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GENOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Genome Sequence of the Cyanobacterium *Oscillatoria* sp. PCC 6506 Reveals Several Gene Clusters Responsible for the Biosynthesis of Toxins and Secondary Metabolites[▽]

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We report a draft sequence of the genome of *Oscillatoria* sp. PCC 6506, a cyanobacterium that produces anatoxin-a and homoanatoxin-a, two neurotoxins, and cylindrospermopsin, a cytotoxin. Beside the clusters of genes responsible for the biosynthesis of these toxins, we have found other clusters of genes likely involved in the biosynthesis of not-yet-identified secondary metabolites.

The presence in the environment of cyanobacteria producing toxins represents a risk for human and animal health (5). It is thus important to develop methodologies to detect these toxic microorganisms in water reservoirs, and so far, PCR-based amplification of genes responsible for the biosynthesis of these toxins is the best method (1). We have been interested in the study of cyanobacteria producing the neurotoxins anatoxin-a and homoanatoxin-a (2, 17, 18). Our goals were first to identify the genes responsible for the biosynthesis of these toxins and to deepen our knowledge of this interesting group of bacteria. For that, we chose *Oscillatoria* sp. PCC 6506 (4, 6, 14), a filamentous benthic cyanobacterium, as our model microorganism and initiated the sequencing of its genome.

Whole-genome shotgun sequencing of *Oscillatoria* sp. PCC 6506 was performed using the 454 technology (GATC, Konstanz, Germany), giving 677,304 reads, with a total number of 164 megabases, representing an estimated coverage of 24. Assembly yielded 419 contigs consisting of 6,729,249 bases with a G+C content of 43.40%. Automatic annotation of this genome using the MaGe pipeline system (16) predicted 6,007 coding sequences (CDS), 61 fragments of CDS, and 84 genes coding for RNA (4 rRNA genes, 70 tRNA genes, and 10 small non-coding RNAs [ncRNAs]).

Oscillatoria sp. PCC 6506 is an aerobic photosynthetic and diazotrophic cyanobacterium that shows transient and dispersed gas vesicles (4, 6). We found 37 genes coding for proteins involved in photosynthesis and the *nif* gene cluster, responsible for nitrogen fixation. However, we could not identify any gene coding for a hydrogenase (15), as for *Synechococcus*

sp. BG043511 (8). Four genes were annotated as gas vesicle protein (*gvp*) genes (13).

Oscillatoria sp. PCC 6506 produces anatoxin-a and homoanatoxin-a, and we recently identified the *ana* cluster of genes, responsible for the biosynthesis of these alkaloids (3, 10, 11). We also identified the cluster of genes (*cyr*) responsible for the biosynthesis of cylindrospermopsin (9, 12). Cyanobacteria are known to produce a wide range of secondary metabolites (7), and 3.7% of the total annotated CDS in this genome were dedicated to secondary metabolism. We identified, beside the *ana* and *cyr* clusters, four other clusters of genes containing polyketide synthase and nonribosomal peptide synthase coding genes, likely involved in the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites.

We found 51 transposase genes in the *Oscillatoria* sp. PCC 6506 genome, some close to the biosynthetic gene clusters identified, suggesting horizontal gene transfer events.

In conclusion, we present here the sequence of the first genome of an *Oscillatoria* cyanobacterium strain, a very common genus found in the environment, and the first genome of a neurotoxin-producing cyanobacterium.

Nucleotide sequence accession numbers. This genome has been deposited in the DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank databases (accession no. CACA01000001 to CACA01000377). This first version contains 377 contigs over 419, because we removed the 42 contigs for which the size was less than 500 bp. MaGe annotation data will be made available to the public at the MaGe CyanoScope website (https://www.genoscope.cns.fr/agc/microscope/about/collabprojects.php?P_id=68) at the same time as the DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank release.

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