/fqCleanER), and the qualities of the filtered FastQ files were								

232	evaluated	using	the	FastQC	sof	tware
233	(https://www.bioinfo	ormatics.babraham.a	ac.uk/projects/fastqc	/). Genomes	were de	novo
234	assembled using the	SPAdes v 3.12 (53) w	hile the quality of ass	semblies was a	ssessed usi	ng the
235	Quast software (54).					
236	The identification to	the species level w	as performed using	the rMLST alg	gorithm (55	). The
237	sequence type (ST)	was resolved using	the appropriate M	ILST schema	(56). The c	luster
238	attribution based on	the partial sequence	ce of the <i>hsp60</i> gen	e was determi	ined using	blastn
239	algorithm (2). The ide	entification to the spe	ecies level was also co	onfirmed by av	verage nucle	eotide
240	identity (ANI) analys	is using all referenc	e ECC genomes (3)	using the mas	sh tool. Acc	quired
241	resistance genes an	d point mutations	were detected usi	ng Resfinder	and Pointl	Finder
242	databases, respective	ely ( <u>https://cge.food</u>	.dtu.dk/services/Res	<u>Finder/</u> ; 57). Tl	he genome	of the
243	Temo_S strain was a	nnotated using the F	RAST server and then	used as the re	eference ge	nome
244	to perform variant ca	lling between the tw	o Temo_R and Temo	_S strains usin	g Freebaye	s after
245	a mapping of the rea	ds using Burrows-Wl	heeler transform (58	).		
246	The genomic sequer	nces of both <i>E. ask</i>	ouriae Temo_S and	Temo_R clinic	cal isolates	were
247	deposited in GenBan	k as BioProject no. P	RJNA902787.			
248	Construction of the	knockout mutants a	and <i>trans</i> -compleme	nted strains i	n <i>E. cloaca</i>	e. The
249	deletion of the genes	s encoding the histid	line kinase BaeS (ECL	_03405), the r	esponse ef	fector
250	BaeR (ECL_03406), a	nd the two RND pur	mps MdtB (ECL_0340	3) and AcrD (	ECL_03767)	were
251	performed in ATCC 1	3047 using the Red I	nelper plasmid pKOB	EG as previous	sly describe	d (59-
252	63) (Tables 1 and S1)	). The RND pump-en	coding genes (MdtA	BCD or ECL_0	3403-ECL_C	3407;
253	and AcrD or ECL_037	67) including their o	wn promoters were a	amplified by P	CR (Table S	1) and
254	obtained amplicons	were TA-cloned into	o the overexpression	n plasmid, pB	AD202 (low	<b>/-сору</b>
255	number plasmid: ~20	copies/cell) Direction	onal TOPO (Invitroge	n, Villebon-su	r-Yvette, Fr	ance).

*E. coli* TOP10 cells (Invitrogen) carrying pBAD202 with correctly oriented inserts were then selected on LB plates with 40 mg/L of kanamycin. After extraction, plasmids carrying the RND efflux pump-encoding genes were transformed in *E. cloacae* ATCC 13047 strain or *E. asburiae* Temo\_S clinical isolate (Table 1).

## **Site-Directed Mutagenesis**

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To confirm the role of the Thr175Pro mutation in baeS, single-nucleotide allelic replacement was carried out using the suicide vector pDS132 in E. coli CFT073 (52,64). The cloning steps were performed in E. coli DH5 $\alpha$   $\lambda pir$  strain to allow replication of the plasmid (Table S1). The recombinant plasmids were then purified and introduced in E. coli CFT073 by electrotransformation. Clones that integrated the plasmid were selected by plating cells on LB plates containing 30 mg/L of chloramphenicol. After overnight growth at 35°C, one colony was picked, diluted in 10 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub> solution, and serial dilutions were plated on LB agar plates with 5% sucrose and without NaCl to force plasmid excision. After overnight incubation at 35°C, 100 clones were streaked on chloramphenicol-containing LB agar plates and on LB agar with 5% sucrose and without NaCl. Several clones were tested by PCR-sequencing to identify those carrying the mutation (Table S1). Quantification of gene expression by RT-qPCR. Total RNAs were extracted from E. asburiae Temo S and Temo R strains grown to the late-exponential phase by using the Direct-Zol RNA mini-prep kit (Zymo Research, Irvine, CA). Residual chromosomal DNA was removed by treating samples with the TURBO DNA-free kit (Life Technologies, Saint-Aubin, France). Samples were quantified using the NanoDrop One spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Courtabœuf, France). cDNA was synthesized from total RNAs (~1 μg) using the QuantiTect reverse transcription kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Transcript levels were determined by the ΔΔCt method using rpoB as a housekeeping control gene. The expression, and the fold change (FCs) of *mdtB*, *baeS*, and *acrD* genes were calculated by Ct comparison between Temo\_S and Tem\_R clinical isolates. Experiments were performed at least in three biological replicates. Student t-test was employed and *p*-values less than 0.05 were considered as statistically significant.

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

- A part of this work was performed using bioinformatical resources provided by CRIANN (Normandy, France). The three-year doctoral contract of François Gravey was funded by a grant from the Normandy Region.
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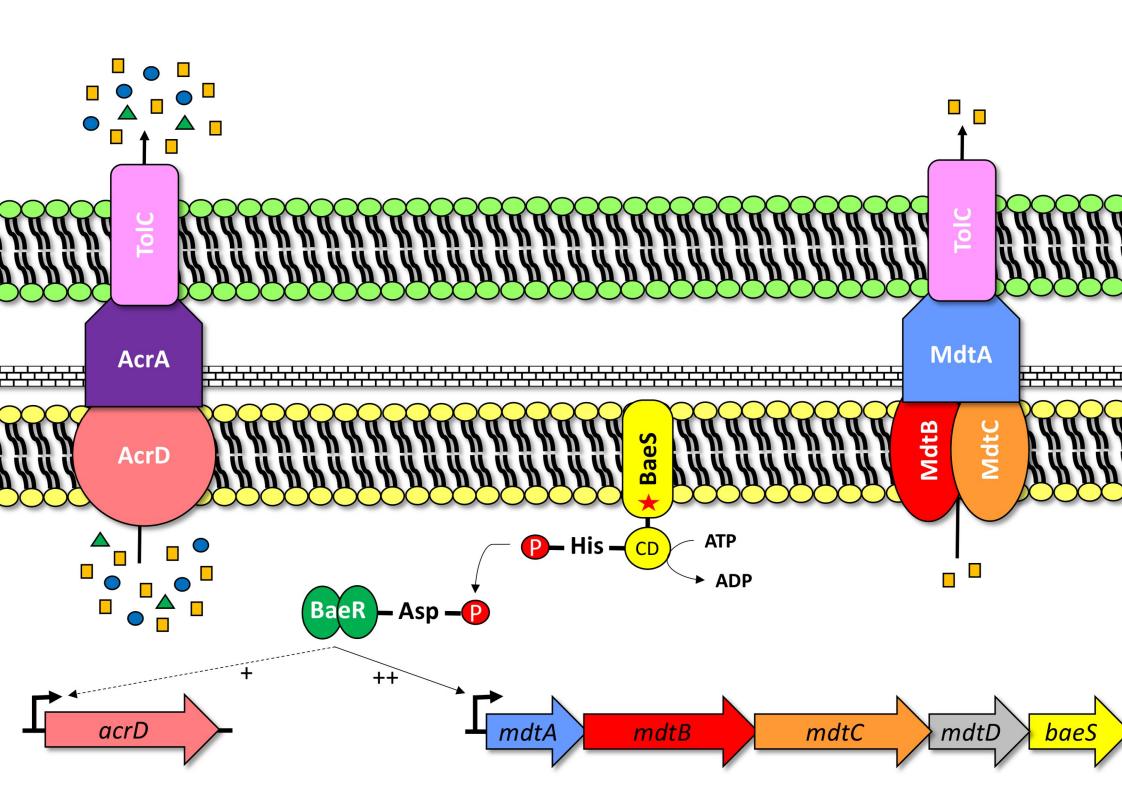
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## **LEGEND OF THE FIGURE**

FIG 1 Mechanism of temocillin resistance in ECC through the two-component system BaeSR. The alteration of BaeS by a single mutation (Thr175Pro; red star), responsible for a constitutive elevation of kinase activity and/or reduction of phosphatase activity, is responsible for permanent phosphorylation of BaeR. Phosphorylated BaeR can then activate directly (solid line arrow) *mdtABCD-baeSR* and indirectly (dotted line arrow) *acrD* expression. As a consequence, the expression of those genes contribute to increase the active efflux of ticarcillin (yellow rectangle) and temocillin (blue round)/ticarcillin/aztreonam (green triangle) through MdtABC-TolC and AcrAD-TolC RND-type efflux pump systems, respectively.



**TABLE 1** Strains and plasmid used in the study

Strain or plasmid	Genotype/relevant characteristic(s)	Reference	
Strains			
E. asburiae Temo_S	Human clinical isolate Ecc20200302 (urine, 2020/02/28), Tem <sup>s</sup>	This study	
E. asburiae Temo_R	Human clinical isolate Ecc20200303 (urine, 2020/02/28), Tem <sup>R</sup>	This study	
Tem_S/pBAD	E. asburiae Temo_S trans-complemented strain carrying pBAD202/D-TOPO	This study	
Tem_S/pBADΩ <i>mdtABCD</i>	E. asburiae Temo_S trans-complemented strain carrying pBAD202/D-TOPOΩmdtABCD (ECL_03401-ECL_03404)	This study	
Tem_S/pBADΩ <i>acrD</i>	E. asburiae Temo_S trans-complemented strain carrying pBAD202/D-TOPO $\Omega$ acrD (ECL_03767)	This study	
E. cloacae subsp. cloacae ATCC 13047	Reference strain ATCC 13047 (cluster XI)	51	
ATCC13047ΔbaeS	ATCC 13047 deleted for baeS (ECL_03405)	This study	
ATCC13047∆ <i>mdtB</i>	ATCC13047 deleted for mdtB (ECL_03403)	63	
ATCC13047Δ <i>acrD</i>	ATCC13047 deleted for acrD (ECL_03767)	63	
ATCC13047/pBAD	ATCC 13047 trans-complemented strain carrying pBAD202/D-TOPO	63	
ATCC13047/pBADΩ <i>mdtABCD</i>	ATCC 13047 trans-complemented strain carrying pBAD202/D-TOPOΩmdtABCD (ECL_03401-ECL_03404)	63	
ATCC13047/pBADΩ <i>acrD</i>	ATCC 13047 $trans$ -complemented strain carrying pBAD202/D-TOPO $\Omega acrD$ (ECL_03767)	63	
E. coli CFT073	Wild-type susceptible clinical isolate (phylogenetic group B2)	52	
CFT073_baeS <sup>Thr175Pro</sup>	CFT073 derivative with allelic replacement of baeS by baeSThr175Pro	This study	
E. coli DH5α λpir	Reference strain (supE4 $\Delta$ lacU169 ( $\Phi$ 80 lacZ $\Delta$ M15) hsdR17 recA1 endA1 gyrA96 thi-1 relA1 $\lambda$ pir)	Laboratory collection	
Plasmids			
pBAD202/D-TOPO	General expression vector with arabinose-inducible promoter, Kan <sup>R</sup>	Life Technologies	
pKOBEG	Recombination vector, phage $\lambda$ rec $\gamma eta lpha$ operon under the control of the pBAD promoter, Cm <sup>R</sup>	60	
pKD4	Plasmid containing an FRT-flanked kanamycin, Kan <sup>R</sup>	59	
pCP20_Gm	FLP-mediated recombination vector, Gm <sup>R</sup>	61	
pDS132	Conditional replication vector; R6K origin, mobRP4 transfer origin, sucrose-inducible sacB, Cm <sup>R</sup>	64	

Cm<sup>R</sup>, chloramphenicol resistant; Gm<sup>R</sup>, gentamicin resistant; Kan<sup>R</sup>, kanamycin resistant; Tem<sup>R</sup>, temocillin resistant; Tem<sup>S</sup>, temocillin susceptible.

TABLE 2 MIC values of antibiotics for E. cloacae clinical isolates, E. cloacae ATCC 13047, and E. coli CFT073 (and their derivative strains)

Studio	MIC (mg/L) <sup>a,b</sup>													
Strain	AMX	TEM	TIC	PIP	FOX	СТХ	FEP	ATM	ERT	GEN	CIP	TGC	COL	CHL
E. asburiae														
Temo_S	>256	4	2	4	>256	0.5	0.03	0.03	0.25	0.12	< 0.01	0.5	32	4
Temo_R	>256	32 (8)	64 (32)	4	>256	0.5	0.03	0.12 (4)	0.25	0.12	< 0.01	0.5	64	4
Temo_S/pBAD	>256	4	2	2	>256	0.5	0.03	0.03	0.25	0.12	< 0.01	0.5	32	4
Temo_S/pBADΩ <i>mdtABCD</i>	>256	4	8 (4)	2	>256	0.5	0.03	0.03	0.25	0.12	< 0.01	0.5	16	4
Temo_S/pBADΩ <i>acrD</i>	>256	64 (16)	64 (32)	2	>256	0.5	0.03	0.12 (4)	0.25	0.12	<0.01	0.5	32	4
E. cloacae subsp. cloacae														
ATCC 13047	>256	8	4	8	>256	2	0.03	0.5	0.25	0.25	0.03	0.5	>256	4
ATCC13047ΔbaeS	>256	4	4	8	>256	2	0.03	0.5	0.25	0.25	0.03	0.5	256	4
ATCC13047ΔmdtB	>256	8	4	8	>256	2	0.03	0.5	0.25	0.25	0.03	0.5	256	4
ATCC13047Δ <i>acrD</i>	>256	8	4	8	>256	2	0.03	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.03	0.5	>256	4
ATCC13047/pBAD	>256	8	4	8	>256	2	0.03	0.5	0.25	0.25	0.03	0.5	>256	4
ATCC13047/pBADΩmdtABCD	>256	8	16 (4)	8	>256	2	0.03	0.5	0.5	0.25	0.03	0.5	>256	4
ATCC13047/pBADΩacrD	>256	64 (8)	128 (16)	8	>256	2	0.03	2 (4)	0.25	0.25	0.03	0.5	>256	4
E. coli														
CFT073	4	4	4	2	2	0.12	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.12	< 0.01	0.12	0.12	4
CFT073_baeS <sup>Thr175Pro</sup>	4	64 (16)	64 (16)	2	2	0.12	0.06	1 (16)	0.06	0.12	< 0.01	0.12	0.12	4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> AMX, amoxicillin; ATM, aztreonam; CHL, chloramphenicol; CIP, ciprofloxacin; COL, colistin; CTX, cefotaxime; ERT, ertapenem; FEP, cefepime; FOX, cefoxitin; GEN, gentamicin; PIP, piperacillin; TEM, temocillin; TIC, ticarcillin; TGC, tigecycline.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Numbers in boldface are MICs that are significantly different (fold changes of ≥4 are indicated in parentheses).

**TABLE 3** Nucleotide changes identified between *E. asburiae* Temo\_S and Temo\_R isogenic isolates

Gene <sup>a</sup>	Predicted product	Nucleotide change <sup>a</sup>	Amino acid change	Homolog in <i>E. cloacae</i> subsp. cloacae ATCC 13047 <sup>b</sup>
OCDOF 02200	Conoral stross protoin VmdF	24A>C	None	FCI 03630
OSB85_02280	General stress protein YmdF	36A>T	None	ECL_02630
OCDOE 0027E	Hypothetical protein	354G>T	Leu118Phe	Not found
OSB85_09375		390T>C	None	Not loulid
OCDOE 12740	IS3 family transposase	120C>T	None	Not found
OSB85_12740		132C>T	None	Not loulid
OSB85_20490	Two-component system sensor histidine kinase BaeS	523A>C	Thr175Pro	ECL_03405
OCDOE 21100	Pota 1.2 glucosultransforaço	112A>G	Ile38Val	Not found
OSB85_21180	Beta-1,3-glucosyltransferase	117C>T	None	NOT IOUIIU

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Gene names and positions from the annotated sequence of the *E. asburiae* Temo\_S clinical isolate (GenBank accession no. SAMN31775694). <sup>b</sup> Gene names are from the annotated sequence of the *E. cloacae* subsp. *cloacae* ATCC 13047 (GenBank accession no. NC\_014121).

**TABLE 3** Nucleotide changes identified between *E. asburiae* Temo\_S and Temo\_R isogenic isolates

Gene <sup>a</sup>	Predicted product	Nucleotide change <sup>a</sup>	Amino acid change	Homolog in <i>E. cloacae</i> subsp. cloacae ATCC 13047 <sup>b</sup>	
OCD0E 02200	Conoral stress protein YmdE	24A>C	None	ECI 03630	
OSB85_02280	General stress protein YmdF	36A>T	None	ECL_02630	
OSB85_09375	Hypothetical protein	354G>T	Leu118Phe	Not found	
		390T>C	None	Not found	
OSB85_20490	Two-component system sensor histidine kinase BaeS	523A>C	Thr175Pro	ECL_03405	
OSB85 21180	Beta-1,3-glucosyltransferase	112A>G	Ile38Val	Not found	
U3B63_2116U	Deta-1,3-glucosyiti alisiei ase	117C>T	None	NOT TOUTIU	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Gene names and positions from the annotated sequence of the *E. asburiae* Temo\_S clinical isolate (GenBank accession no. SAMN31775694).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Gene names are from the annotated sequence of the *E. cloacae* subsp. *cloacae* ATCC 13047 (GenBank accession no. NC\_014121).