

AN ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION OF

Sierra L. Hartney for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Botany and Plant Pathology presented on November 28, 2011.

Title: TonB-dependent Outer-membrane Proteins of *Pseudomonas fluorescens*: Diverse and Redundant Roles in Iron Acquisition.

Abstract approved:

Joyce E. Loper

Pseudomonas is a diverse genus of Gram-negative bacteria that includes pathogens of plants, insects, and humans as well as environmental strains with no known pathogenicity. *Pseudomonas fluorescens* itself encompasses a heterogeneous group of bacteria that are prevalent in soil and on foliar and root surfaces of plants. Some strains of *P. fluorescens* suppress plant diseases and the genomic sequences of many biological control strains are now available. I used a combination of bioinformatic and phylogenetic analyses along with mutagenesis and biological assays to identify and compare the TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins (TBDPs) of ten plant-associated strains of *P. fluorescens* and related species. TBDPs are common in Gram-negative bacteria, functioning in the uptake of ferric-siderophore complexes and other substrates into the cell. I identified 14 to 45 TBDRs in each strain of *P. fluorescens* or *P. chlororaphis*. Collectively, the ten strains have 317 TBDPs, which were grouped into 84 types based upon sequence similarity and phylogeny. As many as 13 TBDPs are unique to a single strain and some show evidence of horizontal gene transfer. Putative functions in the uptake of diverse groups of microbial siderophores, sulfur-esters, and other substrates were assigned to 28 of these TBDP types based on similarity to characterized orthologs from other *Pseudomonas* species. Redundancy of TBDP function was evident in certain strains of *P. fluorescens*, especially Pf-5, which has three TBDPs for ferrichrome/ferrioxamine uptake, two for ferric-citrate uptake and three for heme uptake.

Five TBDP types are present in all ten strains, and putative functions in heme, ferrichrome, cobalamin, and copper/zinc uptake were assigned to four of the conserved TBDPs.

The fluorescent pseudomonads are characterized by the production of pyoverdine siderophores, which are responsible for the diffusible UV fluorescence of these bacteria. Each of the ten plant-associated strains of *P. fluorescens* or *P. chlororaphis* has three to six TBDPs with putative roles in ferric-pyoverdine uptake (Fpv). To confirm the roles of the six Fpv outer membrane proteins in *P. fluorescens* Pf-5, I introduced deletions into each of the six *fpv* genes in this strain and evaluated the mutants and the parental strain for heterologous pyoverdine uptake. I identified at least one ferric-pyoverdine that was taken up by each of the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5. By comparing the ferric-pyoverdine uptake assay results to a phylogenetic analysis of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins, I observed that phylogenetically-related Fpv outer-membrane proteins take up structurally-related pyoverdines. I then expanded the phylogenetic analysis to include nine other strains within the *P. fluorescens* group, and identified five additional types of Fpv outer-membrane proteins. Using the characterized Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5 as a reference, pyoverdine substrates were predicted for many of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins in the nine other strains. Redundancy of Fpv function was evident in Pf-5, as some pyoverdines were recognized by more than one Fpv. It is apparent that heterologous pyoverdine recognition is a conserved feature, giving these ten strains flexibility in acquiring iron from the environment.

Overall, the TBDPs of the *P. fluorescens* group are a functionally diverse set of structurally-related proteins present in high numbers in many strains. While putative functions have been assigned to a subset of the proteins, the functions of most TBDPs remain unknown, providing targets for further investigations into nutrient uptake by *P. fluorescens* spp.. The work presented here provides a template for future studies using a combination of bioinformatic, phylogenetic, and molecular genetic approaches to predict and analyze the function of these TBDPs.

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TonB-dependent Outer-membrane Proteins of *Pseudomonas fluorescens*: Diverse and
Redundant Roles in Iron Acquisition

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Sierra L. Hartney

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Sierra L. Hartney, Author

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CONTRIBUTION OF AUTHORS

Dr. Sylvie Mazurier performed crossfeeding assays between the Pf-5 siderophore mutant and 39 of the 61 strains of *Pseudomonas* presented in Chapter 2. Sylvie performed crossfeeding assays between *fpv* mutants of Pf-5 and 19 of the 37 strains of *Pseudomonas* presented in Chapter 3. She also supervised the purification of pyoverdines from selected *Pseudomonas* spp. that were used in Chapter 3.

Dr. Teresa A. Kidarsa made the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* mutant of Pf-5 used in crossfeeding assays presented in Chapter 2.

Dr. Maria Carolina Quecine observed the presence of a zone of clearing around colonies of Pf-5 on CAS agar as discussed in Chapter 2.

Neal Wilson did Bayesian analysis to generate the tree of *Pseudomonas* species based on multi-locus sequence analysis presented in Chapter 4.

Neal C. Goebel ran the HPLC analysis on the samples prepared from the Pf-5 siderophore mutants presented in Appendices 5 and 6.

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TonB-dependent Outer-membrane Proteins of *Pseudomonas fluorescens*: Diverse and Redundant Roles in Iron Acquisition

Chapter 1: Introduction

Pseudomonas species are ubiquitous inhabitants of soil, water, and plant surfaces (2, 51). Members of the genus live in association with roots, seeds, fruit, foliar and floral surfaces. These commensal species can have profound effects on plants by suppressing pests, enhancing access to key nutrients, altering physiological processes, or degrading environmental pollutants. The processes by which commensal microorganisms exert beneficial effects on plant health are poorly understood, and knowledge of these processes is needed to exploit microbe-plant interactions for the benefit of agriculture and the environment.

Plant diseases pose significant constraints to agriculture and their management requires large inputs of time and money to maintain crop productivity. With the ever increasing costs of existing methods for disease control in agriculture, new options, such as biological control agents, are needed. In addition to the possibility of lowering costs, the use of naturally-occurring beneficial microorganisms could result in more stable and sustainable agricultural practices by reducing the current applications of compounds with detrimental effects on the environment. For example, certain *Pseudomonas* spp. are associated with disease suppressive soils (47), a natural process of biological control manifested in soils where plant disease remains negligible even when a pathogen is present. In addition, certain strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. suppress plant disease when used as microbial inoculants, and two strains of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* are currently used in US agriculture for disease management (17). The primary focus of the research presented in this dissertation is *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain Pf-5, a model organism widely studied by the biological control research community and distinguished as the first fully sequenced biological control agent for plant disease (43).

Pseudomonas fluorescens Pf-5 is a soil bacterium that suppresses a number of soilborne pathogens (30). To suppress soilborne plant diseases, biological control bacteria like Pf-5 must colonize seed and root surfaces. The capacity to acquire iron is one factor contributing to the competitive fitness of bacteria in the rhizosphere (46). Understanding the mechanisms by which iron is taken up into the cell by *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 is of scientific interest, as iron is essential to cellular metabolism. Additionally, the mechanisms employed to enhance environmental fitness by a biological control strain could be applied to human and plant health. Within the genus *Pseudomonas* is the opportunistic human pathogen *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, which has a severe impact on cystic fibrosis sufferers, and devastating plant pathogens like *Pseudomonas syringae*, which infects a wide range of economically-important crops. These bacteria share commonalities at the genomic level, so information generated through studies of Pf-5 can be extended to other *Pseudomonas* spp.

Siderophores

Gram-negative bacteria such as fluorescent *Pseudomonas* spp. are subject to iron limitation in aerobic environments due to the lack of readily-available Fe^{2+} ions in the form of iron needed for bacterial growth. To overcome the obstacle of limited iron, the fluorescent pseudomonads produce and utilize siderophores. Siderophores are iron-chelating compounds released into the environment to bind Fe^{3+} , and taken up into the bacterial cell through TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins (TBDPs). Inside the cell, the iron can be removed from the siderophore by redox reduction of Fe^{3+} to Fe^{2+} , which releases the iron from the siderophore due to reduced affinity for ferrous iron (22). Siderophores, Greek meaning iron carriers, are low molecular weight molecules produced by many organisms, such as plants, bacteria and fungi. Currently, 500 different siderophores are known, with 270 of them structurally characterized (22). Primarily, there are three structural types of siderophores based on the type of iron-binding ligand they contain: catecholates, hydroxamates, and carboxylates (22). In most cases, biosynthesis is by nonribosomal peptide synthetases, which use a modular domain system

to link amino acids together with post-translational modifications by associated proteins to create active siderophores (1). Examples of siderophores made by other biosynthetic mechanisms are aerobactin, which is produced using a different family of synthetases (1), and thioquinolobactin. Thioquinolobactin is the product of two separated metabolic pathways involving tryptophan catabolism and the production of thiocarboxylate (33).

TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins

Characteristics of TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins (TBDP) include their location on the outer membrane (OM) and a molecular weight of 70-90 kDa. A 22-stranded β -barrel forms the pore through the outer membrane with an internal \sim 160 amino acid residue plug domain blocking the pore. The plug and β -barrel contribute to substrate binding. The residues binding the substrate vary among TBDPs having different substrate specificities (16, 23, 45). Extracellular loops of the β -barrel close over the channel when the substrate is bound, holding the substrate in place (45). Transport of substrates, siderophores and other bound molecules across the outer-membrane requires energy (16). TBDPs interact with the TonB protein complex to receive the needed energy, which it does through a motif called the TonB-box. The TonB-box is a heptapeptide located near the N-terminus of TBDPs (5, 38, 45). The proteins TonB, ExbB, and ExbD form an energy-transducing complex that harnesses proton motive force to provide energy to move substrates through the TonB-dependent outer-membrane protein (23, 27, 38). The accessory proteins ExbB and ExbD are anchored in the cytoplasmic membrane (CM) where they couple the proton gradient across the CM (16, 45). The domains of TonB are an N-terminal transmembrane domain acting as an anchor, a proline rich region, and residue 160 in the C-terminal region, which is important for interaction with the TBDP (49).

TonB-dependent transducers (TBDTs) are a subclass of TBDPs with an N-terminal extension that interacts with an anti-sigma factor, which then releases a cognate extra-cytoplasmic function (ECF) sigma factor to initiate a signaling cascade (45).

TBDTs are the first proteins of a signaling pathway initiated by substrate binding and ending with expression of substrate-specific transport genes. This signaling pathway was elucidated for *Escherichia coli* FecA, which binds ferric citrate (5) (Fig. 1.1). The binding of TonB to a TBDT is dependent on substrate or siderophore binding at the surface (16) and leads to ligand-dependent transcriptional regulation of an import operon, containing genes for the transport proteins used to move the substrate across the CM. The ~79 residue signaling domain of the TBDT at the N-terminus interacts with the C-terminus of the anti-sigma factor (14, 16). Anti-sigma factors have a leucine rich motif of repeating heptapeptides (residues 247-268) flanked by three leucines and a valine: residues 1-79 of the anti-sigma factor interact with residues 101-317 of the TBDT (5). The anti-sigma factor spans the CM and its N terminus contacts a specific ECF sigma factor in the cytoplasm (5, 23). Upon release from its anti-sigma factor, the ECF sigma factor promotes RNA polymerase binding to the promoter of the import operon (16) (Fig. 1).

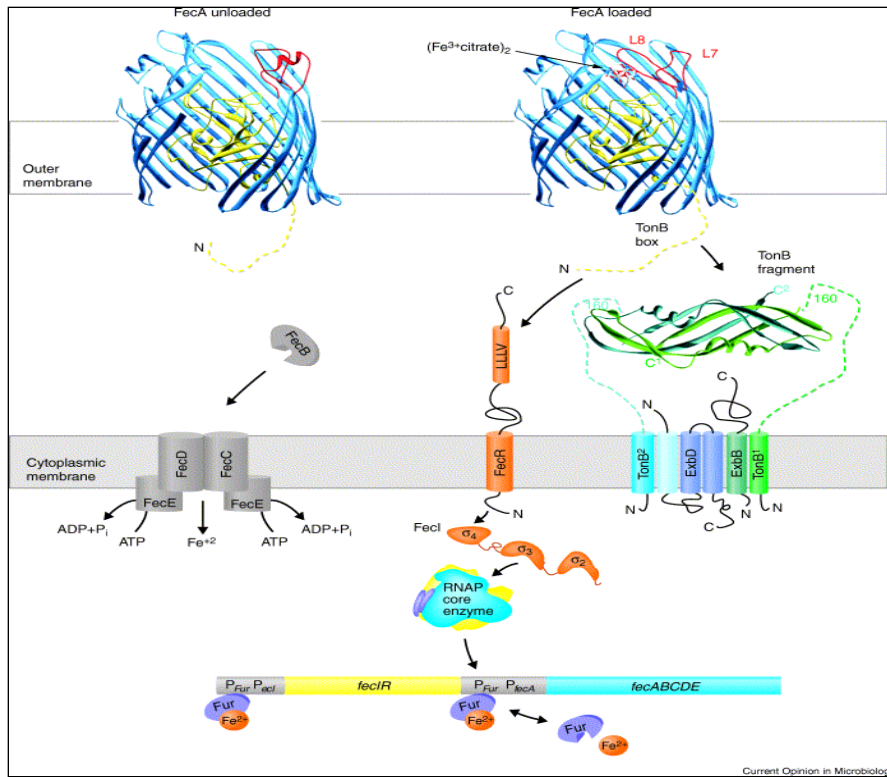


Fig. 1.1. Model of signaling pathway as discovered in *E. coli* for the TonB-dependent transducer FecA (5). Reprinted with permission from Elsevier.

Regulation

Genes coding for TBDTs that function as ferric-siderophore receptors are typically expressed preferentially under iron-limited conditions, and were therefore among the genes identified in microarrays evaluating iron-regulated gene expression by *P. aeruginosa* (42) and *P. syringae* (6). The ferric uptake regulator (Fur) protein plays a central role in iron-mediated regulation, serving as a transcriptional repressor under iron-replete conditions (41). Therefore, the presence of Fur binding sites was one criterion used to differentiate TBDPs functioning in iron-acquisition from those with other catabolic functions in *X. campestris* (4). A Fur-iron complex is formed when iron is present and binds to a DNA motif called the Fur box located upstream of the promoter, thus stopping transcription of the operon (15, 21, 50). Detailed analysis of the genomic regions surrounding each putative TBDP gene in Pf-5 for the presence of these conserved binding sites identified a Fur binding site upstream of *fpvA*, which encodes a ferric-pyoverdine receptor (Fig. 1.2) and in other genomic regions with TBDPs, but also identified six TBDP regions that lack Fur-binding sites and include genes with putative catabolic functions (Appendix 1).

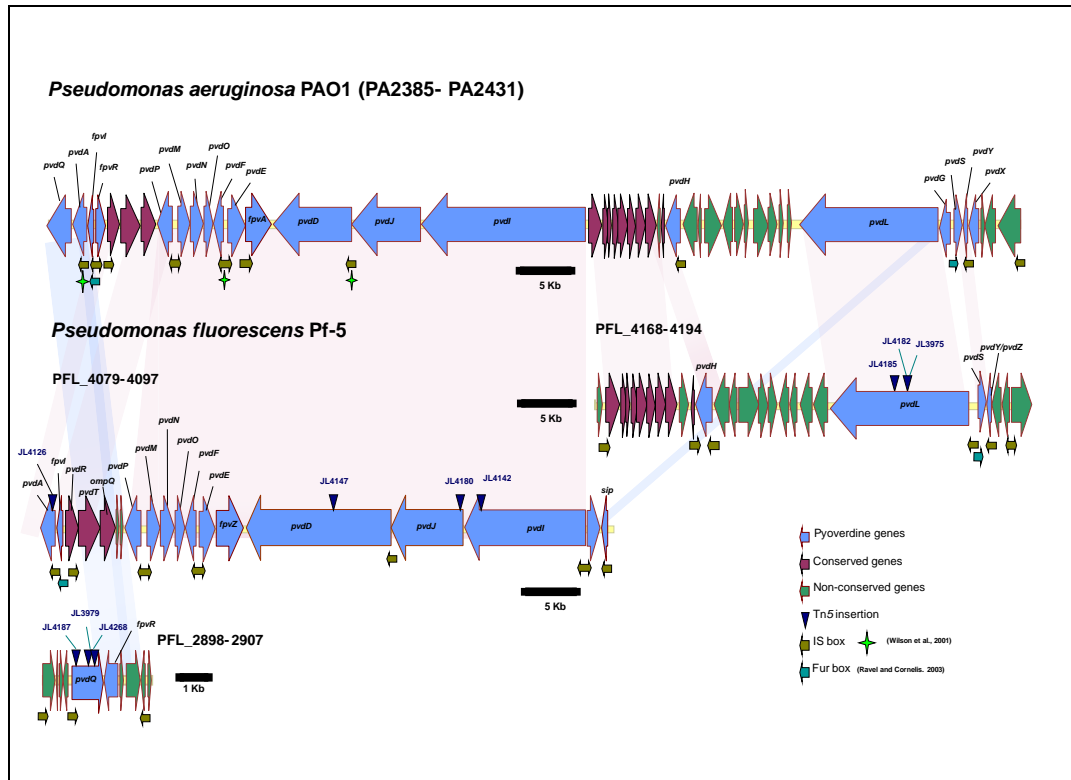


Fig. 1.2. Comparison of *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 and *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 pyoverdine biosynthetic regions. Illustration of the homologous genes, four Pf-5 gene regions, and Fur and PvdS binding sites.

Regulatory proteins, in addition to Fur, are involved in the expression of TBDPs. The ECF sigma factors, commonly encoded by genes located next to TBDP and anti-sigma factor genes, are integral in the regulation of TBDTs (11). The ECF sigma factor PvdS, called the iron starvation sigma factor, initiates pyoverdine siderophore production in low iron conditions by binding the iron starvation box (IS) motif to activate expression of siderophore biosynthetic genes (50). Two component regulatory protein pairs composed of a regulator and a sensor are also involved in the regulation of some TBDPs, specifically those involved in the uptake of enterobactin (13). AraC regulatory proteins are involved in the control of the pyochelin receptor in *P. aeruginosa* (37).

Number of TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins

TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins have long been known to function in ferric-siderophore uptake, vitamin B12 uptake, and phage recognition (45). Their broader functions in some bacteria, such as in uptake of sucrose (4), maltodextrins (28), nickel (48), sulfate (24), and other substrates, have been recognized more recently. Environmental bacterial tend to have more TBDPs than bacteria living in uniform environments, possibly because they occupy more diverse and dynamic habitats and need to adapt to continual changes in the nutrients available (4).

Gram-negative bacteria differ in the number of TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins in their proteomes, with most strains having low numbers. In a survey of 226 Gram-negative bacterial genomes, 71% had less than 14 TBDPs and 16% had more than 30 (4). *Pseudomonas* species are among the bacteria with the largest numbers of TBDPs. Pf-5 has 45 TBDPs, which is on the high end of the range for *Pseudomonas* spp. (43). Of the 45 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5, 28 are similar to siderophore receptors of other *Pseudomonas* spp. (43). Eleven of the 36 TBDPs in the *P. aeruginosa* proteome are known to function in iron acquisition, with eight TBDPs having an established role in the uptake of microbial ferric-siderophore complexes (19). From a phylogenetic analysis of the TBDPs of Pf-5 and *P. aeruginosa* (43), candidate TBDPs

likely to function in iron-acquisition of Pf-5 have been identified, but there are many other TBDPs that are unique to Pf-5 which do not appear to function in iron acquisition. The TBDPs not linked to iron uptake may play important roles that enable Pf-5 to adapt to and colonize the changing environments of seed and root surfaces.

Why does Pf-5 have so many TBDPs? Pf-5 is able to colonize plant surfaces as well as live in the soil where TBDPs may play a role in enhancing access to limited resources, like iron (9). A study on rhizosphere populations of fluorescent *Pseudomonas* spp. found that siderophore production conferred the advantage of higher populations on roots (46). Strains able to take up a siderophore produced by another rhizosphere bacterium were better able to compete on the root surface (46). The ability of *Pseudomonas* spp. to use heterologous siderophores also was shown in *Pseudomonas putida* using an ice nucleation reporter gene fused to an iron regulated promoter (29). The presence of siderophore-producing strains of *P. putida* and *Enterobacter cloacae* increased iron availability to *P. putida* in the rhizosphere of cucumbers (29). The utilization of carbon substrates found on and around plant surfaces is a likely role for a subset of the TBDPs in Pf-5. The study conducted by Blanvillain et al. (4) described a TBDP for sucrose uptake, indicating that TBDPs have expanded roles beyond iron and B12 uptake. In the genome of Pf-5, there are genes for the catabolism and uptake of a wide range of organic compounds found in seed and root exudates (30).

Pyoverdine Uptake

The fluorescent pseudomonads are characterized by the production of pyoverdine siderophores, composed of a dihydroxyquinoline chromophore, which is responsible for diffusible green fluorescence, an acyl side chain (either dicarboxylic acid or amide) bound to the amino group of the chromophore, and a peptide chain of variable length and composition. The structures of more than 70 pyoverdines from different strains and species of *Pseudomonas* have now been determined (7, 35). Different strains of *P. aeruginosa* produce pyoverdines falling into three structural groups, and two TBDTs

(termed FpvA and FpvB for ferric-pyoverdine uptake) are responsible for the uptake of these ferric-pyoverdines. A far more complex structure-function relationship must exist in Pf-5, which produces two siderophores (a pyoverdine and enantio-pyochelin) and six putative ferric-pyoverdine transducers (here termed FpvU to FpvZ) (43), which are likely to be responsible for its capacity to utilize ferric-pyoverdines from many *Pseudomonas* strains as a source of iron.

Ferric-pyoverdine TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins

TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins for the uptake of pyoverdine were initially characterized in plant growth promoting *Pseudomonas* spp. (Table 1.1). *Pseudomonas* sp. B10 and *P. putida* WCS358 were investigated for the presence of receptor proteins required for the uptake of the cognate pyoverdines (then called pseudobactins) (31-32). Receptor proteins in both strains were identified as being in the size range for TBDPs and expressed in low iron conditions (31-32). Further research showed that WCS358 has multiple receptors for pyoverdine uptake with PupA for the uptake of the cognate pyoverdine and PupB for heterologous pyoverdines (3, 25). Subsequently, four TBDPs for the uptake of pyoverdines were found in *Pseudomonas* sp. strain M114, with PbuA identified for uptake of its own pyoverdine (39).

Table 1.1. Characterized pyoverdine TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins and associated pyoverdines

Pyoverdine TBDP	Producing strain and pyoverdine peptide chain	Reference
FpvA	<i>P. fluorescens</i> ATCC13525: Ser-Lys-Gly-FOHOrn-(Lys-FOHOrn-Ser)	(20, 36)
	<i>P. chlororaphis</i> ATCC9446: Ser-Lys-Gly-FOHOrn-(Lys-FOHOrn-Ser)	
	<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PAO1: Ser-Arg-Ser-FOHOrn-(Lys-FOHOrn-Thr-Thr)	
	<i>P. fluorescens</i> DSM 50106: Ser-Lys-Gly-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser-Gly-(Orn-FOHOrn-Ser)	
	<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pfl 18.1: Ser-Lys-Gly-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser-Gly-(Lys-FOHOrn-Ser)	
FpvB	<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PAO1: Ser-Arg-Ser-FOHOrn-(Lys-FOHOrn-Thr-Thr) (Type I pyoverdine)	(18)
FpvAII	<i>P. aeruginosa</i> ATCC27853: Ser-FOHOrn-Orn-Gly-aThr-Ser-cOHOrn (Type II pyoverdine)	(34)
	<i>P. fluorescens</i> PL7: Ser-AcOHOrn-Ala-Gly-aThr-Ala-cOHOrn	
	<i>P. fluorescens</i> PL8: Lys-AcOHOrn-Ala-Gly-aThr-Ser-cOHOrn	
FpvAIII	<i>P. aeruginosa</i> 7NSK2: Ser-cDab-FOHOrn-Gln-Gln-FOHOrn-Gly (Type III pyoverdine)	(12)
PupB	Bn7: Unknown	(26)
PupA	WCS358: Asp-εLys-OHAsp-Ser-aThr-Ala-Thr-Lys-cOHOrn	(32)
WCS358 RF2	<i>P. fluorescens</i> WCS374: Ser-Lys-Gly-FOHOrn-(Lys-FOHOrn-Ser)	(25)
	<i>P. fluorescens</i> PAO1: Ser-Arg-Ser-FOHOrn-(Lys-FOHOrn-Thr-Thr)	
WCS358 RF3	<i>P. fluorescens</i> B10: εLys-OHAsp-Ala-aThr-Ala-cOHOrn	(25)
PbuA	<i>P. fluorescens</i> B10: εLys-OHAsp-Ala-aThr-Ala-cOHOrn	(39)
PupX	<i>P. fluorescens</i> B10: εLys-OHAsp-Ala-aThr-Ala-cOHOrn	(31, 39)

Underline denotes D-amino acids. Parentheses define cyclic residues. cOHOrn is cyclo-hydroxy-ornithine. FOHOrn is δN-formyl- δN-hydroxy-ornithine. εLys is Lys linked by ε-NH₂. OHAsp is threo-β-hydroxy-aspartic acid. Dab is diamino-butanoic acid. aThr is allo-Thr. AcOHOrn is δN-acetyl- δN-hydroxy-ornithine.

The opportunistic pathogen *P. aeruginosa* has the best studied Fpv outer-membrane proteins. Initial studies of the type strain and clinical strains identified two outer-membrane proteins with the potential for pyoverdine uptake (10). FpvA and FpvB from *P. aeruginosa* strains are present in different forms depending on the strain and are used for the uptake of the three pyoverdine types produced by *P. aeruginosa* strains and heterologous pyoverdines (12, 34, 44). The crystal structure of FpvA along with mechanistic analysis relating to pyoverdine binding and uptake have revealed how this receptor binds and moves ferric-pyoverdine across the outer membrane through interactions with both the plug and β -barrel (8, 40). A recent survey of fluorescent pseudomonads found variation in the number of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins among and within the species surveyed (9). As further research is done to characterize the TBDPs used for pyoverdine uptake, such as the work on Pf-5 presented here, variation of these proteins within the fluorescent pseudomonads will be elucidated.

Research objectives

TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 are of interest due to their presence in high numbers within this strain. The characterization of TBDPs within Pf-5 and comparison to other fluorescent pseudomonads will aid in the understanding of how these environmental bacteria survive in complex conditions, particularly those relating to agricultural systems.

The first objective of my research was to analyze the 45 TBDPs in the proteome of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5, which consisted of categorizing the TBDPs as receptors or transducers based on the presence of characteristic domains. I then assigned putative functions based on amino acid similarity to characterized TBDPs and the functions and arrangement of associated genes. The putative functions of some TBDPs were determined by bioassays. A Pf-5 mutant deficient in the production of its own siderophores (pyoverdine and enantio-pyochelin) was derived and evaluated for growth in the presence of heterologous ferric-siderophores and iron-containing molecules.

Upon sequencing the genome of Pf-5, initial annotation identified six putative TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins for the uptake of ferric-pyoverdines. The second objective of my research was to assess the roles of the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins in the uptake of a diverse set of ferric-pyoverdines. Pf-5 mutants deficient in *fpv* genes were tested for crossfeeding by pyoverdine-producing strains of *Pseudomonas* and uptake of purified pyoverdines. A survey of the literature indicates that some Fpv outer-membrane proteins recognize one pyoverdine structure (25, 31, 39) whereas other Fpv outer-membrane proteins recognize structurally-related pyoverdines (20, 34, 36). I hypothesize that the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins in Pf-5 could function in three ways; each Fpv recognizes a specific pyoverdine, each Fpv recognizes a distinct set of structurally-related pyoverdines, or two or more Fpv outer-membrane proteins recognize the same pyoverdine.

The results presented in Chapters 2 and 3 show that Pf-5 has TBDPs for the uptake of a variety of substrates primarily involved in the acquisition of iron. The roles of TBDPs in Pf-5 can be used as a platform for investigation of TBDPs in other fluorescent pseudomonads. Chapter 4 illustrates how, using Pf-5 as a template, a core set of five conserved TBDPs was identified for ten strains of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and related species (termed the *P. fluorescens* group). The diversity of Fpv outer-membrane proteins present in strains of the *P. fluorescens* group also was assessed. The biological and genomic diversity of the ten strains of the *P. fluorescens* group is reflected in the diversity of the types of TBDPs present within the individual strains as well as those shared between the more related strains.

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Chapter 2

TonB-dependent Outer-membrane Proteins and Siderophore Utilization in *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Pf-5

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Abstract

The soil bacterium *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Pf-5 produces two siderophores, a pyoverdine and enantio-pyochelin, and its proteome includes 45 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins, which commonly function in uptake of siderophores and other substrates from the environment. The 45 proteins share the conserved β -barrel and plug domains of TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins but only 18 of them have an N-terminal signaling domain characteristic of TonB-dependent transducers (TBDTs), which participate in cell-surface signaling systems. Phylogenetic analyses of the 18 TBDTs and 27 TonB-dependent receptors (TBDRs), which lack the N-terminal signaling domain, suggest a complex evolutionary history including horizontal transfer among different microbial lineages. Putative functions were assigned to certain TBDRs and TBDTs in clades including well-characterized orthologs from other *Pseudomonas* spp. A mutant of Pf-5 with deletions in pyoverdine and enantio-pyochelin biosynthesis genes was constructed and characterized for iron-limited growth and utilization of a spectrum of siderophores. The mutant could utilize as iron sources a large number of pyoverdines with diverse structures as well as ferric citrate, heme, and the siderophores ferrichrome, ferrioxamine B, enterobactin, and aerobactin. The diversity and complexity of the TBDTs and TBDRs with roles in iron uptake clearly indicate the importance of iron in the fitness and survival of Pf-5 in the environment.

Introduction

TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins are important components of the bacterial cellular machinery for the uptake of substrates from the environment. These proteins bind with high affinity to specific substrates external to the cell as the first step in the energy-dependent transport of the substrate into the periplasmic space. The energy for transport across the outer membrane is supplied by TonB proteins (74). TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins are best known as receptors for siderophores, high-affinity iron-chelating compounds that are produced by microorganisms under iron-limiting conditions. Siderophores are exported from the cell, where they chelate ferric ions in the environment. Specific ferric-siderophore complexes are recognized by cognate TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins, which initiate the process of iron transport into the cell where the iron becomes available for metabolic functions (38). The roles of TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins as receptors for siderophores, vitamin B12, and certain phages have been recognized for decades (74) but their broader functions in the uptake of sucrose (7), maltodextrins (51), nickel (80), sulfate (44), and other substrates have been recognized only recently. Most bacteria have less than 14 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins in their proteomes but certain environmental bacteria, such as *Caulobacter crescentus* (27) and *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *campestris* have very large numbers (7). This is also the case for *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Pf-5, a well-characterized soil bacterium that colonizes seed and root surfaces and protects plants from infection by certain soil-borne plant pathogens (52). The proteome of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 includes 45 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins.

In environments in which iron is limited, fluorescent pseudomonads such as *P. fluorescens* produce pyoverdines. These siderophores are composed of a dihydroxyquinoline chromophore, an acyl side chain (either dicarboxylic acid or amide) bound to the amino group of the chromophore, and a peptide chain of variable length and composition. The structures of more than 70 pyoverdines from different strains and species of *Pseudomonas* have now been determined (64). Strains of *P. aeruginosa*

produce pyoverdines falling into three structural groups (66), and two of the 34 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins in the proteome of PAO1 are responsible for the uptake of these ferric-pyoverdines (49). Other *Pseudomonas* spp. differ in the range of pyoverdine structures that they can utilize as iron sources. *P. entomophila* L48 utilizes a wide range of pyoverdines, whereas the related species *P. putida* KT2440 can utilize relatively few of these siderophores to acquire iron from the environment (57). In addition to pyoverdine, a second siderophore having a lower affinity for iron than pyoverdine is produced by many strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. (14). For example, pyochelin is produced by *P. aeruginosa*, and its optical antipode enantio-pyochelin is produced by *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 (94). Furthermore, pseudomonads have a remarkable capacity to utilize heterologous siderophores produced by diverse taxa of bacteria and fungi (17). Of the 34 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins in the proteome of *P. aeruginosa* PAO1, eight serve as receptors for the heterologous siderophores enterobactin, aerobactin, ferrichrome, ferrioxamine B, heme or ferric-citrate (15-16). A more complex structure-function relationship likely exists in *P. fluorescens* Pf-5, with its 45 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins including six putative ferric-pyoverdine receptors (71).

In addition to their roles as outer membrane receptors, certain TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins serve as components of cell-surface signaling (CSS) systems used by bacteria to sense signals from the extracellular medium and transmit them into the cytoplasm (28). Typically, CSS systems have three components: an alternative sigma factor of the extracytoplasmic function (ECF) family, a sigma factor regulator (anti-sigma factor) located in the cytoplasmic membrane, and a TonB-dependent outer-membrane protein having an N-terminal signaling domain. This signaling domain interacts with the C-terminus of the cognate anti-sigma factor, which releases the ECF sigma factor to function in transcription of specific target genes (28). Therefore, upon substrate binding, TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins having the N-terminal signaling domain initiate a signaling pathway that controls the transcription of target genes. Genes encoding the three CSS components are typically clustered in the bacterial genome.

In this study, a combination of bioinformatic, phylogenetic and functional analyses were employed to characterize the 45 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5. Motifs defining constituent domains were identified and the presence or absence of the N-terminal signaling domain was used to distinguish the 27 TonB-dependent receptors (TBDRs) from the 18 TonB-dependent transducers (TBDTs) in the Pf-5 proteome. Phylogenetic analyses of the TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins from Pf-5 and characterized orthologs from other *Pseudomonas* spp. allowed the assignment of putative functions to certain Pf-5 TBDRs and TBDTs. A mutant of Pf-5 with deletions in pyoverdine and enantio-pyochelin biosynthesis genes was constructed and characterized for iron-limited growth and utilization of a spectrum of siderophores. Pf-5 exhibited a remarkable capacity to utilize pyoverdines with diverse structures produced by different *Pseudomonas* spp., as well as ferric citrate, heme, and the siderophores ferrichrome, ferrioxamine B, enterobactin, and aerobactin.

Materials and methods

Bacterial strains and growth conditions

Pseudomonas strains were grown on King's medium B (KMB) (45) at 27°C. *Escherichia coli* and *E. cloacae* were grown on Luria-Bertani (LB) at 37°C. Antibiotics were used at the following concentrations (µg/ml): gentamicin (Gm) 40 (*P. fluorescens*) and 12.5 (*E. coli*), kanamycin (Km) 50, streptomycin (Sm) 100, tetracycline (Tet) 200 (*P. fluorescens*) and 20 (*E. coli*).

Pyoverdine peptide chain prediction

Pyoverdines produced by many strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. have unknown structures, but the amino acid composition of the peptide chain of these pyoverdines can be predicted bioinformatically from the nucleotide sequences of genes encoding the corresponding non-ribosomal peptide synthetases (NRPSs). Predicted amino acid sequences for the NRPSs for each strain were submitted to the NRPS/PKS predictor (2) and the NRPS predictor (<http://www->

ab.informatik.uni-tuebingen.de/software/NRSPredictor) which uses the methods of (84) and (76).

Sequence compilation and domain analysis

Alignments of amino acid sequences of the TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5 were done using the multiple sequence alignment tool T-Coffee (69). Characteristic domains of TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins were identified according to Pfam (31), using default settings with an E-value cutoff of 1.0. Additional domain analysis was done using the EMBL_EBI InterProScan domain search tool.

Secondary structure prediction

PSIPRED GenTHREADER (58) and a beta barrel prediction model (5) were used to predict secondary structure of the 45 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins in the Pf-5 genome.

Phylogenetic analysis

Amino acid sequences of TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins were submitted to the NCBI database of non-redundant protein sequences to identify the five to ten best hits for each using the PSI-BLAST algorithm (1). Phylogenetic and molecular evolutionary analyses were conducted using MEGA version 4.0.2 (87). The Clustal W (90) based alignment option with a gap open penalty of 15 and a gap extension penalty of 0.3 was used to align the amino acid sequences. The aligned sequences were masked to remove gaps. The masked sequences were then subjected to bootstrapped maximum parsimony analysis. Branches corresponding to partitions reproduced in less than 50% of bootstrap replicates were collapsed. The percentage of replicate trees in which the associated taxa clustered together in the bootstrap test (500 replicates) is shown next to the branches. The maximum parsimony tree was obtained using the Close-Neighbor-Interchange algorithm with search level 3 in which the initial trees were obtained with the random

addition of sequences (10 replicates). All positions containing gaps and missing data were eliminated from the dataset (complete deletion option). The % GC for each gene encoding a TonB-dependent outer membrane protein was compiled and those differing significantly from the Pf-5 genomic average of 63.3% were identified by chi square analysis.

Construction of mutants of Pf-5

Mutants of Pf-5 were constructed using overlap extension PCR methods modified from Choi and Schweizer (12). The *ofaA* (PFL_2145) mutant of Pf-5 is described in Hassan et al. (37). The Δ *pvdI* deletion mutant was made by the method described in Hassan et al. (2010) using the primers pyv UpF-Bam, pyv UpR-FRT, pyv DnF-FRT, and pyv DnR-Bam (Table 2.1). The *pchA* and *pchC* gene constructs were made by modified methods as described below. The *pchC* (PFL_3490) gene was amplified with primers PFL3490-Up and PFL3490-Low (Table 2.1) using iProof DNA polymerase (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA) and cloned into pCR-blunt (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). The GmR-*gfp* gene cassette was amplified from pPS858 (39) with primers Gm-F and Gm-R using KOD DNA polymerase (Novagen (Merk), Darmstadt, Germany). The GmR-*gfp* cassette was used to interrupt the *pchC* gene by cloning into a unique *PshAI* site. The interrupted *pchC* gene was re-amplified with PFL3490-Up and PFL3490-Low primers using KOD DNA polymerase and ligated into the *SmaI* site of pEX18Tc (39). This construct was introduced into Pf-5 as described in Hassan et al. (37). The *pchA* (PFL_3488) gene construct was made by PCR amplification of 5' and 3' regions of *pchA* with the primers 3488 UpFHind, 3488 UpR, 3488 DnF, and 3488 DnRHind (Table 2.1). The resulting PCR products were combined in a second round of PCR with the primers 3488 UpFHind and 3488 DnRHind added during the 3rd-cycle extension, yielding a product consisting of the 5' and 3' regions of the *pchA* gene with the middle portion of the gene deleted. The final PCR product was digested with *HindIII* and cloned into pEX18Tc (39). The *pchA* deletion construct was transformed into One Shot TOP10 Chemically Competent *E. coli* (Invitrogen) and then into the mobilizing strain *E. coli* S17-1 (83). Pf-5 transconjugants

were selected on KMB (45) with streptomycin (100 µg/ml, innate resistance of Pf-5) and tetracycline (200 µg/ml). Resulting colonies were grown for 3 h without selection in LB broth and plated on LB with 5% sucrose to favor growth of resolved merodiploids. Colonies growing on sucrose were patched onto KMB containing tetracycline (200 µg/ml) to confirm resolution of merodiploids. Tetracycline-sensitive clones were screened for presence of the *pchA* deletion by PCR and the PCR product sequenced to confirm correct incorporation of the deleted allele.

Table 2.1. Primers used in the construction of mutants of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5

Primer	Sequence 5'-3'
<i>pchA</i>	
3488 UpFHind	GACGAAGACGAAGCTTTTCTACCTGCGCGAGCAACA
3488 UpR	TGCTCGCGGATAACAGGCAGGATTCACTCATC
3488 DnF	AATCCTGCCTGTTATCCGCGAGCATGAGCAA
3488 DnRHind	GTGGTTGTGGAAGCTTATTCCTTCGCCATAAACCGC
<i>pvdI</i>	
pyv UpF-Bam	CTCTGCTTCTGGATCCTCGGTTTCTTCGTCAACACC
pyv UpR-FRT	TCAGAGCGCTTTTGAAGCTAATTCGGAGGTGTAGATCGAATAGGC
pyv DnF-FRT	AGGAACTTCAAGATCCCCAATTCGTGCTGGATGCATCCTTGCAA
pyv DnR-Bam	CACACCATCAGGATCCATCTGCCAGAACAGCCATTG
<i>pchC</i>	
PFL3490-Up	CGGCCAGGCTGTACACCAC
PFL3490-Low	TACCTGAGCACCGAGCAGC
Gm-F	CGAATTAGCTTCAAAAGCGCTCTGA
Gm-R	CGAATTGGGGATCTTGAAGTTCCT

Arbitrary PCR

Tn5 insertions in an extant set of pyoverdine-deficient mutants (48) were mapped by using arbitrary PCR. Genomic DNA flanking the Tn5 insertion was amplified in two rounds of PCR reactions. In the first round, Primer 1 was complementary to sequences of Tn5 and Primer 2 was a degenerate primer. The 5' end of the degenerate primer was 5'-GGTCCG, a sequence that occurs 350 times, at an average of every 600 bp, in the pyoverdine region of Pf-5. This primer also contained 10 random nucleotides and a previously-described 20-nucleotide sequence (21). Round 2, Primer 1 was composed of the 3' 20 nucleotides from the round one degenerate primer. Round 2, Primer 2 was complementary to Tn5 at a location internal to the Round 1, Primer 1 sequence. The final product was sequenced to identify the DNA flanking the Tn5 insertion.

Round 1, Primer 1: 5'-GGGCAGTACGGCGAGGAT-3'

Round 1, Primer 2: 5'-GGTCCGNNNNNNNNNNACTGATCAGCTGCGCACCGG-3'

Round 2, Primer 1: 5'-ACTGATCAGCTGCGCACCGG-3'

Round 2, Primer 2: 5'-CCTTTCTGATCGCCTCGG-3'

Iron limited growth

Pf-5 and derivative strains were tested for iron limited growth on KMB containing the iron chelator 2,2'-dipyridyl (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO) at 0, 100, 200, 400, 600, and 800 μ M. Bacterial cells from overnight cultures grown in KMB broth were collected by centrifugation and suspended in water to 0.1 OD₆₀₀. This suspension was diluted to 10⁻², 5 μ l of the diluted cell suspension was placed on the agar surface, and bacterial growth was observed following 24 hrs incubation at 27°C. Each strain was tested in at least two experiments, each evaluating two replicate plates.

Enantio-pyochelin extraction and detection

Production of enantio-pyochelin in Pf-5 and derivative strains was analyzed using the following method: for each treatment, four tubes each containing 5 ml M9 minimal medium (78) broth were inoculated with 5 µl of overnight culture and incubated at 27°C for 48 hrs at 200 rpm. Two cultures were combined for each of two replicates and centrifuged at 7000 rpm for 10 min. Supernatants were decanted into 50 ml polypropylene conical screw-cap centrifuge tubes and adjusted to pH 2.0 with 1M HCl. The enantio-pyochelin was extracted by adding 0.5 volumes ethyl acetate and vortexing. The organic and aqueous phases were separated by centrifugation at 7000 rpm for 10 min. The organic top layer was transferred to 5 ml glass tubes and dried under vacuum. Dried samples were resuspended in 100 µl methanol and stored at -20 °C. Enantio-pyochelin extracts were separated on thin layer chromatography plates (silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ on aluminum, EM Science, Gibbstown, NJ) using n-butyl alcohol/water/acetic acid 4:1:1 (v/v/v) as the mobile phase (94). Compounds were viewed by fluorescence at 365 nm and by spraying with 2 M FeCl₃ in 0.1 M HCl.

CAS agar assay

Pf-5 and mutants were tested for siderophore production by observing zones surrounding colonies grown on CAS (Chrome azurol S) agar for pseudomonads (81). Ten µL of a 0.1 OD₆₀₀ cell suspension was spotted on the agar surface; plates were incubated at 27°C, and observed for zone formation. Each mutant was tested in at least two experiments, each evaluating two replicate plates. In some experiments, CAS agar was amended with FeCl₃ to a final concentration of 1 mM.

Crossfeeding assays

Pseudomonas spp. producing diverse pyoverdines (test strains presented in Table 2.2) were evaluated for their capacities to provide iron to the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* mutant of Pf-5 (indicator strain) in crossfeeding experiments. Cells from test strains and the indicator

strain were collected from overnight cultures grown in KMB broth and suspended in water to 0.1 OD₆₀₀. Cell suspensions of the indicator strain were further diluted to 10⁻² in sterile water. Ten µL each test strain suspension was placed on the surface of KMB amended with 2,2'-dipyridyl at 400 µM or 600 µM. Five µL of the diluted cell suspension of the indicator strain was spotted on the agar surface at a distance of 1 cm from each test strain. An alternative method was used for those test strains that did not grow on KMB amended with 2,2'-dipyridyl at 400 µM or 600 µM. For those strains, an agar plug (6mm) obtained from a 48 hr culture on KMB was substituted for the cell suspension on the surface of the test plate. Plates were incubated at 27°C, and growth of the indicator strain was observed at 24 hr and 36-48 hr. Each test strain was evaluated in at least two experiments, each evaluating two replicate plates.

Siderophore utilization assays

The capacity of Pf-5 to utilize specific ferric-siderophore complexes as sources of iron was evaluated. Cells of a *ΔpvdI-pchC* mutant of Pf-5 were collected from overnight cultures grown in KMB broth, suspended in water to 0.1 OD₆₀₀, diluted to 10⁻² in sterile water, and 100 µL of the diluted sample was spread on the surface of KMB amended with 400 µM or 600 µM 2,2'-dipyridyl. Filter paper disks (5 mm diameter) were placed at the center of the agar surface, and 10 µL of a purified siderophore solution or water (negative control) was placed on the filter paper disk. Plates were incubated at 27°C for 24 hr and then scored for the presence of bacterial growth in a halo surrounding the disk. The following compounds were tested: 20 mM ferric citrate in water, 7.7 mM hemin chloride in 10 mM NaOH, 5 mg hemoglobin in 1 ml PBS (phosphate-buffered saline), 20mM desferrioxamine in 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.8, and 10 mM ferrichrome in 0.5 M Tris-HCl, pH 8.8. All of the compounds were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. Each assay was done twice, with each experiment evaluating two replicate plates.

Results

Identification of conserved domains within the TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5

Analysis of the amino acid sequences of each of the 45 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins in the Pf-5 proteome revealed the conserved transmembrane pore and receptor domains of this protein family. Sequences characteristic of an outer membrane-spanning pore, formed by a β -barrel made up of repeated β -strands (Interpro: IPR000531) were identified in all 45 deduced peptide sequences (Fig. 2.1). Two domains involved in substrate binding, a receptor domain (Pfam: PF00593) comprising a highly conserved region of the pore, and a plug domain (Pfam: PF07715) (13, 72, 82), were also identified in 43 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins. The receptor domain was not identified in the proteins PFL_2919 and PFL_3612. A TonB box, defined as the five to seven amino acids required for interaction with TonB (73), was not identified consistently in the 45 proteins following analysis of sequence alignments with known TonB boxes in other *Pseudomonas* spp. The lack of conservation of this motif across the TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5 may be related to the presence of four putative TonB proteins in the Pf-5 genome (71). Multiple copies of TonB are also present in other species of *Pseudomonas* (42, 95).


a. Location of transducer domains (amino acid)



Locus Tag	STN	Plug	Receptor	Barrel	Length
PFL_4092	67-116	159-263	570-821	274-822, 278-822	822
PFL_2391	74-125	168-272	579-822	283-823, 286-823	823
PFL_2527	73-124	166-267	584-808	276-809, 282-809	809
PFL_3315	66-116	159-262	576-823	273-824, 277-824	824
PFL_3485	66-115	157-260	562-804	270-806, 274-806	806
PFL_0125	98-149	191-298	609-855	311-856	856
PFL_0147	68-117	161-267	579-820	280-821	821
PFL_0982	111-162	190-305	586-834	317-835	835
PFL_0995	71-122	160-259	567-807	278-811	811
PFL_1371	55-105	128-236	566-850	319-853	853
PFL_2293	65-116	158-263	582-823	277-824	824
PFL_2365	64-107	127-235	662-942	361-944	944
PFL_3154	77-128	151-255	571-827	280-828	828
PFL_3612	62-113	131-258	N/A	354-931	931
PFL_4039	70-120	149-264	557-819	273-821	821
PFL_4627	76-127	148-259	598-871	305-872	872
PFL_5378	74-122	152-261	591-900	355-901	901
PFL_5706	61-112	154-255	565-808	269-809	809

Fig. 2.1. Schematic representation of TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins in the Pf-5 genome. a. The TonB-dependent Transducers (TBDTs) have an additional N-terminal signaling domain (STN) (Pf07660). b. Conserved domains identified in the 28 TonB-dependent Receptors (TBDRs) include an outer membrane-spanning pore formed by a β -barrel made up of repeated β -strands (Interpro: IPR000531), and a receptor (Pfam: PF00593) and plug (Pf07715) involved in substrate binding.

b. Location of receptor domains (amino acid)



Locus Tag	Plug	Receptor	Barrel	Length
PFL_5511	71-178	424-655	186-654	654
PFL_4912	45-151	420-679	238-679	679
PFL_5169	81-194	459-712	205-712	712
PFL_4063	28-130	450-691	144-691	691
PFL_3620	57-173	447-696	203-696	696
PFL_2240	96-205	459-697	217-695	697
PFL_0310	60-156	462-699	171-699	699
PFL_0932	74-174	477-711	187-711	711
PFL_2772	52-163	442-707	195-707	708
PFL_1740	46-156	563-708	186-708	708
PFL_0646	58-163	468-709	180-709	709
PFL_0648	64-173	449-710	179-710	710
PFL_2604	57-157	477-711	173-711	711
PFL_1417	71-171	474-718	184-718	718
PFL_3835	69-169	485-727	180-727	727
PFL_3498	97-199	503-743	212-743	743
PFL_2663	50-170	465-746	181-746	746
PFL_0992	47-158	487-746	196-746	746
PFL_0255	101-210	523-784	244-784	784
PFL_3176	58-167	487-756	201-756	756
PFL_0864	78-178	512-761	191-761	761
PFL_2970	122-227	530-770	243-770	770
PFL_0213	73-181	518-790	186-790	790
PFL_1386	50-172	507-788	265-822	822
PFL_3177	53-177	510-823	272-823	823
PFL_3715	52-158	567-839	254-839	840
PFL_2919	65-161	N/A	189-859	859

Fig. 2.1., Continued

An N-terminal signaling domain (Pfam:PF07660), which is known to interact with regulatory proteins controlling the expression of ECF sigma factors (28), was identified in 18 of the 45 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins (Fig. 2.1). Seventeen of the genes encoding these proteins are immediately adjacent to or clustered with genes encoding ECF sigma factors and associated regulatory proteins (anti-sigma factors) in the Pf-5 genome (Fig. 2.2). One gene (PFL_4092) is located in a pyoverdine biosynthesis gene cluster also containing the corresponding ECF sigma factor gene FpvI (PFL_4080), but the corresponding anti-sigma factor encoding gene FpvR (PFL_2903) is distal in the genome.

The 27 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins lacking an N-terminal signaling domain range in length from 654 to 859 amino acids (72.9-93.8 kDa) whereas the 18 proteins having an N-terminal signaling domain are typically larger, ranging from 806 to 944 amino acids (88.05-104.48 kDa) (Fig. 2.1). Alignment of all 45 proteins showed a lack of conservation over much of the sequence between the groups, which is due partially to differences in protein length. Therefore, our phylogenetic analyses considered the TBDRs and TBDTs separately, revealing differences that could, in some cases, be assigned to distinct substrates.

a

	Linked anti-sigma	Linked ECF sigma factor	GC content of TBDR
Pyoverdine			
PFL_4092	PFL_2903	PFL_4080	62
PFL_2391	PFL_2392	PFL_2393	64
PFL_2527	PFL_2528	PFL_2529	64
PFL_3315	PFL_3314	PFL_3313	66*
PFL_3485	PFL_3485	PFL_3483	63
PFL_2293	PFL_2292	PFL_2291	66*
Ferrioxamine			
PFL_0125	PFL_0126	PFL_0127	62
Ferrichrome			
PFL_0147	PFL_0146	PFL_0147	64
PFL_5706	PFL_5705	PFL_5704	61*
Ferric citrate			
PFL_0982	PFL_0983	PFL_0984	65
PFL_4039	PFL_4040	PFL_4041	66*
Heme			
PFL_1371	PFL_1372	PFL_1373	64
PFL_2365	PFL_2364	PFL_2363	65
PFL_5378	PFL_5379	PFL_5380	66*
PFL_4627	PFL_4626	PFL_4625	63
Aerobactin			
PFL_3154	PFL_3155	PFL_3156	66*
Unknown			
PFL_3612	PFL_3611	PFL_3610	63
PFL_0995	PFL_0989	PFL_0988	65

Fig. 2.2. GC content of TBDTs and TBDRs. **a.** GC content of genes encoding TBDTs in the Pf-5 genome. **b.** GC content of genes encoding TBDRs in the Pf-5 genome. * %GC differs significantly from the genomic mean of 63% as determined by chi-square test.

b

Locus Tag	GC content
PFL_5511	61*
PFL_4912	66*
PFL_5169	62
PFL_4063	66*
PFL_3620	64
PFL_2240	65
PFL_0310	65
PFL_0932	64
PFL_2772	67*
PFL_1740	64
PFL_0646	66*
PFL_0648	67*
PFL_2604	66*
PFL_1417	64
PFL_3835	64
PFL_3498	66*
PFL_2663	66*
PFL_0992	61*
PFL_0255	63
PFL_3176	65*
PFL_0864	61*
PFL_2970	65
PFL_0213	66*
PFL_1386	66*
PFL_3177	67*
PFL_3715	65
PFL_2919	67*

Fig. 2.2., Continued

Phylogenetic analysis of TonB-Dependent Receptors (TBDRs)

The compiled best hits from PSI_BLAST of the 27 TBDRs were aligned and subjected to maximum parsimony analysis, using two TBDRs from *Helicobacter* spp. as an outgroup. A tree with 22 distinct clades was generated (Fig. 2.3). The majority of the clades are composed exclusively of TBDRs from *Pseudomonas* spp., but nine of the 22 clades include TBDRs present in proteomes of diverse genera representing the alpha-, beta- and gamma-proteobacteria. For eight of the nine TBDR genes corresponding to the proteins in clades having a member from genera other than *Pseudomonas* spp., the % GC differs significantly from the Pf-5 genomic mean of 63.3% (Fig. 2.2). The diversity of genera with orthologous TBDRs implies that horizontal gene transfer of TBDR genes is a possible mode for acquisition.

Fig. 2.3. Phylogenetic analysis of TonB-dependent receptors. Phylogenetic analysis of the 27 TBDRs of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 (PFL_) and orthologs was done using the Maximum Parsimony method. The bootstrap consensus tree inferred from 500 replicates is taken to represent the evolutionary history of the proteins analyzed. Branches corresponding to partitions reproduced in less than 50% of bootstrap replicates are collapsed. The tree is rooted with two *Helicobacter* spp. TBDRs. Pf-5 proteins are shown in red font; proteins with known functions are shown in green font, and proteins from genera other than *Pseudomonas* are shown in blue font. Putative functions assigned to Pf-5 TBDRs are labeled. The tree has been divided into two portions to improve visualization, and positions where the tree is joined are indicated with dotted lines. Abbreviations for species represented in the tree are as follows: *Acinetobacter* sp. ADP1 (ACIAD), *Azotobacter vinelandii* DJ (Avin), *Azotobacter vinelandii* AvOP (Av), *Caulobacter segnis* ATCC 21756 (Cs), *Cellvibrio japonicus* Ueda107 (CJA), *Delftia acidovorans* SPH-1 (Daci), *Helicobacter acinonychis* str. Sheeba (Hac), *Helicobacter pylori* 26695 (HP), *Janthinobacterium lividum* (Jl), *Methylobacillus flagellatus* KT (Mfla), *Methylothermobacter mobilis* JLW8 (Mmol), *P. aeruginosa* 2192 (PA2G), *P. aeruginosa* C3719 (PACG), *P. aeruginosa* LESB58 (PLES), *P. aeruginosa* PA14 (PA14), *P. aeruginosa* PACS2 (PaerPA), *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 (PA), *P. entomophila* (PSEEN), *P. fluorescens* Pf0-1 (Pfl01), *P. fluorescens* SBW25 (PFLU), *P. mendocina* ymp (Pmen), *P. putida* F1 (Pput), *P. putida* GB1 (PputGB1), *P. putida* KT2440 (PP), *P. putida* W619 (PputW619), *P. stutzeri* A1501 (PST), *P. syringae* pv. phaseolicola 1448A (PSPPH), *P. syringae* pv. syringae B728a (Psyn), *P. syringae* pv. tomato T1 (PsT1), *Pectobacterium atrosepticum* SCRI1043 (ECA), *Pectobacterium carotovorum* subsp. *carotovorum* PC1 (PC1), *Pectobacterium carotovorum* subsp. *carotovorum* WPP14 (Pcc), *Phenylobacterium zucineum* HLK1 (PHZ), *Pseudomonas filiscindens* (Pf), *Pseudomonas* sp. BG33R (Ps BG33R), *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. tomato DC3000 (PSPTO), *Rhodopseudomonas palustris* CGA009 (RPA), *Rhodopseudomonas palustris* TIE-1 (Rpa1), *Serratia odorifera* 4Rx13 (So), *Serratia proteamaculans* 568 (Spro), *Shewanella halifaxensis* HAW-EB4 (Shal), *Shewanella pealeana* ATCC 700345 (Spea), *Shewanella sediminis* HAW-EB3 (Ssed), *Sphingomonas wittichii* RW1 (Swit), *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* K279a (Smlt), *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* R551-3 (Smal), *Stenotrophomonas* sp. SKA14 (SKA14).

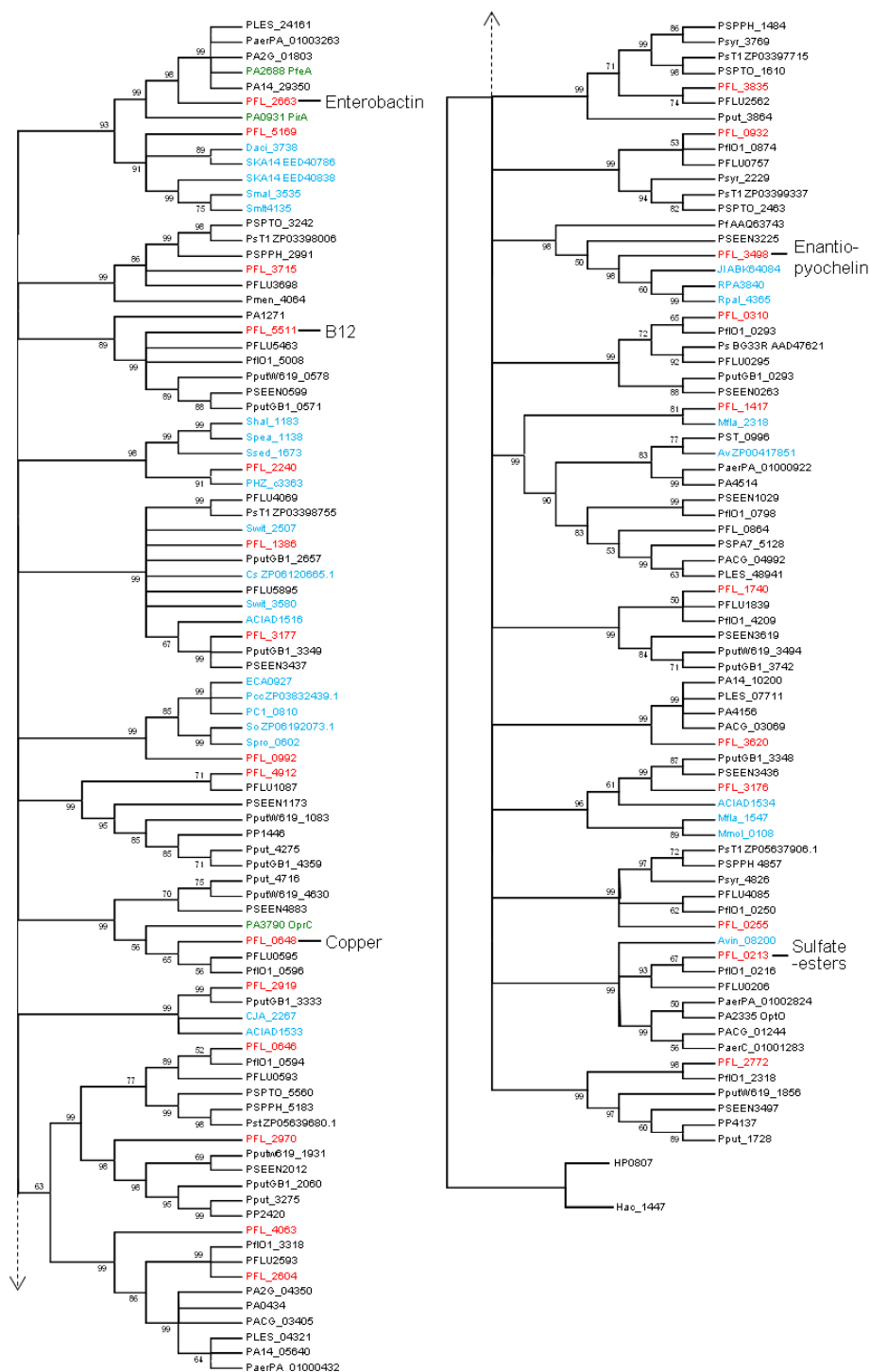


Fig. 2.3.

Of the 27 TBDRs, only PFL_3498 (*fetA*) has a demonstrated function in *P. fluorescens*, serving as the receptor for enantio-pyochelin (40). Putative functions were assigned to four other TBDRs (PFL_2663, PFL_0648, PFL_5511, PFL_0213) (Fig. 2.3) based on clustering with and similarity to sequences of functionally characterized TBDRs in other bacteria, as well as the identity of adjacent genes in the Pf-5 genome. PFL_2663 is 82% identical at the amino acid level to PfeA of PAO1 (PA2688), which functions as a receptor for the ferric complex of enterobactin, a catecholate siderophore produced by *E. coli* and other species of the Enterobacteriaceae (23). In the Pf-5 genome, PFL_2663 is clustered with orthologs of *pfeS* and *pfeR* (Fig. 2.4c), involved in the regulation of *pfeA* (22), and *pfeE*, which functions in esterification of enterobactin prior to transport across the cytoplasmic membrane (96). Amino acid sequences of each pair of orthologs in the syntenic *pfe* clusters of Pf-5 and PAO1 have 66% to 82% identity. Therefore, evidence for the role of PFL_2663 as a ferric-enterobactin receptor is provided both by sequence similarity to *pfeA* and conservation of the *pfe* gene cluster.

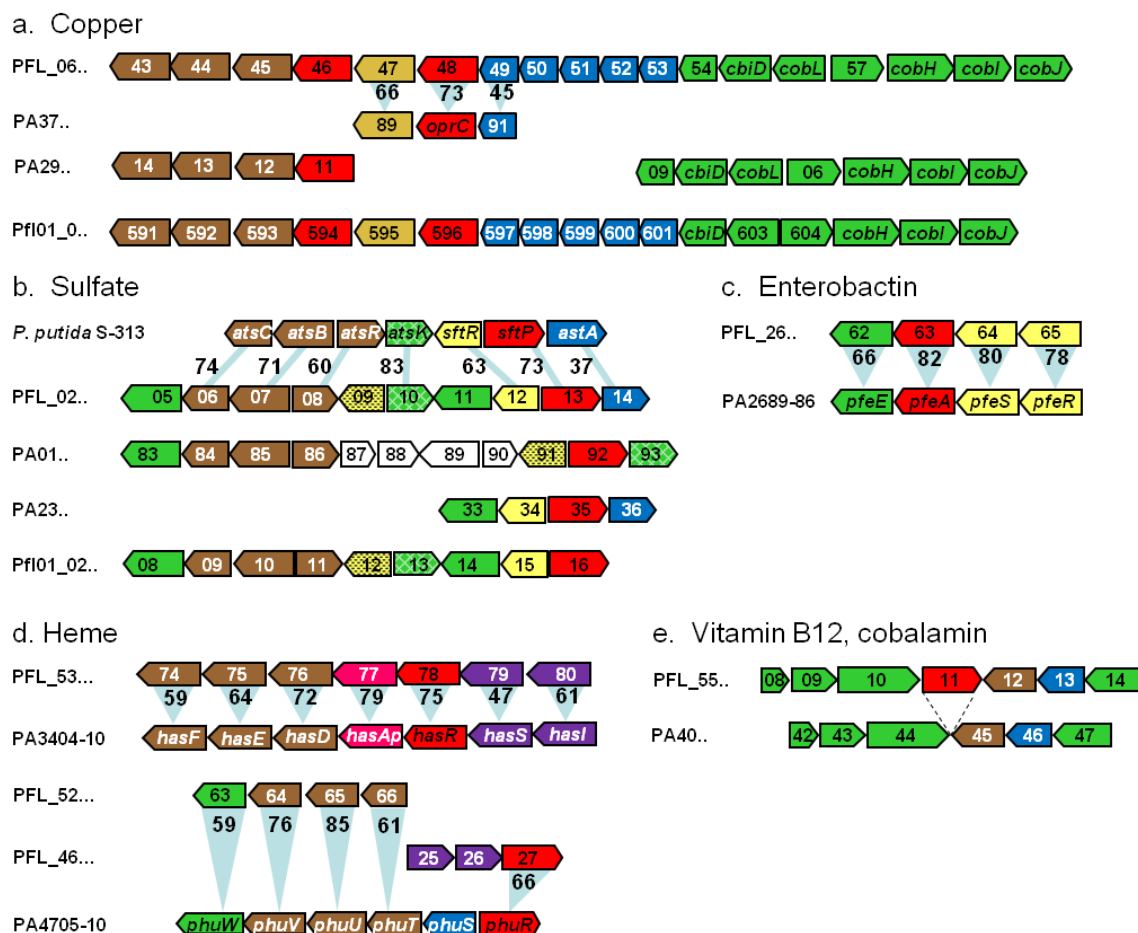


Fig. 2.4. Gene clusters with TBDRs and TBDTs of known function. Gene clusters in *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 (PFL_), *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 (PA), *P. putida* S-313, and *P. fluorescens* Pf0-1 (Pfl01_) with characterized or putative functions in the uptake of **a.** Copper, **b.** Sulfate, **c.** Enterobactin, **d.** Heme or, **e.** Cobalamin (B12). Predicted gene functions are denoted by color: red, TBDR or TBDT; brown, ABC transport; gold, membrane protein (other than ABC transport); green, biosynthesis; purple, ECF sigma factor and anti-sigma factor; yellow, regulatory (other than ECF sigma factor); pink, hemophore; blue, hypothetical. Genes whose functions appear unrelated to that of the TBDR/TBDT are shown in white. Orthologs not readily identifiable by their position in the gene cluster are indicated by identical patterns. Light blue lines and triangles connect orthologs, and accompanying numbers indicate the percent identity of amino acid sequences.

PFL_0648 is a putative copper receptor, having 73% identity at the amino acid level to PA3790 (*oprC*), which encodes a TBDR that binds copper and is thought to function in copper utilization in PAO1 (93). PFL_0648 is in a three-gene cluster that is conserved in *Pseudomonas* spp. but located in different genomic regions in *P. fluorescens* and *P. aeruginosa* (Fig. 2.4a). PFL_5511 is a putative receptor for vitamin B12 (cobalamin), exhibiting 29% identity at the amino acid level to BtuB, the characterized B12 receptor of *E. coli*. Protein structure analysis using PSIPRED GenTHREADER matched the TBDR encoded by PFL_5511 ($2e^{-17}$) to BtuB from *E. coli*. In Pf-5, this TBDR is adjacent to a gene encoding a putative periplasmic binding protein for cobalamin (PFL_5512) (Fig. 2.4e), whereas the ortholog in PAO1 (PA1271) is adjacent to a cobalamin biosynthesis gene cluster. PFL_0213 is a putative receptor for sulfate esters, exhibiting 73% identity at the amino acid level to SftP, a TBDR required for growth of *P. putida* strain S-313 on aryl- or alkylsulfate esters (44). Contiguous to PFL_0213 are homologs for the sulfate ester/sulfonate transporter (*atsRBC*), a LysR-type regulator (*sftR*), an oxygenolytic alkylsulfatase (*atsK*), and an arylsulfotransferase (*astA*) clustered with *sftP* in *P. putida* S-313 (Fig. 2.4b), providing further evidence for the putative function of PFL_0213 as a sulfate ester receptor. Analysis of the sequenced *Pseudomonas* genomes indicates conservation of the gene cluster across the genus, with duplications of genes having metabolic functions evident in the genomes of *P. fluorescens* and those with metabolic and regulatory functions evident in *P. aeruginosa*.

Phylogenetic analysis of TonB-dependent transducers (TBDTs)

The compiled best PSI-BLAST hits for the 18 TBDTs were aligned and subjected to maximum parsimony analysis generating a tree with ten distinct, well-supported clades (Fig. 2.5). Close orthologs having known functions in *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 were also included. Two sequences from *Caulobacter* spp. were used as an outgroup to root the tree. Of the ten clades, two include TBDTs from bacteria other than *Pseudomonas* spp. PFL_3612 clusters with TBDTs from *Yersinia* spp., *Stenotrophomonas* spp., and *Pectobacterium wasabiae*, gamma-proteobacteria found in terrestrial or aquatic

environments. PFL_2527, which falls in the pyoverdine clade, clusters with TBDTs from the beta-proteobacteria *Achromobacter piechaudii* ATCC 43553, a human pathogen, and *Janthinobacterium* sp. and *Methylovorus* sp. SIP3-4, which are found in soil and aquatic environments, respectively. The capacity to utilize pyoverdines as iron sources has not been observed outside of *Pseudomonas* spp. and *Azotobacter vinelandii* to date (15), but these results highlight the possibility that such capacity exists in other bacteria. For six of the 18 TBDT genes, the % GC differs statistically from the Pf-5 genomic mean of 63.3% (Fig. 2.2), but none of the six corresponding proteins are in clades with genera other than *Pseudomonas* spp. Therefore, while horizontal gene transfer of the TBDTs provides the most plausible explanation for the presence of diverse genera of proteobacteria in certain clades, we did not uncover convincing evidence for recent horizontal acquisition as a mechanism of inheritance of these genes by Pf-5.

Fig. 2.5. Maximum Parsimony analysis of TonB-dependent transducers. A phylogenetic analysis of the 18 TBDTs of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 (PFL_) and orthologous transducers was done using the Maximum Parsimony method. The bootstrap consensus tree inferred from 500 replicates is taken to represent the evolutionary history of the taxa analyzed. Branches corresponding to partitions reproduced in less than 50% of bootstrap replicates are collapsed. The tree is rooted with two transducers from *Caulobacter* sp. K31 as an outgroup. Pf-5 proteins are shown in red font; proteins with known functions are shown in green font; and proteins from genera other than *Pseudomonas* are shown in blue. Putative substrates assigned to Pf-5 TBDTs are labeled on the periphery of the circle. Abbreviations for species represented in the tree are as follows: *Achromobacter piechaudii* ATCC 43553 (Ap), *Caulobacter* sp. K31 (Caul), *Janthinobacterium* sp. Marseille (mma), *Methylovorus* sp. SIP3-4 (Msip34), *P. aeruginosa* (Pa), *P. aeruginosa* 2192 (PA2G), *P. aeruginosa* PA14 (PA14), *P. aeruginosa* PA7 (PSPA7), *P. aeruginosa* PACS2 (PaerPA), *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 (PA), *P. entomophila* (PSEEN), *P. fluorescens* Pf0-1 (Pfl01), *P. fluorescens* SBW25 (PFLU), *P. putida* F1 (Pput), *P. putida* GB1 (PputGB1), *P. putida* KT2440 (PP), *P. putida* W619 (PputW619), *P. syringae* pv. oryzae str. 1_6 (Pso), *P. syringae* pv. phaseolicola 1448A (PSPPH), *P. syringae* pv. tabaci ATCC 11528 (Pst), *Pectobacterium wasabiae* WPP163 (Pecwa), *Stenotrophomonas* sp. SKA14 (St), *Yersinia bercovieri* ATCC 43970 (Yb), *Yersinia kristensenii* ATCC 33638 (Yk), *Yersinia mollaretii* ATCC 43969 (Ym).

Fig. 2.5.

Five of the 10 TBDT clades include characterized proteins known to function in iron uptake in other *Pseudomonas* spp. (Fig. 2.5). Four TBDTs (PFL_1371, PFL_2365, PFL_4627, and PFL_5378) are in a large clade also containing HasR and HxuC, which function in heme uptake in *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 (16, 70). PFL_5378 is 75% identical to PA3408 (HasR), the hemophore receptor in *P. aeruginosa* PAO1, and is clustered with orthologs of genes functioning in hemophore production and uptake (Fig. 2.4d). PFL_1371 is 61% identical to PA1302 (HxuC) with no conservation of contiguous genes beyond the sigma factors and anti-sigma factors adjacent to the transducers. The deduced amino acid sequence of PFL_4627 is 66% identical to PA4710 (PhuR), a heme receptor (18), but PFL_4627 is clustered with an ECF sigma factor/anti-sigma factor gene pair whereas PA4710 is clustered with other genes having a demonstrated role in heme uptake in *P. aeruginosa* (Fig. 2.4d). PA4710 does not have an N-terminal signaling domain so it was not included in the phylogenetic analysis of TBDTs in the Pf-5 genome. This large clade also includes PFL_2365, which is 69% identical to PA4897 (OptI), a TBDT that is iron regulated in *P. aeruginosa* (18).

Two of the 10 TBDT clades include proteins with known or putative roles in the uptake of ferric-complexes of citrate or aerobactin. PFL_0982 and PFL_4039 fall in a clade with PA3901 (FecA) (Fig. 2.5), which functions in ferric citrate uptake in *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 (55). PFL_0982 is clustered with an ECF sigma factor and anti-sigma factor pair orthologous to PA3900 (*fecR*) and PA3899 (*fecI*), as determined by reciprocal best-hit analysis, suggesting that the PFL_0982-PFL_0984 cluster is likely to function in ferric-citrate uptake. Another clade includes PFL_3154, which is similar (49% identity) to the TBDR PA4675 (ChtA) involved in aerobactin, rhizobactin 1021 and schizokinen uptake by *P. aeruginosa* (20). ChtA lacks a signaling domain so was not included in the phylogenetic analysis.

Three TBDTs (PFL_0125, PFL_0147, and PFL_5706) are in a large clade that also contains TBDTs functioning in the uptake of the hydroxamate siderophores ferrioxamine and ferrichrome in *P. aeruginosa*. PFL_0125 is 66% identical to FoxA

(PA2466), which is a ferrioxamine uptake receptor in PAO1 (36). PFL_0125 and *foxA* are components of syntenous clusters with orthologous genes encoding an ECF sigma factor, anti-sigma factor, and putative transmembrane protein. PFL_5706 is 66% identical to PA0470 (FiuA), the ferrichrome receptor of *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 (36). PFL_5706 is also clustered with an ECF sigma factor and anti-sigma factor pair orthologous to PA0471 and PA0472, as determined by reciprocal best-hit analysis, suggesting that the PFL_5704-PFL_5706 cluster is likely to function in ferrichrome uptake. Recently, Hannauer et al. reported that, in *P. aeruginosa*, both FiuA and FoxA transport ferrichrome, which suggests that the Pf-5 TBDTs in this clade may also exhibit relaxed specificities in the transport of these hydroxamate siderophores (36). The three Pf-5 TBDTs, PFL_0125, PFL_5706 and PFL_0147, are all contained within a well-supported clade, suggesting that PFL_0147 may also function in uptake of ferrichrome, ferrioxamine, or both siderophores. PFL_0995 and orthologs from other *Pseudomonas* spp. form a clade related to the ferrichrome/ferrioxamine clade with a bootstrap of 61, indicating a possible role for these proteins in the uptake of hydroxamate siderophores.

Another large clade includes characterized pyoverdine receptors FpvA and FpvB from *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 (13, 33) and PupA and PupB from *P. putida* WCS358 (6, 47). Pf-5 has six TBDTs falling within this clade (Fig. 2.5), whose sequences are 35% to 68% identical to FpvA or FpvB of *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 at the amino acid level. PFL_4092 is present within one of the four pyoverdine gene clusters in the Pf-5 genome (Fig. 2.6) whereas the other five TBDTs in this clade are clustered with ECF sigma factor and anti-sigma factor gene pairs at dispersed locations in the Pf-5 genome. In this clade, PFL_2293 appears to be ancestral, and PFL_4092 forms its own sub-clade with FpvB from *P. aeruginosa* PAO1. The other four TBDTs in this clade (PFL_2391, PFL_3315, PFL_2527, and PFL_3485) are more closely related to each other and to FpvA, PupA and PupB.

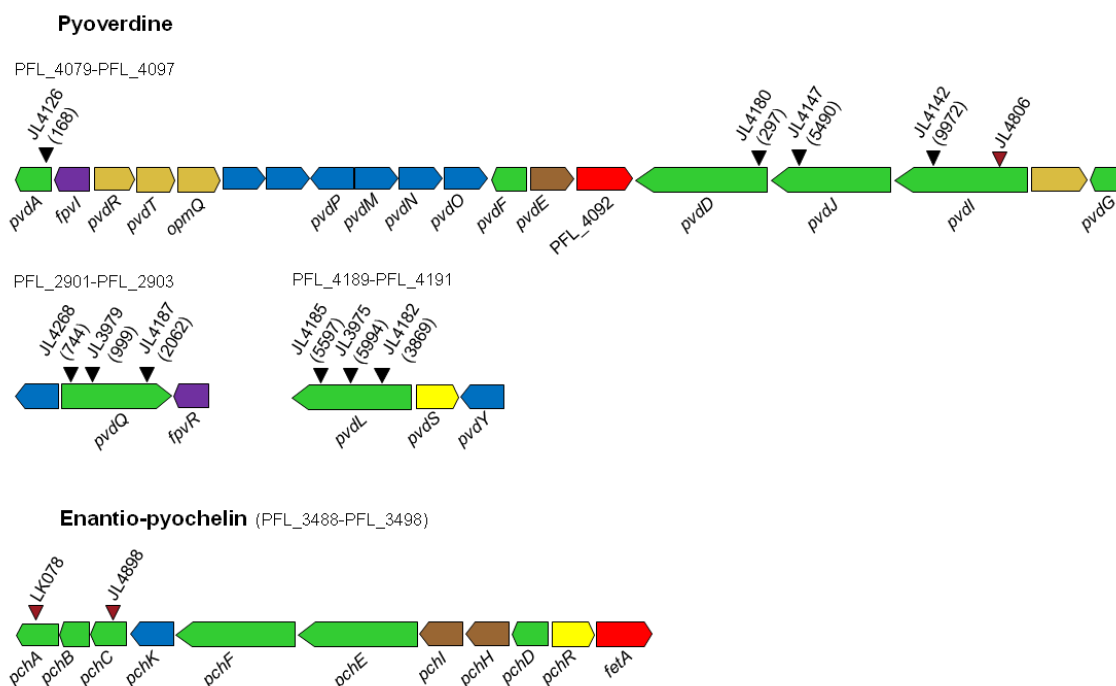


Fig. 2.6. Locations of mutations in the pyoverdine or enantio-pyochelin gene clusters of Pf-5. Arrows denote genes functioning in siderophore biosynthesis (green), ABC transport (brown), ECF sigma factor and anti-sigma factor (purple), membrane proteins (other than ABC transport) (gold), regulatory (other than ECF sigma factor) (yellow), unknown function and hypothetical (blue). The TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins are in red. Black triangles denote sites of Tn5 insertions eliminating pyoverdine production, and red triangles denote sites of deletions eliminating pyoverdine or enantio-pyochelin production by Pf-5. Strain numbers of mutants having the designated mutations are shown above the triangles. In parentheses below strain number is the nucleic acid position of the Tn5 insertion.

Characterization of siderophore-biosynthesis mutants of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5

Arbitrary polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was used to map Tn5 insertions in nine Pf-5 mutants deficient in pyoverdine production (Pvd⁻) (48). Three insertions were mapped to $\Delta pvdL$, a non-ribosomal peptide synthetase involved in the biosynthesis of the pyoverdine chromophore (Fig. 2.6). Three Tn5 insertions mapped to the non-ribosomal peptide synthetases involved in biosynthesis of the pyoverdine peptide chain: one each in $\Delta pvdD$, $\Delta pvdI$, and $\Delta pvdJ$. Three insertions mapped to $\Delta pvdQ$, an acylase functioning in maturation of the pyoverdine (46). Therefore, the Tn5 insertions were mapped to three of the four pyoverdine gene clusters predicted from bioinformatic analysis of the Pf-5 genome, providing functional support for these predictions (Fig. 2.6).

To further characterize siderophore biosynthesis and uptake in Pf-5, we made unmarked deletions in the pyoverdine and enantio-pyochelin gene clusters of Pf-5. A pyoverdine deficient mutant, constructed by deletion of a sequence internal to $\Delta pvdI$ (PFL_4095), lacked the characteristic fluorescence of the pyoverdine siderophore when cultures grown on KMB were viewed under UV light. Mutants in enantio-pyochelin biosynthesis were constructed by deletion of a sequence internal to *pchA* (PFL_3488), or *pchC* (PFL_3490) (Fig. 2.6). PchA catalyses the first step in the synthesis of salicylate from chorismate (32) whereas PchC is a thioesterase involved in subsequent conversion of salicylate to pyochelin (77). Enantio-pyochelin was detected by TLC in culture extracts of Pf-5 but not the *pchA* mutant. Less than wildtype levels were detected in extracts of the *pchC* mutant (data not shown). A *pchC* mutant of *P. aeruginosa* also produces low levels of pyochelin compared to wild type (32).

Double mutants were created by stacking deletions in $\Delta pvdI$ with $\Delta pchA$ or $\Delta pchC$. These mutants were evaluated for growth under iron-limited conditions imposed by amending KMB with varying concentrations of the iron chelator 2,2'-dipyridyl. The wildtype Pf-5 grew on KMB amended with up to 800 μ M 2,2'-dipyridyl whereas the Pvd⁻ Tn5 mutants and the $\Delta pvdI$ deletion mutant grew only on KMB containing 600 μ M or

less of the chelator, as expected due to the known role of pyoverdine production in iron-limited growth of *Pseudomonas* spp. The *pchC* and *pchA* mutants grew on KMB containing up to 800 μ M 2,2'-dipyridyl, indicating that enantio-pyochelin is not required for iron-limited growth of pyoverdine-producing strains. In contrast, the double Δ *pvdI*-*pchC* and Δ *pvdI*-*pchA* mutants did not grow on KMB containing 400 μ M to 800 μ M 2,2'-dipyridyl, demonstrating the role of both siderophores in iron-limited growth of Pf-5.

The mutants were also characterized by observing their phenotypes on CAS agar, the universal siderophore detection medium (81). This medium contains a blue dye (CAS) that turns orange when iron is removed. Typically, siderophore production results in an orange zone surrounding a colony. In preliminary experiments, we found that Pf-5 also caused a cleared halo with a deep blue margin (Fig. 2.7), whereas this type of halo was not generated by an *ofaA* mutant of Pf-5 deficient in the production of orfamide A, an anionic biosurfactant (35). The clearing zone was also observed surrounding colonies of Pf-5, but not the *ofaA* mutant, on CAS agar amended with 1 mM FeCl₃ (data not shown). This clearing could be related to the formation of micelles around the CAS dye, which has been reported for anionic surfactants (11). Clear zones with blue margins were seen on CAS agar plates spotted with 10 μ l of 1 mg/ml orfamide A or 1% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) (data not shown), an anionic surfactant known to form micelles with CAS (11). Therefore, the *pchA*, *pchC*, and Δ *pvdI* mutations were introduced into an *ofaA* mutant of Pf-5, which lacks orfamide A production, so that siderophore production could be assessed on CAS agar without interference from the biosurfactant. By visualizing halos surrounding mutant colonies on CAS agar, we confirmed that both siderophores chelate iron and observed no additional siderophore produced by Pf-5 on this medium (Fig. 2.7).

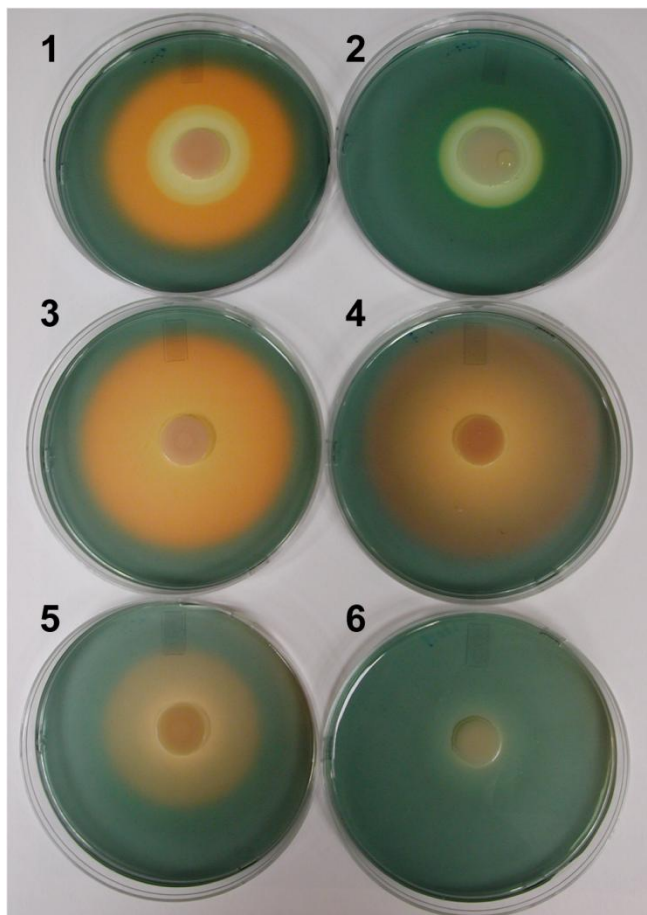


Fig. 2.7. Siderophore and orfamide A production detected as halos surrounding colonies of Pf-5 or derivative strains on the universal siderophore detection medium, CAS. On CAS agar, an orange halo surrounding a colony of strain Pf-5 (1) indicates siderophore production, and a smaller clear halo is due to orfamide production. The clear zone is also evident surrounding a colony of a $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchA* mutant of Pf-5 (2). Pyoverdine production is visualized as an orange halo surrounding the $\Delta pchA$ -*ofaA* mutant (3) whereas enantio-pyochelin production is visualized as the halo surrounding colonies of the $\Delta pvdI$ -*ofaA* mutant (4). A smaller halo surrounds colonies of the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC*-*ofaA* mutant (5), which is attributed to residual levels of enantio-pyochelin or salicylate biosynthesis. No halo surrounds colonies of $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchA*-*ofaA* mutant (6), indicating the lack of detectable siderophore production by this mutant. Plates were incubated at room temperature for 12 days.

Utilization of diverse siderophores by *P. fluorescens* Pf-5

The ability of Pf-5 to utilize a diverse set of pyoverdines as iron sources was assessed in crossfeeding experiments. Sixty-one strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. were tested, 34 of which produce pyoverdines of known amino acid composition (Table 2.2). Nine strains produce pyoverdines representing distinct siderotypes, although their structures are not known. The length and amino acid composition of the pyoverdine peptide chain was predicted bioinformatically from genomic sequence data for four strains (Pf-5, *P. syringae* B728A, *P. syringae* pv. *tomato* DC3000, and *P. aeruginosa* PA14) (Fig. 2.8). As stated above, the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* mutant of Pf-5 did not grow on KMB amended with 400 μ M 2,2'-dipyridyl under the conditions of this assay. When grown in proximity to 32 of the 61 test strains of *Pseudomonas* spp., however, the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* mutant grew on this iron-limited medium, indicating its capacity to utilize siderophores produced by the test strains as iron sources. Pvd⁻ mutants were available for four of the crossfeeding strains, and these mutants did not crossfeed the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* mutant of Pf-5 (Table 2.2), indicating that the pyoverdine was responsible for crossfeeding. The 32 strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. that crossfed the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* mutant represent 17 pyoverdine structures. Therefore, Pf-5 can utilize a diverse set of pyoverdines as iron sources.

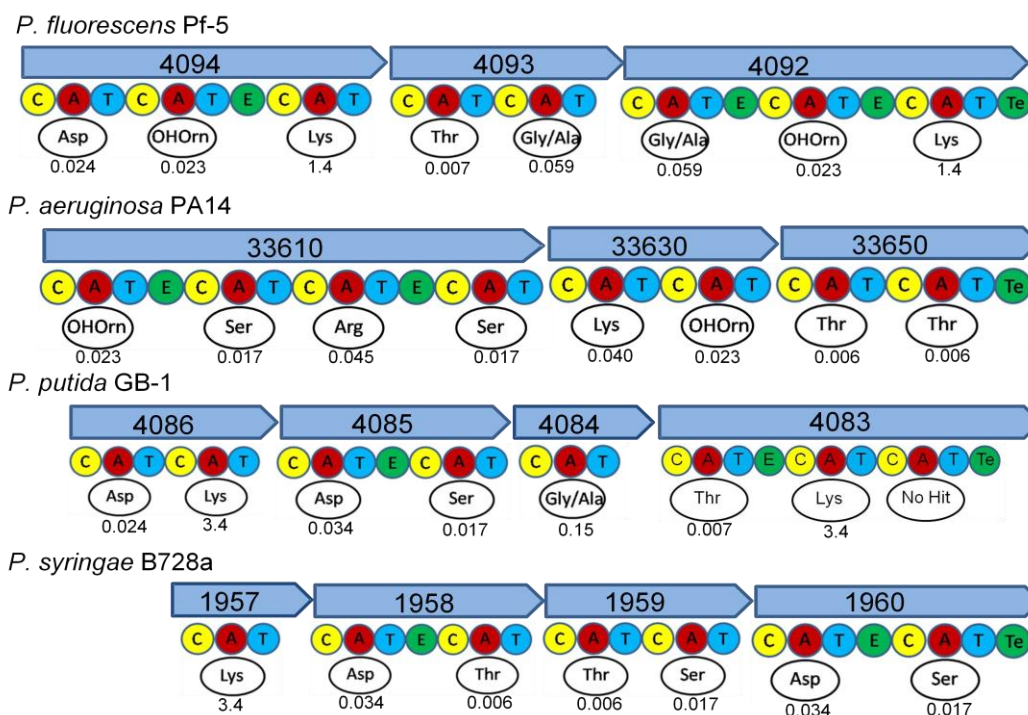


Fig. 2.8. Predicted length and composition of pyoverdine peptide chains. The length and composition of pyoverdine peptide chains were predicted bioinformatically for four *Pseudomonas* strains with sequenced genomes but uncharacterized pyoverdines. Genes encoding non-ribosomal peptide synthetases (NRPSs) for the biosynthesis of the pyoverdine peptide chain in *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 (PFL_4095, PFL_4094, PFL_4093), *P. aeruginosa* PA14 (PA14_33610, PA14_33630, PA14_33650), *P. putida* GB-1 (PputGB1_4086, PputGB1_4085, PputGB1_4084, PputGB1_4083), and *P. syringae* B728a (Psynr_1957, Psynr_1958, Psynr_1959, Psynr_1960). The domain organization of the NRPSs (C, condensation; A, Adenylation, T, thiolation; E, epimerization; and Te, thioesterification) and the specific amino acid predicted from the sequence of each A domain is shown with its E-value.

Table 2.2. Crossfeeding of the Pf-5 siderophore mutant by strains of *Pseudomonas*

Test Strains	Cross-feeding ^a	Composition of Peptide Chain or Siderotype	Reference or source
Six amino acids			
<i>P. fluorescens</i> B10	+	ϵ Lys-OH <u>Asp</u> -Ala-a <u>Thr</u> -Ala-cOH <u>Orn</u>	(89)
<i>P. lini</i> DLE411J	+	<i>Lys-OHAsp-Ala-Thr-Ala-OHOrn</i>	(65)
<i>P. putida</i> CS111 syn SB8.3	+	<i>Ala-Lys-Thr-Ser-OHOrn-OHOrn</i>	(65)
<i>P. putida</i> CFML90-40	+	Asp-Ala-Asp-AOH <u>Orn</u> -Ser-cOHOrn	(60)
<i>P. putida</i> ATCC17470	+	<u>Ser</u> - ϵ Lys-OHHis-a <u>Thr</u> -Ser-cOHOrn	(85)
Seven amino acids			
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> ATCC 27853	+	<u>Ser</u> -FOHOrn-Orn-Gly-a <u>Thr</u> -Ser-cOHOrn (Type II pyoverdine)	(88)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> Pa6	+	(<u>Ser</u> -Dab)-FOHOrn-Gln-Gln-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Gly (Type III pyoverdine)	(34)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> CLR711 syn PL7	+	<u>Ser</u> -AOH <u>Orn</u> -Ala-Gly-a <u>Thr</u> -Ala-cOHOrn	(3)
<i>P. chlororaphis</i> ATCC 9446	+	<u>Ser</u> -Lys-Gly-FOHOrn-(Lys-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Ser)	(59)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> ATCC 13525	+	<u>Ser</u> -Lys-Gly-FOHOrn-(Lys-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Ser)	(59)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> SBW25	+	<u>Ser</u> -Lys-Gly-FOHOrn-(Lys-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Ser)	(68)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> WCS374	+	<u>Ser</u> -Lys-Gly-FOHOrn-(Lys-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Ser)	(26)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> WCS374 Pvd-	-		(56)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> CTRp112 syn PL8	+	<u>Lys</u> -AOH <u>Orn</u> -Ala-Gly-a <u>Thr</u> -Ser-cOHOrn	(3)
<i>P. putida</i> DSM3601 syn CFML90-33	-	Asp-Lys-Thr-OH <u>Asp</u> -Thr-a <u>Thr</u> -cOHOrn	(86)
<i>P. syringae</i> ATCC 19310	-	ϵ Lys-OH <u>Asp</u> -Thr-(Thr-Ser-OH <u>Asp</u> -Ser)	(43)
<i>P. syringae</i> pv. <i>syringae</i> B728A	-	Lys-Asp-Thr-Thr-Ser-Asp-Ser	This study, predicted
<i>P. syringae</i> pv. <i>tomato</i> DC3000	-	ϵ Lys-OH <u>Asp</u> -Thr-(Thr-Ser-OH <u>Asp</u> -Ser)	(43)
<i>P. cichorii</i>	-	ϵ Lys-OH <u>Asp</u> -Thr-(Thr-Gly-OH <u>Asp</u> -Ser)	(10)
<i>P. libanensis</i> CFBP4841	-	Ala-Orn-OH <u>Asp</u> -Ser-Orn-Ser-cOHOrn	(64)
Eight amino acids			
<i>P. chlororaphis</i> DTR133	+	Asp-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Lys-(Thr- <u>Ala</u> - <u>Ala</u> -FOH <u>Orn</u> - <u>Ala</u>)	(3)

Table 2.2. (Continued)

Test Strains	Cross-feeding ^a	Composition of Peptide Chain or Siderotype	Reference or source
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PA14	+	Ser-Arg-Ser-FOHOrn-Lys-FOHOrn-Thr-Thr (Type I pyoverdine)	This study, predicted (50)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PA14 Pvd-	-		
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PAO1	+	<u>Ser</u> -Arg- <u>Ser</u> -FOHOrn-(Lys-FOHOrn-Thr-Thr) (Type I pyoverdine)	(25)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> CHA0	+	Asp-FOHOrn-Lys-(Thr-Ala-Ala-FOHOrn-Lys)	(92)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pf-5	+	Asp-OHOrn-Lys-Thr-Ala/Gly-Ala/Gly-OHOrn-Lys	This study, predicted
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pf-5 Pvd-	-		
<i>P. salomonii</i> CFBP2022	+	<i>Ser-Orn-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser-Lys-FOHOrn-Ser</i>	(64)
<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp. 7SR1	-	(<u>Ser</u> -aOHOrn-Ala-Gly-(Ser-Ser-OHAsp-Thr)	(29)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> CTR1015 syn PL9	-	<u>Ser</u> -AOHOrn-Ala-Gly-(<u>Ser</u> -Ser-OH <u>Asp</u> -Thr)	(60)
<i>P. putida</i> GB-1	-	Asp-Lys-Asp-Ser-Gly-Thr-Lys-?	This study, predicted
Nine amino acids			
<i>P. constantinii</i> CFBP5705	+	<u>Ser</u> -AcOHOrn-Gly-a <u>Thr</u> -Thr-Gln-Gly- <u>Ser</u> -cOHOrn	(30)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> A6	+	<u>Lys</u> -AcOHOrn-Gly-a <u>Thr</u> -Thr-Gln-Gly- <u>Ser</u> -cOHOrn	(4)
<i>P. putida</i> ATCC 12633	-	Asp-Lys-OH <u>Asp</u> -Ser-Thr- <u>Ala</u> - <u>Glu</u> -Ser-cOHOrn	(65)
<i>P. putida</i> WCS358	-	Asp-εLys-OH <u>Asp</u> -Ser- <u>Thr</u> - <u>Ala</u> -Thr- <u>Lys</u> -OHOrn	(9)
<i>P. putida</i> CFBP2461	-	Asp-εLys-OH <u>Asp</u> -Ser-a <u>Thr</u> -Ala-Thr- <u>Lys</u> -OHOrn	(91)
<i>P. monteilii</i> DSM14164	-	Asp-Lys-AcOHOrn-Ala-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ser-cOHOrn	(64)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pf0-1	+	Ala-AcOHOrn-Orn-Ser-Ser-Ser-Arg-OHAsp-Thr	(64)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pf0-1 Pvd-	-		M. Silby
Ten amino acids			
<i>P. fluorescens</i> DSM50106	+	Ser-Lys-Gly-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser-Gly-(Orn-FOHOrn-Ser)	(64)
<i>P. rhodesiae</i> DSM14020	+	<i>Ser-Lys-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser-Gly-(Lys-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser)</i>	(62, 65)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pf1 17400	-	<u>Ala</u> - <u>Lys</u> -Gly-Gly-OHAsp- <u>Gln</u> /Dab-Ser- <u>Ala</u> -cOHOrn	(60)
<i>P. tolaasii</i> NCPPB 2192	-	<u>Ser</u> -Lys-Ser- <u>Ser</u> -Thr- <u>Ser</u> -AcOHOrn-Thr- <u>Ser</u> -cOHOrn	(24)

Table 2.2. (Continued)

Test Strains	Cross-feeding ^a	Composition of Peptide Chain or Siderotype	Reference or source
Unknown structures			
<i>P. flectens</i> CFBP3281	+	Unknown	http://www.straininfo.net/strains/621587
<i>P. fluorescens</i> ATCC17513	+	Unknown	(85)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> ATCC17518	+	Unknown	(85)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> CFBP2130	+	Unknown	http://www.straininfo.net/strains/757032
<i>P. marginalis</i> pv. alfalfae CFBP2039	+	Unknown	http://www.straininfo.net/strains/544626
<i>P. marginalis</i> pv. marginalis CFBP2037	+	Unknown	http://www.straininfo.net/strains/17707
<i>P. marginalis</i> pv. pastinacae CFBP2038	+	Unknown	http://www.straininfo.net/strains/544628
<i>P. reactans</i> NCPPB387	+	Unknown	http://www.straininfo.net/strains/53319
<i>P. blatfordae</i> CFBP3280	-	Unknown	http://www.straininfo.net/strains/757233
<i>P. fluorescens</i> ATCC17467	-	Unknown	(85)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> ATCC17559	-	Unknown	(85)
<i>P. mosselii</i> MFY161	-	Unknown	Isolated from a blood culture in Evreux, France
<i>P. viridiflava</i> CFBP2107	-	Unknown	http://www.straininfo.net/strains/270228
<i>P. corrugata</i> CFBP2431	-	Corr	(62); (60)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> C7R12	-	PL1	J.M. Meyer, personal communication

Table 2.2. (Continued)

Test Strains	Cross-feeding ^a	Composition of Peptide Chain or Siderotype	Reference or source
<i>P. frederiksbergensis</i> DSM13022	-	Fred	(60, 62)
<i>P. fuscovaginae</i> CFBP2065	-	G17	(60, 62)
<i>P. gessardii</i> CIP105469	-	Gess-bren	(61)
<i>P. graminis</i> DSM11363	-	Gram	(60, 62)
<i>P. kilonensis</i> CFBP5372	-	Kilo	(61)
<i>P. plecoglossida</i> DSM15088	-	Plec	(60, 63)
<i>P. thivervalensis</i> CFBP5754	-	Thiv/ML45	(60)

Underline denotes D-amino acids. Parentheses define cyclic residues. cOHOrn is cyclo-hydroxy-ornithine. FOHOrn is δ N-formyl- δ N-hydroxy-ornithine. ϵ Lys is Lys linked by ϵ -NH₂. OHAsp is threo- β -hydroxy-aspartic acid. Dab is diamino-butanoic acid. OHH is threo- β -hydroxy-histidine. aThr is allo-Thr. AcOHOrn is δ N-acetyl- δ N-hydroxy-ornithine. Italicized peptide chains are inferred from siderotyping analysis (64). These pyoverdines are in the same siderotype as a pyoverdine having the structure provided. ^a + indicated growth of the *Δ pvdI-pchC* mutant in the presence of the test strain, - indicates no growth of the *Δ pvdI-pchC* mutant in the presence of the test strain.

Table 2.3. Crossfeeding of the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* mutant of Pf-5 by *Enterobacter cloacae*

<i>E. cloacae</i> strain	Genotype	Siderophores produced	Iron limited growth of JL4900
EcCT-501	Field isolate	enterobactin & aerobactin	+
LA122	Δiuc	enterobactin	+
LA266	Δent	aerobactin	+
LA235	$\Delta iuc \Delta ent$	None	-

Genotype abbreviations: Aerobactin (iuc). Enterobactin (ent) (19)

Discussion

The 45 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins in the proteome of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 (71) comprise 27 TBDRs and 18 TBDTs that share conserved β -barrel and plug domains but differ in the presence of an N-terminal signaling domain. Phylogenetic and bioinformatic analyses suggest a complex evolutionary history for the TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins in Pf-5 including horizontal transfer among different microbial lineages. In a recent phylogenetic analysis of ~4,600 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins, Mirus et al. reported that, with few exceptions, the proteins cluster according to their substrate rather than taxonomy (67). The results of our study also provide convincing evidence of lateral transmission of these proteins among diverse groups of bacteria.

Iron is a limiting factor for many soil microorganisms including Pf-5, which uses pyoverdine and enantio-pyochelin to retrieve iron from its surroundings (40, 94). Here, we showed that Pf-5 can utilize a broad spectrum of exogenous siderophores as sources of iron. Phylogenetic analysis of the TBDTs in the Pf-5 genome indicated a high level of redundancy for the uptake of certain compounds, notably ferrioxamine, ferric-citrate, heme, and pyoverdines. The number of TBDTs in certain phylogenetic clades, such as those with putative functions in heme and pyoverdine acquisition, exceeds the number found in other bacteria such as *P. aeruginosa* PAO1, which also has multiple TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins functioning in the uptake of ferrioxamine, enterobactin, heme and pyoverdines (15, 17). The diversity and complexity of the TBDTs with roles in iron uptake clearly indicate the importance of iron in the biology of Pf-5.

P. fluorescens Pf-5 was isolated from soil (41) and establishes populations in the rhizosphere when inoculated onto seed or root surfaces (8, 48-49, 79). The roles of TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins in enhancing the access of bacteria to limited resources in the rhizosphere or bulk soil has been demonstrated only for iron and sulfur to

date. Siderophore-mediated competition for iron is a major determinant in interactions between certain strains of *Pseudomonas* spp., and the capacity to utilize a pyoverdine produced by a competing strain was shown to enhance the fitness of *P. fluorescens* living on root surfaces (75). Furthermore, levels of iron available to *Pseudomonas* spp. in the rhizosphere are known to be enhanced by siderophores produced by other rhizosphere bacteria. For example, a pyoverdine-producing strain of *Pseudomonas* spp. and enterobactin- and aerobactin- producing strains of *E. cloacae* enhanced the levels of iron available to *P. putida* in the rhizosphere, assessed using an iron biosensor (53-54). The results from these studies indicate that TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins confer an advantage to *Pseudomonas* spp. in the rhizosphere due to enhanced iron uptake. Similarly, the capacity to utilize sulfur esters is necessary for optimal survival of *P. putida* in agricultural and grassland soils (44), and the sulfur-inducible TonB-dependent receptor SftP appears to function in sulfate ester metabolism. In addition to the SftP ortholog PFL_0213, several other genes encoding TonB-dependent receptors are linked to transport proteins with putative functions in sulfur transport in the Pf-5 genome (data not shown), and their role in sulfur metabolism is an intriguing area for future study. In addition to their roles in iron and sulfur uptake, TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins are likely to function more broadly in the acquisition of resources by environmental prokaryotes like *P. fluorescens*, and future investigations should reveal novel roles of these transport systems in the ecology of soil and rhizosphere bacteria.

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Chapter 3: *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Pf-5: The Pyoverdine Pirate

Abstract

The soil bacterium *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Pf-5 produces two siderophores, a pyoverdine and enantio-pyochelin, and also utilizes ferric-complexes of pyoverdines produced by other strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. as sources of iron. Previously, phylogenetic analysis of the 45 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins in Pf-5 indicated that six are related to ferric-pyoverdine (Fpv) receptors from other *Pseudomonas* spp. Here, we introduced mutations in each of the six *fpv* genes to investigate their roles in heterologous pyoverdine uptake by Pf-5. Uptake of ferric-complexes of 14 pyoverdine structures was eliminated in Pf-5 by deleting a single *fpv*. We identified at least one ferric-pyoverdine that was taken up by each of the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5 and determined that phylogenetically-related Fpv proteins take up structurally-related pyoverdines. Functional redundancy of the Pf-5 Fpv outer-membrane proteins also was apparent, with several ferric-pyoverdines taken up by all single *fpv* mutants but not by mutants having deletions in two *fpv* genes, and eight ferric-pyoverdines taken up by all of the double *fpv* mutants of Pf-5. We speculate that the combined low-affinity uptake of ferric-pyoverdines by the six Fpv outer membrane proteins of Pf-5 provides access to iron sequestered by a broad set of structurally-diverse pyoverdines that are not taken up with high affinity by any single Fpv. Both high-affinity and low-affinity uptake mechanisms may operate in natural habitats of Pf-5, allowing the bacterium to access iron from the structurally-diverse pyoverdines produced by its co-inhabitants in soil and the rhizosphere.

Introduction

Pseudomonas is a genus of γ proteobacteria known for its ubiquity in natural habitats and striking ecological, metabolic and biochemical diversity. *Pseudomonas fluorescens* are common inhabitants of soil and plant surfaces, and certain strains function in the biological control of plant disease, protecting plants from infection by soilborne and aerial plant pathogens. The soil bacterium *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 is a well-characterized biological control strain, distinguished by its prolific production of secondary metabolites including a spectrum of antibiotics that suppress plant pathogenic fungi (29, 35). Among the secondary metabolites produced by Pf-5 are two siderophores, enantio-pyochelin (66) and a pyoverdine, which function in iron acquisition by the bacterium.

Biologically-available iron is limited in aerobic environments at neutral pH. This lack of readily available iron stimulates the fluorescent pseudomonads to produce and release into the environment pyoverdine siderophores capable of binding ferric iron with high affinity (1, 19). Pyoverdines are a diverse group of siderophores with over 70 structures identified (10, 43). They are composed of a dihydroxyquinoline chromophore, which is responsible for diffusible green fluorescence; an acyl side chain (either dicarboxylic acid or amide) bound to the amino group of the chromophore; and a peptide chain of variable length (6-14 amino acids) and composition (43). The structural differences are primarily in the peptide chain, but differences in the chromophore and acyl side chains also occur (10). Iron is bound through interactions with the catechol unit of the chromophore and hydroxamate- or hydroxy acid-containing amino acids of the peptide chain (10).

Like other siderophores, the ferric-pyoverdines are bound and transported into the bacterial cell by TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins (TBDPs) called ferric-pyoverdine (Fpv) outer-membrane proteins. The structure of Fpv outer-membrane proteins include a 22-stranded β -barrel, which forms a channel for transport of the ferric-

pyoverdine complex through the outer-membrane, extra-cellular loops, and a plug domain to block the channel formed by the β -barrel (13, 19, 50). Ferric-pyoverdines are moved via Fpv outer-membrane proteins across the outer-membrane into the periplasm, where the iron is released from the pyoverdine (22). Transport of ferric-siderophore complexes by Fpv outer-membrane proteins requires energy (18), which is provided by proton motive force by means of TonB-ExbB-ExbD complexes in the inner membrane. In FpvAI, a well-characterized Fpv in *P. aeruginosa*, a six amino acid motif called the TonB box is required for the interaction with TonB (50). To date, all Fpv outer-membrane proteins also have an N-terminal signaling domain that interacts with a regulatory protein (anti-sigma factor), which controls the expression of an ECF sigma factor (18, 25). Together, the TBDP, ECF sigma factor, and anti-sigma factor constitute a cell surface signaling system that functions in environmental sensing and signal relay into the cytoplasm.

The ferric-pyoverdine/Fpv interaction is best understood in *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 where the structural components and key binding residues of FpvAI have been characterized (49, 56). Collectively, strains of *P. aeruginosa* produce pyoverdines having three distinct structures (type I, II or III), with each strain producing one pyoverdine and the corresponding variant of FpvA (FpvAI, FpvAII, and FpvAIII). The ferric complex of the type I pyoverdine produced by PAO1 is bound by specific amino acids located in the plug, extra-cellular loops, and the β -barrel of FpvAI. These amino acid residues interact primarily with the pyoverdine chromophore and the hydroxamate-containing amino acids of the peptide chain (23). The specificity of Fpv outer-membrane proteins in binding and transport of cognate pyoverdines is well established (23, 50), but Fpv outer-membrane proteins also can function in the uptake of ferric complexes of heterologous pyoverdines having similar peptide chain sequences (23, 42, 45). For example, FpvAI can bind and take up ferric-pyoverdines produced by several *Pseudomonas* spp., albeit with varied affinities. Not all ferric-pyoverdines are bound by FpvAI, so the affinity determinants must lie outside of the regions common to all pyoverdines (i.e., the chromophore and iron-chelating hydroxamates) (23). The

conformation of the first three residues of the pyoverdine peptide chain are critical determinants of affinity, but other factors such as isomerization also play a role in binding and transport by FpvAI (23).

The capacity to utilize siderophores produced by other microorganisms provides a selective advantage to bacteria, providing a mechanism to acquire iron without investing in siderophore biosynthesis (27). Gram-negative bacteria commonly have multiple TBDPs in their outer membranes, some of which function in uptake of ferric complexes of siderophores produced by other organisms (28). For example, the soil bacterium *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Pf-5 has 45 TBDPs, many of which have predicted functions in the uptake of ferric-complexes of heterologous siderophores such as enterobactin, aerobactin, citrate, ferrioxamine, or ferrichrome (25). Phylogenetic analysis of the 45 TBDPs in the Pf-5 proteome indicated that six TBDPs are related to Fpv outer-membrane proteins from *Pseudomonas* spp. (25). Like many other *Pseudomonas* spp. (23, 31, 36, 46, 52), Pf-5 can utilize the ferric-complexes of many structurally-distinct pyoverdines as iron sources (25). The goal of this study was to characterize the six putative Fpv outer-membrane proteins in the proteome of Pf-5. First, homology modeling provided further evidence for the functions of the six putative Fpv outer-membrane proteins in uptake of ferric-pyoverdine complexes. We confirmed these functions by constructing six mutants, each having a deletion in one *fpv* gene, and assessing the mutants for utilization of specific heterologous pyoverdines produced by 37 strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. in crossfeeding assays. Each of the six mutants lacked the capacity to utilize ferric-complexes of one or more structurally-related pyoverdines, enabling the assignment of specific pyoverdines to each of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins in the Pf-5 genome. These results demonstrate that the capacity of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 to utilize a diverse spectrum of ferric-pyoverdines as iron sources is achieved both through the capacity of individual Fpv outer-membrane proteins to take up pyoverdines with similar structures and the possession of six Fpv outer-membrane proteins, each recognizing structurally-distinct pyoverdines.

Materials and methods

Bacterial growth conditions

Pseudomonas strains were grown on King's medium B (KMB) (30) at 27°C. *Escherichia coli* was grown on solidified Luria-Bertani at 37°C. Antibiotics were used at the following concentrations (µg/ml): gentamicin 40 (*P. fluorescens*) and 12.5 (*E. coli*), kanamycin 50, streptomycin 100, tetracycline 200 (*P. fluorescens*) and 20 (*E. coli*) for generation of mutants.

Pyoverdine peptide chain prediction

The amino acid composition of the peptide chain of pyoverdines with unknown structures was predicted from the nucleotide sequences of genes encoding the corresponding non-ribosomal peptide synthetases (NRPSs) using the NRPS/PKS predictor (3) and the NRPS predictor (<http://www-ab.informatik.uni-tuebingen.de/software/NRPSpredictor>) (53, 58).

Sequence alignment and structure prediction

The multiple sequence alignment tool T-Coffee was used to align the amino acid sequences of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5 (51). PSIPRED GenTHREADER (37) and a β -barrel prediction model (7) were used to predict the secondary structure of the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins in the Pf-5 proteome. Homology modeling of the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins was done using the SWISS-MODEL server and Deepview (2, 9). The homology models were constructed using a structure-based sequence alignment with the crystal structure of FpvAI from *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 as a template.

Construction of Pf-5 mutants

Individual deletion constructs for the six *fpv* genes and PFL_2772 were made as described in Hassan et al. (26) using overlap-extension PCR methods modified from Choi

and Schweizer (12) with primers specific to each gene (Table 1). Deletions were introduced into Pf-5 and into mutants deficient in pyoverdine and enantio-pyochelin production (i.e., $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* and $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchA* mutants), which were derived previously (25). Combinations of *fpv* deletions were introduced into the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* mutant background as described previously (25).

Table 3.1. Primers used in the construction of mutants of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5

Target gene and primers	Sequence 5'-3'
FpvZ (PFL_4092)	
4092UpFBam	CACACCATCAGGATCCACAACACCGACTGACCCCTTT
4092DnFFRT-1	AGGAACTTCAAGATCCCCAATTCGATGCCGGAGCCATCTATGA
4092UpRFRT	TCAGAGCGCTTTTGAAGCTAATTCGATGTTCTGGTCATCCATGCGC
4092DnRBam-1	CTCTGCTTCTGGATCCTGTAGATGGTGTCTGGCCA
FpvW (PFL_2293)	
2293UpFHind	GTGGTTGTGGAAGCTTTTCACAAGTCGAAGTTGGCC
2293DnFFRT	AGGAACTTCAAGATCCCCAATTCGCCGACGACAGCTACTACGAAA
2293UpRFRT	TCAGAGCGCTTTTGAAGCTAATTCGTCTCCATCACCTGGTCAATG
2293DnRHind	GACGAAGACGAAGCTTAGTTGTCACTCTGGGCGTTGA
FpvX (PFL_3315)	
3315UpFBam	GTTGTGCTGAGGATCCCAAACGGTGACGGTGATCA
3315DnFFRT-1	AGGAACTTCAAGATCCCCAATTCGTGGTCTACGACCTCAACGACA
3315UpRFRT	TCAGAGCGCTTTTGAAGCTAATTCGTGAAGTACATCGGGAAGCC
3315DnRBam-1	GAGAAGGAGAGGATCCGAAGCCGGTGCTGAAATTG
FpvV (PFL_2527)	
2527UpFBam	GTGTGGTAGTGGATCCTGCACCGTAGTTACCGTAGGA
2527DnFFRT	AGGAACTTCAAGATCCCCAATTCGTTGCGGATCAGGTTGATGGT
2527UpRFRT	TCAGAGCGCTTTTGAAGCTAATTCGTACACCAGCATCTTCAACCCC
2527DnRBam	CACACCATCAGGATCCGCGCACATTTTGCTGTCCTA
FpvU (PFL_2391)	
2391UpFBam	CTCTGCTTCTGGATCCACAGGTTCTGGGTGATCTGGT
2391DnFFRT	AGGAACTTCAAGATCCCCAATTCGTTCTTGCGCACCAAGGTTGAT
2391UpRFRT	TCAGAGCGCTTTTGAAGCTAATTCGAAGGACAGCAAGCTGCTCAAC
2391DnRBam	GAGAAGGAGAGGATCCAAGTACCCAGAGCGGTT
FpvY (PFL_3485)	
3485UpFBam	GAGAAGGAGAGGATCCCGGGCTATCGGGGTAATACA
3485DnFFRT1	AGGAACTTCAAGATCCCCAATTCGCCTACTTCGAGGTGCATGA
3485UpRFRT	TCAGAGCGCTTTTGAAGCTAATTCGTCGAGGATGCCGTAGTAGA
3485DnRBam	GTGAGTTGCTGGATCCCCCTTGCCGTAGTTGCTGAGTA
PFL_2772	
2772UpFHind	CAGCACGAAGCTTCGGTTTTTCACCGCCAGCTTC
2772UpR	GGCGTGATGGCGCTCCAGCAATTCATAGGGC
2772DnF	TTGCTGGAGCGCCATCACGCCTTACGAACT
2772DnRHind	CTCCTCGAAGCTTAGGAGTACCTGGTGATACGC

Iron-limited growth

The six *fpv* mutants of Pf-5 were tested for iron-limited growth as described in Hartney et al. (25). Briefly, bacterial cells from overnight cultures grown in KMB broth were suspended in water to 0.1 OD₆₀₀. 5 µl of 100 fold diluted cell suspension was placed on KMB agar containing the iron chelator 2, 2'-dipyridyl (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA) at 0, 100, 200, 400, 600, and 800 µM. Bacterial growth was observed following 24 h incubation at 27°C. Each strain was tested in at least two experiments, each evaluating two replicate plates.

Crossfeeding assays

Crossfeeding assays were performed as described in Hartney et al. (25). Briefly, cells from test strains and indicator strains were suspended in water to 0.1 OD₆₀₀. Indicator strain cell suspensions were diluted 100 fold in sterile water. Ten µl of the test strain suspension and 5 µl of the diluted cell suspension of the indicator strains were placed 10 mm apart from one another on the surface of KMB amended with 2,2'-dipyridyl at 400 µM or 600 µM. For test strains that did not grow on KMB amended with 2,2'-dipyridyl at 400 µM or 600 µM, an agar plug (6 mm) obtained from a 48 h culture on KMB was substituted for the cell suspension. Plates were incubated at 27°C, and growth of the indicator strain was observed at 24 h and 36 to 48 h. Growth of each test strain was evaluated on two replicate plates in at least two experiments.

Pyoverdine purification

Pyoverdines from *Pseudomonas* spp. were obtained from cultures grown in succinate medium (41) at 25°C with shaking at 200 rpm. After 72 h incubation, bacterial cells were harvested by centrifugation. The supernatant was adjusted to pH 6.0 and centrifuged again (5200 x g, 30 min) before ion exchange chromatography onto a column of Amberlite XAD-4 (11). The pyoverdines were eluted with 100% methanol.

Pyoverdine eluate was evaporated in a rotary evaporator, suspended in 5 ml of milliQ water and placed at 4°C overnight. A second ion exchange chromatography was performed on a column of LiChroprep RP-18 (40-63 µm) (Merck, Whitehouse Station, NJ). After loading, the column was rinsed with EDTA (0.1M) followed by pH 4.0 acidified water (formic acid 1%) and pyoverdines were eluted with 50% methanol. After use, the column was washed with methanol, regenerated with 1% HCl, rinsed with deionized water, and stored at 4°C. Pyoverdines were concentrated and lyophilized prior to storage at 4°C in the dark.

Utilization of purified pyoverdines as iron sources

Fpv mutants of Pf-5 were evaluated for utilization of pyoverdines produced by selected strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. One hundred µl of a 100 fold dilution of a 0.1 OD₆₀₀ suspension of a Pf-5 mutant was spread onto KMB agar plates amended with 400µM 2,2'-dipyridyl. Five µl of an aqueous pyoverdine solution (8 mM) was applied to a 5mm filter paper disk placed on the agar surface. Plates were incubated at 27°C for 24 h prior to evaluation of growth of the mutant strain.

Phylogenetic analysis

A phylogenetic analysis of the six *Fpv* outer-membrane proteins from Pf-5 and orthologous proteins was performed using the Neighbor Joining method available through MEGA version 4.0.2 (60). Alignment of the amino acid sequences was done using Clustal W with a gap open penalty of 15 and a gap extension penalty of 0.3. The aligned and masked sequences were subjected to Neighbor Joining analysis. The bootstrap consensus tree inferred from 1000 replicates represented the evolutionary history of the taxa analyzed. Branches corresponding to partitions reproduced in less than 30% bootstrap replicates were collapsed. Phylogenetic analysis of the plug domains from the 45 TBDPs in Pf-5 was performed as above, except using the Maximum Parsimony analysis method.

Results and discussion

Structural analysis of the pyoverdine TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins

Protein structure analysis using PSIPRED GenTHREADER matched all six of the putative Pf-5 Fpv outer-membrane proteins to FpvAI (PA2398) from *P. aeruginosa* PAO1. Due to their similarities to FpvAI, we adopted the naming convention established for *P. aeruginosa*, and the six pyoverdine uptake proteins in Pf-5 are hereafter called FpvU (PFL_2391), FpvV (PFL_2527), FpvW (PFL_2293), FpvX (PFL_3315), FpvY (PFL_3485), and FpvZ (PFL_4092).

Homology modeling of the six Pf-5 Fpv outer-membrane proteins was done using the known crystal structure of FpvAI (PDB: 2w16A) as a template (Fig. 3.1a). A model of FpvW could not be generated due to its divergence from FpvAI, but root mean squared (RMS) values were calculated for backbone residues of the other five Fpv outer-membrane proteins in Pf-5: FpvU, 0.173Å; FpvY, 0.40Å; FpvX, 0.55Å; FpvZ, 0.626Å; and FpvV, 1.51Å. Comparison of the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5 to FpvAI indicated secondary structural similarities of the proteins, which is especially evident in the β -strands of the β -barrel, the plug domain involved in binding and movement of substrate (50), and the N-terminal signaling domain involved in the signaling cascade to regulate pyoverdine biosynthesis (56) (Fig. 3.1a, Fig. 3.2). Differences in the extra-cellular loops and the position of the connecting loop between the plug and the N-terminal signaling domain can be seen between the models of FpvAI and FpvV, Y, X, and Z (Fig. 3.1a1, a3-a6).

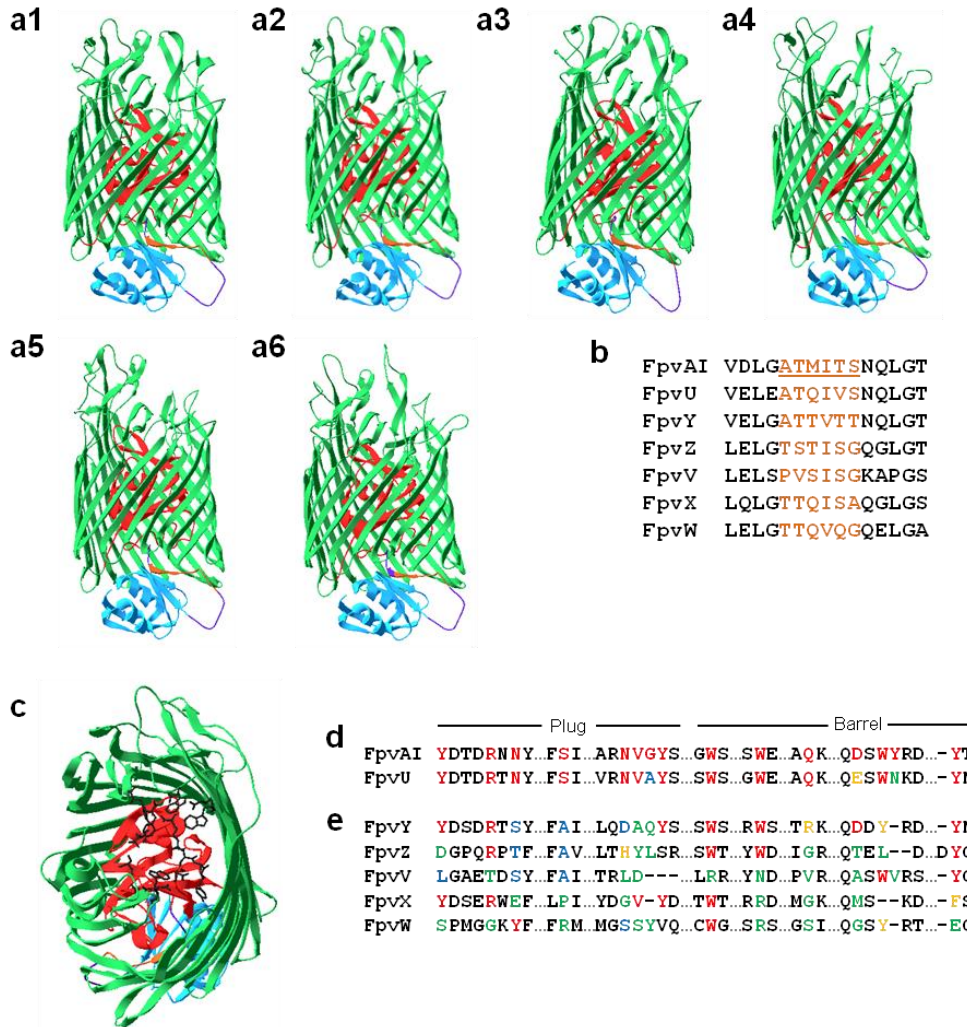


Fig. 3.1. Homology models of the Pf-5 Fpv outer-membrane proteins. Models of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins in Pf-5 and FpvAI showing the structural components with the β -barrel in green, plug in red, N-terminal signaling domain in blue, connecting loop in purple, and TonB box in brown. **a1**, FpvAI; **a2**, FpvU; **a3**, FpvY; **a4**, FpvZ; **a5**, FpvV; **a6**, FpvX. **b**. Alignment of the TonB box region for FpvAI and the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins from Pf-5. The characterized amino acid residues from FpvAI are underlined. The TonB box residues located within the sheet structure are in brown. **c**. Position of amino acid residues in FpvU from the plug and β -barrel with homology to the residues of FpvAI that are involved in the binding of pyoverdine. Amino acid side chain structures are shown in black. **d & e**. Alignment of FpvAI and the six Pf-5 Fpv outer-membrane proteins showing amino acid residues of FpvAI involved in pyoverdine binding in the plug and β -barrel domains (red). Identical residues are in red, conservative substitutions are in blue, semi-conservative substitutions are in yellow and non-conservative substitutions are in green.

The RMS values and sequence alignments of the Pf-5 proteins indicate that FpvU is the most closely related to FpvAI (68% identical at the amino acid level). Of the 15 amino acids located in the binding pocket of FpvAI that interact with amino acids in the peptide chain of the ferric pyoverdine complex of PAO1 (Fig. 3.1d) (23, 56), 12 amino acids also are present in the binding pocket of FpvU (Fig. 3.1d). Homology modeling between FpvAI and FpvU indicated that the 15 binding residues are in identical locations in both proteins: the channel of the β -barrels, the extra-cellular loops, and the plug domains (Fig. 3.1c). Two of the altered binding residues are conservative substitutions (G230 to A237 in the plug domain, and D597 to E606 in the β -barrel) whereas one is a non-conservative substitution (Y600 to N609 in the β -barrel). Based upon this high level of conservation in the binding residues of FpvU and FpvAI, we expect that FpvU and FpvAI would recognize similar pyoverdines. Putative pyoverdine binding residues of FpvZ, FpvV, FpvW, FpvX, and FpvY could not be identified from homology models or by alignment due to their divergence from FpvAI (Fig. 3.1e).

The amino acid sequences of the TonB boxes of the Pf-5 Fpv outer-membrane proteins are divergent, but nevertheless, could be identified based on their locations in corresponding structural models and the presence of bordering leucine residues (Fig. 3.1a and 3.1b). FpvU shares four of the six residues with the well-characterized TonB box of FpvAI (13, 57), whereas the TonB boxes of the other five Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5 share only one to three of the six residues. The lack of sequence conservation in TonB boxes was noted previously for the 45 TonB-dependent outer membrane proteins of Pf-5 (25) and for an extensive set of characterized TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins from other bacteria (33). The latter study concluded that divergence in the amino acid sequence of the TonB box has little effect on substrate binding as long as the surrounding residues forming a β -strand are conserved. Secondary protein structure rather than primary amino acid sequence is thought to determine binding to TonB; specifically the interaction of a β -strand encompassing the TonB box motif of the TBDP with the β -sheet structure of TonB (33). Homology models of five of the Pf-5 Fpv outer-membrane proteins clearly indicate the presence of a β -strand structure overlapping the

TonB box (Fig. 3.1a), providing evidence for the secondary structure being required for interaction with TonB.

Fig. 3.2. Alignment of PA2398 (FpvAI) from *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 with the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins from Pf-5. The colored lines above the alignment delineate domains and conserved regions based on the characterized residues of FpvAI. The N-terminal signaling domain is blue. The connecting loop is purple. The TonB box is brown. The plug domain is red and the β -strands of the β -barrel are in dark green. Amino acid residues of FpvAI (PA2398) involved in pyoverdine binding are indicated with an asterisk. Residues are highlighted to show levels of similarity. Similar residues are green, identical residues are pink and black residues are globally conserved.


```

PA2398 -----MPAPHGLS--PISKAFMRRFAQ-RRILPHSAKAT--SLPLAYVFAQEVEF
PFL_2391 MQIIPISYGTSMELP--TITPARSILALAI-CLACNPVAVPEP--TTATD-NQATATYSF
PFL_3485 -----MHIRLT--PIA-ATRPVIIG-PSVASTSLPLA--AETGAVTDHQQRDY
PFL_4092 -----MPAQHRLT--PIITKA-ILRQAFA-PKLSRTLLGLAT--TLPLMAQVCAQEIH
PFL_2527 MSSAVTQRR--HRTF--SKQNLGAVAQ--VCLGASTATAT--LPTWLAEEQAQVEF
PFL_3315 ---MPSPRRSRLPFHTLPICTA-----LCGAAPMHA--ADAGQNQSCAERRSF
PFL_2293 M-----S--DVHKSQAQAIKVGWGLAVYGAALPLTAVASECTAVRRF

PA2398 DHPQALGSALEQFGRQADQVLRPREVRNKRSSIKGKLEPNQATELFRGTGASVDF
PFL_2391 AIAAQSLANLDQLSTCSGQIAISAAIAQGISACVSQMSAEQAIEKLPACTGLGPER
PFL_3485 AIAPCNLDQVLGIFGQCSASMTAIDANISAKRSTGLNGCFSSVAECQRLPKPLQLQVA
PFL_4092 NIVSQSMASALEQFGRQANQVLPNPDVQKRSNLSGSSYPERATAAMNGTCVAYTL
PFL_2527 DIAPCNLASALTRFGQSAHLLSPASTTEGSSPGLRGHDVDSCTALLTSCTGLQAVR
PFL_3315 SIICPCLVTVLNRFACSAVFIAGHNDAAQKQSPGLNGLSVAAEALQLLANSCLQAQA
PFL_2293 DIAACDLTEVLSRYASAAGAAISDARQTACPSAGLKEVGVQECFRRILAGSCWQAEF

PA2398 QCN-AITSVAAEADSSVDLEATMTSSQLGHTEDSGSYTP--IATATRVLTFRITPQ
PFL_2391 NGANAVLTRLFQSSQAVILEATQVSVQLGHTVTESSSYTP--IATATRVLTFRITPQ
PFL_3485 EGAG-YRVIQ-ASGGERVILGATVTTQLGHTVTESSSYTP--IATATRVLTFRITPQ
PFL_4092 KD-NSVTI--RNHCGNGSLGLGTSTSCQGLGHTEDTGSYTCAMQASKSLTARETPQ
PFL_2527 GAG-DYSLQTRNGASLEHSPVSTSKAPGTTEGTGHTTSSSTRNLTPRETPQ
PFL_3315 VSG-GYVXVLPATSCPLQLGLTQISAGLGSVTESSSYTTCASATGNLISLRETPQ
PFL_2293 QSGNSFVLRPVPCGSGALELGLTQVQGLGATTEVSGHTTCAV--IGGQHSLETPQ

PA2398 SITVTRCNDDPGLNNDVVMHPCGITYSA--YDIDNNYARGSINN--FOYDGLPS
PFL_2391 SITVTRCNDDPGLNNDVVMHPCGITYSA--YDIDNNYARGSINN--FOYDGLPS
PFL_3485 SITVTRCNDDPGLNNDVVMHPCGITYAT--YDIDTSYVARGALQN--FOYDGLPS
PFL_4092 SITVTRCNDDNNRLEOVLAAPQISINK--DGPOPTVARGAVE--LMTDGLN
PFL_2527 SITVTRCNDDNLSLTITLEAPQIIVRDGLGATDSYERGALQN--YEIDGLN
PFL_3315 SITVTRCNDDQCATSIATILRAPGVSVQN--YDSEWESRGLPITN--FOYDGLNA
PFL_2293 SITVTRCNDDCNLNLIDQVMEKPCGITYD--SPMGKYXSRGRMTGQYQYDGL

PA2398 TARNVGYSAQNTLSDMAIYDREVVLKATGLLTGAGSLCATINLRKPTHEFKHVEFG
PFL_2391 TVRNVAISAGNTLSDMAIYDREVVLKATGLLTGAGSLCATINLRKPTAQFQHASIG
PFL_3485 -LQDAQYSSCHLTDVYIDREVVLKATGLLTGAGGPGCTINVRKPTAEFAHIDAG
PFL_4092 DLTHTLSRDMNSADMAIYDREVVLKATGLNQQACNPSAINVRKPTATPRVTVGS
PFL_2527 NTRLD---MYQSMAYDMEVVGATGLISGMCNPSATINLRKPTSTAQSIQ
PFL_3315 TYDGVYDYGTCTTDMATDREVVLKATGLAGSGDPSATINLRKPTKFKASVGT
PFL_2293 DGGSSVQADSFQSDMAFYDREVVLGAGAGTKGAGGTAGSVNVRKNGQTPHTELS

PA2398 AGSWDNYRSELDVSGPLTSGNVRGRVAAAYQDNHSEFDHYEKTSTYYGILEFDLNPET
PFL_2391 AGSWDNYRSELDVSGPLTSGNVRGRVAAAYQDNHSEFDHYEKTSTYYGILEFDLNPET
PFL_3485 AGSWDNYRSELDVSGPLTSGNVRGRVAAAYQDNHSEFDHYEKTSTYYGILEFDLNPET
PFL_4092 AGSWDNYRSELDVSGPLTSGNVRGRVAAAYQDNHSEFDHYEKTSTYYGILEFDLNPET
PFL_2527 AGSWDNYRSELDVSGPLTSGNVRGRVAAAYQDNHSEFDHYEKTSTYYGILEFDLNPET
PFL_3315 AGSWDNYRSELDVSGPLTSGNVRGRVAAAYQDNHSEFDHYEKTSTYYGILEFDLNPET
PFL_2293 AGSWDNYRSELDVSGPLTSGNVRGRVAAAYQDNHSEFDHYEKTSTYYGILEFDLNPET

PA2398 LLTGCDYQDNPFKSGWCSFFLFDQGNRNDVRSFNGAKWSSFOYTRTVANLEH
PFL_2391 LLTGCDYQDNPFKSGWCSFFLFDQGNRNDVRSFNGAKWSSFOYTRTVANLEH
PFL_3485 LLTGCDYQDNPFKSGWCSFFLFDQGNRNDVRSFNGAKWSSFOYTRTVANLEH
PFL_4092 LLTGCDYQDNPFKSGWCSFFLFDQGNRNDVRSFNGAKWSSFOYTRTVANLEH
PFL_2527 LLTGCDYQDNPFKSGWCSFFLFDQGNRNDVRSFNGAKWSSFOYTRTVANLEH
PFL_3315 LLTGCDYQDNPFKSGWCSFFLFDQGNRNDVRSFNGAKWSSFOYTRTVANLEH
PFL_2293 LLTGCDYQDNPFKSGWCSFFLFDQGNRNDVRSFNGAKWSSFOYTRTVANLEH

PA2398 NFANGWVGIVQLDEKINGHAPLCALMDWP--APDNSAKIYAKYGETKSNGLDYLT
PFL_2391 DGLDGVVTLQLDEKINGHAELEGIQFDEP--QTDGTAKVNAKYGETKSNGLDYLT
PFL_3485 SFANGWVAIAQYNEQINGHAPLGLSLSMSP-N--AETGIASLTKKGETVSDGGLAT
PFL_4092 RFANGWMLLSASKSWDLNM-LGSIYPER--MGANYDEFGQINIGDYEDQONSIDGVT
PFL_2527 CLANGWSCVFEFTHAEQDELFPNFAMCSV--NKDGSGLTQIPVRFEGTPRQDNLDGLT
PFL_3315 CLANDWTLLKVSYDLRLRQHDHLLGASAGNDDQASGDGMFMYMGKFKGQQRQDNLDGLT
PFL_2293 CLNDWDWAKVAGVYTRTQDIEYFPSCSVGVGASRSSTLMGSIYDYEDQVDYGFDAVD

PA2398 GPFQFLGRHHLVVGTSASFH-----TEGASYWNL--RNYD-NTTD-DFINWDDICMP
PFL_2391 GPFNLFGREHHLVVGTSASFH-----TGKCYWSPDFPGGK-GNVV-DFINWDDICMP
PFL_3485 GPFNLFGREHHLVVGTSASFH-----KQADTSA--T-NH-NNFY-DYNNWDDHSPWP
PFL_4092 GPFNLFGREHHLVVGTSASFH-----KQAG-----L-PIDLETH-TNYKPSCLPKP
PFL_2527 GPFNLFGREHHLVVGTSASFH-----GKWRDYA--G-SP-AGPIDNLDNCHSPWP
PFL_3315 GPFNLFGREHHLVVGTSASFH-----QDIPVHGSVY-----P-PVGG-SYDWRCEFAKP
PFL_2293 GPFNLFGREHHLVVGTSASFH-----KD-DFYAVAGL-P-----QRQ-NVLDPPHHLPK

PA2398 DWGTPSQY-----IDDKTRCLGSLYAFENYTDNLNPLGGRYVDNRVT-GLN----PT
PFL_2391 IWGLPAQR-----TDDTVRQCTGYTTERNNMDLNLPLGGRYVNNHLLT-GLN----PS
PFL_3485 DWGTRTKK-----NDETRCSGYTAFENYNDLNLPLGGRYVNNHLLT-GLN----R-
PFL_4092 UMSANPWT-----QRTSQLEGTYYTTERISLTDLKLPLGGRYVDN-DY-DVTTWNGK
PFL_2527 SQNVSGKA-----SIDENYANLGLSLTDLKLPLGGRYVNNHLLT-GLN----SSDRPYG--
PFL_3315 IPIKGD-----NLILOCTGATYARLKPFDLAVLGGRYVSDKGI-DNRYLDPN
PFL_2293 DSYYESNSTRGPTLRLIQQLMSVRLKADPLTVGGRYVSDKSIQNSQNSVAYWRDT

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Fig. 3.2.

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PA2398 -----ISGRFLPTVGAVIDLDTGVYASYTIFMPQDQVYRDSNNKLEPDKGQN
PFL_2391 -----YKISGRFVPTVGAVIDLDDHGVYASYTIFMPQDSNNKDSLELNPDKGN
PFL_3485 -----TKITCKVTPYAGVIDLQDNHGVYASYTIFMPQDDY-RDRNDVLEKPDAGTN
PFL_4092 ASASSLPNVTTRHITRYAGVIDLDQNHGVYVSYTIFKPQTEL--QTSNGALKPLKGN
PFL_2527 GDETKVKRENGVFLPYAGVIDLDTGVYASYTSIFNPQASNVVSENNPLDPLKGG
PFL_3315 SPDARQRYQQTGVTPYAGVIDLNDSTGVYASYTSIQPQM--LVDCALDPPVQDS
PFL_2293 RTPSSARSKETGEVTPYAGVIDLNDNLAYASYTSITPQGVY-ETLGASLEKPLVCKS

PA2398 YEGIKGEVDGRINSLAYEHEHNVMEERALVNSKTNQAITTAYKIAATIGEA
PFL_2391 YEGIKGEVDGRINSLAYEVHETNRSVPDATTNNQSPTE-DNYAFKAAAVVAGEA
PFL_3485 YEGIKGEVDGRINSLAYEVHETNRPVDLANNANTTGLDYASKIISAAIGEA
PFL_4092 YEGIKGEVDGLNNAATVRIDQENRAKVLNPNKCNV-GS-TCYEAAGQVSEGELE
PFL_2527 YEGIKGSHVDGRINSLAYKIQDNLAIWQH-----D-NVYSSEQDTSKQVEL
PFL_3315 YEGIKGEVDGRVNAFAVHTEQNVQLVDGNGIDA-----IYRPTKGATIKGEV
PFL_2293 YEGIKGEVDGRINSAFSVRTIQDAQQDQ-----ACDSTCSLNSGKVAAQGEA

PA2398 EISGELAPGWQVQAGYTH---KIIDDS-----GKKVSTWEPQDQSLVTSYFKGALDK
PFL_2391 EISGELAPGWQVQAGYTH---KIIDDE-----GDKISTWEPQDQNLVTSYTKGDLDK
PFL_3485 EISGELAPGWQVQAGYTH---KIIDQS-----GAKVSTWEPDQDNLVTSYITGSLDK
PFL_4092 EISGELAPGWELGAGYTYASVITYTDSNEANV-CRLFDIDIPRSVFAFLYQIPGDLNE
PFL_2527 EFNGLAEGWQASAGYTY---SITTDADDQR-----ITGVPRNSFTTSTYKQGPLDK
PFL_3315 EISGELSEGVNLSAGYTY---NHTIDANHDYVYGSVLIQTTPQQVAKLFTSTYKPGAWDR
PFL_2293 EISGELIERDQVLAGYTYTQTETEDANSANN-CLPFTLVVPRHLKRVWGDYQVGGATFR

PA2398 LTVGGGARVQCKSKQMYYNNP-R-----SRWEFFQEDTLVLDLMAVYQITKLSASVNV
PFL_2391 LTVGGGARVQCKSKQWYNNAP-R-----KINEDLQEAHLVLDLMAVYQITQNLBAINV
PFL_3485 LTVGGGARVQCKSKKISNYG-K-----GTEEFQCAPHLVLDLMAVYQITKLSASINV
PFL_4092 WTVGGGYGQNTIINK---GT-NDYLSFTFDYIECKSLVLDLMAVYQITKLSASINV
PFL_2527 LTVGGGVNCKKIGGD-----LHTFQGSATNLMTYDTERNLSSANV
PFL_3315 LTVGGGVNCKSQFGKMYCPDPSPDTVNGGHDSEITCDGYEVEAMAYQFQQLSSINV
PFL_2293 FTVGAGVNAQSDNVRV---SP-----TSGNHRQAGLAVWNGRIGYRQDITWELANG

PA2398 NNLFDRYYTINIGF---YTS-ASYGDPNNLMGSTRWDF
PFL_2391 NNLFDRYYTINIGF---YNS-AAYGDPNNFMLSTRWDF
PFL_3485 NNLFDRYYTINIGF---YNS-SYYGDPNNFMLSTRWDF
PFL_4092 NNLFDRYYQSIGTNTDYGTS-LYGDPPNNAMVTVSLSL
PFL_2527 NNLFDRYYTINAGS---YG---NYGAPNNLMGSTFYSF
PFL_3315 NNLFDRYYTGICN---YSL-GFYGDPPSLQATRWDF
PFL_2293 NNLFDRYYTITICT---EGFGNFFYGDPPNNLTLSTVWADF

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Fig. 3.2., Continued

Iron-limited growth of *fpv* mutants of Pf-5

To determine the functions of the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins in ferric-pyoverdine uptake, a deletion in each *fpv* gene was introduced into wild type Pf-5 and its $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* and $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchA* mutant derivatives, which are deficient in producing pyoverdine and enantio-pyochelin siderophores. Deletions in five of the *fpv* genes had no detectable effect on iron-limited growth when introduced into the wild type background (Table 3.2). These five mutants (*fpvU*, *fpvV*, *fpvW*, *fpvX*, and *fpvY*) exhibited wild type levels of fluorescence and, like Pf-5, grew on KMB amended with up to 800 μ M of the chelator 2,2'-dipyridyl. In contrast, a mutation in *fpvZ*, which is located in a pyoverdine biosynthesis gene cluster, reduced the capacity of Pf-5 for iron-limited growth. This mutant, like a $\Delta pvdI$ mutant of Pf-5, grew only on KMB containing ≤ 600 μ M 2,2'-dipyridyl (Table 3.2). In *P. aeruginosa* the coordinate regulation of pyoverdine biosynthesis and transport genes has been described, where the FpvA mutant exhibits loss of pyoverdine production (54-55). We attribute the phenotype of the *fpvZ* mutant to the loss of pyoverdine production due to altered regulation of the pyoverdine biosynthesis genes related to the deleted *fpvZ* gene.

Table 3.2. Iron limited growth of Pf-5 mutants

Strain #	Siderophore biosynthesis mutations	Deleted <i>fpv</i>						Fluorescence ^a	2,2'-dipyridyl Concentration (μM) ^b			
									200	400	600	800
JL4585	Pvd ⁺ , Pch ⁺ (Pf-5 Wt)							+	+	+	+	+
JL4806	<i>pvdI</i> (PFL_4095)							-	+	+	*	-
JL4898	<i>pchC</i> (PFL_3490)							+	+	+	+	+
LK078	<i>pchA</i> (PFL_3488)							+	+	+	+	*
JL4900	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>							-	+	*	-	-
LK032	<i>pvdI, pchA</i>							-	+	*	-	-
JL4992	Pvd ⁺ , Pch ⁺	<i>fpvZ</i>						+	+	+	*	-
JL4993	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>	<i>fpvZ</i>						-	+	*	-	-
LK155	<i>pvdI, pchA</i>	<i>fpvZ</i>						-	+	*	-	-
LK157	Pvd ⁺ , Pch ⁺		<i>fpvV</i>					+	+	+	+	+
JL4994	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>		<i>fpvV</i>					-	+	*	-	-
LK151	<i>pvdI, pchA</i>		<i>fpvV</i>					-	+	*	-	-
LK149	Pvd ⁺ , Pch ⁺			<i>fpvU</i>				+	+	+	+	+
JL4997	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>			<i>fpvU</i>				-	+	*	-	-
LK154	<i>pvdI, pchA</i>			<i>fpvU</i>				-	+	*	-	-
LK176	Pvd ⁺ , Pch ⁺				<i>fpvY</i>			+	+	+	+	+
JL4996	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>				<i>fpvY</i>			-	+	*	-	-
LK148	<i>pvdI, pchA</i>				<i>fpvY</i>			-	+	*	-	-
LK177	Pvd ⁺ , Pch ⁺					<i>fpvX</i>		+	+	+	+	+
JL4995	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>					<i>fpvX</i>		-	+	*	-	-
LK150	<i>pvdI, pchA</i>					<i>fpvX</i>		-	+	*	-	-
LK156	Pvd ⁺ , Pch ⁺						<i>fpvW</i>	+	+	+	+	+
LK036	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>						<i>fpvW</i>	-	+	*	-	-
LK153	<i>pvdI, pchA</i>						<i>fpvW</i>	-	+	*	-	-
LK124	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>	<i>fpvZ</i>					<i>fpvW</i>	-	+	*	-	-
LK072	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>	<i>fpvZ</i>			<i>fpvY</i>			-	+	*	-	-
LK054	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>	<i>fpvZ</i>		<i>fpvU</i>				-	+	*	-	-
LK074	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>	<i>fpvZ</i>				<i>fpvX</i>		-	+	*	-	-
JL4999	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>	<i>fpvZ</i>	<i>fpvV</i>					-	+	*	-	-
LK000	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>		<i>fpvV</i>			<i>fpvX</i>		-	+	*	-	-
LK125	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>		<i>fpvV</i>				<i>fpvW</i>	-	+	*	-	-
LK073	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>		<i>fpvV</i>		<i>fpvY</i>			-	+	*	-	-

Table 3.2. (Continued)

Strain #	Siderophore biosynthesis mutations	Deleted <i>fpv</i>						Fluorescence ^a	2,2'-dipyridyl Concentration (μM) ^b			
									200	400	600	800
LK076	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>		<i>fpvV</i>	<i>fpvU</i>				-	+	*	-	-
LK128	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>			<i>fpvU</i>			<i>fpvW</i>	-	+	*	-	-
JL4998	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>			<i>fpvU</i>	<i>fpvY</i>			-	+	*	-	-
LK075	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>			<i>fpvU</i>		<i>fpvX</i>		-	+	*	-	-
LK126	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>					<i>fpvX</i>	<i>fpvW</i>	-	+	*	-	-
LK127	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>				<i>fpvY</i>		<i>fpvW</i>	-	+	*	-	-
LK071	<i>pvdI, pchC</i>				<i>fpvY</i>	<i>fpvX</i>		-	+	*	-	-

^a+ indicates fluorescence of colonies under UV light. - indicates no fluorescence of colonies under UV light. ^b+ indicates growth, - indicates no growth, * indicates limited growth

Utilization of heterologous ferric-pyoverdines by Pf-5 and *fpv* mutants

Thirty-one strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. known to crossfeed the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* mutant of Pf-5 (25) and six additional strains were tested for crossfeeding of the six *fpv* mutants (*fpvU*, *fpvV*, *fpvW*, *fpvX*, *fpvY*, and *fpvZ*) in the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* mutant background (Table 3.3). A subset of strains was tested for crossfeeding of *fpv* mutants in a $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchA* background to rule out the influence of residual enantio-pyochelin production by the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* mutant (25). There was no detectable difference between a given *fpv* mutant in the two mutant backgrounds in crossfeeding assays (Table 3.3 and Table 3.4).

As predicted from its location within a pyoverdine biosynthesis gene cluster (25), *FpvZ* was necessary for uptake of the pyoverdine produced by wildtype Pf-5. *FpvZ* also was necessary for crossfeeding by *P. chlororaphis* DTR133, *P. fluorescens* CFBP2130, *P. fluorescens* CHA0, and *P. chlororaphis* subsp. *aureofaciens* ATCC13985 (Table 3.3). Three of these strains with known structures produce pyoverdines having eight amino acids in the peptide chain with the first four amino acids (Asp-FOHOrn-Lys-Thr) in common (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3. Crossfeeding of single *fpv* mutants in a Δ *pvdI-pchC* mutant background of Pf-5

Pyoverdine-Producing Strain	Pf-5 Deletion Mutant ^a						Composition of Peptide Chain ^b	Reference or Source
	<i>fpvZ</i>	<i>fpvU</i>	<i>fpvX</i>	<i>fpvW</i>	<i>fpvY</i>	<i>fpvV</i>		
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pf-5	-	+	+	+	+	+	Asp-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Lys-Thr-Ala-Ala-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Lys	Harald Gross, University of Bonn
<i>P. fluorescens</i> CHA0	-	+	+	+	+	+	Asp-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Lys-(Thr-Ala-Ala-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Lys)	(63)
<i>P. chlororaphis</i> D-TR133	-	+	+	+	+	+	Asp-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Lys-(Thr-Ala-Ala-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Ala)	(43)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> CFBP2130	-	+	+	+	+	+	Unknown	http://www.straininfo.net/strains/757032
<i>P. chlororaphis</i> subsp. <i>aureofaciens</i> ATCC 13985	-	+	+	+	+	+	Unknown	(59)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PAO1	+	-	+	+	+	+	<u>Ser</u> -Arg- <u>Ser</u> -FOH <u>Orn</u> -(Lys-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Thr-Thr) (Type I pyoverdine)	(16)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PA14	+	-	+	+	+	+	Ser-Arg-Ser-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Lys-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Thr-Thr	(25)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> SBW25	+	-	+	+	+	+	<u>Ser</u> -Lys-Gly-FOH <u>Orn</u> -(Lys-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Ser)	(47)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> ATCC 13525	+	-	+	+	+	+	<u>Ser</u> -Lys-Gly-FOH <u>Orn</u> -(Lys-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Ser)	(39)
<i>P. chlororaphis</i> ATCC 9446	+	-	+	+	+	+	<u>Ser</u> -Lys-Gly-FOH <u>Orn</u> -(Lys-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Ser)	(39)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> ATCC 17518	+	-	+	+	+	+	Unknown	(59)
<i>P. putida</i> CS111 syn SB8.3	+	+	-	+	+	+	<i>Ala-Lys-Thr-Ser-OHOrn-OHOrn</i>	(44)

Table 3.3. (Continued)

Pyoverdine-Producing Strain	Pf-5 Deletion Mutant ^a						Composition of Peptide Chain ^b	Reference or Source
	<i>fpvZ</i>	<i>fpvU</i>	<i>fpvX</i>	<i>fpvW</i>	<i>fpvY</i>	<i>fpvV</i>		
<i>P. putida</i> ATCC 17470	+	+	-	+	+	+	Unknown	(59)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> B10	+	+	+	-	+	+	εLys-OH <u>Asp</u> -Ala-a <u>Thr</u> -Ala-cOH <u>Orn</u>	(62)
<i>P. lini</i> DLE411J	+	+	+	-	+	+	<i>Lys-OHAsp-Ala-Thr-Ala-OHOrn</i>	(44)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> ATCC 17513	+	+	+	-	+	+	Unknown	(59)
<i>P. putida</i> W4P63	+	+	+	-	+	+	Unknown	(64)
<i>P. rhodesiae</i> CFML92-104	+	+	+	+	-	+	Ser-Lys-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser-Gly-(Lys-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser)	(10)
<i>P. rhodesiae</i> DSM14020	+	+	+	+	-	+	<i>Ser-Lys-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser-Gly-(Lys-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser)</i>	(43-44)
<i>P. salomonii</i> CFBP2022	+	+	+	+	-	+	<i>Ser-Orn-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser-Lys-FOHOrn-Ser</i>	(38)
<i>P. marginalis</i> pv. <i>alfalfa</i> NCPPB 2644	+	+	+	+	-	+	Unknown	(65)
<i>P. marginalis</i> pv. <i>marginalis</i> NCPPB 667	+	+	+	+	-	+	Unknown	(65)
<i>P. marginalis</i> pv. <i>pastinacae</i> NCPPB 806	+	+	+	+	-	+	Unknown	(65)
<i>P. reactans</i> NCPPB387	+	+	+	+	-	+	Unknown	http://www.straininfo.net/strains/53319
<i>P. putida</i> Bn7	+	+	+	+	+	-	Unknown	(32)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> WCS374	+	+	+	+	+	+	<u>Ser</u> -Lys-Gly-FOHOrn-(Lys-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Ser)	(17)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> DSM50106	+	+	+	+	+	+	Ser-Lys-Gly-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser-Gly-(Orn-FOHOrn-Ser)	(43)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> CLR711 syn PL7	+	+	+	+	+	+	<u>Ser</u> -AcOH <u>Orn</u> -Ala-Gly-a <u>Thr</u> -Ala-cOHOrn	(5)

Table 3.3. (Continued)

Pyoverdine-Producing Strain	Pf-5 Deletion Mutant ^a						Composition of Peptide Chain ^b	Reference or Source
	<i>fpvZ</i>	<i>fpvU</i>	<i>fpvX</i>	<i>fpvW</i>	<i>fpvY</i>	<i>fpvV</i>		
<i>P. constantinii</i> CFBP5705	+	+	+	+	+	+	<u>Ser</u> -AcOHOrn-Gly- aThr- <u>Thr</u> -Gln-Gly- <u>Ser</u> -cOHOrn	(40)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> CTRp112 syn PL8	+	+	+	+	+	+	<u>Lys</u> -AcOHOrn-Ala-Gly-a <u>Thr</u> -Ser-cOHOrn	(5)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> A6	+	+	+	+	+	+	<u>Lys</u> -AcOHOrn-Gly-a <u>Thr</u> -Thr-Gln-Gly- <u>Ser</u> -cOHOrn	(6)
<i>P. putida</i> CFML90-40	+	+	+	+	+	+	Asp-Ala-Asp-AcOHOrn- <u>Ser</u> -cOHOrn	(44)
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pf0-1	+	+	+	+	+	+	Ala-AcOHOrn-Orn-Ser-Ser-Ser-Arg-OHAsp-Thr	(43)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> ATCC 27853	+	+	+	+	+	+	<u>Ser</u> -FOHOrn-Orn-Gly-a <u>Thr</u> -Ser-cOHOrn (Type II pyoverdine)	(61)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> 7NSK2	+	+	+	+	+	+	<u>Ser</u> -FOHOrn-Orn-Gly-a <u>Thr</u> -Ser-cOHOrn (Type II pyoverdine)	(14)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> Pa6	+	+	+	+	+	+	<u>Ser</u> -cDab-FOHOrn-Gln-Gln-FOHOrn-Gly (Type III pyoverdine)	(21)
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> LESB58	+	+	+	+	+	+	Ser-?-OHOrn-Gln-Gln-OHOrn-Gly (Type III pyoverdine)	This study, predicted structure

^a+ indicates growth of the Pf-5 mutant on an iron-limited medium in the presence of the pyoverdine-producing strain. – indicates no growth of the mutant in the presence of the pyoverdine-producing strain.

^bUnderline denotes D-amino acids. Parentheses define cyclic residues. cOHOrn is cyclo-hydroxy-ornithine. FOHOrn is δ N-formyl- δ N-hydroxy-ornithine. ϵ Lys is Lys linked by its ϵ -NH₂. OHAsp is threo- β -hydroxy-aspartic acid. Dab is diamino-butanoic acid. OHHis is threo- β -hydroxy-histidine. aThr is allo-Thr. AcOHOrn is δ N-acetyl- δ N-hydroxy-ornithine. Italicized peptide chains are inferred from siderotyping analysis (43). These pyoverdines are in the same siderotype as a pyoverdine having the structure provided. ^a + indicates growth of the mutant in the presence of the donor strain. – indicates no growth of the mutant in the presence of the donor strain.

As described above, FpvU is similar to FpvAI, which recognizes the type I pyoverdine produced by *P. aeruginosa*. As expected, a deletion in *fpvU* eliminated crossfeeding of Pf-5 by the type I-pyoverdine-producing strains *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 and *P. aeruginosa* PA14. FpvU also was required for crossfeeding by *P. fluorescens* SBW25, *P. fluorescens* ATCC 13525, *P. chlororaphis* ATCC 9446, and *P. fluorescens* ATCC 17518. Of these four strains, three make pyoverdines with known structures (Table 3.3). The pyoverdines recognized by FpvU have seven or eight amino acids in the peptide chain, with D-Ser in the first position, Arg or Lys in the second position, a small residue (Ser or Gly) in the third position, followed by FOHOrn-Lys-FOHOrn (Table 3.3). Thus, the first four amino acids of the peptide chains recognized by FpvU are identical to those of the pyoverdines found by Greenwald et al. (23) to bind with high affinity to FpvAI.

FpvY is similar in sequence to FpvU of Pf-5 and FpvAI of *P. aeruginosa* PAO1, with 60% amino acid identity to both proteins. FpvY and FpvU also share six of the fifteen substrate binding residues in the plug and receptor domains, as determined through comparison to FpvAI (Fig. 3.1d & e; Fig. 3.2). Despite the sequence similarity between FpvY and FpvU, deletion of *fpvY* indicated its requirement for crossfeeding by a different set of *Pseudomonas* spp. than FpvU (*P. rhodesiae* DSM14020, *P. rhodesiae* CFML92-104, *P. salomonii* CFBP2022, *P. reactans* NCPPB387, and three pathovars of *P. marginalis*). Three of the strains produce pyoverdines with peptide chains identified chemically or by siderotyping (Table 3.3). Pyoverdines of these three strains have peptide chains with eight or ten residues, and share similar amino acid sequences that vary in a Lys in the second position, and insertions of Gly in the sixth position and a Ser residue at the C-terminus (two strains of *P. rhodesiae*).

Table 3.4. Crossfeeding assays with *fpv* deletion mutants in a $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchA* background of Pf-5

	Pf-5 <i>fpv</i> mutants in $\Delta pvdI$-<i>pchA</i> background^a					
Feeding Strains	<i>fpvZ</i>	<i>fpvU</i>	<i>fpvV</i>	<i>fpvX</i>	<i>fpvY</i>	<i>fpvW</i>
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pf-5	-	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>P. fluorescens</i> CHA0	-	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>P. chlororaphis</i> subsp. <i>aureofaciens</i> ATCC 13985	-	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>P. fluorescens</i> SBW25	ND	-	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PA14	ND	-	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PAO1	ND	-	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>P. fluorescens</i> ATCC 13525	ND	-	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>P. chlororaphis</i> ATCC 9446	ND	-	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>P. fluorescens</i> ATCC 17518	ND	-	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>P. putida</i> Bn7	+	+	-	+	+	+
<i>P. putida</i> ATCC 17470	+	+	+	-	+	+
<i>P. putida</i> CS111 syn SB8.3	+	+	+	-	+	+
<i>P. reactans</i> NCPPB387	ND	ND	ND	ND	-	ND
<i>P. fluorescens</i> B10	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	-
<i>P. putida</i> W4P63	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	-
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> LESB58	+	+	+	+	+	+

^a– indicates lack of growth promotion by the *Pseudomonas* strain, + indicated growth promotion and ND indicates that this combination was not tested.

FpvW is 75.3% identical to PbuA from *Pseudomonas* sp. strain M114, which recognizes the pyoverdine produced by *P. fluorescens* B10 (48). FpvW was required for crossfeeding by *P. fluorescens* B10, *P. lini* DLE411J, *P. putida* W4P63, and *P. fluorescens* ATCC17513. Of these strains, only B10 and DLE411J have characterized pyoverdines, which share the peptide chain of ϵ Lys-OHAsp-Ala-aThr-Ala-cOHOrn (Table 3.3).

Three strains of *Pseudomonas putida* crossfed Pf-5 via FpvX or FpvV. FpvX was required by Pf-5 for crossfeeding by *P. putida* ATCC 17470 and *P. putida* CS111, and FpvV was required for crossfeeding by *P. putida* Bn7 (Table 3.3). FpvV is 79% identical to PupB from *P. putida* WCS358, which also recognizes the pyoverdine from *P. putida* Bn7 (32).

In summary, each of the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins was required by Pf-5 for crossfeeding by one to seven strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. Crossfeeding by a total of 25 strains was eliminated by knocking out a single *fpv* gene. Of the 25 strains, 14 produce pyoverdines having peptide chains with known or bioinformatically-predicted amino acid composition (Table 3.2). Samples of representative pyoverdines, which were partially purified from culture supernatants of *Pseudomonas* sp., were tested to verify the crossfeeding assays. Recognition of specific purified pyoverdines by the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins was confirmed (Table 3.3). Therefore, specific pyoverdines were associated with each of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5, and purified pyoverdines of known structure could be matched to five of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins.

Table 3.5. Purified pyoverdines stimulated iron-limited growth of derivatives of Pf-5 with deletions in specific *fpv* genes in a $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchA* mutant background

Strain isolated from	Peptide chain structure ^a	<i>fpv</i> mutant ^b						
		<i>pvdI-pchA</i>	<i>fpvZ</i>	<i>fpvU</i>	<i>fpvX</i>	<i>fpvW</i>	<i>fpvY</i>	<i>fpvV</i>
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pf-5	Asp-FOHOrn-Lys-Thr-Ala-Ala-FOHOrn-Lys	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PAO1	Ser-Arg-Ser-FOHOrn-(Lys-FOHOrn-Thr-Thr) (Type I pyoverdine)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
<i>P. putida</i> SB8.3	Ala-Lys-Thr-Ser-AOHOrn-cOHOrn	+	+	+	-	+	+	+
<i>P. putida</i> CS111	Ala-Lys-Thr-Ser-OHOrn-OHOrn	+	+	+	-	+	+	+
<i>P. fluorescens</i> B10	ϵ Lys-OHAsp-Ala-aThr-Ala-cOHOrn	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
<i>P. rhodeisiae</i> CFML92-104	Ser-Lys-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser-Gly-(Lys-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser)	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
<i>P. putida</i> Bn7	Unknown	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> ATCC 27853	Ser-FOHOrn-Orn-Gly-aThr-Ser-cOHOrn (Type II pyoverdine)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> 7NSK2	Ser-FOHOrn-Orn-Gly-aThr-Ser-cOHOrn (Type II pyoverdine)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> Pa6	Ser-cDab-FOHOrn-Gln-Gln-FOHOrn-Gly (Type III pyoverdine)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

^aUnderline denotes D-amino acids. Parentheses define cyclic residues. cOHOrn is cyclo-hydroxy-ornithine. FOHOrn is δ N-formyl- δ N-hydroxy-ornithine. ϵ Lys is Lys linked by its ϵ -NH₂. OHAsp is threo- β -hydroxy-aspartic acid. Dab is diamino-butanoic acid. OHH is threo- β -hydroxy-histidine. Italicized structures were predicted by siderotyping.

^b+ indicates growth of the mutant in the presence of the purified pyoverdine. – indicates no growth of the mutant in the presence of the purified pyoverdine.

Phylogenetic analysis of Fpv outer-membrane proteins

The six Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5, their closest orthologs, and characterized Fpv outer-membrane proteins with known substrates from other *Pseudomonas* spp. were aligned and subjected to phylogenetic analysis. Of the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins in Pf-5, three are closely related to characterized Fpv outer-membrane proteins. FpvV is in the same clade as PupB from *P. putida* WCS358 (32) and, both recognize the pyoverdine produced by *P. putida* Bn7 (Fig. 3.3). FpvY and FpvU are related to FpvAI from *P. aeruginosa* PA01 as well as Fpv outer-membrane proteins from *P. fluorescens* SBW25 and *P. putida* GB1. FpvY and FpvU of Pf-5 exhibited similarities in substrate recognition, taking up ferric-complexes of pyoverdines having similar, but not identical, peptide chains. For the pyoverdines taken up by FpvY and FpvU, the N-terminal amino acids of the peptide chain have high levels of conservation. The first four amino acids of these peptide chains are identical to those found in pyoverdines that bind with high affinity to FpvAI (23), which is in the same clade as FpvY and FpvU in our phylogenetic analysis (Fig. 3.3). FpvW from Pf-5 is in a sub-clade with PbuA, the Fpv from *Pseudomonas* sp. M114, and Fpv outer-membrane proteins from *P. brassicacearum* and *P. putida* W619. PbuA is reported to recognize the pyoverdine produced by *P. fluorescens* B10 (48), which agree with the role of FpvW in the uptake of the B10 pyoverdine by Pf-5 (Fig. 3.3). Pf-5 does not have an ortholog to PupA, which recognizes the pyoverdine from *P. putida* WCS358 (8). These data are consistent with our earlier observation that the WCS358 pyoverdine is not recognized by Pf-5 (25). FpvZ, the TBDP for the uptake of Pf-5s own pyoverdine, appears to be distantly related to FpvB, the secondary Fpv of *P. aeruginosa* spp., as they form a clade with their related orthologs, despite sharing only 47% amino acid identity. The clade with FpvZ is underrepresented as there is a lack of similar Fpv outer-membrane proteins currently sequenced, contributing to low resolution of the phylogenetic relationships of FpvZ to other Fpv outer-membrane proteins (Fig. 3.3). FpvX is unique in that it is the only characterized TBDP in the clade it forms with Fpv outer-membrane proteins from *P.*

fluorescens SBW25 and *P. putida* GB-1. FpvX recognizes the pyoverdines produced by *P. putida* strains CS111, SB8.3, and ATCC 17470, but few orthologous sequences are available. Further sequencing of Fpv outer-membrane proteins will aid in resolving the distribution and evolution of this Fpv in *Pseudomonas* spp..

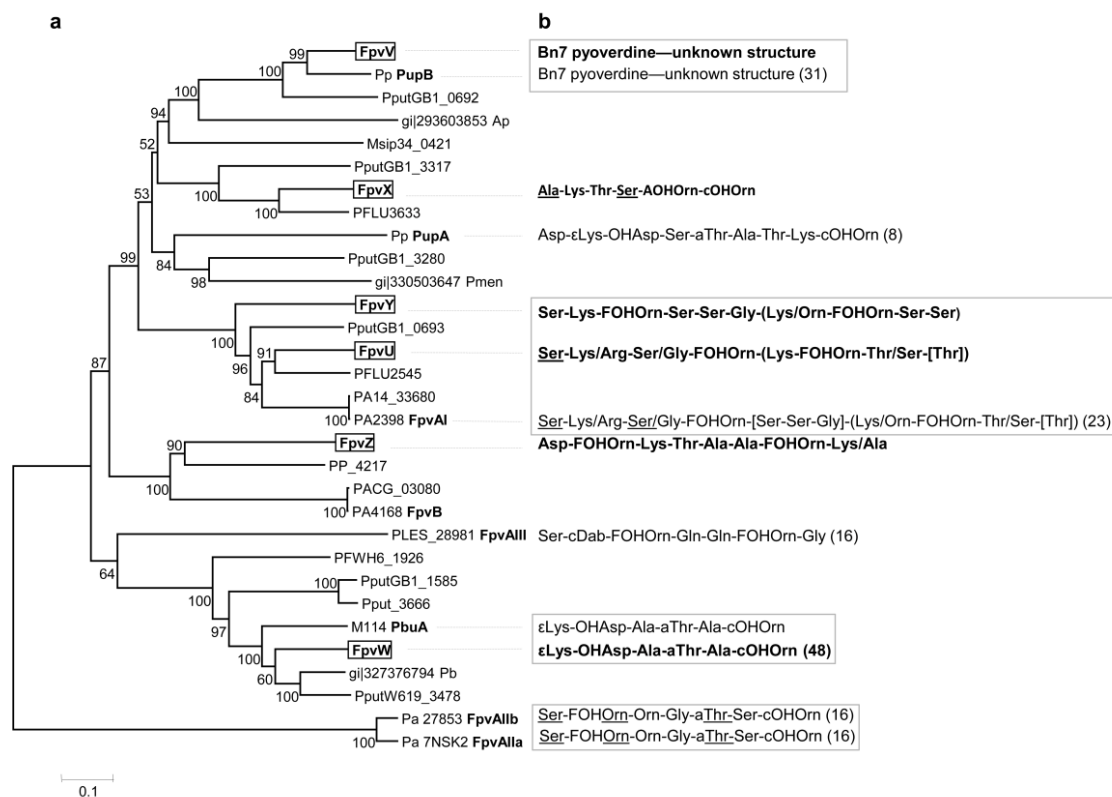


Fig. 3.3. Phylogenetic analysis of Fpv outer-membrane proteins and association with pyoverdine structures. **a.** Neighbor Joining analysis of Fpv outer-membrane proteins. *Pf-5* Fpv outer-membrane proteins are shown in bold boxed font and Fpv outer-membrane proteins having known substrates are shown in bold font. Abbreviations for species represented in the tree are as follows: *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 (Fpv), *Achromobacter piechaudii* ATCC 43553 (AP), *P. putida* GB-1 (PputGB1), *P. putida* F1 (Pput), *P. putida* W619 (W619), *Methylovorus* sp. SIP3-4 (Msip34), *P. fluorescens* SBW25 (PFLU), *P. fluorescens* WH6 (PFWH6), *P. aeruginosa* LESB58 (PLES), *P. aeruginosa* PA14 (PA14), *P. sp.* M114 (M114), *P. putida* (Pp), *P. brassicacearum* subsp. brassicacearum NFM421 (Pb), *P. aeruginosa* C3717 (PACG), *P. aeruginosa* (Pa), *P. mendocina* NK-01 (Pmen), *P. aeruginosa* 7NSK2 (Pa 7NSK2) and *P. aeruginosa* 27853 (Pa 27853). **b.** Pyoverdine peptide chain sequences recognized by the adjacent Fpv receptors. Pyoverdines associated with Fpv outer-membrane proteins of *Pf-5* in this study are in bold font. Peptide chains that are a consensus of multiple peptide chains contain amino acids in brackets indicating an addition, or a / indicating either of two residues, being present at that position. References are in parentheses after peptide chains.

Functional redundancy of Fpv outer-membrane proteins in *P. fluorescens* Pf-5

Twelve of the 37 pyoverdine-producing strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. crossed all of the single *fpv* mutants, indicating that crossfeeding by these strains was not mediated by a single Fpv outer-membrane protein in Pf-5. *P. fluorescens* WCS374 was among the twelve strains that crossed all of the single *fpv* mutants of Pf-5. This result was unexpected because the pyoverdine produced by WCS374 (17) is reported to be identical to the pyoverdines produced by other strains (*P. fluorescens* SBW25, *P. fluorescens* ATCC 13525, and *P. chlororaphis* ATCC 9446), which crossfeed Pf-5 via FpvU. WCS374 produces the secondary siderophore pseudomomine (17), which could mask the role of FpvU in crossfeeding if the ferric-complex of pseudomomine also is utilized as an iron source by Pf-5. A pyoverdine-deficient mutant of WCS374 did not crossfeed the Pf-5 $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* mutant (25), indicating that the pyoverdine, rather than pseudomomine or any other secondary siderophore that may be produced by this strain, was responsible for the crossfeeding. Because the first four amino acids (Ser-Lys-Gly-FOHOrn) of the peptide chain of the WCS374 pyoverdine conform to those produced by strains that crossed Pf-5 via FpvU and FpvY (Table 3.3), we reasoned that there may be overlap in pyoverdine uptake by these two closely-related Pf-5 proteins. To explore this possibility, we generated and tested a double *fpvU*-*fpvY* mutant in the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* background and found that it was not crossfed by strain WCS374. Therefore, strain WCS374 crossed Pf-5 via both FpvU and FpvY whereas three other strains that produce pyoverdines having peptide sequences with identical amino acid composition crossed Pf-5 via FpvU alone. This apparent discrepancy could be due to unknown differences between the chemical structures of the pyoverdines, such as amino acid modification or isomerization. For example, FpvAI recognizes with high affinity only one of the possible stereoisomers of ferric-pyoverdine complexes, and has low affinity for pyoverdines that exist primarily in the incorrect conformation (23). It also is possible that FpvU and FpvY differ from one another with respect to the efficiency of their uptake of the various derivatives of a given pyoverdine, which could explain their differential roles in the crossfeeding tests of this study. A given strain of *Pseudomonas* spp. commonly produces derivatives (or analogs)

of a pyoverdine due to somewhat relaxed specificity of the adenylation domains of an NRPS or incomplete amino acid modifications (10).

Due to the redundancy of FpvU and FpvY in uptake of the WCS374 pyoverdine, we tested strain DSM50106, which produces a similar pyoverdine, for crossfeeding of the *fpvU-fpvY* mutant in a $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* background. DSM50106 failed to promote growth of this mutant, indicating that, like WCS374, DSM50106 crossfed Pf-5 via FpvU and the closely-related FpvY (Table 3.6). Pyoverdines produced by strains WCS374 and DSM50106 have the same amino acids in the first four and the last two positions of their peptide chains (Table 3.3). We submit that the conserved amino acid motifs common to these pyoverdines are involved in their interactions with both FpvU and FpvY, allowing uptake of the ferric-pyoverdine complexes by either receptor. Overlapping functions of TBDPs are not uncommon. For example, *P. aeruginosa* has two TonB-dependent receptors for enterobactin (15, 20) and two for ferrichrome (24). In Pf-5, the closely-related FpvU and FpvY provide similar redundancy for the uptake of certain pyoverdines. The capacity to utilize these pyoverdines as iron sources may contribute to the fitness of the bacterium in some habitats that functional redundancy developed in Pf-5.

Table 3.6. Crossfeeding of double *fpv* mutants of Pf-5 by *P. fluorescens* WCS374 (shaded squares) or DSM50106 (open squares).

	<i>fpvZ</i>	<i>fpvU</i>	<i>fpvX</i>	<i>fpvW</i>	<i>fpvY</i>	<i>fpvV</i>
<i>fpvZ</i>		+	+	+	+	+
<i>fpvU</i>	+		+	+	-	+
<i>fpvX</i>	+	+		+	+	+
<i>fpvW</i>	+	+	+		+	+
<i>fpvY</i>	+	-	+	+		+
<i>fpvV</i>	+	+	+	+	+	

+ indicates growth of derivatives of Pf-5 with deletions in two *fpv* genes in a $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* background on an iron-limited medium in the presence of the strains. – indicates no growth on the iron-limited medium in the presence of the strains.

Due to the overlapping roles of FpvU and FpvY in pyoverdine uptake, we tested the possibility that other Pf-5 Fpv outer-membrane proteins also have overlapping functionalities. The remaining ten strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. that crossed all single *fpv* mutants were tested for crossfeeding of mutants lacking two of the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins in all combinations (data not shown). One strain, *P. aeruginosa* LESB58, crossed Pf-5 via FpvZ and FpvY (Table 3.7), which was unexpected given the structural difference between its pyoverdine (type III) and those that crossed Pf-5 via FpvZ or FpvY exclusively (Table 3.3). The type III pyoverdine purified from *P. aeruginosa* strain Pa6 also crossed Pf-5 via both FpvZ and FpvY, confirming the role of FpvZ and Y in uptake of the type III pyoverdine (Table 3.7). Although beyond the scope of the present study, we speculate that the signaling and regulatory roles of FpvZ could provide an explanation for this result. The *fpvZ* mutant of Pf-5 was deficient in pyoverdine production and may lack other aspects of iron homeostasis, including altered expression of other Fpv outer-membrane proteins. When the primary Fpv (FpvZ) is non-functional, other Fpv outer-membrane proteins, such as FpvY, may be over-expressed, thereby facilitating iron acquisition through low affinity binding of a heterologous ferric-pyoverdine. A similar pattern was observed by Mirleau et al. (46), who evaluated heterologous ferric-pyoverdine uptake by *P. fluorescens* C7R12. In that study, quantitative differences in the levels of iron incorporated from ferric-pyoverdines by C7R12 and a pyoverdine-biosynthesis mutant were attributed to alterations in the expression of the iron-regulated genes caused by the mutation.

Table 3.7. Crossfeeding of double *fpv* mutants of Pf-5 by *P. aeruginosa* LESB58 (type III pyoverdine-producing strain) (open squares) and utilization of ferric-complexes of pyoverdines purified from *P. aeruginosa* Pa6 (type III) (shaded squares).

	<i>fpvZ</i>	<i>fpvU</i>	<i>fpvX</i>	<i>fpvW</i>	<i>fpvY</i>	<i>fpvV</i>
<i>fpvZ</i>		+	+	+	-	+
<i>fpvU</i>	+		+	+	+	+
<i>fpvX</i>	+	+		+	+	+
<i>fpvW</i>	+	+	+		+	+
<i>fpvY</i>	-	+	+	+		+
<i>fpvV</i>	+	+	+	+	+	

+ indicates growth of derivatives of Pf-5 with deletions in two *fpv* genes in a $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* background on an iron-limited medium in the presence of the purified pyoverdine from *P. aeruginosa* Pa6 or a colony of *P. aeruginosa* LESB58. – indicates no growth on the iron-limited medium.

Eight of the remaining nine strains crossfed all of the double *fpv* mutants. To verify the results for two strains, we isolated the type II pyoverdines from culture supernatants of *P. aeruginosa* strains 7NSK2 and ATCC 27853 and tested them in crossfeeding experiments. The pyoverdines, like the producing strains, crossfed all of the double *fpv* mutants of Pf-5 (Appendix 8). As described above, secondary siderophores produced by the strains could be responsible for crossfeeding Pf-5, but this possibility could be excluded for two strains (Pf0-1 and 7NSK2) for which a mutant deficient in pyoverdine production was available. The pyoverdine-deficient mutants did not crossfeed the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* mutant of Pf-5, indicating that the pyoverdines produced by Pf0-1 and 7NSK2 were responsible for crossfeeding. We also considered the possibility that TBDPs other than the six identified Fpv outer-membrane proteins could function in crossfeeding of Pf-5 by the eight strains. To test that possibility, we identified PFL_2772 as the protein most closely related to the Fpv outer-membrane proteins from a phylogenetic tree constructed from the plug domains of all TBDPs in the Pf-5 proteome (Fig. 3.4). We derived a mutant in PFL_2772 in the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* background and tested it for crossfeeding. All nine strains crossfed the PFL_2772-*pvdI*-*pchC* mutant (data not shown), indicating that this TBDP plays no role in uptake of pyoverdines produced by the nine strains. Based on these results, we conclude that functional redundancy of the Pf-5 Fpv outer-membrane proteins is the most likely explanation for our observations that eight strains crossfed all of the double *fpv* mutants. Pyoverdines produced by the strains differ structurally from those associated with the Fpv outer-membrane proteins, as determined through the single *fpv* mutant analysis (Table 3.3) nevertheless; they may be recognized by these Fpv outer-membrane proteins. Although Fpv outer-membrane proteins exhibit strict specificity in high affinity pyoverdine uptake, previous studies have shown that pyoverdines can be transported into the cell with lower affinity by Fpv outer-membrane proteins lacking strict specificity (23). Differences between high and low-affinity uptake cannot be distinguished in cross-feeding experiments such as those done in this study, but low-affinity uptake of pyoverdines by multiple Fpv outer-membrane

proteins is a likely explanation for our observation that one third of the strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. tested crossfed Pf-5 via more than one Fpv outer-membrane protein.

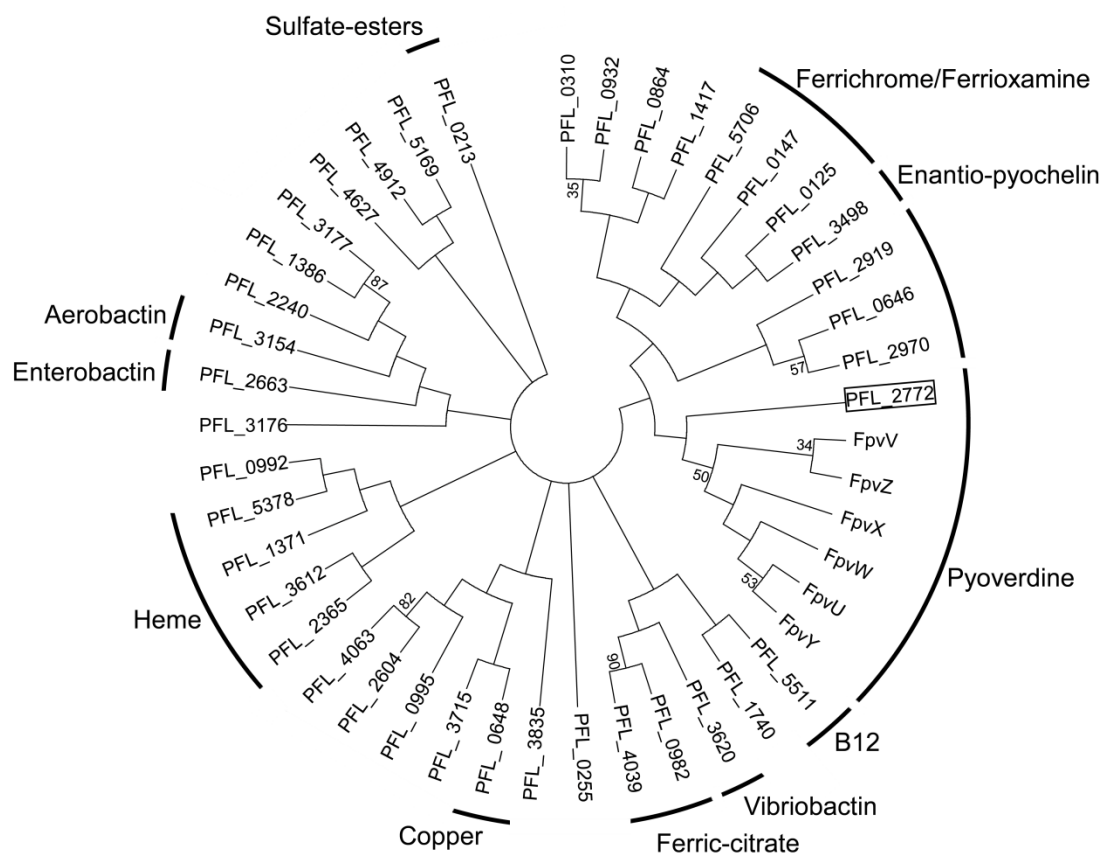


Fig. 3.4. Maximum Parsimony analysis of the plug domains from the 45 Pf-5 TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins. Bootstrap values greater than 30 are shown. PFL_2772 is boxed to indicate that its receptor was deleted and tested in crossfeeding assays. TBDPs with putative functions are labeled with the substrate as characterized in Hartney et al. (25).

Conclusion

For a soil bacterium like *P. fluorescens* Pf-5, which can establish in the rhizosphere where biologically-available iron is limited, the ability to use heterologous pyoverdines can provide a competitive advantage (4, 34). Utilizing heterologous pyoverdines transfers the cost of pyoverdine production to neighboring bacterial cells while sequestering iron away from competitors (27). Piracy is a good way to describe the behavior of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5, which is able to produce and utilize the high affinity siderophore pyoverdine and the lower affinity siderophore enantio-pyochelin to provide itself with iron, yet maintains an arsenal of TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins for the uptake of heterologous siderophores. In this study, we demonstrated that Pf-5 uses its six Fpv outer-membrane proteins to utilize a variety of pyoverdines produced by other pseudomonads as iron sources. We employed a combination of phylogenetics, bioinformatics, mutagenesis, and crossfeeding bioassays to assign functionalities to each of the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins in the Pf-5 proteome. We demonstrated that phylogenetically-related Fpv outer-membrane proteins take up ferric complexes of structurally-related pyoverdines, thereby establishing structure-function relationships that can be employed in the future to predict the pyoverdine substrates of Fpv outer-membrane proteins in other *Pseudomonas* spp.

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Chapter 4: TonB-dependent Outer-membrane Proteins of the *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Group

Abstract

The *Pseudomonas fluorescens* group is made up of environmental bacteria including strains associated with soil or plant surfaces that have biological control capabilities. This study identifies the TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins (TBDP) in the predicted proteomes of ten strains of the *P. fluorescens* group. Among the ten strains, the number of TBDPs ranges from 14 to 45. Collectively, the ten strains have 317 putative TBDPs, which phylogenetic analysis places into 84 groups. Of the 84 TBDP types, 28 have putative roles in the uptake of vitamin B12, sulfur-esters, or iron, including 11 groups for the uptake of pyoverdine siderophores. In 54 TBDP types, no putative functions could be assigned. The five TBDP types conserved in all ten strains have putative functions in uptake of vitamin B12, heme, and the siderophore ferrichrome, with the remaining two of unknown function. Each strain has three to six ferric-pyoverdine outer-membrane proteins (Fpvs). Using a strategy developed for *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 (Chapter 3), I assigned putative pyoverdine substrates to many Fpv outer-membrane proteins in strains of the *P. fluorescens* group.

Introduction

The bacterial genus *Pseudomonas* is made up of diverse species (35), including *P. fluorescens*, *P. chlororaphis* and 50 other related species that fall within the *P. fluorescens* group. Among the heterogeneous bacteria in the *P. fluorescens* group are plant-associated strains that suppress plant disease. Multi-locus sequence analysis of ten conserved genes in the *Pseudomonas* group by Bayesian analysis placed ten non-pathogenic plant- or soil-associated strains into a single clade (Loper et al. unpublished) (Fig. 4.1), which corresponds to the *P. fluorescens* group identified by Mulet et al. (35). This clade has three sub-clades. Two strains of *P. chlororaphis* (30-84 and O-6) and *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 make up sub-clade 1. Sub-clade 2 is composed of *P. fluorescens* Q2-87, *P. fluorescens* Q8r1-96, and the distantly-related *P. fluorescens* Pf0-1. Four strains make up sub-clade 3: *P. fluorescens* strains A506, SS101, SBW25, and *Pseudomonas* sp. BG33R (previously called *P. synxantha* BG33R). These ten strains are environmental bacteria isolated from soil, the rhizosphere, or the phyllosphere. Each of the strains can function in biological control or suppress certain plant diseases (Table 4.1). Seven of the strains were recently sequenced, which, along with three previously-sequenced strains (37, 44, 45) facilitated investigation into genomic similarities. The ten strains share a core of 2831 predicted proteins representing 46-53% of each strains predicted proteome (Loper et al., unpublished). With only half of the proteins shared among the ten strains a high level of genomic diversity is indicated.

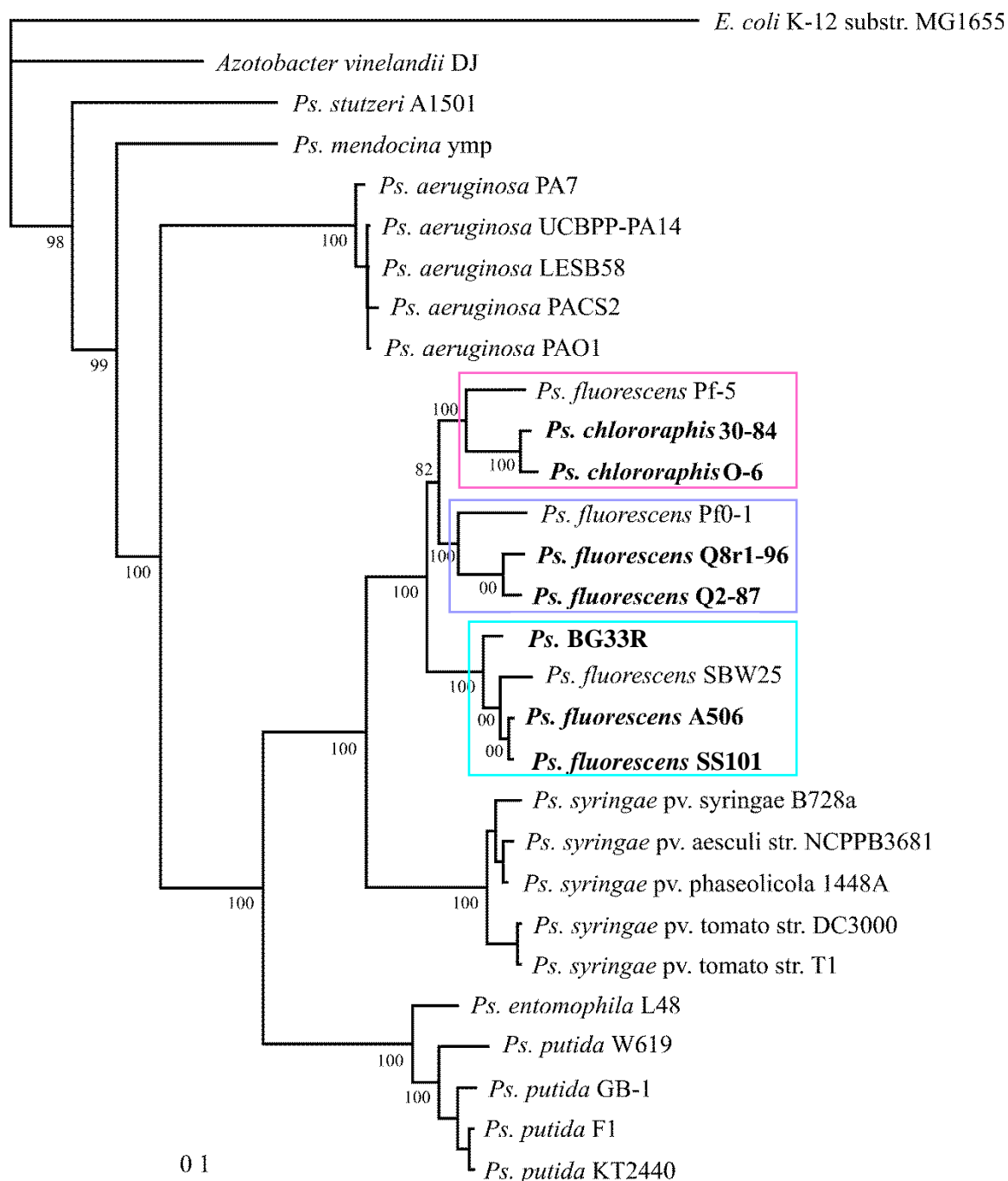


Fig. 4.1. Bayesian analysis of select strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. having fully sequenced genomes based on multilocus sequence analysis (MLSA). The three sub-clades of the species group are highlighted, sub-clade 1 in pink, sub-clade 2 in purple, and sub-clade 3 in blue. (Bayesian tree provided by Neal Wilson)

A goal of this study was to identify the TBDPs in the sequences of ten strains of the *P. fluorescens* group, and to identify the core TBDPs conserved in all ten genomes. Other members of the genus *Pseudomonas* have TBDPs numbering in the 20s and 30s. For example, *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 has 35, *P. putida* KT2440 has 30, *P. syringae* DC3000 has 25, and *P. entomophila* L48 has 31 (<http://img.jgi.doe.gov/cgi-bin/pub/main.cgi>). A recent survey of TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins in the fluorescent pseudomonads focused on sequenced strains of *P. aeruginosa*, *P. syringae*, and *P. putida*/*P. entomophila* (7). The authors found high levels of diversity and identified a core set of TBDPs within the species of *Pseudomonas*. PhuR, which is involved in heme uptake, is the only TBDP present in all the *Pseudomonas* strains surveyed (7, 36). Within seven *P. aeruginosa* strains, a core of 26 TBDPs was identified. Three strains of *P. putida* have a core of 14; the inclusion of *P. entomophila* reduces the core to 11 TBDPs (7). The strains of *P. syringae* surveyed have a core of 13 TBDPs.

A second goal of this study was to assign putative functions to the TBDPs in the *P. fluorescens* group. Many of the TBDPs found in *P. aeruginosa* and other Gram-negative bacteria have been assigned functions, but the functions of many TBDPs remain unknown. Some of the substrates recognized by TBDPs are vitamin B12 (cobalamin) (43), copper (53), nickel (42), maltodextrins (29), sucrose (3) and ferric complexes of siderophores including pyochelin, enterobactin, aerobactin, ferrioxamine, ferrichrome, ferric-citrate, vibriobactin, and pyoverdines (6, 8, 15). The fluorescent pseudomonads produce pyoverdines that vary in the structure of the peptide chain and Fpv outer-membrane proteins, which are the TBDPs for ferric-pyoverdine uptake (4, 46). One Fpv is used for the uptake of the cognate pyoverdine, but many fluorescent pseudomonads have additional Fpv outer-membrane proteins for heterologous pyoverdine uptake (16, 26, 37). In Chapter 3, I proposed a strategy for assigning pyoverdine substrates to Fpv outer-membrane proteins based on the relationships observed between the Fpv sequences and structures of pyoverdine substrates in Pf-5. Continuing this strategy here, I assigned putative pyoverdine substrates to many Fpv outer-membrane proteins in ten strains of the *P. fluorescens* group.

Table 4.1. Ten strains with biological control ability in the *P. fluorescens* group

Strain	Source	Target Disease	References
<i>P. chlororaphis</i>			
30-84	Wheat rhizosphere, Kansas, USA	Take-all	(38)
O-6	Wheat rhizosphere, Utah, USA	Soft-rot, cucumber mosaic virus	(50)
<i>P. fluorescens</i>			
Pf-5	Soil, Texas, USA	Pythium damping off	(22, 37)
Pf0-1	Soil, Massachusetts, USA	Soil borne diseases	(44)
SBW25	Sugar beet phyllosphere, Oxfordshire, UK	Soil borne diseases	(44)
Q8r1-96	Wheat rhizosphere, Washington, USA	Take-all	(39)
Q2-87	Wheat rhizosphere, Washington, USA	Take-all	(51)
A506	Pear phyllosphere, California, USA	Fire blight	(28)
SS101	Wheat rhizosphere, The Netherlands	Oomycete plant pathogens	(10)
<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.			
BG33R	Peach rhizosphere, South Carolina, USA	Root knot nematode	(25)

Methods and materials

Sequence compilation

The predicted proteomes of the ten strains in the *P. fluorescens* group were surveyed for TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins based on the presence of conserved domains. Candidate TBDPs were compiled from each strain and submitted to Pfam to check for the presence of conserved receptor (Pfam: PF00593), plug (Pfam: PF07715) and N-terminal signaling domains (Pfam: PF07660) characteristic of TBDPs and the location of the domains within each protein. The TBDPs within each strain were categorized as receptors or transducers as described by Hartney et al. (20).

Reciprocal BLASTP analysis

The TBDPs from each strain were compared to each of the other strains by reciprocal BLASTP analysis. TBDPs were considered orthologs if they shared greater than 60% amino acid identity over the entire protein.

Phylogenetic analysis

Phylogenetic and molecular evolutionary analyses were conducted using *MEGA* version 4.0.2 (48). The clustalW based alignment option was used to align the amino acid sequences with a gap open penalty of 3 and a gap extension penalty of 1.8. The aligned sequences were masked to remove gaps and subjected to Neighbor Joining and Maximum Parsimony analysis, the resulting consensus tree was used. Branches corresponding to partitions reproduced in less than 50% bootstrap replicates were collapsed. The percentage of replicate trees in which the associated taxa clustered together in the bootstrap test (500 replicates) is shown next to the branches. The Maximum Parsimony tree was obtained using the Close-Neighbor-Interchange algorithm with search level 3 in which the initial trees were obtained with the random addition of sequences (10

replicates). All positions containing gaps and missing data were eliminated from the dataset (Complete Deletion Option).

Bacterial strains and growth conditions

Pseudomonas strains (Table 4.1) were grown on King's medium B (KMB) at 27°C for 24 h (24). Mutants used in crossfeeding and heterologous pyoverdine utilizations assays are *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchA* (20), *P. fluorescens* Pf0-1 $\Delta pvdI$ (Mark Silby), *P. chlororaphis* 30-84 $\Delta pvdL$ (Leland Pierson III), *P. fluorescens* A506 Pvd⁻ (Steve Lindow), and *P. fluorescens* SS101 $\Delta pvdI$ (Jos Raaijmakers).

Bioinformatic prediction of the amino acid composition of the pyoverdine peptide chain

The predicted amino acid sequences of the genes encoding the non-ribosomal peptide synthetases were submitted to the NRPS/PKS predictor (1) and the NRPS predictor (<http://www-ab.informatik.uni-tuebingen.de/software/NRPSpredictor>) (40, 47).

Crossfeeding assays

Crossfeeding of strains Pf-5 $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchA*, 30-84 $\Delta pvdL$, and Pf0-1 *pvdI* was tested on KMB amended with 400 μ M 2,2 dipyridyl, as described in Hartney et al. (20).

Crossfeeding assays with the pyoverdine-deficient mutants of A506 and SS101 were performed on KMB amended with 800 μ M 2,2 dipyridyl as this was the concentration at which these two mutants were limited in growth. Crossfeeding assays with strains A506 Pvd⁻ and SS101 $\Delta pvdI$ were done by placing agar plugs of donor strains on KMB amended with 800 μ M 2,2 dipyridyl. 5 μ l of a 100-fold dilution of a 0.1 OD₆₀₀ suspension of the feeding strain were placed 10mm from the agar plug. Plates were incubated at 27°C. Readings were taken at 24 and 48 h. Assays were done on duplicate plates in multiple experiments.

Purified pyoverdine recognition assays

Pyoverdine mutants of 30-84, Pf0-1, A506, and SS101 were tested for their ability to recognize purified pyoverdines. Cells from the pyoverdine mutants were collected from KMB agar plates, suspended in sterile water to 0.1 OD₆₀₀, and diluted 100 fold in sterile water before spreading on KMB amended with 400 μ M 2,2'-dipyridyl for 30-84 and Pf0-1 or 800 μ M 2,2'-dipyridyl for A506 and SS101. 100 μ L of the bacterial suspensions were spread on the plates to create a lawn. 5 μ L of 8 mM pyoverdine solution was then placed on 5 mm diameter filter paper disks on the agar surface of these plates. Assays were done on duplicate plates in multiple experiments.

Results and discussion

Numbers of TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins

The total number of TBDP genes within the strains of the *P. fluorescens* group varies between 45 (Pf-5) and 14 (Q2-87). The number of the two types of TBDPs, receptors and transducers, also varies among strains (Fig. 4.2). The range of receptors is from 27 in Pf-5 to ten in Q8r1-96 and Q2-87; the range of transducers is from 18 in Pf-5 to four in Q2-87. All strains have approximately twice as many receptors as transducers. Similarities in the number of TBDPs are found between some of the more related strains. For example, BG33R, SBW25, and SS101 all have 39 TBDPs (Fig. 4.2).

Orthologous TBDPs were defined as having >60% amino acid identity over the entire protein, being the reciprocal best hit, and clustering in a common clade in phylogenetic analysis. The clade with BG33R, SBW25, A506, and SS101 share the most TBDPs at 23 (Fig. 4.3a). The clade with Pf0-1, Q2-87 and Q8r1-96 share the fewest TBDPs at seven. This is due to the large difference in the total number of TBDPs between Pf0-1 (27) and Q2-87 (14) and Q8r1-96 (16). Higher levels of similarity, > 80% amino acid identity, are found between 30-84 and O-6, which share 25 TBDPs, A506 and SS101 sharing 33 TBDPs, and Q2-87 and Q8r1-96 sharing ten TBDPs. Five TBDPs are conserved in all ten strains (Fig. 4.3a).

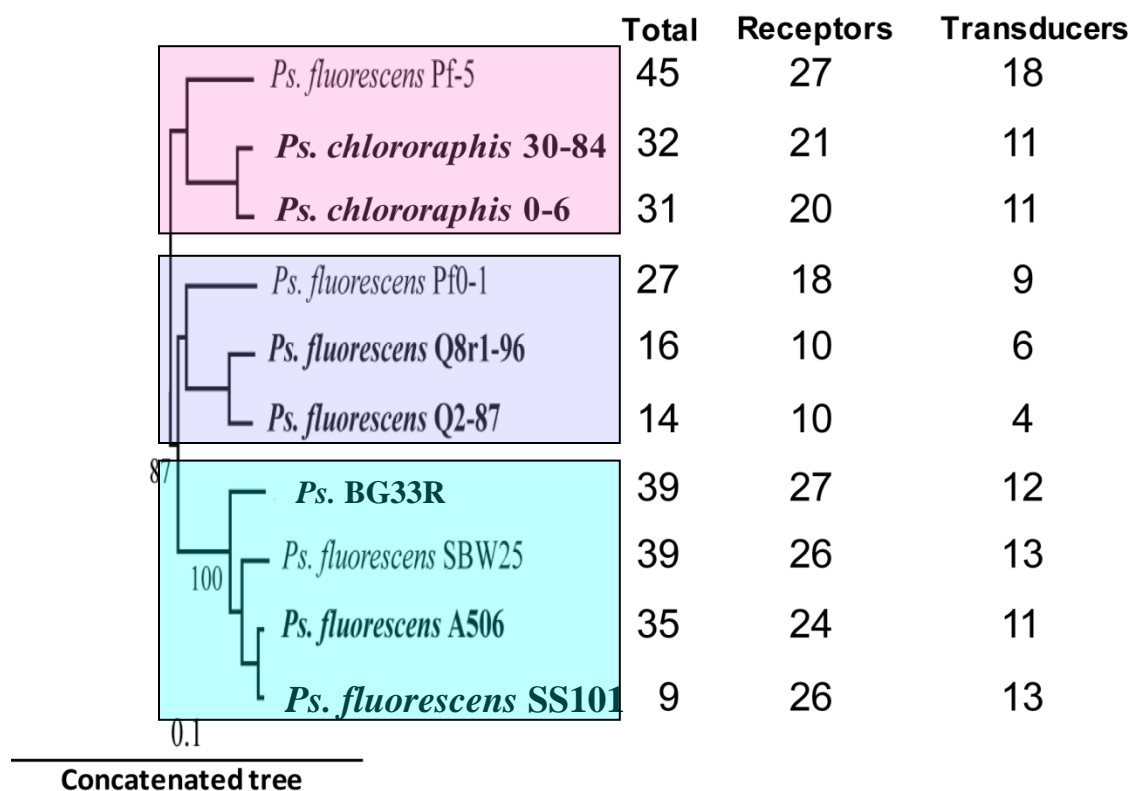


Fig. 4.2. Number of TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins in the strains of the *P. fluorescens* group. Clade representing the *P. fluorescens* group (from Fig. 4.1), illustrating the phylogenetic relationships between the ten strains, with sub-clades highlighted corresponding to assignment in Figure 4.1. The total number of TBDPs found in each strain is listed along with the two types of TBDPs, receptors and transducers. Transducers have the addition of an N-terminal signaling domain that is not present in the receptors.

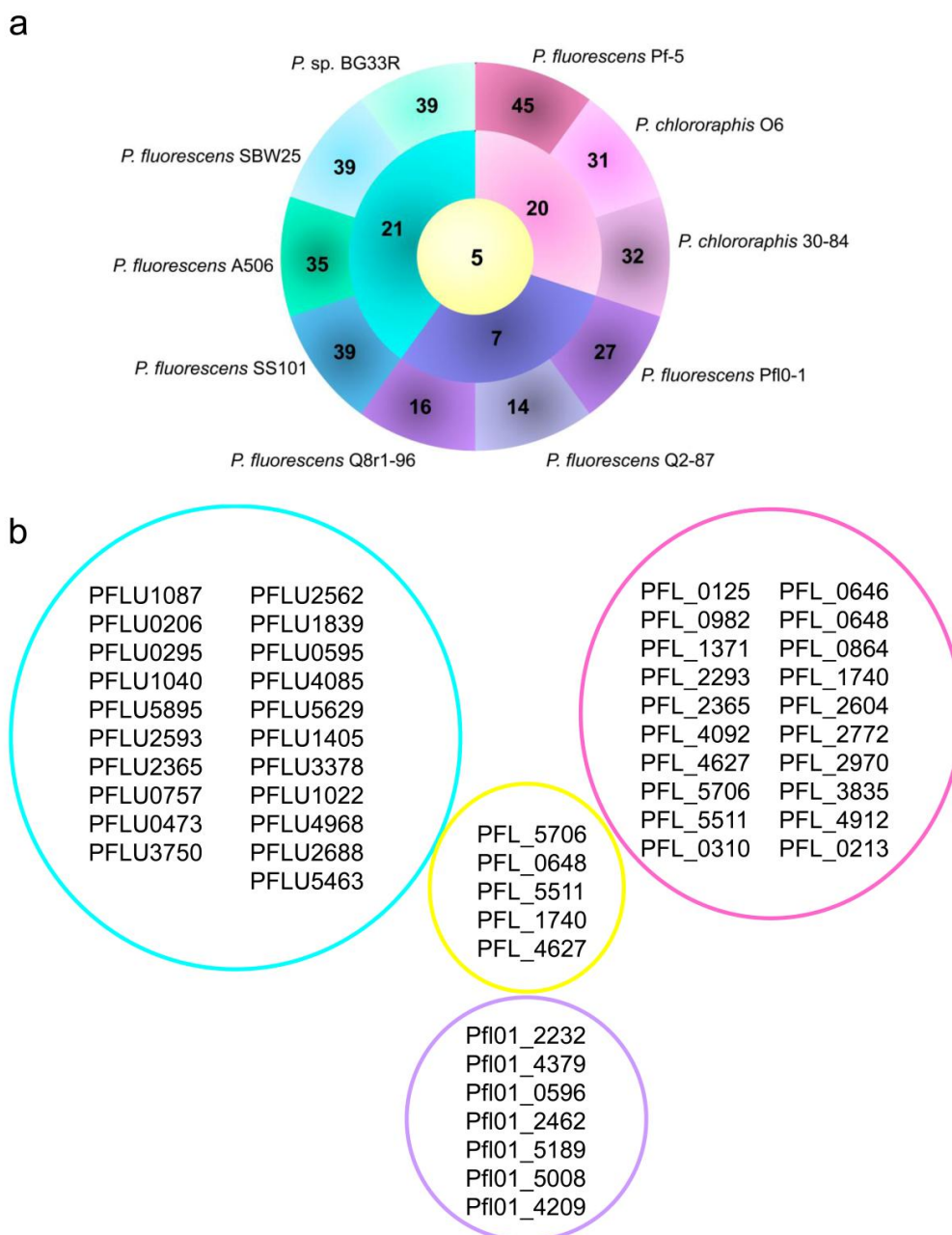


Fig. 4.3. Diagram showing the number of conserved TBDPs in ten strains within the *P. fluorescens* group. a. The number of TBDPs in each proteome (outside circle), the number of orthologous TBDPs shared by all strains in a given sub-clade (second circle from perimeter), and the number of orthologous TBDPs shared by all 10 strains (center). **b.** Lists of the orthologous TBDPs for SBW25 (blue circle, sub-clade 3), Pf-5 (pink circle, sub-clade 1), Pf0-1 (purple circle, sub-clade 2) corresponding to the three sub-clades and orthologs in Pf-5 to the five core TBDPs (yellow circle).

The distribution of the TBDPs within the three clades and within the *P. fluorescens* group is further illustrated in Figure 4.4a, a Venn diagram showing the TBDPs unique to an individual strain and specific combinations of strains. Pf-5 and SBW25 have the most TBDPs, 13 and seven, respectively, not found in other strains of the *P. fluorescens* group. Orthologs of these TBDPs are present in the proteomes of bacteria other than *P. fluorescens* group strains (Fig. 4.4a), suggesting horizontal gene transfer as discussed in Chapter 2. The most similarity is between A506, BG33R, and SS101, which have three TBDPs not found in the other strains of the species group. At the level of >60% amino acid identity, 73 TBDP types were identified. Seventeen of the 73 types were assigned putative functions (Fig. 4.4b). This number does not include the TBDPs with putative roles in pyoverdine uptake as they are too divergent from each other to conform to the >60% amino acid cutoff.

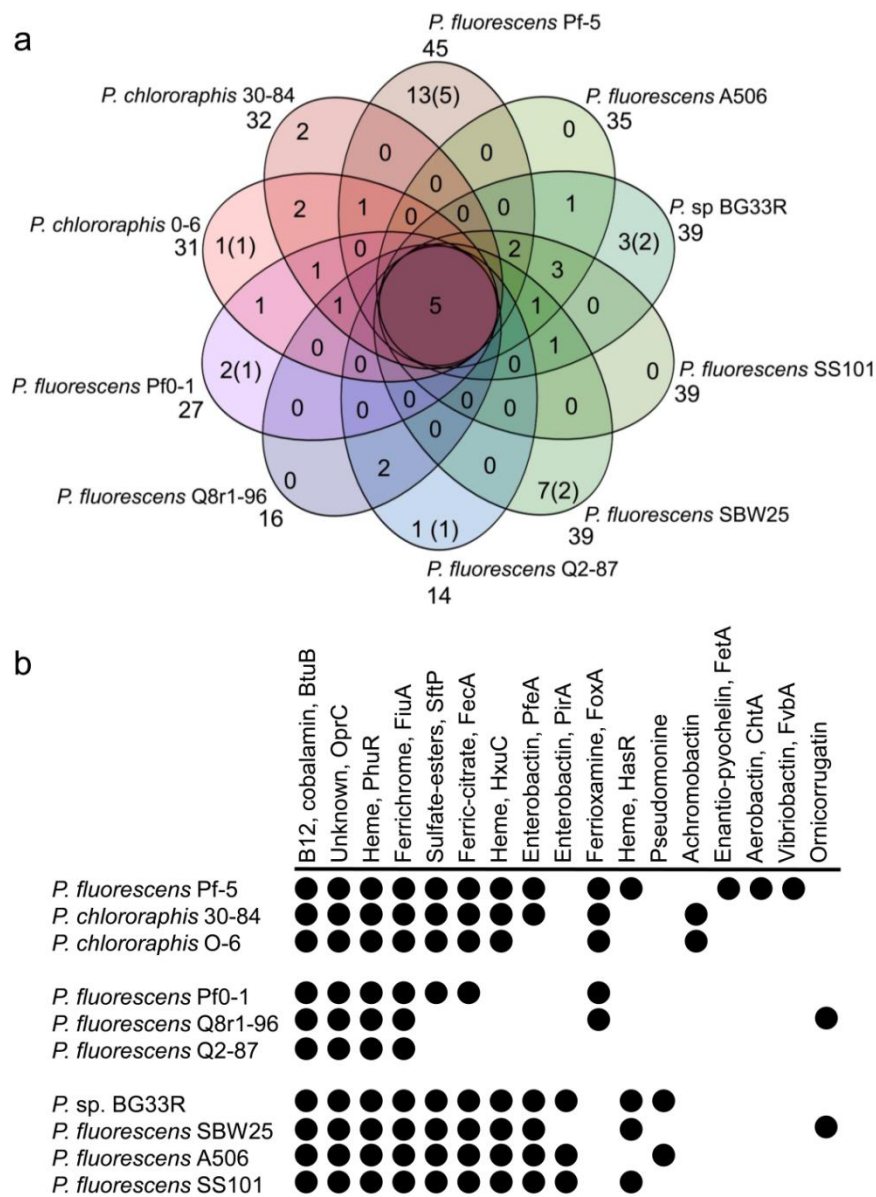


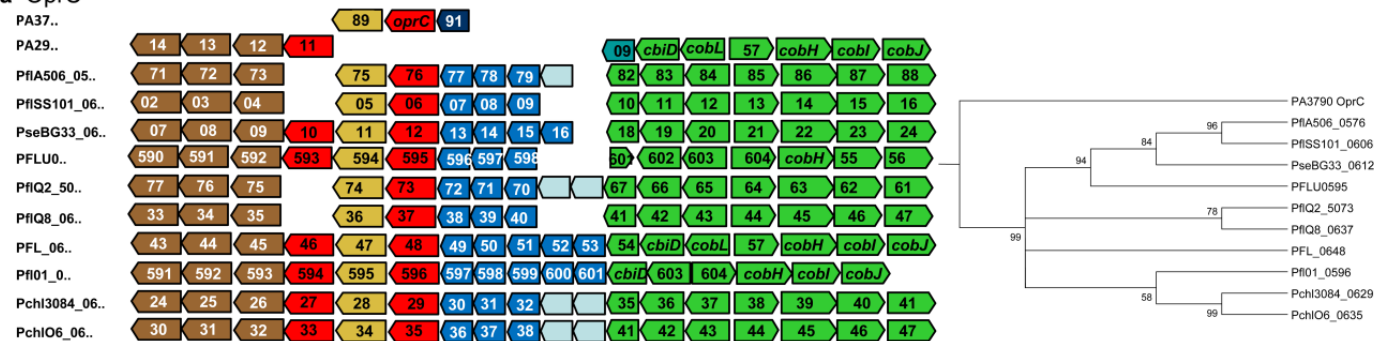
Fig. 4.4. Conservation and diversity of TBDP types. **a.** Venn diagram showing the number of TBDPs in strains of the *P. fluorescens* group. The total number of TBDPs is shown next to the strain name. TBDPs unique to each strain are shown in the outermost section with the number of TBDPs having orthologs in bacteria outside of the *P. fluorescens* group in parenthesis. **b.** TBDPs for which putative functions could be assigned among the ten strains.

Core TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins

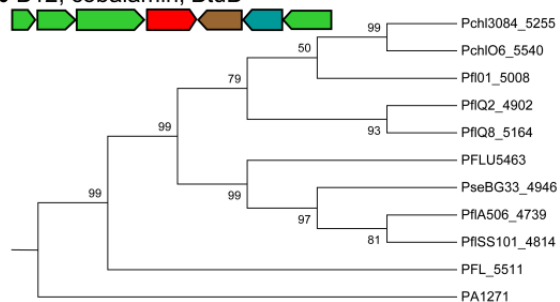
The core TBDPs includes orthologs of OprC, BtuB (vitamin B12/cobalamin), PhuR (heme), and FiuA (ferrichrome) and an unknown TBDP. The putative functions were assigned to each core TBDP by comparison to well-characterized TBDPs from other *Pseudomonas* spp. by amino acid percent identity and gene cluster organization (Fig. 4.5). The gene clusters in which the core TBDPs are located illustrate conservation of the TBDP and the surrounding genes (Fig. 4.5). The clades of the orthologous TBDPs making up the core are also shown illustrating evolutionary relationships of these proteins. The orthologs of OprC are in gene clusters having the most diversity in the number and arrangement of genes compared to the other gene clusters containing core TBDPs (Fig. 4.5a). OprC may have a role in copper uptake as it binds and is regulated by copper in *P. aeruginosa* (53). NosA, an ortholog of OprC from *P. stutzeri*, transports copper that is needed for nitrate reductase activity (27). However, *oprC* is not regulated by copper in *P. putida* KT2440 (33) and is up-regulated in the presence of zinc in Pf-5 (Lim et al. unpublished). Therefore, the substrate for OprC is not clearly defined and may differ among strains of *Pseudomonas* spp. The gene cluster containing the TBDP for vitamin B12 uptake is conserved among the strains (Fig. 4.5b) as are the gene clusters containing the ferrichrome TBDP (Fig. 4.5c) and the TBDP of unknown function (Fig. 4.5e). The putative heme TBDPs orthologous to PhuR are adjacent to ECF sigma and anti-sigma factors (Fig. 4.5d). PhuR orthologs have also been identified in strains of *P. aeruginosa*, *P. syringae*, *P. putida*, and *P. entomophila* (7). The recently sequenced *P. fluorescens* WH6 also has a PhuR ortholog as well as orthologs for BtuB, FiuA, OprC and the TBDP of unknown function. The number of conserved TBDPs within the ten strains increases to nine if the strains Q2-87 and Q8r1-96 are removed from the comparison, as they have the fewest TBDPs in their genomes. Two of the four additional TBDPs have putative functions for sulfate-ester (SftP) (23) and ferric citrate (FecA) (31) uptake, but the other two are unknown in function.

Fig. 4.5. Gene clusters and clades from Neighbor Joining analysis of the core TBDPs. Gene clusters and clades containing core TBDPs are shown for strains Pf-5 (PFL_), Pf0-1 (Pfl01_), SBW25 (PFLU), SS101 (PflSS101_), BG33R (PseBG33_), A506 (PflA506_), 30-84 (Pchl3084_), O-6 (PchlO6), Q2-87 (PflQ2_), and Q8r1-96 (PflQ8_). The five core TBDPs are **a.** OprC, **b.** Cobalamin (B12), **c.** Ferrichrome, **d.** Heme, and **e.** Unknown. Predicted gene functions are denoted by color: red, TBDP; brown, ABC transport; gold, membrane protein (other than ABC transport); green, biosynthesis; purple, ECF sigma factor and anti-sigma factor; yellow, regulatory (other than ECF sigma factor); blue, hypothetical. Genes whose functions appear unrelated to that of the TBDP are shown in white. Orthologs not readily identifiable by their position in the gene cluster are indicated by identical patterns.

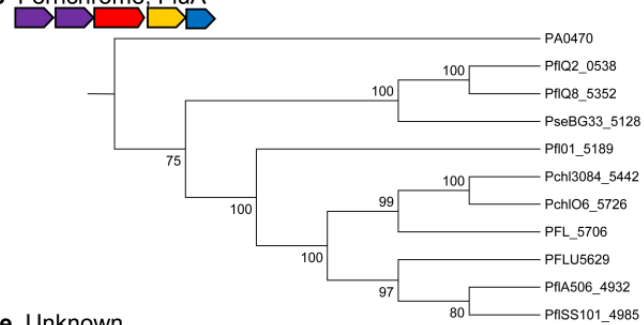
a OprC



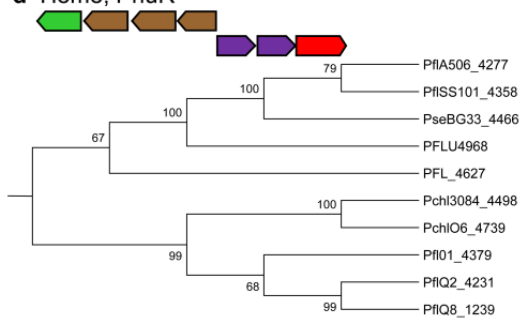
b B12, cobalamin, BtuB



c Ferrichrome, FiuA



d Heme, PhuR



e Unknown

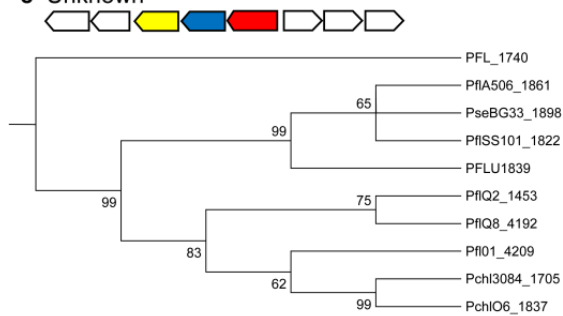


Fig. 4.5.

Putative functions of non-core TBDPs

Some of TBDPs which are not part of the core are orthologs of well-characterized TBDPs (Fig. 4.4b). For example, Pf-5, SBW25 and BG33R have orthologs to HasR and the hemophore HasS (Fig. 4.6a) (7). An additional putative heme TBDP orthologous to HxuC from *P. aeruginosa* is found in A506, 30-84, O-6, BG33R, SBW25 and Pf-5 (6), bringing the number of heme TBDPs in Pf-5, SBW25, and BG33R to three. Eight of the strains surveyed have orthologs to SftP for sulfate-ester uptake (Fig. 4.6b). TBDPs with putative functions in enterobactin uptake were identified. Pf-5, SBW25 and 30-84 have orthologs to PfeA and the adjacent two component regulatory genes (Fig. 4.6c), whereas A506, SS101 and BG33R have orthologs to PirA but lack the contiguous two component regulatory genes (12-13). Orthologs to FoxA for the uptake of ferrioxamine were identified in Pf0-1, O-6, 30-84, and Pf-5 (Fig. 4.6d) (19). All the strains except Q2-87 and Q8r1-96 have orthologs to FecA for ferric citrate uptake (Fig. 4.6e) (8).

Some strains of fluorescent pseudomonads make a secondary siderophore (Fig. 4.4b). Pf-5 makes enantio-pyochelin with the TBDP FetA located in the biosynthetic gene cluster for uptake (20-21). SBW25 makes the secondary siderophore ornicorrugatin with a corresponding TBDP and there is an ortholog found in Q8r1-96 (5). TBDPs were found in gene clusters for a pseudomonine-like siderophore in A506 and BG33R. Gene clusters for the production of an achromobactin-like siderophore were identified in 30-84 and O-6 with an adjacent TBDP.

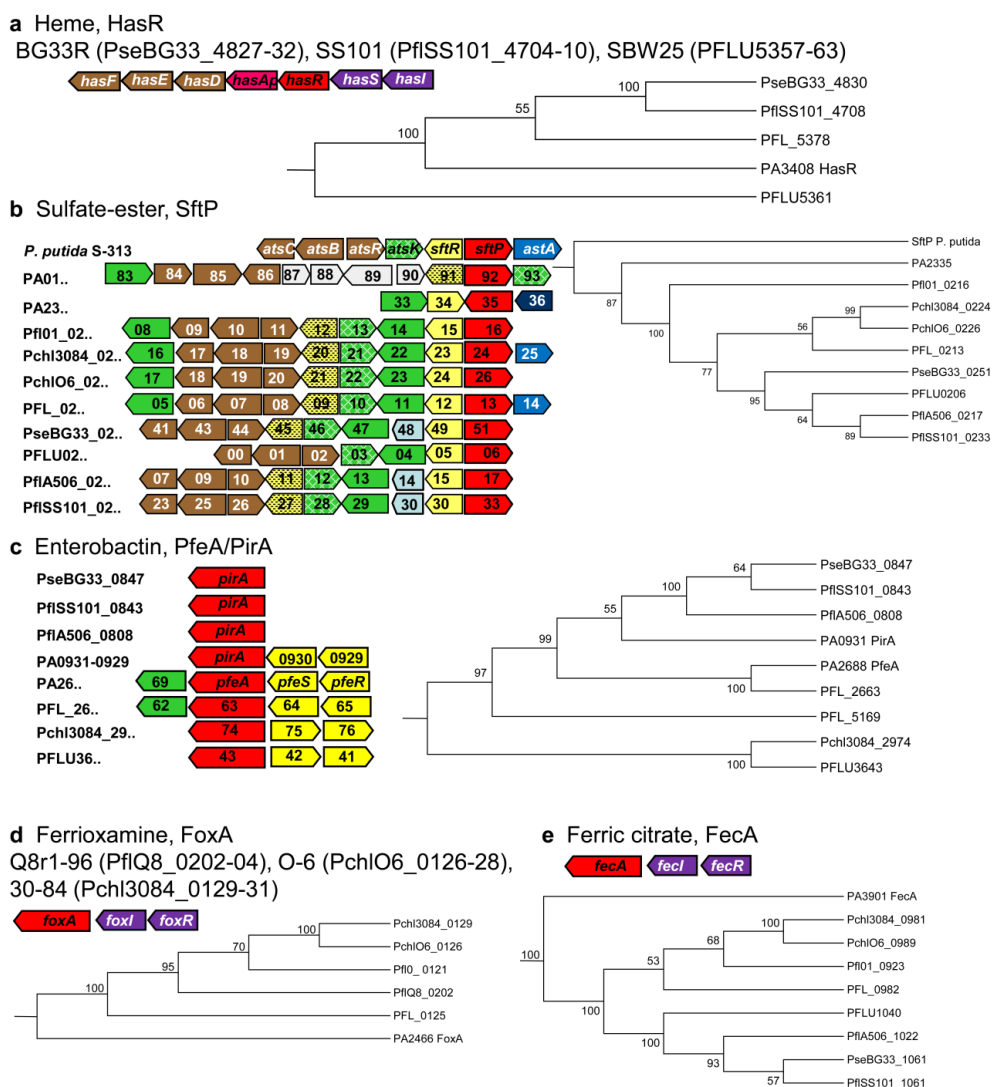


Fig. 4.6. Gene clusters and clades from Neighbor Joining analysis of TBDPs with putative functions. Gene clusters and clades containing TBDPs are shown for strains Pf-5 (PFL_), Pf0-1 (Pfl01_), SBW25 (PFLU), SS101 (PflSS101_), BG33R (PseBG33_), A506 (PflA506_), 30-84 (Pchl3084_), O-6 (PflO6_), Q2-87 (PflQ2_), and Q8r1-96 (PflQ8_) with putative functions in the uptake of **a.** Heme, **b.** Sulfate-esters, **c.** Enterobactin, **d.** Ferrioxamine, **e.** Ferric citrate. Predicted gene functions are denoted by color: red, TBDP; brown, ABC transport; gold, membrane protein (other than ABC transport); green, biosynthesis; purple, ECF sigma factor and anti-sigma factor; yellow, regulatory (other than ECF sigma factor); pink, hemophore; blue, hypothetical. Genes whose functions appear unrelated to that of the TBDP are shown in white. Orthologs not readily identifiable by their position in the gene cluster are indicated by identical patterns.

TBDP clusters and horizontal gene transfer

In the process of comparing the TBDPs of the ten strains, I noticed that some TBDPs appear to be duplicated. Two contiguous TBDPs in BG33R, PseBG33_2355 and PseBG33_2354 are 55% identical at the amino acid level to each other and have 55% amino acid identity to Veis_2440 in *Verminephrobacter eiseniae* EF01_2, with the next most similar TBDPs found in *Nitrococcus mobilis* and *Paracoccus denitrificans*. The GC content of PseBG33_2354 (62.5%) differs significantly from BG33R's genomic average of 59.6%. Interestingly, these two TBDPs are located next to a biosynthetic gene cluster for a mycobactin-like siderophore in BG33R (11). Two TBDPs in SBW25, PFLU2509 and PFLU2941 are orthologs of PSPTO_1855 from *P. syringae* pv. tomato DC3000, a possible indication of a duplication event within SBW25, as they are 87% identical to each other.

Clustered TBDP genes, within two genes of each other, were found in Pf-5, 30-84, O-6, BG33R, Pf0-1, SBW25, and Q2-87. Pf-5 has three clusters (PFL_3176-3177; PFL_0646, PFL_0648; PFL_0992, PFL_0995). PFL_3176 and PFL_3177 are not related to each other but they are orthologous to PSEEN3436 and PSEEN3437 from *P. entomophila* (7). Clustered orthologs to PFL_0646 and PFL_0648 are found in 30-84, O-6, BG33R, Pf0-1, and SBW25. The clustered TBDPs PchlO6_0633 and PchlO6_0635 in the O-6 genome are 93% and 97% identical to Pchl3084_0505 and Pchl3084_0507, respectively, from 30-84. Q2-87 (PflQ2_2928 and PflQ2_2925) and O-6 (PchlO6_3255 and PchlO6_3258) share another pair of clustered orthologous genes. The conservation of these clustered TBDPs within some of the strains suggests horizontal transfer or the loss of TBDPs from some strains.

Candidates for horizontal gene transfer (HGT) were identified as some of the strains have TBDPs without orthologs within the pseudomonads (Fig. 4.4a). In O-6, PchlO6_3555 is 75% identical to Acav_1899 from *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *avenae* and is phylogenetically related to Fpv outer-membrane proteins (Fig. 4.7a). In Q2-87

PflQ2_3242 is 45% identical to a TBDP in *Nitrococcus mobilis* Nb-231 and is similar to TBDPs found in *Ralstonia eutropha* and *Achromobacter xylosoxidans*. This TBDP is adjacent to a cluster of genes with characteristics of siderophore production and is in the Fpv outer-membrane protein clade (Fig. 4.8a). Pf01_2342 is 56% identical to Smal_3152 from *Stentrophomonas maltophilia* R551-3 and TBDPs in other *Stentrophomonas* spp., and has a significantly different % GC of 64% compared to the genomic average of 60.6%. In Pf-5, the candidates for horizontal gene transfer are described in Hartney et al. (20).

Pyoverdine iron-acquisition systems

Characterization of pyoverdines: bioinformatic structure predictions and crossfeeding of Pf-5

For the seven recently sequenced strains, the length and amino acid composition of the pyoverdine peptide chains were predicted bioinformatically from the amino acid sequences of the non-ribosomal peptide synthetases in the pyoverdine biosynthetic gene clusters. The predicted pyoverdine peptide chain structures of 30-84 and O-6 and the Pf-5 pyoverdine are identical in the first four amino acid residues (Asp-FOHOrn-Lys-Thr) with minor differences in the N-terminal portion of the peptide chain (Table 4.2). The predicted pyoverdine peptide chains of BG33R, SS101, and A506 are very similar; the only difference in the first four residues is due to an unknown in the sequence of the BG33R pyoverdine, and the last three residues are conserved. The predicted peptide chains of Q2-87 and Q8r1-96 are both eight amino acids long and are conserved in five of the residues at identical positions in the peptide chains (Table 4.2). Therefore, the strains within each sub-clade produce identical or very similar pyoverdines. The seven strains were tested for crossfeeding of Pf-5 $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* and derivatives with deletions in the six *fpv* genes (Table 4.2). Pf-5 was crossfed by BG33R, A506, 30-84, O-6, and SS101, but not by Q2-87 and Q8r1-96. Strains 30-84 and O-6 did not crossfeed the *fpvZ* mutant. BG33R did not crossfeed the *fpvU* mutant (Table 4.2). The predicted amino acid composition of the BG33R pyoverdine is similar to the pyoverdines produced by other

pseudomonads that were recognized by FpvU (Chapter 3). They may differ however, because not all of the amino acid residues in BG33R pyoverdine could be predicted bioinformatically. SS101 did not crossfeed the *fpvY* mutant of Pf-5. The peptide chain of the pyoverdine produced by strain SS101 is identical to that of the *P. fluorescens* 18.1 pyoverdine, which is taken up with high affinity by FpvAI, an ortholog of FpvY (18). It appears that the first four amino acids of the SS101 peptide chain (Lys-Gly-FOHOrn) conform exactly to the sequence of pyoverdines transported by FpvAI (18) and FpvU (Chapter 3). The observation that strain SS101 crossfed Pf-5 via FpvY rather than FpvU indicates that other residues in the peptide chain also confer specificity for pyoverdine binding. A506 was able to crossfeed all of the single *fpv* mutants, therefore A506 and a pyoverdine deficient mutant of A506 were tested for crossfeeding of double *fpv* mutants of Pf-5 $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* siderophore mutant. A506 did not crossfeed a mutant of Pf-5 deficient in both *fpvU* and *fpvY* (Table 4.2). The pyoverdine-deficient mutant of A506 did not promote the growth of the Pf-5 siderophore mutant or any of the *fpv* mutants tested. This same result was observed in crossfeeding assays with *P. fluorescens* WCS374, which has the same peptide chain structure as A506 (Chapter 3). Therefore, the results of the crossfeeding assays were as expected based on the ferric-pyoverdines assigned to the Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5 in Chapter 3.

Table 4.2. Crossfeeding of single *fpv* mutants of Pf-5 in the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* background

Test Strains	<i>fpv</i> mutants ^a						Bioinformatic prediction of peptide chain ^b
	<i>fpvZ</i>	<i>fpvU</i>	<i>fpvX</i>	<i>fpvW</i>	<i>fpvY</i>	<i>fpvV</i>	
<i>P. chlororaphis</i> 30-84	-	+	+	+	+	+	Asp-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Lys-Thr-Gly/Ala- <u>Gly</u> / <u>Ala</u> -FOH <u>Orn</u> -?/Ala
<i>P. chlororaphis</i> O-6	-	+	+	+	+	+	Asp-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Lys-Thr-Gly-Gly-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Lys
<i>P. sp.</i> BG33R	+	-	+	+	+	+	<u>Ser</u> -?-Gly-FOHOrn-Lys-FOH <u>Orn</u> -?/Ser
<i>P. fluorescens</i> SS101	+	+	+	+	-	+	<u>Ser</u> -Lys-Gly-FOHOrn- <u>Ser</u> -Ser-Gly-Lys-FOH <u>Orn</u> -Ser
<i>P. fluorescens</i> A506	+	+	+	+	+	+	<u>Ser</u> -Lys-Gly-FOHOrn-Lys-FOHOrn-Ser
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Q2-87	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>Ser</u> -AcOH <u>Orn</u> -Gly-Gly- <u>Ser</u> -Ser-Asp-Thr/Dhb
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Q8r1-96	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>Ala</u> / <u>Gly</u> -AcOH <u>Orn</u> -Ala-Gly- <u>Ser</u> -Ala/Gly-Asp-Thr/Dhb

^a+ indicates growth of the mutant in the presence of the test strain. – indicates no growth of the mutant in the presence of the test strain. * Negative crossfeeding obtained with a *fpvU fpvY* mutant. ^bUnderline denotes D-amino acids. FOHOrn is δ N-formyl- δ N-hydroxy-ornithine. Dhb is diamino-butanoic acid. AcOHOrn is δ N-acetyl- δ N-hydroxy-ornithine.

Bioinformatic and phylogenetic analysis of Fpv outer-membrane proteins

The amino acid sequences of the six characterized Fpv outer-membrane proteins from Pf-5 were individually submitted to BLASTP analysis against the predicted proteomes of the nine other strains of the *P. fluorescens* group. Orthologs were found in all of the strains at a cutoff of >60% amino acid identity (% ID) (Table 4.3). A506 and BG33R have orthologs of FpvU. Six of the strains have Fpv outer-membrane proteins similar to FpvW (55-68% ID). SBW25 has an ortholog of FpvX, and *P. chlororaphis* 30-84 and O-6 have orthologs of FpvZ. To identify any Fpv outer-membrane proteins not found in the initial BLASTP analysis, the TBDPs from each strain were subjected to BLASTP against the protein sequences of the other strains. Additional Fpv outer-membrane proteins were identified in Q2-87, BG33R, SS101, and SBW25. It was observed that the % ID between the Fpv outer-membrane proteins of the ten strains covers a wide range, but there is a basal level of amino acid identity at approximately 32-35%. This level of identity exceeds the 20% ID between any Fpv and a TBDP of different function.

Fpv outer-membrane proteins involved in ferric-pyoverdine uptake are present in all ten strains. In each strain, one *fpv* is located in the pyoverdine-biosynthesis gene cluster and two to five additional *fpv* genes are located elsewhere in the genome. Phylogenetic analysis indicates distinct clades and sub-clades of Fpv outer-membrane proteins (Fig. 4.7a). Four sub-clades include Fpv outer-membrane proteins that are located in pyoverdine biosynthetic gene clusters (denoted by an asterisk in Fig. 4.7a). The TBDPs with putative roles in ferric-pyoverdine uptake are both receptors (black) and transducers (blue) (Fig. 4.7a). Pf-5 has Fpv transducers only but all other strains have both Fpv receptors and transducers. Fpv outer-membrane proteins in the receptor class cluster separately from Fpv outer-membrane proteins in the transducer class, although there is a level of relatedness as the Fpv receptors form clades with Fpv transducers at external and internal branch points (Fig. 4.7a). The Fpv outer-membrane proteins

identified in this study are not considered as part of the core due to their diversity within and between the ten strains, as no one Fpv is found in all ten strains.

Table 4.3. Reciprocal BLASTP analysis of Fpv outer-membrane proteins of the *P. fluorescens* group

Pf-5	Pf-5	%	30-84	%	O6	%	SBW25	%	A506	%	BG33R	%	SS101	%	Pf0-1	%	Q8r1-96	%	Q2-87	%
	Fpv	ID	Pchl3084	ID	PchlO6	ID	PFLU	ID	PflA506	ID	PseBG33	ID	PflSS101	ID	Pfl01	ID	PflQ8	ID	PflQ2	ID
FpvW			3355	68	3657	68	5798	40	1983	55	2016	55	1938	55	1848	41	2057	68	1672	38
FpvU			2488	41	4229	38	2545	72	3090	70	2445	70	3096	57	2583	40	3550	36	0688	37
FpvV			2488	36	4229	33	3633	42	3090	36	2445	34	3154	34	2462	39	3550	35	0688	35
FpvX			2488	55	3015	41	3633	75	3090	41	2445	39	3154	40	2583	43	3550	37	0688	37
FpvY			2488	38	3555	39	2545	58	3090	52	2445	54	3154	55	2583	40	2057	34	0688	35
FpvZ			3950	83	4229	83	3378	49	2860	47	2654	42	2880	46	2462	48	3550	46	0688	47
Q2-87																				
PflQ2_3242	FpvY	35	3355	33	3657	32	2545	35	3090	34	2445	32	3096	35	1848	33	2057	32		
BG33R																				
PseBG33_3069	FpvX	40	2783	72	3015	73	2688	89	3008	91			2361	91	2583	71	2057	35	0688	34
PseBG33_2658	FpvZ	47	3950	45	4229	46	3378	85	2860	88			288	88	2462	81	3550	79	0688	80
PseBG33_5305	FpvW	40	3355	41	3657	41	5798	94	1983	41			1938	42	1848	56	3969	51	1672	52
SS101																				
PflSS101_2361	FpvX	40	2783	72	3015	72	2688	88	3008	97	3069	91			2583	72	2057	35	0688	34
SBW25																				
PFLU2688	FpvX	41	2783	74	3015	74			3008	88	3069	89	2361	88	2583	72	3550	33	1672	32

Fig. 4.7. Phylogenetic analysis of Fpv outer-membrane proteins and association with pyoverdine structures. **a.** Maximum Parsimony analysis of Fpv outer-membrane proteins from the *P. fluorescens* group, close orthologs and characterized Fpv outer-membrane proteins. The characterized Fpv outer-membrane proteins from Pf-5 are in red. An asterisk indicates that the TBDP is in a pyoverdine biosynthetic gene cluster, and blue indicates that the Fpv is a transducer. Branches are collapsed for bootstraps <50. Abbreviations for species are as follows: *P. fluorescens* A506 (PflA506_), *P. fluorescens* SS101 (PflSS101_), *P. fluorescens* Q2-87 (PflQ2_), *P. fluorescens* Q8r1-96 (PflQ8_), *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 (PFL_), *P. fluorescens* SBW25 (PFLU), *P. fluorescens* Pf01 (Pfl01_), *P. sp.* BG33R (PseBG33_), *P. chlororaphis* 30-84 (Pchl3084_), *P. chlororaphis* O-6 (PchlO6_), *P. putida* GB-1 (PputGB1_), *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *avenae* (Acav_), *P. putida* W619 (PputW619_), *P. fluorescens* WH6 (PFWH6_), *P. aeruginosa* LESB58 (Pa LESB58), *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 (PA), *P. sp.* M114, *P. putida* (Pp), *P. brassicacearum* subsp. *brassicacearum* NFM421 (PSEBR_), *P. aeruginosa* ATCC27853 (Pa 27853), and *P. aeruginosa* 7NSK2 (Pa 7NSK2). **b.** Pyoverdine peptide chains associated with the Fpv functional groups. Underline denotes D-amino acids. Parentheses define cyclic residues. cOHOrn is cyclo-hydroxy-ornithine. FOHOrn is δ N-formyl- δ N-hydroxy-ornithine. ϵ Lys is Lys linked by its ϵ -NH₂. OHAsp is threo- β -hydroxy-aspartic acid. Dab is diamino-butanoic acid. AcOHOrn is δ N-acetyl- δ N-hydroxy-ornithine. A slash between two amino acids means that the pyoverdine peptide chain recognized by the associated Fpv contains either of the amino acids.

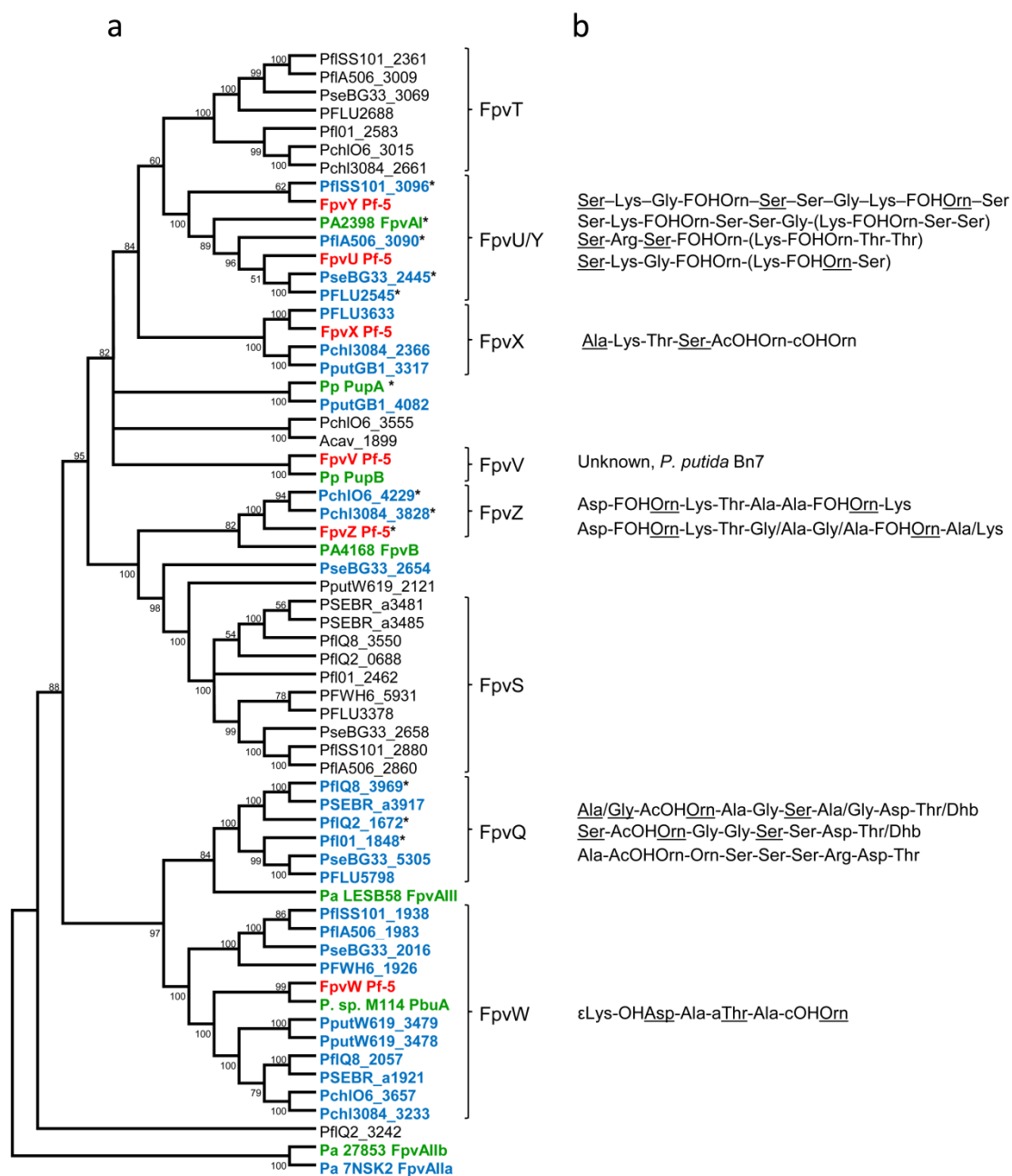


Fig. 4.7.

Functional characterization of Fpv outer-membrane proteins

Mutants deficient in pyoverdine biosynthesis in strains 30-84, Pf0-1, A506 and SS101 were tested for growth on an iron-limited medium in the presence of the members of the *P. fluorescens* group. These strains were also tested in crossfeeding assays with *Pseudomonas* strains that produce pyoverdines previously linked to specific Pf-5 Fpv outer-membrane proteins (20) (Chapter 3) (Fig. 4.8). 30-84 was crossfed by *P. chlororaphis* O-6, *P. fluorescens* Pf-5 and B10, and *P. putida* CS111. Pf0-1 was crossfed by *P. fluorescens* Pf-5, Q2-87, and Q8r1-96, *P. chlororaphis* 30-84 and O-6. A506 was crossfed by *P. aeruginosa* PAO1, *P. fluorescens* SS101, SBW25, Pf-5, B10, *P. sp.* BG33R, *P. chlororaphis* 30-84, O-6, and *P. reactans* NCPPB387. SS101 was crossfed by *P. aeruginosa* PAO1, *P. fluorescens* SS101, SBW25, Pf-5, B10, *P. sp.* BG33R, *P. chlororaphis* 30-84, O-6, *P. rhodesiae* 92-104 and *P. reactans* NCPPB387.

There is some correlation between the ability to crossfeed the pyoverdine mutants and which clade the feeding strains are in, which is related to the similar pyoverdine peptide chains produced by the more related strains (Table 4.2). The pyoverdines produced by the strains of the Pf-5 clade crossfed all four strains (A506, SS101, 30-84 and Pf0-1). The pyoverdines produced by the strains in the SBW25 clade crossfed Pf-5, A506, and SS101; in addition, SS101 crossfed Pf0-1. The pyoverdines produced by Q2-87 and Q8r1-96 crossfed Pf0-1 only, and Pf0-1 crossfed Pf-5 only (20).

Crossfeeding strain	Fpv	Pf-5	30-84	O-6	SBW ²⁵	A506	SS101	BG33R	PfO-1	Q2-87	Q8r1-96
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PAO1	U	+^a	-		+^b	+	+		-		
<i>P. sp.</i> BG33R											
<i>P. fluorescens</i> A506 & SBW25											
<i>P. fluorescens</i> SS101	Y	+^a	-			+/-	+		-		
<i>P. reactans</i> NCPPB387											
<i>P. rhodesiae</i> 92-104											
<i>P. putida</i> CS111	X	+^a	+			-	-		-		
<i>P. putida</i> Bn7	V	+^a	-			-	-		-		
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pf-5	Z	+^a	+			+	+		+		
<i>P. chlororaphis</i> 30-84 & O-6											
<i>P. fluorescens</i> B10	W	+^a	+			+	+		-		
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pf0-1, Q2-87 & Q8r1-96	Q	+^a/-	-			-	-		+		
	T										
	S										
Total		6	4	3	5	4	4	5	3	3	3

Fig. 4.8. Crossfeeding of strains in the *P. fluorescens* group by *Pseudomonas* strains producing pyoverdines recognized by the characterized Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5^a (Chapter 3). Colored boxes represent the presence of the Fpv in the strain. Pink corresponds to the Pf-5, 30-84, and O-6 clade. Blue corresponds to the SBW25, A506, SS101, and BG33R clade. Purple corresponds to the Pf0-1, Q2-87, and Q8r1-96 clade. + means growth of the mutant and - means no growth of the mutant in the presence of the pyoverdine producing strain (i.e., crossfeeding strain). Open boxes lacking a plus or minus indicate that the crossfeeding test was not done. ^bPublished in Moon et al. (34).

To identify the recognition capabilities for diverse pyoverdine peptide chain structures, mutants deficient in pyoverdine biosynthesis in strains 30-84, Pf0-1, A506, and SS101 were tested for crossfeeding by heterologous ferric-pyoverdines produced by *Pseudomonas* strains, which are unique in structure and known to be recognized by the Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5 (20) (Chapter 3) (Table 4.4).

The *P. chlororaphis* 30-84 pyoverdine mutant was able to grow in the presence of the purified pyoverdines produced by *P. fluorescens* B10, Pf-5, and *P. putida* SB8.3 (Table 4.4). The pyoverdine deficient mutant of SS101 was able to grow in the presence of the purified pyoverdines from B10, *P. aeruginosa* PAO1, *P. rhodesiae* CFML92-104 and Pf-5 (Table 4.4). The pyoverdine mutant of Pf0-1 was able to grow in the presence of the purified pyoverdines from *P. rhodesiae* CFML 92-104 and *P. fluorescens* Pf-5. The pyoverdine mutant of A506 was able to grow in the presence of the ferric-pyoverdines from *P. fluorescens* B10 and Pf-5, and *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 (Table 4.4).

The three ferric-pyoverdine types produced by *P. aeruginosa* strains (52) were tested, resulting in differing utilization patterns between the pyoverdine mutants of 30-84, Pf0-1, A506, and SS101 (Table 4.4). A506 and SS101 were able to recognize the type I and type II ferric-pyoverdines. Pf0-1 was able to recognize the type II and type III ferric-pyoverdines, and 30-84 was able to recognize the type III ferric-pyoverdine.

Table 4.4. Purified ferric-pyoverdine stimulated growth assay

Strain	<i>fpv</i> *	Pyoverdine peptide chain structure ^a	Pvd- Mutants ^b			
			30-84	Pf0-1	A506	SS101
<i>P. rhodesiae</i> CFML92-104	Y	Ser-Lys-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser-Gly-(Lys-FOHOrn-Ser-Ser) (4)	-	+	-	+
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PA01	U	<u>Ser</u> -Arg- <u>Ser</u> -FOHOrn-(Lys-FOHOrn-Thr-Thr) (Type I pyoverdine) (14)	-	-	+	+
<i>P. putida</i> SB8.3	X	<u>Ala</u> -Lys-Thr- <u>Ser</u> -AOHOrn-cOHOrn (32)	+	-	-	-
<i>P. putida</i> Bn7	V	Unknown	-	-	-	-
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pf-5	Z	Asp-FOHOrn-Lys-Thr-Ala-Ala-FOHOrn-Lys (20)	+	+	+	+
<i>P. fluorescens</i> B10	W	εLys-OHAsp-Ala-aThr-Ala-cOHOrn (49)	+	-	+	+
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> 7NSK2		<u>Ser</u> -FOHOrn-Orn-Gly-a <u>Thr</u> -Ser-cOHOrn (Type II pyoverdine) (9)	-	+	+	+
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> Pa6		<u>Ser</u> -cDab-FOHOrn-Gln-Gln-FOHOrn-Gly (Type III pyoverdine) (17)	+	+	-	-

^aUnderline denotes D-amino acids. Parentheses define cyclic residues. cOHOrn is cyclo-hydroxy-ornithine. FOHOrn is δN-formyl- δN-hydroxy-ornithine. OHAsp is threo-β-hydroxy-aspartic acid. Dab is diamino-butanoic acid. AOHOrn is δN-acetyl- δN-hydroxy-ornithine. ^b+ sign indicates growth of the pyoverdine deficient mutant in the presence of the pyoverdine producing strain, – sign indicates no growth of the pyoverdine deficient mutant in the presence of the pyoverdine producing strain. *See Chapter 3.

Fpv functional groups

Based on % amino acid identity, crossfeeding/ferric-pyoverdine growth promotion assays, and phylogenetic analysis, eight Fpv functional groups were identified (Fig. 4.7b; Fig. 4.8). Fpv outer-membrane proteins orthologous to the characterized Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5 were identified in each of the nine strains and correlated with specific ferric-pyoverdines through crossfeeding and purified ferric-pyoverdine utilization assays.

Orthologs of FpvU and FpvY form the FpvU/Y functional group. Strains Pf-5, SS101 (PflSS101_3069), A506 (PflA506_3090), BG33R (PseBG33_2445), and SBW25 (PFLU2545) have Fpv outer-membrane proteins in this group, including FpvAI from *P. aeruginosa* PAO1. All of the ferric-pyoverdines recognized by this group have a Ser in position one and similar residues making up the rest of the peptide chain. The Fpv outer-membrane proteins in this group, except for Pf-5, are located in pyoverdine biosynthetic regions (Fig. 4.7a). The overlapping nature of FpvY and FpvU is supported by SS101 and A506 having orthologs of Y and U, respectively. *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 was able to crossfeed SS101 even though it does not have an ortholog of FpvU, so it is feasible that SS101 is using PflSS101_3096 to take up PAO1's pyoverdine. A506 has PflA506_3090 as an ortholog to FpvU and is able to grow in the presence of ferric-pyoverdines recognized by FpvU. A506 is also able to recognize the pyoverdines from SS101 and *P. reactans* NCPPB387, which are linked to FpvY, but not the *P. rhodesiae* CFML92-104 pyoverdine, which appears to be specific to FpvY.

The FpvX functional group contains orthologous Fpv outer-membrane proteins from Pf-5, SBW25 (PFLU3633), and 30-84 (Pchl3084_2366) (Fig. 4.7b). The ferric-pyoverdines recognized by these Fpv outer-membrane proteins are produced by *P. putida* strains CS111 and SB8.3 (Fig. 4.8).

Orthologs of FpvZ, which are found in Pf-5, 30-84 (Pchl3084_3828), and O-6 (PchlO6_4229), make up the FpvZ functional group. These three TBDP genes are

located in the pyoverdine biosynthetic gene clusters of these strains and are involved in the uptake of the cognate ferric-pyoverdines (Fig. 4.7).

FpvV, which is found in Pf-5 and is orthologous to *P. putida* PupB, makes up the FpvV functional group. Pf-5 is the only strain with FpvV, and only Pf-5 could grow in the presence of the *P. putida* Bn7 pyoverdine (Fig. 4.8).

Orthologs of FpvW, found in all the *P. fluorescens* group strains except Pf0-1, SBW25 and Q2-87, make up the FpvW functional group. The pyoverdine mutants with Fpv outer-membrane proteins in this group were able to grow in the presence of the pyoverdine produced by *P. fluorescens* B10 (Fig. 4.8).

Orthologs found in strains Q2-87, Q8r1-96, Pf0-1, BG33R, and SBW25 make up the FpvQ functional group. The Fpv outer-membrane proteins from Q2-87 (PflQ2_1672), Q8r1-96 (PflQ8_3969), and Pf0-1 (Pfl01_1848) are located in pyoverdine biosynthetic gene clusters of these strains (Fig. 4.7a). Pf0-1 showed positive crossfeeding with the strains Q2-87 and Q8r1-96, whereas all of the other strains tested had negative crossfeeding with these strains (Fig. 4.8). Pfl01_1848 is phylogenetically related to Fpv outer-membrane proteins from these two strains and is the likely candidate for the recognition of the pyoverdines produced by Q2-87 and Q8r1-96 (Fig. 4.7a).

The FpvS and FpvT functional groups are made up of receptors found in all the strains except Pf-5 and also include Fpv outer-membrane proteins from *P. fluorescens* WH6 and *P. brassicacearum* subsp. *brassicacearum* NFM421. To our knowledge this is the first report of TBDPs of the receptor type being putative Fpv outer-membrane proteins. There is some indication that these Fpv receptors are involved in pyoverdine recognition as some strains were able to grow in the presence of pyoverdines despite a lack of the associated Fpv transducer. Pf0-1, A506, and SS101 do not have an ortholog of FpvZ but growth was promoted with the Pf-5 ferric-pyoverdine and in crossfeeding assays with Pf-5, 30-84 and O-6 (Fig. 4.8). Pfl01_2462, PflSS101_2880, and

PflA506_2860 are in the FpvS functional group (Fig. 4.7a), which may be how these strains are recognizing the pyoverdine produced by Pf-5, 30-84, and O-6.

Conclusion

Two levels of core TBDPs are evident in the *P. fluorescens* group, one at the species group level and the other within the more related strains. Within the *P. fluorescens* group is a core of five TBDPs. The five conserved TBDPs are used for the uptake of vitamin B12 (cobalamin) and substrates with bound metals such as iron and copper. These metals function as co-factors for proteins in essential metabolic pathways. Putative functions of TBDPs outside the core are largely related to iron uptake primarily from siderophores, but the majority of the TBDP functions are unknown. The heme binding TBDP PhuR was identified in all ten strains surveyed here and was also identified in the eleven strains surveyed by Cornelis and Bodilis (7). PhuR appears to be core to the genus *Pseudomonas*. The TBDP core for the *P. fluorescens* group is small compared to the TBDP cores identified in other *Pseudomonas* species (7), which is reasonable due to the diversity of the strains within this group. Within this species group, 84 TBDP types were identified, made up of 17 TBDP types with putative functions, eight Fpv functional groups, three additional Fpv outer-membrane proteins, and 56 unknown TBDP types.

TBDPs with putative functions in ferric-pyoverdine uptake are found within each strain. The abundance and diversity of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins in this species group indicates the importance of acquiring iron through heterologous pyoverdine siderophores. The characterized Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5, *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 and *P. putida* facilitated the identification of 28 Fpv outer-membrane proteins in the seven recently-sequenced strains and provides a method for Fpv identification in other pyoverdine-producing bacteria. The strategy proposed in Chapter 3 for identifying and predicting ferric-pyoverdine recognition of Fpv outer-membrane proteins was successful for the majority of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins present in the strains of

this study. Some of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins are divergent from the currently characterized Fpv outer-membrane proteins, preventing association with ferric-pyoverdines. Mutagenesis of these Fpv outer-membrane proteins followed by assays with ferric-pyoverdines of known structures not recognized by the currently characterized Fpv outer-membrane proteins may identify substrates for these Fpv outer-membrane proteins.

The ten strains evaluated in this study are associated with soil, root and leaf surfaces (Table 4.1). These are diverse environments, which provide challenges to the associated bacteria in nutrient acquisition (2, 30, 41). TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins have been found to aid in the uptake of essential minerals, particularly iron, as well as carbohydrates (3, 5, 27, 42). The diversity in the numbers and types of TBDPs found in the strains of the *P. fluorescens* group reflects the diverse nature of these strains as well as their commonalities.

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Chapter 5: Concluding remarks

TonB-dependent outer-membrane proteins (TBDPs) are a large family of paralogous proteins found in Gram-negative bacteria. They are structurally very similar to each other, but very diverse in their functions. There is ~20-25% amino acid similarity over all TBDPs, which is enough to maintain the amino acid residues required for the formation of the secondary and tertiary structures required for functionality. The types of TBDPs within the bacterial species surveyed here appear to have differing origins, with some acquired through horizontal gene transfer and duplication events, while others are ancestral to these strains. Horizontal gene transfer appears to be a common mechanism for moving TBDPs among Gram-negative bacteria, but it is not easy to tell the direction of TBDP transfer.

In Chapter 2, a combination of bioinformatic and phylogenetic analyses and bioassays were employed to characterize the 45 TBDPs of *P. fluorescens* Pf-5. Motifs defining constituent domains were identified and the presence or absence of the N-terminal signaling domain was used to distinguish the 27 TonB-dependent receptors (TBDRs) from the 18 TonB-dependent transducers (TBDTs) in the Pf-5 proteome. Phylogenetic analyses of the TBDPs from Pf-5 and characterized orthologs from other *Pseudomonas* spp. allowed the assignment of putative functions to certain TBDRs and TBDTs of Pf-5.

With the initial investigations of the TBDPs in the Pf-5 proteome, it became apparent that a good portion of the transducers are involved in iron acquisition, whereas the receptors may have broader functions that largely remain unknown. The prevalence of TBDPs for the binding and uptake of ferric-substrates directed further investigations into the utilization capabilities of Pf-5 for various iron-containing compounds. Pf-5 exhibited a remarkable capacity to utilize ferric-citrate, heme, and the siderophores ferrichrome, ferrioxamine B, enterobactin, and aerobactin, as well as pyoverdines with diverse structures produced by different *Pseudomonas* spp.. The ability of Pf-5 to be

crossed by such a variety of pyoverdine-producing *Pseudomonas* spp. was an exciting prospect as six Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5 were predicted to be involved in heterologous pyoverdine uptake.

In Chapter 3, I discuss the characterization of the six Fpv outer-membrane proteins in Pf-5. The association between the Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5 and specific pyoverdines with known peptide chain structures is the culmination of making and testing many mutants in crossfeeding assays and with purified pyoverdines. Previous investigations into the association between the Fpv outer-membrane proteins within a bacterial strain and heterologous pyoverdines were limited by either too few Fpv outer-membrane proteins or too few heterologous pyoverdines tested. The presence of six functional Fpv outer-membrane proteins within Pf-5 and the 37 *Pseudomonas* strains tested make this research novel and a good model for further characterization of Fpv outer-membrane proteins and associated pyoverdines. There are currently ~70 structurally characterized pyoverdines, many of them being unique (3). The individual Fpv outer-membrane proteins used for heterologous pyoverdine uptake show diversity in the portions of the protein responsible for pyoverdine binding as the individual Fpv outer-membrane proteins are used for the uptake of a specific set of structurally related pyoverdines. The specificity of the Fpv for certain structures of pyoverdines indicates parallel evolution of the Fpv and the pyoverdine (3, 5). As pyoverdines with new peptide chains arose, Fpv outer-membrane proteins used for uptake developed to recognize the new pyoverdine structure.

The recent genome sequencing of seven plant-associated strains within the *P. fluorescens* group gave me an opportunity to extend the analysis of TBDPs to these strains, as discussed in Chapter 4. I manually annotated the TBDPs and associated genes, such as those encoding ECF sigma factors and TonB proteins, in each of the genomes. With the completion of the annotation of the TBDPs, I set out to see if a core set of TBDPs is present in the ten strains of the *P. fluorescens* group. The TBDPs of the *P. fluorescens* group form two levels of core TBDPs, one at the species group level and the

other within sub-clades of related strains. The related strains *P. fluorescens* WH6 and *P. brassicacearum* sp. brassicacearum the same core of five distinct TBDPs (4, 6). My analysis showed (i) the number of TBDPs varies between strains; (ii) higher levels of conservation of TBDPs within the more related strains; (iii) a core of five TBDPs conserved among all strains; (iv) putative functions for 28 TBDP types; (v) and high levels of diversity among the Fpv functional groups.

Phylogenetic analysis of the TBDPs in the *P. fluorescens* group indicates a high level of redundancy for the uptake of certain compounds, notably ferrioxamine/ferrichrome, ferric-citrate, heme, and pyoverdines. The number of TBDPs in certain phylogenetic clades, such as those with putative functions in heme and pyoverdine acquisition, exceeds the number found in other bacteria such as *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 (1-2). The diversity and complexity of the TBDPs with roles in iron uptake clearly indicate the importance of iron in the biology of Pf-5 and related *Pseudomonas* spp..

A multi-faceted approach of BLASTP analysis, phylogenetics and pyoverdine growth promotion assays developed in the characterization of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins from Pf-5 was employed to identify Fpv outer-membrane proteins in the *P. fluorescens* group and associate them with pyoverdine peptide chain structures. Fpv outer-membrane proteins were found in multiple copies within each strain. I identified eight Fpv functional groups and three additional Fpv outer-membrane proteins. The abundance and diversity of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins in this species group indicates the importance of acquiring iron through heterologous pyoverdine siderophores. The characterized Fpv outer-membrane proteins of Pf-5, *P. sp.* M114, *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 and *P. putida* WCS358 facilitated the identification of 28 Fpv outer-membrane proteins in the seven recently-sequenced *Pseudomonas* species group strains and provides a method for Fpv identification in other pyoverdine-producing bacteria. Siderotyping is a method of classifying pyoverdine producing pseudomonads based on structural similarities of the cognate pyoverdine to aid in taxonomy (4). An important counterpart to this is the Fpv outer-membrane protein composition of a strain. Each strain has an Fpv

for its own pyoverdine that also may be able to recognize structurally-similar pyoverdines. The Fpv for the cognate pyoverdine adds another criterion, along with siderotype, by which bacterial strains can be characterized.

In summary, the ten strains of the *P. fluorescens* group have 317 TBDPs that fall into 84 types. Seventy three TBDP types are composed of TBDPs sharing >60 % amino acid identity (Fig. 5.1). An additional 11 TBDP types are made up of the Fpv outer-membrane proteins found in these strains. Of the 73 types, 17 of them have been assigned putative functions. This is a small proportion of the total, leaving ample room for further investigation. Experiments to look at changes in the expression of the TBDPs in the presence of diverse substrates may provide candidates for more targeted analysis to further research of the unknown TBDPs.

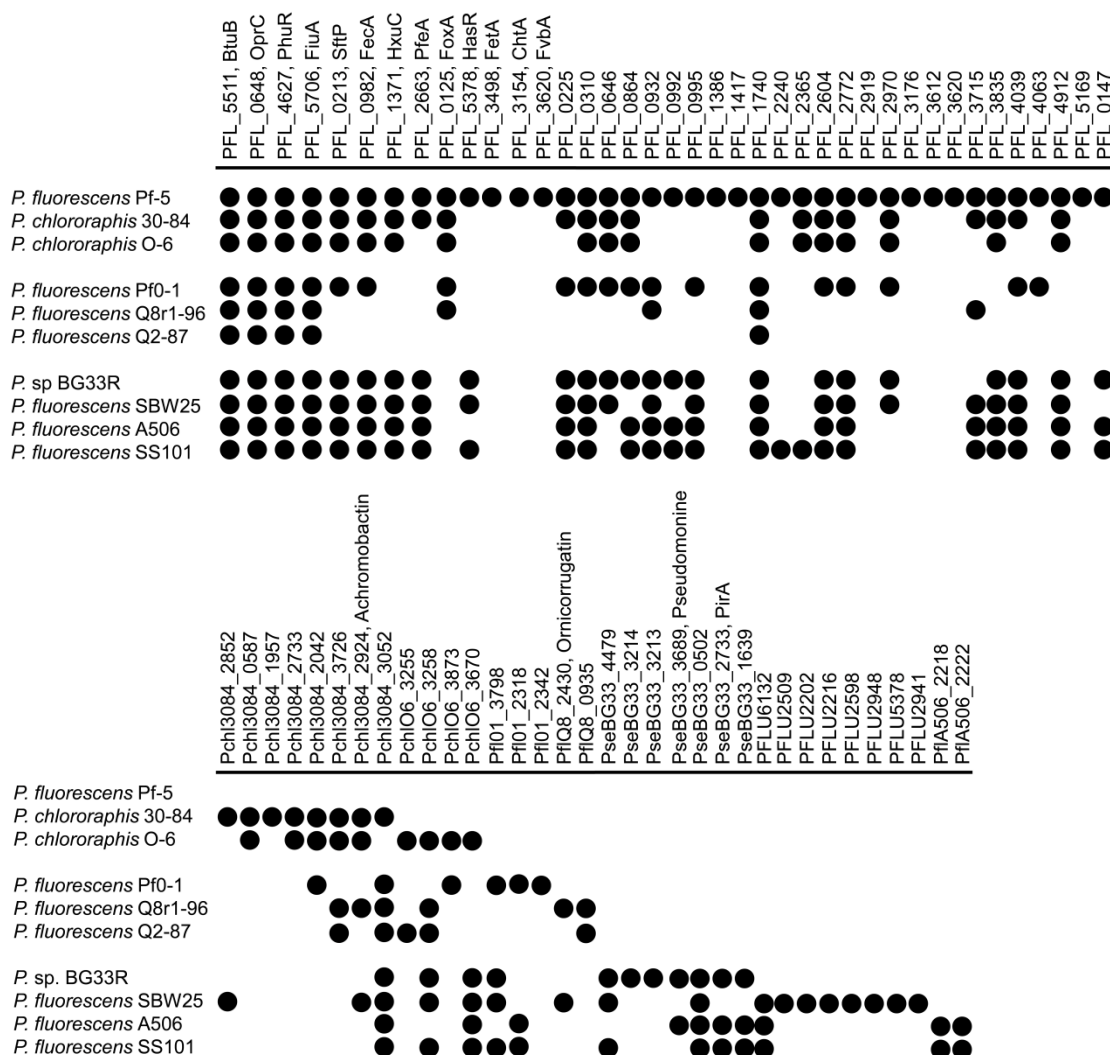


Fig. 5.1. TBDP types within the *P. fluorescens* group. A black circle indicates a TBDP orthologous to the TBDP with the listed locus tag at > 60 % amino acid identity, Fpv outer-membrane proteins are not included. Strain locus tags are as follows, Pf-5 (PFL_), 30-84 (Pchl3084_), O-6 (PchlO6_), Pf0-1 (Pfl01_), BG33R (PseBG33_), SBW25 (PFLU), and A506 (PflA506_).

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Contiguous gene regions surrounding TBDP genes in *P. fluorescens* Pf-5. TBDPs are highlighted in green. Transcription regulators are in orange. TonB protein complex genes are in blue. ABC transport genes are in yellow.

PFL	name	Function	PAO1 homolog	Other homologs	Fur box motif
117	gcdH	glutaryl-CoA dehydrogenase	PA0447		
118		CoA-transferase, family III	PA0446		
122	rrlA	23S ribosomal RNA			
6292	PFL r01	5S ribosomal RNA			
123	rrfA	5S ribosomal RNA			
124		PepSY-associated TM helix domain protein	PA2465		
125		TBDP, ferrichrome-iron receptor, Transducer	PA2466	optS	
126		sigma factor regulatory protein, FecR/PupR family	PA2467		
127		RNA polymerase sigma-70 factor, ECF subfamily	PA2468		TAATGATAAT
128	pctA	chemotactic transducer PctA		PP2249, Pfl01 0128	
144		efflux transporter, outer membrane factor lipoprotein, NodT family	PA2837	PP1273	
145		RNA polymerase sigma-70 factor, ECF subfamily		PP3086	
146		sigma factor regulatory protein, FecR/PupR family		PP3085	TAATGATAAT
147		TBDP, ferrichrome-iron receptor, Transducer		PP3084	
148		CHP			
149		CHP	PA5441		
150		membrane protein, putative			
207	atsB	sulfate ester ABC transporter, permease protein AtsB	PA0185		
208	atsR	sulfate ester ABC transporter, periplasmic sulfate ester-binding protein AtsR	PA0186		
209		transcriptional regulator SftR homolog	PA0191		
210	atsK	alkylsulfatase AtsK	PA0193		
211		sulfatase domain protein	PA2333		
212	sftR	transcriptional regulator SftR	PA2334		
213	sftP	TBDP, SRP, sulfate-ester, Receptor	PA2335	optO	
214		HP	PA2336		
215		HP			
216		HP			
217		lipoprotein, putative	PA5403		
218		CHP	PA5402		
249	dcyD	D-cysteine desulfhydrase		PSPTO 5179	
250		serine acetyltransferase, putative		PSEEN0208	
251	betT	high-affinity choline transporter, BCCT family, BetT	PA3933		
252		oxidoreductase, short chain dehydrogenase/reductase family		PSEEN2587	
253		transcriptional regulator, LysR family			
254		transcriptional regulator, LacI family		Pfl01 0249, PSPPH 4858	
255		TBDP, Receptor	PA2335	Pfl01 0250	
256		nitrilotriacetate monooxygenase component A, NtaA		Pfl01 0251	
257		L-glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate reductase YghZ		Pfl01 0252	
258		auxiliary transport protein, membrane fusion protein (MFP) family			
259		drug resistance transporter, EmrB/QacA subfamily		PSEEN2707	
260		transcriptional regulator, AraC family			GATAAT
261		AMP-binding protein			
304	rfbA	glucose-1-phosphate thymidyltransferase	PA5163		
305	rfbB	dTDP-glucose 4,6-dehydratase	PA5161		
306		phosphotransferase family/aminotransferase, class III		PP4154	
307	acuB	N-carbamoylputrescine amidase	PA0293		
308	acuA	agmatine deiminase	PA0292		
309		HP			
310		TBDP, Receptor		PP0267, PSEEN0263	GATAAT
311		CHP	PA0058		
312		HP			
313	oprQ	outer membrane porin OprE3	PA2760		
314		HP			
315		HP			
316		TPR domain protein			
642		CHP			
643		iron-compound ABC transporter, permease protein	PA2914		
644		iron compound ABC transporter, iron compound-binding protein	PA2913		
645		iron compound ABC transporter, ATP-binding protein	PA2912		
646		TBDP, Receptor			
647		PepSY-associated membrane protein	PA3789		
648	oprC	TBDP, copper, OprC, Receptor	PA3790		
649		HP	PA3791		
650		Protein of unknown function (DUF461) family	PA3785		
651		HP	PA3786		
652		HP		PSEEN3939	
653		HP		PSEEN3938	
654		Precorrin-6x reductase CbiJ/CobK	PA2909		

Appendix 1. Continued

PFL	name	Function	PA01 homolog	Other homologs	Fur box motif
858	fruR	fructose transport system repressor FruR	PA3563		GATAAT
859		phosphoenolpyruvate-protein phosphotransferase, EIIA/HPr/EI components	PA3562		
860	fruK	1-phosphofructokinase	PA3561		
861	fruA	PTS system, fructose-specific IIBC component	PA3560		
862		PhoD family protein	PA3910		
863		flavodoxin/oxidoreductase NAD binding domain	PA4513		
864		TBDP, Receptor	PA4514	piuA	
865		oxidoreductase, 2OG-Fe(II) oxygenase family	PA4515		
866		Sel1 domain protein	PA4516		
867		ornithine decarboxylase	PA4519		
868	opuCA	glycine betaine/carnitine/choline ABC transporter, ATP-binding protein	PA3891		
869	opuCB	glycine betaine/carnitine/choline ABC transporter, permease protein	PA3890		
870	opuCC	glycine betaine/L-proline ABC transporter, periplasmic substrate-binding protein	PA3889		
926	ttg2F	toluene tolerance protein Ttg2F	PA4451		
927	murA	UDP-N-acetylglucosamine 1-carboxyvinyltransferase	PA4450		
928	his G	ATP phosphoribosyltransferase			
929	hisD	histidinol dehydrogenase	PA4448		
930	hisC	histidinol-phosphate aminotransferase	PA4447		
931		HP		PP3326	
932		TBDP, Receptor	PA4837		
933	alqW	serine protease AlqW	PA4446		
934		CHP	PA4445		
935	cysD	sulfate adenyltransferase, small subunit	PA4443		
936	cysN	sulfate adenyltransferase, large subunit/adenylylsulfate kinase, putative	PA4442		
937		acyltransferase	PA0834		
938	pta	phosphate acetyltransferase	PA0835		
979	sdaA	L-serine ammonia-lyase 2			
980		transcriptional regulator, LysR family			
981		CHP			
982		TBDP, ferric-citrate, FecA, Transducer	PA3901	fecA	
983		anti-sigma factor, FecR	PA3900		
984		RNA polymerase sigma factor FacI	PA3899		
985		HP	PA0800		
986		PepSY-associated TM helix domain protein	PA0801		
987		HP	PA0802		
988		RNA polymerase sigma-70 factor, ECF subfamily	PA0149		
989		sigma factor regulatory protein, FecR/PupR family	PA0150		
990		transport energizing protein, ExbD family		PSPPH 0912	GATAAT
991	tonB	TonB domain protein		PSPPH 0913	
992		TBDP, Receptor		PSPPH 0914	
993		transporter, MotA/TolQ/ExbB proton channel family		PSPPH 0915	
994		Ser/Thr protein phosphatase/5'-nucleotidase domain protein		PP1414	
995		TBDP, Transducer	PA0151		
996		HP			
997		acid phosphatase, putative			
998		outer membrane porin, OprD family			
999		transcriptional regulator, AraC family	PA3898		GATAAT
1000		integral membrane protein, DUF6 family	PA3897		
1001	qhrB2	glyoxylate/hydroxypropyruvate reductase B	PA3896		
1367		CobW/P47K family protein		PSPPH 3929	
1368		HP		PSPPH 3928	
1369		HP			
1370		HP			
1371	hxC	TBDP, heme, Transducer	PA1302	hxC	
1372		sigma factor regulatory protein, FecR/PupR family		PSEEN4332	
1373		RNA polymerase sigma-70 factor, ECF subfamily	PA1300		
1374		rhodanese-like domain protein	PA2603		
1383		renal dipeptidase family protein			
1384		amine oxidase, flavin-containing			
1385		endoribonuclease L-PSP family protein			
1386		TBDP, Receptor	PA2089		
1387		alkanesulfonate ABC transporter, periplasmic substrate-binding protein			
1388		HP			
1389		HP			
1411		FAD dependent oxidoreductase	PA1267		
1412		proline racemase family protein	PA1268		
1413		dihydrodipicolinate synthetase family protein	PA1254		
1414		aspartate:proton symporter YveA		PP1259	
1415	aldH	NADP-dependent fatty aldehyde dehydrogenase			
1416		malate/L-lactate dehydrogenase family protein	PA1252		
1417		TBDP, Receptor			
1418		acetyltransferase, GNAT family			
1419		HP			
1420		HP		Pf01 3187	
1421		HP			
1422		HP			
1423		HP			

Appendix 1. Continued

PFL	name	Function	PAO1 homolog	Other homologs	Fur box motif
1737	fabA	3-hydroxydecanoyl-[acyl-carrier-protein] dehydratase			
1738		sensor histidine kinase/response regulator			
1739		HP			
1740		TBDP, Receptor	PA2070		
1741	gpsA	glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase			
1742		HP			
1743	sixA	phosphohistidine phosphatase SixA			
2237		MASE2 domain/diquanlylate cyclase domain protein			
2238		iron compound ABC transporter, iron compound-binding protein, putative			
2239		HP			
2240		TBDP, Receptor	PA2289		
2241	astA	arginine N-succinyltransferase, beta subunit			
2242	astA	arginine N-succinyltransferase, alpha subunit			
2243		amino acid transporter, AAT family			
2288		phenazine biosynthesis protein, PhzF family	PA1367		
2289		HP			
2290	hemB	delta-aminolevulinic acid dehydratase		Pfl01 3751	
2291		RNA polymerase sigma factor FecI	PA1912		TAAGTAATAG
2292		sigma factor regulatory protein FecR			
2293		TBDP, Transducer	PA4221 fptA		
2294		transcriptional regulator, LysR family			
2295		oxidoreductase, short-chain dehydrogenase/reductase family			
2296		FAD dependent oxidoreductase			
2361		phosphotransferase family/peptidase, M23 family/aminotransferase, class III		PP3361	
2362		transcriptional regulator, AsnC family		PP3362	
2363		RNA polymerase sigma-70 factor, ECF subfamily		Pfl01 3796	TAATAGTAAT
2364		sigma factor regulatory protein, FecR/PupR family		PSPPH 2748	
2365		TBDP, Transducer	PA4897 optI		Fur box
2366		lipoprotein, putative	PA2581		
2367		HP	PA1906		
2368		HP			
2388		membrane protein, putative			
2389		HP			
2390		hydrolase, NUDIX family		PSPPH 2763	
2391	fpvU	TBDP, Transducer	PA2398 fpvA		
2392		sigma factor regulatory protein, FecR/PupR family			
2393		RNA polymerase sigma-70 family protein			
2394		HP			
2524		radical SAM domain protein		Pfl01 3469	
2525		HP		Pfl01 3468	
2526		HP			
2527	fpvV	TBDP Transducer		PSEEN2529	
2528	pupR	sigma factor regulatory protein PupR			
2529	pupI	RNA polymerase sigma-70 factor, ECF subfamily			
2530	ilvE	branched-chain amino acid aminotransferase	PA5013		
2531	bkdC	2-oxoisovalerate dehydrogenase E3 component, dihydrolipoyl dehydrogenase	PA2250	PA14 35490	TAATAG
2601		HP			
2602		HP	PA1968		
2603		ABC transporter, quaternary amine uptake transporter (QAT) family, substrate-	PA5103		
2604		TBDP, Receptor		Pfl01 3318	
2605		HP			
2606	phaG	probable K(+)/H(+) antiporter subunit G	PA1059		
2607	phaF	probable K(+)/H(+) antiporter subunit F	PA1058		
2660		TRAP transporter, DctM subunit	PA0886		
2661	maq1	DNA-3-methyladenine glycosylase			
2662		Putative esterase superfamily	PA2689		
2663		TBDP PfeA, Receptor	PA2688, 0931 pirA		AGTAATAGTAAC
2664	pfeS	sensor protein PfeS	PA2687		
2665	pfeR	transcriptional activator PfeR	PA2686		
2666		YheO-like PAS domain protein			
2766		HP			
2767		FAD linked oxidase domain protein	PA3026		
2768		FAD dependent oxidoreductase	PA3025		
2769		carbohydrate kinase, FGGY family	PA3024		
2770		HP			
2771		HP			
2772		TBDP, Receptor	PA2289	PP4137	
2773		HP			
2774		HP			
2775		beta-lactamase		PSPTO 2834	
2776		HP			
2777		Ypar31 protein			
2778		amidase family protein	PA4163		

Appendix 1. Continued

PFL	name	Function	PA01 homolog	Other homologs	Fur box motif
2912		betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase, putative		PP0708	
2913		alcohol dehydrogenase, iron-containing	PA1146		
2914		amino acid permease, APC family	PA1147		
2915		transcriptional regulator, LysR family		PSPPH 3618	
2916		transporter, major facilitator family			
2917		oxidoreductase membrane protein, FAD-binding	PA0545		
2918		monooxygenase, SsuD family	PA2598		
2919		TBDP, Receptor			
2920		HP			
2921		bacterial extracellular solute-binding proteins, family 5			
2922		monooxygenase, SsuD family			
2923		HP		PSEEN3419	
2967		HP			
2968		HP			
2969		HP			
2970		TBDP, Receptor	PA2911		
2971		NAD-dependent epimerase/dehydratase family protein			TAATAGAAC
2972		HP	PA3064 PelA	PA14 24480	
2973		HP	PA3063 PelB	PA14 24490	
3151		ATPase, AFG1 family	PA2353	Pf01 2579	
3152		HP		Pf01 2578	
3153		DNA-binding protein		Pf01 2577	
3154		TBDP, Transducer	PA4675 iutA/chtA		
3155		sigma factor regulatory protein, FecR/PupR family		PP2192	
3156		RNA polymerase sigma-70 factor, ECF subfamily			
3157	yqfO	high-affinity xanthine transporter, NCS2 family, YqfO		Pf01 2573	
3170		ABC transporter, ATP-binding protein		PSEEN3426	
3171		ABC transporter, ATP-binding protein		PSEEN3427	
3172		monooxygenase, SsuD family		PSEEN3428	
3173		monooxygenase, putative		PSEEN3429	
3174		monooxygenase, putative		PSEEN3430	
3175		HP			
3176		TBDP, Receptor	PA2089	PSEEN3436	
3177		TBDP, OptO, Receptor	PA2335 optO	PSEEN3437	
3178		ABC transporter, permease protein		PSEEN3438	
3179		ABC transporter, permease protein		PSEEN3439	
3180		ABC transporter, ATP-binding protein		PSEEN3440	
3181		putative nitrate/nitrite/cyanate ABC transporter, NtrT family, permease protein	PA2327		
3182		putative nitrate/nitrite/cyanate ABC transporter, NtrT family, periplasmic nitrate	PA2328		
3312		phosphotransferase system, EIIIC domain/cyclic diquarylate phosphodiesterase (EAL) domain protein			
3313		RNA polymerase sigma-70 factor, ECF subfamily			
3314		sigma factor regulatory protein, FecR/PupR family			
3315	fpvX	TBDP, Transducer			
3316		3-demethylubiquinone-9 3-methyltransferase domain protein	PA2721		
3317		transcriptional regulator, AraC family			
3318		translocator protein, LysE family			
3482		transcriptional regulator, MarR family/acyl transferase, GNAT family			GATAAT
3483		RNA polymerase sigma-70 factor, ECF subfamily			
3484		sigma factor regulatory protein, putative			
3485		TBDP, Transducer			
3486		HP		Pf01 1951	
3487		HP			
3488	pchA	isochorismate synthase	PA4231		
3495	pchH	ABC transporter, ATP-binding/permease protein	PA4223		
3496	pchD	salicyl-AMP ligase	PA4228		
3497		regulatory protein Pchr	PA4227		TAAAGATAAT
3498	fetA	TBDP, FezA, Receptor		PSEEN3225	
3499		PepSY-associated membrane protein			
3500		iron-chelate uptake ABC transporter, FeCT family, periplasmic iron-chelate-binding protein, puta		Pmen 0797	
3501		iron-chelate uptake ABC transporter, FeCT family, permease protein		Pmen 0798	
3609		flavin reductase like domain protein		PSEEN3104	
3610		RNA polymerase sigma-70 family protein			TGATAATCA
3611		sigma factor regulatory protein, FecR/PupR family			
3612		TBDP, Transducer			
3613		Di-haem cytochrome c peroxidase family protein			
3614		phosphoenolpyruvate-dependent sugar phosphotransferase system, EIIA 2			
3615		efflux transporter, outer membrane factor lipoprotein, NodT family			
3616		efflux transporter, RND family, MFP subunit			
3617		RND transporter, hydrophobe/amphiphile efflux-1 (HAE1) family			
3618		molybdenum-pterin-binding protein			
3619		monooxygenase, NtaA/SnaA/SoxA family	PA4155		
3620		TBDP, ferric enterobactin, Receptor	PA4156		
3621		transcriptional regulator, IclR family	PA4157		
3622	fepC	ferric enterobactin ABC transporter, ATP-binding protein FepC	PA4158		
3623	fepB	ferric enterobactin ABC transporter, periplasmic ferric enterobactin-binding pro	PA4159		GTAATAGTATAC
3709		oxidoreductase, FAD-linked	PA5327		
3710		HP	PA5328		
3711	tonB	tonB protein, putative	PA5531	PSPPH 2987	Fur box
3712	tolR	tolR protein			
3713	tolQ	tolQ protein			
3714		3-phytase family protein			
3715		TBDP, Receptor			
3716		diquarylate cyclase (GGDEF) domain protein			
3717		transcriptional regulator, AraC family			
3718		aldehyde dehydrogenase (NAD) family protein	PA2323		
3719		membrane protein, putative		PSPTO 0520	
3720	moeA	molybdopterin biosynthesis MoeA protein			
3721	moeB	molybdopterin cofactor biosynthesis protein B		PSEEN4045	TAATAG

Appendix 1. Continued

PFL	name	Function	PA01 homolog	Other homologs	Fur box motif
3832		HP			
3833		HP			
3834		HP			
3835		TBDP UfrA, Receptor	PA1910 ufrA		
3836		oxidoreductase, FAD-binding			
3837		transcriptional regulator, LysR family			
3838		transporter, major facilitator family			
4036		transcriptional regulator, LysR family			GAGATAATCA
4037		transcriptional regulator, AsnC family			
4038		transporter, major facilitator family	PA3532		
4039		TBDP FecA-like, Transducer	PA3268		
4040		sigma factor regulatory protein, FecR/PupR family			
4041		RNA polymerase sigma-70 factor, ECF subfamily			
4042		HP			
4060		putative membrane protein			
4061		HP			GTAATAGT
4062		HP	PA0435		
4063		TBDP, Receptor	PA0434		
4064		HP	PA0433		
4065	ndvB	NdvB protein			
4066		transcriptional regulator-related protein			
4089	pvdO	protein of unknown function DUF323	PA2395		
4090	pvdF	N(5)-hydroxyornithine transformylase PvdF	PA2396		
4091	pvdE	pyoverdine ABC export system, permease/ATP-binding protein	PA2397		
4092		TBDP, Transducer	PA4168 fpvB		
4093		NRPS	PA2402		
4094		NRPS	PA2399		
4095		NRPS			
4624	mgsA	methylglyoxal synthase		Pmen 1310	
4625		RNA polymerase sigma-70 factor, ECF subfamily		Pfi01 4377	GATAAT
4626		sigma factor regulatory protein, FecR/PupR family		Pfi01 4378	
4627	phuR	TBDP, PhuR, Transducer	PA4710 phuR	Pfi01 4379	
4628	hemO	heme oxygenase	PA0672	Pfi01 4380	
4629		HP		Pfi01 4381	
4630		methyl-accepting chemotaxis protein		Pfi01 4382	
4906		putative proline-specific permease, ProY family	PA0789	PSEEN1179	
4907		HP			
4908		transcriptional regulator, PadR family		PSEEN1177	
4909		siderophore-interacting protein family protein		PSEEN1176	
4910		membrane protein, putative		PSEEN1175	
4911		HP		PSEEN1174	
4912		TBDP, Receptor	PA0781		
4913		transcriptional regulator, GntR family			ATATAATAGATA
4914		benzoate transport protein		PSEEN3859	
4915	oprB2	carbohydrate-selective porin OprB		PSEEN1171	
4916	gcd	quinoprotein glucose dehydrogenase	PA2290		
4917		HP			
4918		lipoprotein, putative			
5166		ribosomal protein L25, Ctc-form	PA4671	PSPTO 1103	
5167	pth	peptidyl-tRNA hydrolase	PA4672	PSPTO 1102	
5168	ychF	GTP-binding protein YchF	PA4673	PSPTO 1101	
5169		TBDP, Receptor		PSPTO 0784	
5170	pobA	4-hydroxybenzoate 3-monooxygenase	PA0247	PSPTO 1907	
5171	pobR	transcriptional regulator PobR	PA0248	PSPTO 1908	
5172	fsr	fosmidomycin resistance protein		PSPTO 3799	
5375	hasE	type 1 secretion system membrane fusion protein HasE	PA3405		
5376	hasD	type 1 secretion system ATPase HasD	PA3406		
5377	hasAp	heme acquisition protein HasAp	PA3407		
5378	hasR	TBDP HasR, Transducer	PA3408 hasR		
5379	hasS	sigma factor regulatory protein HasS	PA3409		
5380	hasI	RNA polymerase sigma-70 factor, ECF subfamily	PA3410		
5381	aroQ	3-dehydroquinate dehydratase, type II	PA0245		
5508	xseB	exodeoxyribonuclease VII, small subunit			
5509	ispA	geranyltranstransferase			
5510	dxs	1-deoxy-D-xylulose-5-phosphate synthase			
5511	btuB	TBDP, B12, BtuB, Receptor	PA1271		
5512		periplasmic cobalamin-binding protein			
5513		HP			
5514	ribA	GTP cyclohydrolase II			TAATAG
5703	dnaQ	exonuclease	PA3232		
5704		RNA polymerase sigma-70 family protein	PA0472		
5705		sigma factor regulatory protein, FecR/PupR family	PA0471		
5706		TBDP FiuA, Transducer	PA0470 fiuA		
5707		PepSY-associated membrane protein	PA1909		
5708		HP		Pfi01 5191	
5709		HP			

Appendix 2: Reciprocal BLASTP analysis of the *P. fluorescens* group. Color scale applied to the % amino acid ID values goes from red for the most similar to green for the least similar.

A. *P. fluorescens* Pf-5

Pf-5	A506			30-84			O-6		
Locus tag		M.W.	% ID		M.W.	% ID		M.W.	% ID
PFL_0125 ferrioxamine	PfIA506_0139	88.8	36	Pchl3084_0129	90.6	82	PchlO6_0126	91.2	81
PFL_0147 ferrichrome	PfIA506_0139		73	Pchl3084_0129		38	PchlO6_0126		38
PFL_0213 Sulphate	PfIA506_0217	82.9	88	Pchl3084_0224	85.2	90	PchlO6_0225		90
PFL_0255	PfIA506_3446	76	88	Pchl3084_0273	81.9	87	PchlO6_0225	85.2	32
PFL_0310	PfIA506_0292	77	79	Pchl3084_0320	77.4	80	PchlO6_0324	77.5	80
PFL_0646	PfIA506_3017	78.1	30	Pchl3084_0627	79	77	PchlO6_0633	78	77
PFL_0648 copper	PfIA506_0576	74	88	Pchl3084_0629	76.9	87	PchlO6_0635	77	87
PFL_0864	PfIA506_0798		82	Pchl3084_0855	82	84	PchlO6_0861	82.1	84
PFL_0932	PfIA506_0745	76.6	81	Pchl3084_3174	77.8	43	PchlO6_0324		30
PFL_0982 citrate	PfIA506_1022	84.9	87	Pchl3084_0981	85.7	86	PchlO6_0989	85.5	86
PFL_0992	PfIA506_1030	82.5	76	Pchl3084_3848	78.1	23	PchlO6_4138	78.2	23
PFL_0995	PfIA506_1001	87.1	77	Pchl3084_3848	78.1	42	PchlO6_4138	78.2	42
PFL_1371 heme HxC	PfIA506_1363	91.6	64	Pchl3084_1354	95.5	85	PchlO6_1431	95.5	85
PFL_1386	PfIA506_5184	86	38	Pchl3084_2164	97.7	25	PchlO6_3258	89.6	47
PFL_1417	PfIA506_0798		42	Pchl3084_0855		42	PchlO6_0861		42
PFL_1740	PfIA506_1861	77.3	79	Pchl3084_1705	77.6	84	PchlO6_1837	77.6	84
PFL_2240	PfIA506_4759		25	Pchl3084_3848		24	PchlO6_4138		24
PFL_2293 pyoverdine	PfIA506_1983	90.4	55	Pchl3084_3355	89.3	68	PchlO6_3657	89.2	68
PFL_2365 heme	PfIA506_4277	90.3	32	Pchl3084_2211	103.9	82	PchlO6_2435	104	82
PFL_2391 pyoverdine	PfIA506_3089	87.6	70	Pchl3084_2488	89.2	41	PchlO6_4229	91.1	38
PFL_2527 pyoverdine	PfIA506_3089		36	Pchl3084_2488		36	PchlO6_4229		33
PFL_2604	PfIA506_3017		81	Pchl3084_2407	78.7	82	PchlO6_2626	78.7	81
PFL_2663 enterobactin	PfIA506_0808	81.3	50	Pchl3084_2974	72.3	28	PchlO6_5540		22
PFL_2772	PfIA506_3139	77.3	61	Pchl3084_2519	77.2	82	PchlO6_2744	77.5	83
PFL_2919	PfIA506_0798	81.3	23	Pchl3084_0709	94.3	22	PchlO6_0716	94.5	22
PFL_2970	PfIA506_3017		31	Pchl3084_0627		61	PchlO6_0633		62
PFL_3154 aerobactin	PfIA506_3811	77.9	29	Pchl3084_3950	91.2	25	PchlO6_4229		22
PFL_3176	PfIA506_3446		30	Pchl3084_0273		30	PchlO6_3255	81	29
PFL_3177	PfIA506_5184		38	Pchl3084_2164		26	PchlO6_3670	86.2	37
PFL_3315 pyoverdine	PfIA506_3089		41	Pchl3084_2488		55	PchlO6_3015	82.6	41
PFL_3485 pyoverdine	PfIA506_3089		52	Pchl3084_2488		38	PchlO6_3555	74.6	39
PFL_3498 enantio-pch	PfIA506_0139	88.8	41	Pchl3084_5442		39	PchlO6_5726		39
PFL_3612	PfIA506_1995	86.6	30	Pchl3084_3828	88.4	30	PchlO6_4739	94.3	22
PFL_3620	PfIA506_3446		20	Pchl3084_0273		21	PchlO6_3255		25
PFL_3715	PfIA506_2346	92.5	85	Pchl3084_3605	93.6	86	PchlO6_0861		25
PFL_3835	PfIA506_2311	78.2	74	Pchl3084_3659	79.7	80	PchlO6_3952	80	81
PFL_4039 citrate	PfIA506_1995		77	Pchl3084_3828		86	PchlO6_0989		45
PFL_4063	PfIA506_3017		55	Pchl3084_2407		57	PchlO6_2626		58
PFL_4092 pyoverdine	PfIA506_2859	78.8	47	Pchl3084_3950		83	PchlO6_4229		83
PFL_4627 heme PhuR	PfIA506_4277		76	Pchl3084_4498	94.3	74	PchlO6_4739		74
PFL_4912	PfIA506_1059	71.9	82	Pchl3084_4710	72.8	86	PchlO6_4957	72.9	85
PFL_5169	PfIA506_0808		31	Pchl3084_2974		31	PchlO6_5540		25
PFL_5378 heme HasR	PfIA506_4277		28	Pchl3084_1354		25	PchlO6_4739		28
PFL_5511 B12	PfIA506_4759	69.5	68	Pchl3084_5255	70.3	71	PchlO6_5540	70.3	69
PFL_5706 ferrichrome	PfIA506_4932	88.2	87	Pchl3084_5442	88.1	94	PchlO6_5726	88	94
		86.56			90.39			88.56	

A. *P. fluorescens* Pf-5, Continued

Pf-5	Q8r1-96			Q2-87			BG33R		
Locus tag		M.W.	% ID		M.W.	% ID		M.W.	% ID
PFL_0125 ferrioxamine	PfIQ8_0202	91.6	81	PfIQ2_0538	88.7	36	PseBG33_5128	88.4	36
PFL_0147 ferrichrome	PfIQ8_5352	88.8	38	PfIQ2_0538		38	PseBG33_0163	88.9	72
PFL_0213 Sulphate	PfIQ8_0935		35	PfIQ2_4530		36	PseBG33_0251	83	88
PFL_0255	PfIQ8_0935	86.9	30	PfIQ2_4530	86.6	31	PseBG33_3630	79.7	88
PFL_0310	PfIQ8_4827	77.5	32	PfIQ2_3112	78.1	27	PseBG33_0325	76.8	79
PFL_0646	PfIQ8_2798		26	PfIQ2_2980		26	PseBG33_0610		72
PFL_0648 copper	PfIQ8_0637	77	85	PfIQ2_5073	76.8	84	PseBG33_0612		83
PFL_0864	PfIQ8_3242	78.3	27	PfIQ2_3112		26	PseBG33_0836	80.6	82
PFL_0932	PfIQ8_4827		84	PfIQ2_3112		46	PseBG33_0782	76.5	81
PFL_0982 citrate	PfIQ8_5352		21	PfIQ2_1695	88.5	43	PseBG33_1061	84.9	87
PFL_0992	PfIQ8_2798		22	PfIQ2_2980		22	PseBG33_1069	82.6	77
PFL_0995	PfIQ8_2798	77.6	42	PfIQ2_2980	74.7	42	PseBG33_1043	87.2	75
PFL_1371 heme HxuC	PfIQ8_1239	94.1	23	PfIQ2_4231	94.3	23	PseBG33_1530	93.9	64
PFL_1386	PfIQ8_5164		28	PfIQ2_2928	89.9	46	PseBG33_3617	85.9	44
PFL_1417	PfIQ8_3242		27	PfIQ2_3112		26	PseBG33_0836		42
PFL_1740	PfIQ8_4192	78.9	81	PfIQ2_1453	78.9	82	PseBG33_1898	77.6	79
PFL_2240	PfIQ8_5164		24	PfIQ2_4902		25	PseBG33_4946		25
PFL_2293 pyoverdine	PfIQ8_2057	89.7	68	PfIQ2_1672	89.8	38	PseBG33_2016	90.2	55
PFL_2365 heme	PfIQ8_1239		33	PfIQ2_4231		31	PseBG33_4831	95.9	26
PFL_2391 pyoverdine	PfIQ8_3550	79.7	36	PfIQ2_0688	80	37	PseBG33_2445	88.4	70
PFL_2527 pyoverdine	PfIQ8_3550		35	PfIQ2_0688		35	PseBG33_2445		34
PFL_2604	PfIQ8_4827		25	PfIQ2_3112		24	PseBG33_2513	78.2	81
PFL_2663 enterobactin	PfIQ8_0637		21	PfIQ2_4902		22	PseBG33_0847	81.3	51
PFL_2772	PfIQ8_2057		20	PfIQ2_1695		20	PseBG33_3265	77.6	62
PFL_2919	PfIQ8_2798	77.6	24	PfIQ2_2980		25	PseBG33_0610	77.4	25
PFL_2970	PfIQ8_0202		24	PfIQ2_2980		27	PseBG33_0610		60
PFL_3154 aerobactin	PfIQ8_1239		22	PfIQ2_4231		22	PseBG33_0163		23
PFL_3176	PfIQ8_0935		29	PfIQ2_4530		30	PseBG33_3630		30
PFL_3177	PfIQ8_4192		22	PfIQ2_2928		35	PseBG33_5403	85.9	38
PFL_3315 pyoverdine	PfIQ8_3550		37	PfIQ2_0688		37	PseBG33_2445		39
PFL_3485 pyoverdine	PfIQ8_2057		34	PfIQ2_0688		35	PseBG33_2445		54
PFL_3498 enantio-pch	PfIQ8_5352		42	PfIQ2_0538		42	PseBG33_0163		41
PFL_3612	PfIQ8_1239		20	PfIQ2_1695		29	PseBG33_2445	88.4	29
PFL_3620	PfIQ8_2430	75.9	28	PfIQ2_2925	78.8	23	PseBG33_2355	74.3	22
PFL_3715	PfIQ8_3000	93.1	85	PfIQ2_4231		22	PseBG33_0836		25
PFL_3835	PfIQ8_2987	87.2	27	PfIQ2_2980		26	PseBG33_3219	79.1	74
PFL_4039 citrate	PfIQ8_3969	87.9	21	PfIQ2_1695		83	PseBG33_2027	86.8	77
PFL_4063	PfIQ8_3242		22	PfIQ2_3112		22	PseBG33_2513		55
PFL_4092 pyoverdine	PfIQ8_3550		46	PfIQ2_0688		47	PseBG33_2654	87.3	42
PFL_4627 heme PhuR	PfIQ8_1239		74	PfIQ2_4231		73	PseBG33_4466	91.6	76
PFL_4912	PfIQ8_1239		26	PfIQ2_1695		26	PseBG33_1099	71.8	82
PFL_5169	PfIQ8_5164		24	PfIQ2_4902		23	PseBG33_0847		31
PFL_5378 heme HasR	PfIQ8_1239		27	PfIQ2_4231		27	PseBG33_4831	96	76
PFL_5511 B12	PfIQ8_5164	70.2	67	PfIQ2_4902	70.3	66	PseBG33_4946	69.7	68
PFL_5706 ferrichrome	PfIQ8_5352		66	PfIQ2_0538		66	PseBG33_5128		68
		87.05			86			89.8	

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30-84	O-6		Q8r1-96		Q2-87		BG33R		SS101		PF-5		A506		SBW25		PF01		WH6		
ORF	Locus tag		% ID		% ID		% ID		% ID		% ID		% ID		% ID		% ID		% ID		
ORF00002	Pchl3084_0007	PchlO6_0126	93	PflQ8_0202	85	PflQ2_0538	36	PseBG33_5128	36	PfISS101_0139	36	PFL_0125	85	PfIA506_0139	37	PFLU2598	41	PfI01_0121	89	PFWH6_5394	35
ORF00104	Pchl3084_0102	PchlO6_0225	90	PflQ8_0935	35	PflQ2_4530	37	PseBG33_0251	89	PfISS101_0233	89	PFL_0213	92	PfIA506_0217	89	PFLU0206	94	PfI01_0216	90	PFWH6_2193	21
ORF00156	Pchl3084_0151	PchlO6_0225	33	PflQ8_0935	29	PflQ2_4530	31	PseBG33_3630	87	PfISS101_3463	88	PFL_0255	93	PfIA506_3446	88	PFLU4085	90	PfI01_0205	91	PFWH6_2193	24
ORF00206	Pchl3084_0198	PchlO6_0861	96	PflQ8_4827	33	PflQ2_3112	27	PseBG33_0836	77	PfISS101_0832	77	PFL_0310	81	PfIA506_1983	57	PFLU0295	80	PfI01_0293	78	PFWH6_0295	79
ORF00524	Pchl3084_0505	PchlO6_0633	94	PflQ8_2798	27	PflQ2_2980	27	PseBG33_0610	73	PfISS101_2915	29	PFL_0646	83	PfIA506_3017	29	PFLU0593	77	PfI01_0594	84	PFWH6_0295	26
ORF00526	Pchl3084_0507	PchlO6_4739	95	PflQ8_0637	86	PflQ2_5073	85	PseBG33_4466	85	PfISS101_4358	85	PFL_0648	89	PfIA506_0576	85	PFLU0595	84	PfI01_0596	88	PFWH6_0621	83
ORF00609	Pchl3084_0587	PchlO6_0716	97	PflQ8_3969	25	PflQ2_1672	24	PseBG33_2654	27	PfISS101_5488	22	PFL_2919	27	PfIA506_5433	22	PFLU2598	22	PfI01_0293	34	PFWH6_5931	22
ORF00750	Pchl3084_0733	PchlO6_0861	96	PflQ8_3242	28	PflQ2_3112	27	PseBG33_0836	85	PfISS101_0832	85	PFL_0864	86	PfIA506_0798	86	PFLU0295	30	PfI01_0798	68	PFWH6_0820	86
ORF00878	Pchl3084_0859	PchlO6_0989	92	PflQ8_5352	21	PflQ2_1695	42	PseBG33_1061	83	PfISS101_1061	83	PFL_0982	90	PfIA506_1022	84	PFLU1040	89	PfI01_0923	89	PFWH6_1047	84
ORF01255	Pchl3084_1232	PchlO6_1431	94	PflQ8_1239	24	PflQ2_4231	24	PseBG33_1530	65	PfISS101_1406	65	PFL_1371	89	PfIA506_1363	65	PFLU1405	69	PfI01_4379	24	PFWH6_1417	66
ORF01622	Pchl3084_1583	PchlO6_1837	97	PflQ8_4192	85	PflQ2_1453	86	PseBG33_1898	81	PfISS101_1822	81	PFL_1740	84	PfIA506_1861	81	PFLU1839	83	PfI01_4209	85	PFWH6_1770	83
ORF01992	Pchl3084_1957	PchlO6_0324	32	PflQ8_3242	28	PflQ2_3112	28	PseBG33_0325	32	PfISS101_0311	32	PFL_0310	34	PfIA506_0292	32	PFLU0295	34	PfI01_0293	34	PFWH6_0295	33
ORF02079	Pchl3084_2042	PchlO6_2381	92	PflQ8_5164	34	PflQ2_2928	24	PseBG33_5403	25	PfISS101_5234	25	PFL_3177	27	PfIA506_5184	25	PFLU2202	27	PfI01_3740	90	PFWH6_3831	28
ORF02129	Pchl3084_2089	PchlO6_2435	94	PflQ8_1239	30	PflQ2_4231	29	PseBG33_4831	27	PfISS101_3593	81	PFL_2365	85	PfIA506_1363	22	PFLU5361	25	PfI01_4379	32	PFWH6_4738	26
ORF02337	Pchl3084_2285	PchlO6_0633	95	PflQ8_4827	25	PflQ2_3112	24	PseBG33_0610	81	PfISS101_0832	82	PFL_2604	83	PfIA506_3017	82	PFLU2593	81	PfI01_3318	87	PFWH6_0820	25
ORF02421	Pchl3084_2366	PchlO6_3555	43	PflQ8_3550	39	PflQ2_0688	38	PseBG33_2445	41	PfISS101_3096	42	PFL_3315	56	PfIA506_3089	44	PFLU3633	55	PfI01_2583	41	PFWH6_3086	39
ORF02454	Pchl3084_2397	PchlO6_2744	96	PflQ8_1239	22	PflQ2_4231	22	PseBG33_3265	64	PfISS101_3147	65	PFL_2772	86	PfIA506_3139	63	PFLU3750	65	PfI01_2318	91	PFWH6_3525	64
ORF02719	Pchl3084_2661	PchlO6_3015	95	PflQ8_3550	33	PflQ2_0688	34	PseBG33_3069	72	PfISS101_2361	72	PFL_2719	43	PfIA506_3008	72	PFLU2688	74	PfI01_2583	78	PFWH6_3086	35
ORF02792	Pchl3084_2733	PchlO6_3108	93	PflQ8_3242	29	PflQ2_3112	29	PseBG33_0836	36	PfISS101_0832	37	PFL_1417	40	PfIA506_0798	37	PFLU2365	29	PfI01_0798	35	PFWH6_0820	36
ORF02912	Pchl3084_2852	PchlO6_5540	25	PflQ8_1239	24	PflQ2_4231	23	PseBG33_0847	28	PfISS101_0843	28	PFL_5169	33	PfIA506_0808	28	PFLU3643	88	PfI01_4379	24	PFWH6_5214	25
ORF02986	Pchl3084_2924	PchlO6_3307	94	PflQ8_2987	82	PflQ2_0538	23	PseBG33_2000	39	PfISS101_2109	39	PFL_3835	29	PfIA506_2218	39	PFLU4093	85	PfI01_3798	42	PFWH6_3849	82
ORF03122	Pchl3084_3052	PchlO6_4138	30	PflQ8_3242	71	PflQ2_3112	71	PseBG33_2364	72	PfISS101_2136	72	PFL_0932	44	PfIA506_2242	73	PFLU2365	75	PfI01_2232	74	PFWH6_2249	71
ORF03307	Pchl3084_3233	PchlO6_3657	94	PflQ8_2057	83	PflQ2_1672	40	PseBG33_2016	58	PfISS101_1938	56	PFL_2293	72	PfIA506_1983	57	PFLU5798	42	PfI01_1848	41	PFWH6_1926	57
ORF03565	Pchl3084_3483	PchlO6_4739	24	PflQ8_3000	86	PflQ2_4231	24	PseBG33_4466	23	PfISS101_0832	86	PFL_3715	87	PfIA506_2346	86	PFLU3698	89	PfI01_4379	25	PFWH6_0820	23
ORF03620	Pchl3084_3537	PchlO6_3952	92	PflQ8_2987	27	PflQ2_2980	24	PseBG33_3219	74	PfISS101_2207	73	PFL_3835	81	PfIA506_2311	73	PFLU2562	75	PfI01_3798	28	PFWH6_2397	73
ORF03792	Pchl3084_3706	PchlO6_0989	46	PflQ8_3969	22	PflQ2_1695	86	PseBG33_2027	79	PfISS101_1951	82	PFL_4039	90	PfIA506_1995	79	PFLU1040	46	PfI01_3784	88	PFWH6_1047	45
ORF03815	Pchl3084_3726	PchlO6_4138	95	PflQ8_2798	81	PflQ2_2980	83	PseBG33_1043	42	PfISS101_1043	42	PFL_0995	43	PfIA506_1001	42	PFLU1022	42	PfI01_0931	42	PFWH6_1030	41
ORF03922	Pchl3084_3828	PchlO6_4229	89	PflQ8_3550	50	PflQ2_0688	48	PseBG33_2654	44	PfISS101_2880	47	PFL_4092	85	PfIA506_2859	49	PFLU3378	49	PfI01_2462	48	PFWH6_3086	49
ORF04457	Pchl3084_4376	PchlO6_4739	95	PflQ8_1239	81	PflQ2_4231	79	PseBG33_4753	73	PfISS101_4358	73	PFL_4627	79	PfIA506_4277	72	PFLU4968	75	PfI01_4379	84	PFWH6_4738	73
ORF04674	Pchl3084_4588	PchlO6_4957	94	PflQ8_5164	22	PflQ2_1695	23	PseBG33_1099	84	PfISS101_1097	84	PFL_4912	91	PfIA506_1059	84	PFLU1087	88	PfI01_0594	43	PFWH6_5214	22
ORF05222	Pchl3084_5133	PchlO6_5540	94	PflQ8_5164	83	PflQ2_4902	82	PseBG33_4946	73	PfISS101_4814	73	PFL_5511	73	PfIA506_4759	74	PFLU5463	77	PfI01_5008	83	PFWH6_5214	74
ORF05401	Pchl3084_5228	PchlO6_5726	99	PflQ8_5352	67	PflQ2_0538	67	PseBG33_5128	68	PfISS101_4985	90	PFL_5706	95	PfIA506_4932	88	PFLU5629	90	PfI01_5189	83	PFWH6_5394	86

B. *P. chlororaphis* O-6

O-6	Q8r1-96	% ID Q2-87	% ID BG33R	% ID SS101	% ID A506	% ID Pf-5	% ID 30-84	% ID SBW25	%ID Pf01	%ID WH6	%ID
ORF	Locus tag										
ORF00005	PchlO6_0126 PflQ8_0202	85 PflQ2_0538	36 PseBG33_5128	36 PflSS101_4985	35 PflA506_0139	36 PFL_0125	86 Pchl3084_0129	92 PFLU2598	41 Pfl01_0121	90 PFWH6_5394	35
ORF00108	PchlO6_0225 PflQ8_0935	35 PflQ2_4530	37 PseBG33_0251	89 PflSS101_0233	89 PflA506_0217	88 PFL_0213	95 Pchl3084_0224	89 PFLU0206	94 Pfl01_0216	90 PFWH6_2193	21
ORF00209	PchlO6_0324 PflQ8_4827	33 PflQ2_3112	28 PseBG33_0325	77 PflSS101_0311	77 PflA506_0292	77 PFL_0310	81 Pchl3084_0320	96 PFLU0295	79 Pfl01_0293	78 PFWH6_0295	78
ORF00530	PchlO6_0633 PflQ8_2798	26 PflQ2_2980	26 PseBG33_0610	73 PflSS101_2915	30 PflA506_3017	30 PFL_0646	82 Pchl3084_0627	93 PFLU0593	78 Pfl01_0594	85 PFWH6_0295	26
ORF00532	PchlO6_0635 PflQ8_0637	88 PflQ2_5073	87 PseBG33_0612	85 PflSS101_0606	85 PflA506_0576	85 PFL_0648	89 Pchl3084_0629	97 PFLU0595	84 Pfl01_0596	89 PFWH6_0621	85
ORF00618	PchlO6_0716 PflQ8_3969	25 PflQ2_1672	24 PseBG33_2654	27 PflSS101_5488	21 PflA506_5433	21 PFL_2919	27 Pchl3084_0709	97 PFLU2598	22 Pfl01_0293	34 PFWH6_5931	21
ORF00767	PchlO6_0861 PflQ8_3242	28 PflQ2_3112	27 PseBG33_0836	85 PflSS101_0832	85 PflA506_0798	85 PFL_0864	86 Pchl3084_0855	96 PFLU0295	30 Pfl01_0798	68 PFWH6_0767	85
ORF00900	PchlO6_0989 PflQ8_2987	24 PflQ2_1695	43 PseBG33_1061	85 PflSS101_1061	85 PflA506_1022	85 PFL_0982	90 Pchl3084_0981	93 PFLU1040	90 Pfl01_0923	90 PFWH6_1047	85
ORF01351	PchlO6_1431 PflQ8_1239	24 PflQ2_4231	23 PseBG33_1530	64 PflSS101_1406	63 PflA506_1363	66 PFL_1371	87 Pchl3084_1354	94 PFLU1405	68 Pfl01_4379	24 PFWH6_1417	65
ORF01761	PchlO6_1837 PflQ8_4192	84 PflQ2_1453	86 PseBG33_1898	81 PflSS101_1822	81 PflA506_1861	81 PFL_1740	85 Pchl3084_1705	97 PFLU1839	83 Pfl01_4209	84 PFWH6_1770	83
ORF02295	PchlO6_2381 PflQ8_5164	34 PflQ2_2928	24 PseBG33_5403	25 PflSS101_5234	25 PflA506_5184	25 PFL_3177	27 Pchl3084_2164	92 PFLU2202	27 Pfl01_3740	90 PFWH6_3831	28
ORF02350	PchlO6_2435 PflQ8_1239	30 PflQ2_4231	30 PseBG33_4831	27 PflSS101_3593	80 PflA506_1363	23 PFL_2365	84 Pchl3084_2211	94 PFLU5361	27 Pfl01_4379	32 PFWH6_4738	26
ORF02550	PchlO6_2626 PflQ8_4827	25 PflQ2_3112	24 PseBG33_2513	81 PflSS101_2915	82 PflA506_3017	82 PFL_2604	83 Pchl3084_3771	95 PFLU2593	81 Pfl01_3318	87 PFWH6_0621	85
ORF02670	PchlO6_2744 PflQ8_1239	21 PflQ2_4231	21 PseBG33_3265	62 PflSS101_3147	63 PflA506_3139	61 PFL_2772	86 Pchl3084_2519	94 PFLU3750	65 Pfl01_2318	92 PFWH6_3525	62
ORF02949	PchlO6_3015 PflQ8_3550	33 PflQ2_0688	34 PseBG33_3069	73 PflSS101_2361	72 PflA506_3008	72 PFL_3315	42 Pchl3084_2783	95 PFLU2688	74 Pfl01_2583	78 PFWH6_3086	34
ORF03045	PchlO6_3108 PflQ8_3242	29 PflQ2_3112	29 PseBG33_0836	36 PflSS101_0832	36 PflA506_0798	37 PFL_1417	41 Pchl3084_2855	93 PFLU2365	30 Pfl01_0798	36 PFWH6_0820	35
ORF03204	PchlO6_3255 PflQ8_2430	27 PflQ2_2925	90 PseBG33_3630	30 PflSS101_3463	30 PflA506_3446	30 PFL_3176	30 Pchl3084_0273	30 PFLU4085	31 Pfl01_0250	31 PFWH6_2193	27
ORF03207	PchlO6_3258 PflQ8_5164	25 PflQ2_2928	90 PseBG33_3617	59 PflSS101_3450	60 PflA506_5184	37 PFL_1386	49 Pchl3084_2164	34 PFLU4069	60 Pfl01_2342	37 PFWH6_3831	61
ORF03257	PchlO6_3307 PflQ8_2987	83 PflQ2_0538	23 PseBG33_2000	39 PflSS101_2109	39 PflA506_2218	39 PFL_3835	29 Pchl3084_3046	95 PFLU4093	86 Pfl01_3798	42 PFWH6_3849	82
ORF03519	PchlO6_3555 PflQ8_3550	38 PflQ2_0688	38 PseBG33_2445	36 PflSS101_3096	38 PflA506_3089	40 PFL_3315	41 Pchl3084_2488	43 PFLU3633	42 Pfl01_2583	37 PFWH6_3086	38
ORF03614	PchlO6_3657 PflQ8_2057	81 PflQ2_1672	39 PseBG33_2016	58 PflSS101_1938	57 PflA506_1983	58 PFL_2293	72 Pchl3084_3355	92 PFLU5798	42 Pfl01_1848	41 PFWH6_1926	57
ORF03627	PchlO6_3670 PflQ8_4192	22 PflQ2_2928	36 PseBG33_5403	81 PflSS101_5234	81 PflA506_5184	81 PFL_3177	38 Pchl3084_2164	27 PFLU5895	83 Pfl01_2342	41 PFWH6_3831	38
ORF03833	PchlO6_3872 PflQ8_5164	26 PflQ2_2928	32 PseBG33_2166	37 PflSS101_1702	37 PflA506_5184	32 PFL_3177	37 Pchl3084_2164	65 PFLU2216	26 Pfl01_3121	89 PFWH6_3831	32
ORF03835	PchlO6_3873 PflQ8_1239	25 PflQ2_2928	36 PseBG33_2166	35 PflSS101_5234	24 PflA506_5184	24 PFL_3177	34 Pchl3084_2164	26 PFLU2202	40 Pfl01_3124	84 PFWH6_3831	37
ORF03918	PchlO6_3952 PflQ8_2987	26 PflQ2_2980	25 PseBG33_3219	74 PflSS101_2208	74 PflA506_2311	73 PFL_3835	81 Pchl3084_3659	96 PFLU2562	77 Pfl01_3798	28 PFWH6_2397	73
ORF04103	PchlO6_4138 PflQ8_2798	82 PflQ2_2980	84 PseBG33_1043	42 PflSS101_1043	42 PflA506_1001	42 PFL_0995	43 Pchl3084_3848	95 PFLU1022	41 Pfl01_0931	41 PFWH6_1030	40
ORF04196	PchlO6_4229 PflQ8_3550	50 PflQ2_0688	49 PseBG33_2654	44 PflSS101_2880	47 PflA506_2859	49 PFL_4092	85 Pchl3084_3950	89 PFLU3378	49 Pfl01_2462	48 PFWH6_3086	49
ORF04706	PchlO6_4739 PflQ8_1239	81 PflQ2_4231	79 PseBG33_4466	74 PflSS101_4358	74 PflA506_4277	73 PFL_4627	79 Pchl3084_4498	95 PFLU4968	75 Pfl01_4379	84 PFWH6_4738	73
ORF04935	PchlO6_4957 PflQ8_1239	27 PflQ2_1695	22 PseBG33_1099	86 PflSS101_1097	86 PflA506_1059	86 PFL_4912	91 Pchl3084_4710	96 PFLU1087	89 Pfl01_5008	30 PFWH6_5214	22
ORF05521	PchlO6_5540 PflQ8_5164	80 PflQ2_4902	80 PseBG33_4946	71 PflSS101_4814	71 PflA506_4759	72 PFL_5511	72 Pchl3084_5255	92 PFLU5463	76 Pfl01_5008	83 PFWH6_5214	71
ORF05708	PchlO6_5726 PflQ8_5352	66 PflQ2_0538	66 PseBG33_5128	67 PflSS101_4985	88 PflA506_4932	87 PFL_5706	94 Pchl3084_5442	97 PFLU5629	89 Pfl01_5189	83 PFWH6_5394	84

C. *P. fluorescens* Pf0-1

Pf0-1	Pf-5	SBW25	Q2-87	Q8r1-96	30-84	O-6	A506	BG33R	SS101									
Losuc tag	% ID	%ID	%ID	%ID	%ID	%ID	%ID	%ID	%ID									
PfI01_0121	PFL_0125	86	PFLU2598	39	PfIQ2_0538	36	PfIQ8_0202	85	Pchl3084_0129	87	PchlO6_0126	87	PfIA506_4932	35	PseBG33_5128	36	PfISS101_4985	36
PfI01_0216	PFL_0213	90	PFLU0206	89	PfIQ2_4530	36	PfIQ8_0935	34	Pchl3084_0224	80	PchlO6_0225	80	PfIA506_0217	82	PseBG33_0251	82	PfISS101_0233	82
PfI01_0250	PFL_0255	86	PFLU4085	92	PfIQ2_4530	30	PfIQ8_0935	29	Pchl3084_0273	83	PchlO6_0225	31	PfIA506_3446	84	PseBG33_3630	84	PfISS101_3463	85
PfI01_0293	PFL_0310	81	PFLU0295	81	PfIQ2_3112	28	PfIQ8_4827	30	Pchl3084_0320	77	PchlO6_0324	77	PfIA506_0292	77	PseBG33_0325	77	PfISS101_0311	77
PfI01_0594	PFL_0646	81	PFLU0593	78	PfIQ2_2980	26	PfIQ8_2798	27	Pchl3084_0627	80	PchlO6_0633	81	PfIA506_3017	31	PseBG33_0610	73	PfISS101_2915	31
PfI01_0596	PFL_0648	87	PFLU0595	88	PfIQ2_5073	87	PfIQ8_0637	87	Pchl3084_0629	88	PchlO6_0635	89	PfIA506_0576	87	PseBG33_0612	86	PfISS101_0606	87
PfI01_0798	PFL_0864	66	PFLU0295	29	PfIQ2_3112	26	PfIQ8_3242	26	Pchl3084_0855	66	PchlO6_0861	66	PfIA506_0798	64	PseBG33_0836	64	PfISS101_0832	64
PfI01_0874	PFL_0932	85	PFLU0757	83	PfIQ2_3112	46	PfIQ8_4827	83	Pchl3084_3174	42	PchlO6_0324	31	PfIA506_0745	82	PseBG33_0782	81	PfISS101_0775	82
PfI01_0923	PFL_0982	88	PFLU1040	89	PfIQ2_1695	41	PfIQ8_5352	21	Pchl3084_0981	85	PchlO6_0989	85	PfIA506_1022	83	PseBG33_1061	84	PfISS101_1061	84
PfI01_0931	PFL_0995	77	PFLU1022	79	PfIQ2_2980	43	PfIQ8_2798	43	Pchl3084_3848	41	PchlO6_4138	40	PfIA506_1001	75	PseBG33_1043	76	PfISS101_1043	76
PfI01_1848	PFL_2293	42	PFLU5798	57	PfIQ2_1672	53	PfIQ8_3969	52	Pchl3084_3355	39	PchlO6_3657	39	PfIA506_1983	41	PseBG33_5305	55	PfISS101_1938	41
PfI01_2232	PFL_0932	45	PFLU2365	86	PfIQ2_3112	79	PfIQ8_3242	80	Pchl3084_3174	71	PchlO6_5726	29	PfIA506_2242	82	PseBG33_2364	82	PfISS101_2136	81
PfI01_2318	PFL_2772	86	PFLU3750	66	PfIQ2_4231	22	PfIQ8_1239	22	Pchl3084_2519	89	PchlO6_2744	90	PfIA506_3139	62	PseBG33_3265	63	PfISS101_3147	64
PfI01_2342	PFL_3177	34	PFLU5895	41	PfIQ2_2928	36	PfIQ8_5164	29	Pchl3084_2974	21	PchlO6_3670	39	PfIA506_5184	40	PseBG33_5403	41	PfISS101_5234	41
PfI01_2462	PFL_4092	46	PFLU3378	82	PfIQ2_1672	35	PfIQ8_3550	80	Pchl3084_3950	45	PchlO6_4229	45	PfIA506_2859	77	PseBG33_2658	77	PfISS101_2880	77
PfI01_2583	PFL_3315	42	PFLU2688	72	PfIQ2_1327	30	PfIQ8_3550	31	Pchl3084_2783	74	PchlO6_3015	74	PfIA506_3008	68	PseBG33_3069	68	PfISS101_2361	69
PfI01_2952 truncated	PFL_4063	51	PFLU2593	36	PfIQ2_2980	27	PfIQ8_2798	27	Pchl3084_2407	50	PchlO6_2626	51	PfIA506_3017	48	PseBG33_2513	48	PfISS101_2915	48
PfI01_3121	PFL_2202	25	PFLU3177	37	PfIQ2_2928	24	PfIQ8_5164	26	Pchl3084_2164	65	PchlO6_3872	86	PfIA506_5184	29	PseBG33_3617	24	PfISS101_3450	24
PfI01_3124	PFL_2202	36	PFLU3177	33	PfIQ2_2928	23	PfIQ8_5352	26	Pchl3084_2164	26	PchlO6_3873	81	PfIA506_5184	24	PseBG33_3617	23	PfISS101_3450	23
PfI01_3318	PFL_2604	81	PFLU2593	82	PfIQ2_3112	24	PfIQ8_4827	25	Pchl3084_2407	86	PchlO6_2626	86	PfIA506_3017	85	PseBG33_2513	83	PfISS101_2915	85
PfI01_3740	PFL_2202	28	PFLU3177	27	PfIQ2_1564	25	PfIQ8_5164	36	Pchl3084_2164	84	PchlO6_2381	84	PfIA506_5184	25	PseBG33_5318	24	PfISS101_5234	25
PfI01_3784	PFL_4039	88	PFLU1040	45	PfIQ2_1695	84	PfIQ8_0202	20	Pchl3084_3828	86	PchlO6_0989	44	PfIA506_1995	80	PseBG33_2027	78	PfISS101_1951	81
PfI01_3798	PFL_3835	28	PFLU3566	68	PfIQ2_1672	21	PfIQ8_2987	40	Pchl3084_3046	42	PchlO6_3307	42	PfIA506_2218	37	PseBG33_2000	60	PfISS101_1922	59
PfI01_4209	PFL_1740	82	PFLU1839	80	PfIQ2_1453	87	PfIQ8_4192	85	Pchl3084_1705	84	PchlO6_1837	84	PfIA506_1861	78	PseBG33_1898	78	PfISS101_1822	79
PfI01_4379	PFL_4627	75	PFLU4968	71	PfIQ2_4231	80	PfIQ8_1239	81	Pchl3084_4498	81	PchlO6_4739	81	PfIA506_4277	71	PseBG33_4466	72	PfISS101_4358	71
PfI01_5008	PFL_5511	74	PFLU5463	75	PfIQ2_4902	80	PfIQ8_5164	80	Pchl3084_5255	83	PchlO6_5540	82	PfIA506_4759	77	PseBG33_4946	76	PfISS101_4814	76
PfI01_5189	PFL_5706	81	PFLU5629	81	PfIQ2_0538	68	PfIQ8_5352	67	Pchl3084_5442	81	PchlO6_5726	80	PfIA506_4932	77	PseBG33_5128	68	PfISS101_4985	78

D. *P. fluorescens* Q8r1-96

Q8r1-96	Q2-87		PF-5		A506		30-84		O-6		SS101		BG33R		Pf0-1		SBW25		WH6		
ORF	Locus tag		% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	% ID	
ORF00043	PfiQ8_0202	PfiQ2_0538	34	PFL_0125	83	PfiA506_4932	34	Pchl3084_0129	84	PchlO6_0126	83	PfISS101_4985	34	PseBG33_5128	35	Pfi01_0121	87	PFLU2598	39	PFWH6_5394	34
ORF00502	PfiQ8_0637	PfiQ2_5073	95	PFL_0648	86	PfiA506_0576	85	Pchl3084_0629	88	PchlO6_0635	88	PfISS101_0606	84	PseBG33_0612	85	Pfi01_0596	86	PFLU0595	85	PFWH6_0502	84
ORF00804	PfiQ8_4827	PfiQ2_3112	45	PFL_0932	84	PfiA506_0745	83	Pchl3084_3174	44	PchlO6_0324	32	PfISS101_0775	83	PseBG33_0782	82	Pfi01_0874	85	PFLU0757	84	PFWH6_0766	83
ORF01477	PfiQ8_4192	PfiQ2_1453	92	PFL_1740	82	PfiA506_1861	79	Pchl3084_1722	85	PchlO6_1837	84	PfISS101_1822	79	PseBG33_1898	78	Pfi01_4209	85	PFLU1839	80	PFWH6_1770	81
ORF01699	PfiQ8_3969	PfiQ2_1672	86	PFL_2293	41	PfiA506_1983	40	Pchl3084_3355	39	PchlO6_3657	39	PfISS101_1938	40	PseBG33_5305	49	Pfi01_1848	53	PFLU5798	50	PFWH6_1926	39
ORF02118	PfiQ8_3550	PfiQ2_0688	82	PFL_4092	47	PfiA506_2859	79	Pchl3084_3950	47	PchlO6_4229	47	PfISS101_2880	80	PseBG33_2658	80	Pfi01_2462	86	PFLU3378	84	PFWH6_3086	79
ORF02446	PfiQ8_3242	PfiQ2_3112	89	PFL_0932	46	PfiA506_2242	77	Pchl3084_3174	68	PchlO6_4138	31	PfISS101_2136	76	PseBG33_2364	77	Pfi01_2232	84	PFLU2365	82	PFWH6_2249	76
ORF02703	PfiQ8_3000	PfiQ2_4231	21	PFL_3715	87	PfiA506_2346	84	Pchl3084_3605	86	PchlO6_0861	24	PfISS101_3074	84	PseBG33_0836	23	Pfi01_4379	24	PFLU3698	87	PFWH6_0820	23
ORF02716	PfiQ8_2987	PfiQ2_3112	23	PFL_3835	27	PfiA506_2218	38	Pchl3084_3046	78	PchlO6_3307	79	PfISS101_2109	38	PseBG33_2000	37	Pfi01_3798	41	PFLU4093	86	PFWH6_3849	81
ORF02907	PfiQ8_2798	PfiQ2_2980	89	PFL_0995	43	PfiA506_1001	42	Pchl3084_3848	80	PchlO6_4138	81	PfISS101_1043	42	PseBG33_1043	42	Pfi01_0931	43	PFLU1022	43	PFWH6_1030	40
ORF03272	PfiQ8_2430	PfiQ2_2925	28	PFL_3620	30	PfiA506_3446	24	Pchl3084_0224	23	PchlO6_3255	27	PfISS101_3463	24	PseBG33_3630	24	Pfi01_0216	24	PFLU3218	73	PFWH6_2193	78
ORF03651	PfiQ8_2057	PfiQ2_1672	40	PFL_2293	73	PfiA506_1983	57	Pchl3084_3355	82	PchlO6_3657	81	PfISS101_1938	57	PseBG33_2016	57	Pfi01_1848	41	PFLU5798	41	PFWH6_1926	58
ORF04510	PfiQ8_1239	PfiQ2_4231	85	PFL_4627	76	PfiA506_4277	72	Pchl3084_4498	81	PchlO6_4739	81	PfISS101_4358	73	PseBG33_4466	73	Pfi01_4379	85	PFLU4968	73	PFWH6_4738	72
ORF04819	PfiQ8_0935	PfiQ2_4530	88	PFL_0213	36	PfiA506_0217	35	Pchl3084_0224	36	PchlO6_0225	36	PfISS101_0233	35	PseBG33_2000	37	Pfi01_0216	35	PFLU0206	35	PFWH6_2193	24
ORF05160	PfiQ8_5164	PfiQ2_4902	85	PFL_5511	69	PfiA506_4759	70	Pchl3084_5255	79	PchlO6_5540	79	PfISS101_4814	69	PseBG33_4946	69	Pfi01_5008	81	PFLU5463	75	PFWH6_5214	69
ORF05340	PfiQ8_5352	PfiQ2_0538	92	PFL_5706	67	PfiA506_4932	65	Pchl3084_5442	67	PchlO6_5726	66	PfISS101_4985	66	PseBG33_5128	82	Pfi01_5189	69	PFLU5629	66	PFWH6_5394	65

E. *P. fluorescens* Q2-87

Q2-87	A506		% ID	30-84	% ID	O-6	% ID	Q8r1-96	% ID	BG33R	% ID	SS101	% ID	PF-5	% ID	SBW25	% ID	Pf0-1	% ID
ORF	Locus tag																		
ORF04393	PfiQ2_0538	PfiA506_4932	64	Pchl3084_5442	67	PchlO6_5726	66	PfiQ8_5352	92	PseBG33_5128	81	PfiSS101_4985	65	PFL_5706	67	PFLU5629	66	Pfi01_5189	69.7
ORF04245	PfiQ2_0688	PfiA506_2859	83	Pchl3084_3950	49	PchlO6_4229	49	PfiQ8_3550	85	PseBG33_2658	83	PfiSS101_2880	83	PFL_4092	50	PFLU3378	82	Pfi01_2462	84.7
ORF03440	PfiQ2_1453	PfiA506_1861	80	Pchl3084_1705	86	PchlO6_1837	85	PfiQ8_4192	95	PseBG33_1898	78	PfiSS101_1822	80	PFL_1740	82	PFLU1839	80	Pfi01_4209	86.8
ORF03223	PfiQ2_1672	PfiA506_1983	41	Pchl3084_3950	39	PchlO6_4229	39	PfiQ8_3969	87	PseBG33_5305	52	PfiSS101_1938	41	PFL_2293	39	PFLU5798	52	Pfi01_1848	54.8
ORF03197	PfiQ2_1695	PfiA506_1995	77	Pchl3084_3828	86	PchlO6_0989	44	PfiQ8_0202	20	PseBG33_2027	77	PfiSS101_1951	77	PFL_4039	87	PFLU1040	45	Pfi01_3784	86
ORF01916	PfiQ2_2925	PfiA506_3446	30	Pchl3084_0273	32	PchlO6_3255	90	PfiQ8_0935	26	PseBG33_3630	30	PfiSS101_3463	30	PFL_3176	30	PFLU4085	32	Pfi01_0250	32.4
ORF01913	PfiQ2_2928	PfiA506_5184	36	Pchl3084_2164	26	PchlO6_3258	87	PfiQ8_5164	25	PseBG33_3617	56	PfiSS101_3450	57	PFL_1386	47	PFLU4069	59	Pfi01_2342	36.4
ORF01860	PfiQ2_2980	PfiA506_1001	42	Pchl3084_3848	81	PchlO6_4138	82	PfiQ8_2798	89	PseBG33_1043	42	PfiSS101_1043	42	PFL_0995	43	PFLU1022	43	Pfi01_0931	43.3
ORF01721	PfiQ2_3112	PfiA506_2242	78	Pchl3084_3174	70	PchlO6_4138	31	PfiQ8_3242	90	PseBG33_2364	77	PfiSS101_2136	77	PFL_0932	47	PFLU2365	81	Pfi01_2232	82.6
ORF01583	PfiQ2_3242	PfiA506_3089	34	Pchl3084_3355	33	PchlO6_3657	32	PfiQ8_2057	32	PseBG33_2445	32	PfiSS101_3096	35	PFL_2391	35	PFLU2545	35	Pfi01_1848	33.2
ORF00560	PfiQ2_4231	PfiA506_4277	70	Pchl3084_4498	79	PchlO6_4739	79	PfiQ8_1239	86	PseBG33_4466	70	PfiSS101_4358	70	PFL_4627	75	PFLU4968	72	Pfi01_4379	83.6
ORF00254	PfiQ2_4530	PfiA506_0217	36	Pchl3084_0224	38	PchlO6_0225	38	PfiQ8_0935	90	PseBG33_0251	36	PfiSS101_0233	35	PFL_0213	37	PFLU0206	36	Pfi01_0216	36.5
ORF04571	PfiQ2_4902	PfiA506_4759	75	Pchl3084_5255	83	PchlO6_5540	82	PfiQ8_5164	89	PseBG33_4946	73	PfiSS101_4814	74	PFL_5511	68	PFLU5463	75	Pfi01_5008	80.6
ORF04750	PfiQ2_5073	PfiA506_0576	85	Pchl3084_0629	87	PchlO6_0635	87	PfiQ8_0637	95	PseBG33_0612	84	PfiSS101_0606	84	PFL_0648	86	PFLU0595	86	Pfi01_0596	86.9

F. *P. sp.* BG33R

BG33R	A506	30-84		O-6		Q8r1-96		Q2-87		SS101		Pf-5		Pf0-1		SBW25		WH6	
ORF	Locus tag	% ID		% ID		% ID		% ID		% ID		% ID		% ID		% ID		% ID	
ORF00025	PseBG33_0163	PfiA506_0139	96	Pchl3084_0129	38	PchlO6_0126	37	PfiQ8_5352	39	PfiQ2_0538	38	PfISS101_0139	96	PFL_0147	72	Pfi01_5189	38	PFLU2598	42
ORF00111	PseBG33_0251	PfiA506_3446	91	Pchl3084_0273	86	PchlO6_3255	86	PfiQ8_0935	34	PfiQ2_4530	35	PfISS101_3463	91	PFL_0213	91	Pfi01_0216	88	PFLU0206	95
ORF00191	PseBG33_0325	PfiA506_0292	94	Pchl3084_0320	78	PchlO6_0324	78	PfiQ8_4827	32	PfiQ2_3112	28	PfISS101_0311	94	PFL_0310	80	Pfi01_0293	79	PFLU0295	89
ORF00362	PseBG33_0489	PfiA506_0460	86	Pchl3084_5442	22	PchlO6_5726	22	PfiQ8_5352	23	PfiQ2_0538	22	PfISS101_0492	88	PFL_5706	22	Pfi01_0931	27	PFLU0473	91
ORF00488	PseBG33_0610	PfiA506_3017	30	Pchl3084_0627	75	PchlO6_0633	74	PfiQ8_3242	25	PfiQ2_3112	25	PfISS101_2915	31	PFL_0646	77	Pfi01_0594	77	PFLU0593	90
ORF00490	PseBG33_0612	PfiA506_0576	95	Pchl3084_0629	85	PchlO6_0635	85	PfiQ8_0637	85	PfiQ2_5073	84	PfISS101_0606	96	PFL_0648	85	Pfi01_0596	85	PFLU0595	93
ORF01166	PseBG33_3630	PfiA506_3446	97	Pchl3084_0273	97	PchlO6_0225	32	PfiQ8_0935	30	PfiQ2_4530	31	PfISS101_3463	97	PFL_0255	89	Pfi01_0250	87	PFLU4085	94
ORF01180	PseBG33_3617	PfiA506_5184	37	Pchl3084_2164	37	PchlO6_3258	57	PfiQ8_5164	25	PfiQ2_2928	55	PfISS101_3450	91	PFL_1386	47	Pfi01_2342	37	PFLU4069	94
ORF01533	PseBG33_3265	PfiA506_3446	86	Pchl3084_0273	59	PchlO6_2626	59	PfiQ8_1239	24	PfiQ2_1672	35	PfISS101_3463	88	PFL_2772	65	Pfi01_2318	64	PFLU3750	91
ORF01583	PseBG33_3219	PfiA506_2222	89	Pchl3084_3046	77	PchlO6_3307	77	PfiQ8_2987	27	PfiQ2_2980	26	PfISS101_2113	93	PFL_3835	74	Pfi01_3798	28	PFLU2562	92
ORF01737	PseBG33_3069	PfiA506_3008	91	Pchl3084_2783	72	PchlO6_3015	73	PfiQ8_2057	35	PfiQ2_0688	34	PfISS101_2361	91	PFL_3315	40	Pfi01_2583	71	PFLU2688	89
ORF01976	PseBG33_2840	PfiA506_2771	62	Pchl3084_3046	38	PchlO6_3307	39	PfiQ8_2987	40	PfiQ2_2980	24	PfISS101_2153	42	PFL_3835	28	Pfi01_3798	36	PFLU4093	39
ORF02159	PseBG33_2658	PfiA506_2859	88	Pchl3084_3950	45	PchlO6_4229	46	PfiQ8_3550	79	PfiQ2_0688	80	PfISS101_2880	88	PFL_4092	48	Pfi01_2462	82	PFLU3378	85
ORF02163	PseBG33_2654	PfiA506_2859	49	Pchl3084_3950	43	PchlO6_4229	43	PfiQ8_3550	52	PfiQ2_0688	51	PfISS101_2880	50	PFL_4092	43	Pfi01_2462	50	PFLU3378	51
ORF02313	PseBG33_2513	PfiA506_3017	94	Pchl3084_2407	81	PchlO6_2626	81	PfiQ8_3242	25	PfiQ2_3112	24	PfISS101_2915	93	PFL_2604	80	Pfi01_3318	83	PFLU2593	90
ORF02381	PseBG33_2445	PfiA506_3089	74	Pchl3084_2488	42	PchlO6_4229	42	PfiQ8_3550	38	PfiQ2_0688	38	PfISS101_3096	60	PFL_2391	70	Pfi01_2583	38	PFLU2545	90
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ORF02475	PseBG33_2355	PfiA506_0217	24	Pchl3084_0273	25	PchlO6_0225	24	PfiQ8_0935	33	PfiQ2_2925	23	PfISS101_3463	24	PFL_0255	25	Pfi01_0250	26	PFLU4085	27
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ORF02799	PseBG33_2027	PfiA506_1995	91	Pchl3084_3828	77	PchlO6_0989	43	PfiQ8_0202	22	PfiQ2_1695	75	PfISS101_1951	91	PFL_4039	81	Pfi01_3784	81	PFLU1040	44
ORF02812	PseBG33_2016	PfiA506_1983	93	Pchl3084_3355	57	PchlO6_3657	56	PfiQ8_2057	56	PfiQ2_1672	39	PfISS101_1938	92	PFL_2293	57	Pfi01_1848	43	PFLU5798	43
ORF02828	PseBG33_2000	PfiA506_2222	38	Pchl3084_3659	39	PchlO6_3952	39	PfiQ8_2987	38	PfiQ2_3112	23	PfISS101_2109	95	PFL_3835	26	Pfi01_3798	61	PFLU3566	59
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ORF02965	PseBG33_0836	PfiA506_0798	92	Pchl3084_0855	83	PchlO6_0861	82	PfiQ8_3242	26	PfiQ2_3112	25	PfISS101_0832	89	PFL_0864	84	Pfi01_0798	66	PFLU0295	30
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ORF03178	PseBG33_1043	PfiA506_1001	93	Pchl3084_3848	42	PchlO6_4138	42	PfiQ8_2798	43	PfiQ2_2980	43	PfISS101_1043	92	PFL_0995	79	Pfi01_0931	75	PFLU1022	86
ORF03196	PseBG33_1061	PfiA506_1022	95	Pchl3084_0981	87	PchlO6_0989	87	PfiQ8_2987	23	PfiQ2_1695	43	PfISS101_1061	96	PFL_0982	89	Pfi01_0923	89	PFLU1040	96
ORF03204	PseBG33_1069	PfiA506_1030	93	Pchl3084_3950	21	PchlO6_0633	21	PfiQ8_3242	24	PfiQ2_2980	25	PfISS101_1069	93	PFL_0992	79	Pfi01_2232	25	PFLU1022	26
ORF03236	PseBG33_1099	PfiA506_1059	92	Pchl3084_4710	84	PchlO6_4957	85	PfiQ8_1239	25	PfiQ2_4902	25	PfISS101_1097	92	PFL_4912	88	Pfi01_0594	41	PFLU1087	94
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ORF04054	PseBG33_1898	PfiA506_0808	91	Pchl3084_2974	79	PchlO6_0225	80	PfiQ8_4192	76	PfiQ2_1453	76	PfISS101_0843	91	PFL_1740	80	Pfi01_4209	77	PFLU1839	93
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ORF04786	PseBG33_4946	PfiA506_4759	93	Pchl3084_5255	73	PchlO6_5540	73	PfiQ8_5164	72	PfiQ2_4902	72	PfISS101_4814	93	PFL_5511	70	Pfi01_5008	76	PFLU5463	90
ORF04959	PseBG33_5128	PfiA506_4932	67	Pchl3084_5442	68	PchlO6_5726	67	PfiQ8_5352	83	PfiQ2_0538	82	PfISS101_4985	69	PFL_5706	68	Pfi01_5189	69	PFLU5629	67
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G. *P. fluorescens* SBW25

SBW25	A506	% ID	30-84	% ID	O-6	% ID	Q8r1-96	% ID	Q2-87	% ID	BG33R	% ID	SS101	% ID	Pf0-1	% ID	Pf-5	%ID
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PFLU1022	PfIA506_1001	82	Pchl3084_3848	41	PchlO6_4138	41	PfIQ8_2798	42	PfIQ2_2980	42	PseBG33_1043	82	PfISS101_1043	82	PfI01_0931	78	PFL_0995	78
PFLU1040	PfIA506_1022	93	Pchl3084_0981	87	PchlO6_0989	87	PfIQ8_2987	23	PfIQ2_1695	43	PseBG33_1061	93	PfISS101_1061	94	PfI01_0923	89	PFL_0982	89
PFLU1087	PfIA506_1059	93	Pchl3084_4710	86	PchlO6_4957	86	PfIQ8_0637	21	PfIQ2_5073	22	PseBG33_1099	92	PfISS101_1097	93	PfI01_0594	41.38	PFL_4912	87
PFLU1405	PfIA506_1363	72	Pchl3084_1354	67	PchlO6_1431	67	PfIQ8_1239	22	PfIQ2_4231	22	PseBG33_1530	72	PfISS101_1406	73	PfI01_3784	22	PFL_1371	68
PFLU1839	PfIA506_1861	89	Pchl3084_1705	78	PchlO6_1837	78	PfIQ8_4192	75	PfIQ2_1453	76	PseBG33_1898	88	PfISS101_1822	89	PfI01_4209	79	PFL_1740	81
PFLU2026	PfIA506_0217	89	Pchl3084_0224	85	PchlO6_0225	85	PfIQ8_0935	34	PfIQ2_4530	35	PseBG33_0251	89	PfISS101_0233	89	PfI01_0216	88	PFL_0213	91
PFLU2202	PfIA506_5184	37	Pchl3084_2164	24	PchlO6_3258	43	PfIQ8_2798	22	PfIQ2_2928	44	PseBG33_3617	40	PfISS101_3450	41	PfI01_2342	33	PFL_1386	44
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PFLU2545	PfIA506_3089	73	Pchl3084_2488	43	PchlO6_4229	41	PfIQ8_3550	38	PfIQ2_1672	34	PseBG33_2445	88	PfISS101_3096	59	PfI01_2583	39	PFL_2391	74.5
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PFLU2593	PfIA506_3017	91	Pchl3084_2407	80	PchlO6_2626	80	PfIQ8_3242	25	PfIQ2_3112	24	PseBG33_2513	90	PfISS101_2915	90	PfI01_3318	82.14	PFL_2604	81.6
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PFLU0295	PfIA506_0292	88	Pchl3084_0320	79	PchlO6_0324	78	PfIQ8_4827	32	PfIQ2_3112	28	PseBG33_0325	87	PfISS101_0311	88	PfI01_0293	81	PFL_0310	81
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PFLU3643	PfIA506_0808	28	Pchl3084_2974	85	PchlO6_5540	26	PfIQ8_1239	23	PfIQ2_4231	23	PseBG33_0847	28	PfISS101_0843	28	PfI01_5008	25	PFL_5169	34
PFLU3698	PfIA506_2346	89	Pchl3084_3605	86	PchlO6_0861	24	PfIQ8_3000	85	PfIQ2_4231	23	PseBG33_0836	22	PfISS101_3074	89	PfI01_4379	23.34	PFL_3715	87.9
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PFLU4093	PfIA506_2218	37	Pchl3084_3046	83	PchlO6_3307	83	PfIQ8_2987	83	PfIQ2_2980	24	PseBG33_2000	39	PfISS101_2109	37	PfI01_3798	43	PFL_3835	28
PFLU4968	PfIA506_4277	81	Pchl3084_4498	74	PchlO6_4739	73	PfIQ8_1239	72	PfIQ2_4231	70	PseBG33_4466	83	PfISS101_4358	81	PfI01_4379	71	PFL_4627	78
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PFLU0757	PfIA506_0745	89	Pchl3084_3174	44	PchlO6_0324	31	PfIQ8_4827	83	PfIQ2_3112	47	PseBG33_0782	89	PfISS101_0775	89	PfI01_0874	83	PFL_0932	82

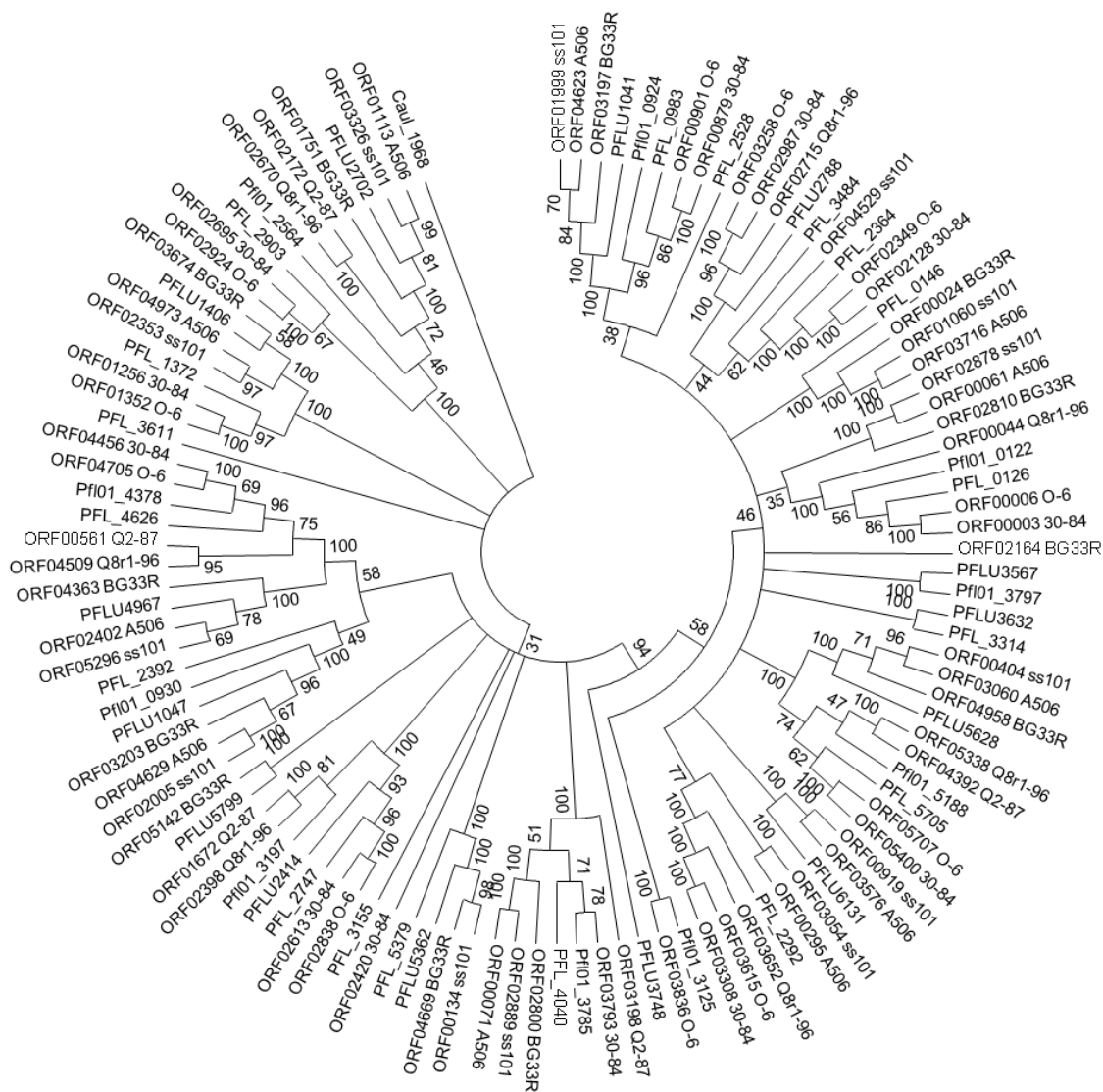
H. *P. fluorescens* A506

A506	30-84		O-6		Q8r1-96		Q2-87		BG33R		SS101		PF-5		PFO-1		SBW25		WH6		
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ORF00072	PfIA506_1995	Pchl3084_3828	78	PchlO6_0989	43	PfIQ8_0202	22	PfIQ2_1695	76	PseBG33_2027	93	PfISS101_1951	96	PFL_4039	80	PfIO1_3784	80.6	PFLU1040	45	PFWH6_1047	43
ORF00294	PfIA506_2218	Pchl3084_3046	39	PchlO6_3307	39	PfIQ8_2987	39	PfIQ2_0538	24	PseBG33_2840	42	PfISS101_2109	95	PFL_3835	29	PfIO1_3798	37.8	PFLU4093	39	PFWH6_2186	82
ORF00298	PfIA506_2222	Pchl3084_3046	42	PchlO6_3307	42	PfIQ8_2987	41	PfIQ2_2980	27	PseBG33_2840	43	PfISS101_2113	100	PFL_3835	27	PfIO1_3798	41.1	PFLU4093	41	PFWH6_2190	93
ORF00319	PfIA506_2242	Pchl3084_3174	72	PchlO6_4138	30	PfIQ8_3242	78	PfIQ2_3112	77	PseBG33_2364	92	PfISS101_2136	94	PFL_0932	45	PfIO1_2232	86	PFLU2365	91	PFWH6_2249	88
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ORF01128	PfIA506_3009	Pchl3084_2783	72	PchlO6_3015	71	PfIQ8_2057	35	PfIQ2_0688	33	PseBG33_3069	91	PfISS101_2361	96	PFL_3315	41	PfIO1_2583	71	PFLU2688	88	PFWH6_3086	33
ORF01138	PfIA506_3018	Pchl3084_2407	82	PchlO6_2626	82	PfIQ8_4827	25	PfIQ2_3112	24	PseBG33_2513	94	PfISS101_2915	97	PFL_2604	81	PfIO1_3318	85.2	PFLU2593	91	PFWH6_0820	25
ORF01212	PfIA506_3090	Pchl3084_2488	43	PchlO6_4229	40	PfIQ8_3550	36	PfIQ2_0688	36	PseBG33_2445	72	PfISS101_3096	59	PFL_2391	73	PfIO1_2583	40.2	PFLU2545	75	PFWH6_1926	33
ORF01265	PfIA506_3140	Pchl3084_2519	57	PchlO6_2744	57	PfIQ8_1239	28	PfIQ2_1453	33	PseBG33_3265	84	PfISS101_3147	85	PFL_2772	66	PfIO1_2318	65.2	PFLU3750	90	PFWH6_3525	79
ORF01571	PfIA506_3447	Pchl3084_0707	87	PchlO6_0225	32	PfIQ8_0935	30	PfIQ2_4530	31	PseBG33_3630	95	PfISS101_3463	97	PFL_0255	89	PfIO1_0250	88.6	PFLU4085	94	PFWH6_2193	24
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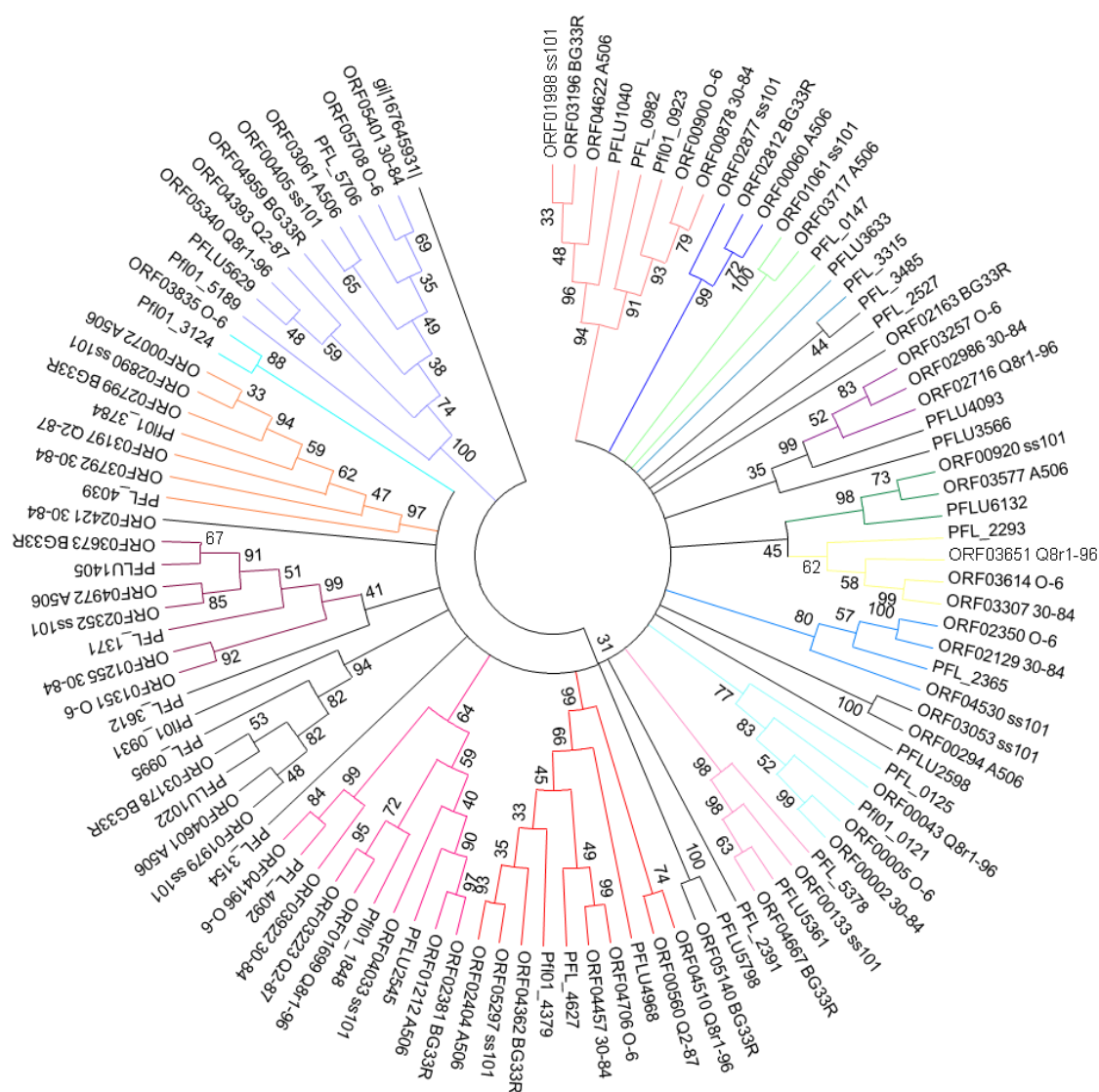
I. *P. fluorescens* SS101

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ORF04530	PfISS101_3593	PfIA506_1363	28	Pchl3084_2211	80	PchlO6_2435	80	PfIQ8_1239	29	PfIQ2_4231	33	PseBG33_4831	28	PFL_2365	80	PFLU5361	29	PfI01_4379	33
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Appendix 3. Neighbor Joining analysis of the anti-ECF sigma factors of the *P. fluorescens* group. Branches with bootstrap values less than 30 are collapsed.



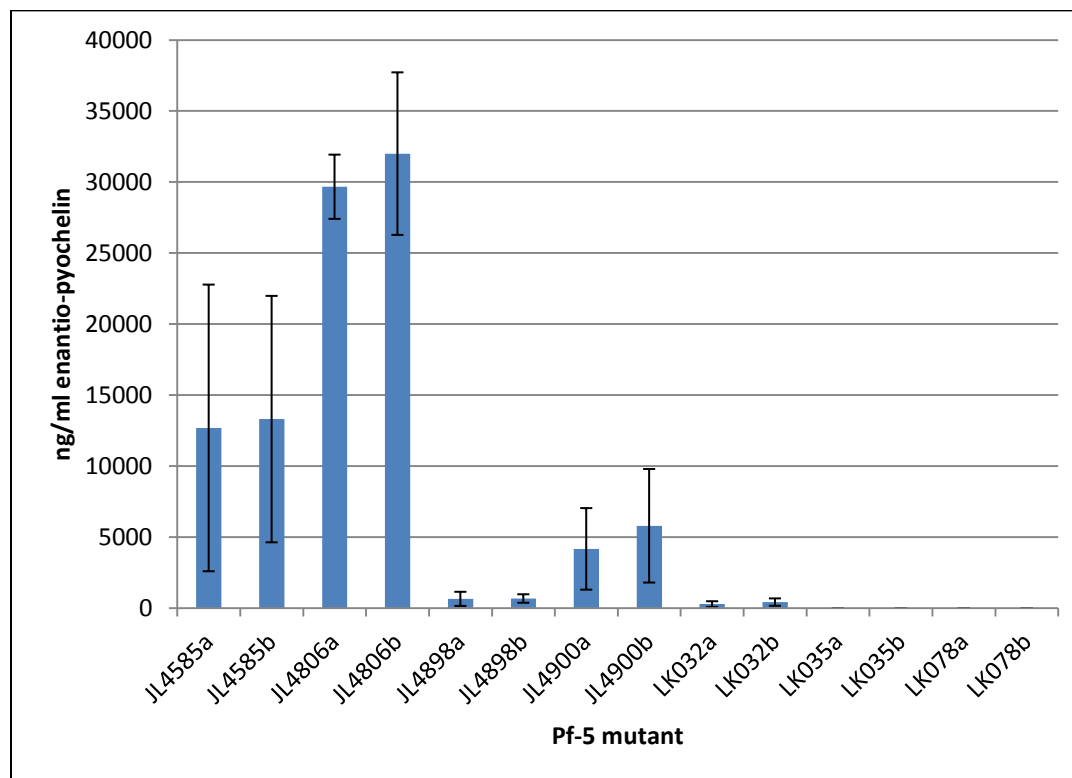
Appendix 4. Neighbor Joining analysis of the N-terminal signaling domain of the TBBDs of the *P. fluorescens* group. Branches are colored to indicate related TBBDs. Branches with bootstrap values less than 30 are collapsed.



Appendix 5. HPLC analysis of enantio-pyochelin production by Pf-5 siderophore mutants.

Lab #	phenotype, mutant	Enantio-pyochelin (ng/ml)			Average	St dev
		10/6/2010	10/21/2010	11/17/2010		
JL4585a	Wt	23665.1	3813.3	10583.9	12687.433	10091.69
JL4585b	Wt	20697.1	3755.9	15472.7	13308.567	8675.464
JL4806a	<i>pvd-</i> , <i>pvdI</i>	28302.4	32278	28421.3	29667.233	2261.772
JL4806b	<i>pvd-</i> , <i>pvdI</i>		27953.1	36047	32000.05	5723.252
JL4898a	reduced epch, <i>pchC</i>	602.2	182.3	1174	652.83333	497.7851
JL4898b	reduced epch, <i>pchC</i>	752.4	345.3	931	676.23333	300.1868
JL4900a	<i>pvd-</i> reduced epch, <i>pvdI</i> <i>pchC</i>	5865.9	856.3	5791.7	4171.3	2871.114
JL4900b	<i>pvd-</i> reduced epch, <i>pvdI</i> <i>pchC</i>	8565.6	1214.6	7614.5	5798.2333	3997.927
LK032a	<i>pvd-</i> reduced epch, <i>pvdI</i> <i>pchA</i>	374.6	56.7	423.5	284.93333	199.1624
LK032b	<i>pvd-</i> reduced epch, <i>pvdI</i> <i>pchA</i>	240.2	present	608.7	424.45	260.5688
LK035a	<i>pvd-</i> <i>pch-</i> , <i>pvdI-pchA</i> <i>pchC</i>	not run	0	0	0	0
LK035b	<i>pvd-</i> <i>pch-</i> , <i>pvdI-pchA</i> <i>pchC</i>	not run	0	0	0	0
LK078a	<i>pch-</i> , <i>pchA</i>	0	0	0	0	0
LK078b	<i>pch-</i> , <i>pchA</i>	0	0	0	0	0

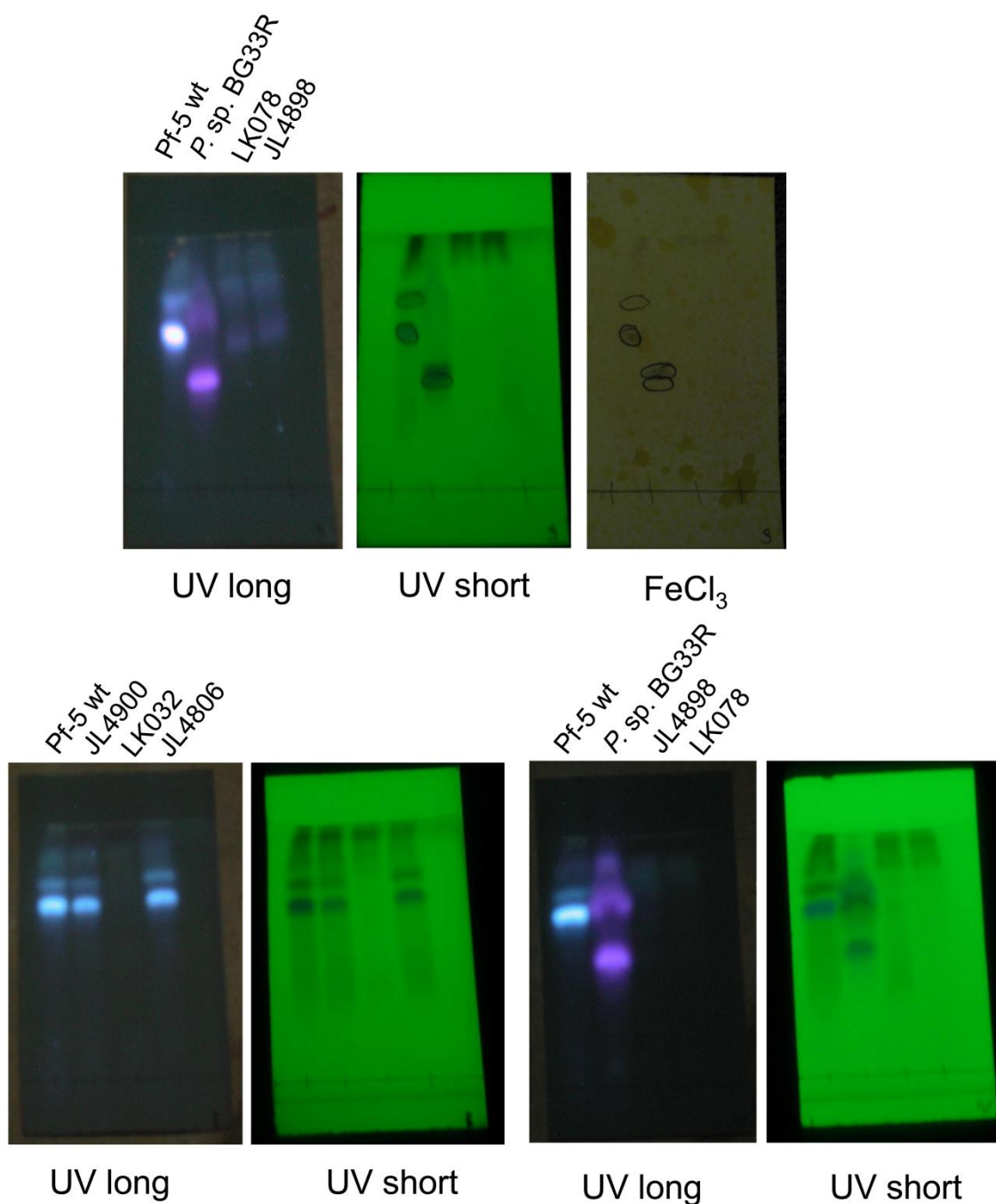
Appendix 5. Continued. Graph of enantio-pyochelin production of Pf-5 siderophore mutants detected by HPLC.



Appendix 6. Secondary metabolite production in Pf-5 siderophore mutants detected by HPLC

Lab #	phenotype, mutant	Pyoluteorin (ng/ml)			Phizoxin (ng/ml)		Orfamide (ng/ml)		
		10/6/2010	10/21/2010	11/17/2010	10/6/2010	10/21/2010	10/6/2010	10/21/2010	11/17/2010
JL4585a	Wt	701.6	288.7	863.4	171.5	not reported	18874.7	33508.1	23692.3
JL4585b	Wt	804	309.9	807.6	174.7	not reported	16861	27887	20307
JL4806a	pvd-, <i>pvdI</i>	1470.1	642.4	1332.5	124.9	not reported	11721.4	18717.5	16717.3
JL4806b	pvd-, <i>pvdI</i>		544.4	1483.3		not reported		19126.8	14254.6
JL4898a	reduced epch, <i>pchC</i>	1381	900.6	1126.1	60.9	not reported	15235.4	19162.3	15161.7
JL4898b	reduced epch, <i>pchC</i>	1526.6	1127.8	950.7	41.1	not reported	16934.6	21832.5	19822
JL4900a	pvd- reduced epch, <i>pvdI-pchC</i>	1802.3	1706.1	2891.2	119	not reported	14818.1	20044.3	12756.1
JL4900b	pvd- reduced epch, <i>pvdI-pchC</i>	1944.4	2983.9	3228.1	139.9	not reported	13188.6	16725.9	9134.2
LK032a	pvd- reduced epch, <i>pvdI-pchA</i>	5204.8	928.9	2714.5	59.5	not reported	10792	18424.4	4145.5
LK032b	pvd- reduced epch, <i>pvdI-pchA</i>	4565.6	1144.6	2854.9	41	not reported	7309.7	14159.3	3508.2
LK035a	pvd- epch-, <i>pvdI-pchA-pchC</i>	not run	782	782	not run	not reported	not run	15935.1	15935.1
LK035b	pvd- epch-, <i>pvdI pchA pchC</i>	not run	844.3	3040.8	not run	not reported	not run	16667.2	1717.5
LK078a	epch-, <i>pchA</i>	1050.1	457.4	1136.3	103.1	not reported	14601.8	24105.1	19173.5
LK078b	epch-, <i>pchA</i>	964.9	670.4	1205.4	87.6	not reported	16686.6	23090	13391

Appendix 7. Thin layer chromatography of extracts from Pf-5, Pf-5 siderophore mutants and *P. sp.* BG33R for the detection of enantio-pyochelin in Pf-5 and the secondary siderophore in BG33R. LK078 ($\Delta pchA$), JL4898 ($\Delta pchC$), LK032 ($\Delta pvdI-pchA$), JL4806 ($\Delta pvdI$).



Appendix 8. Crossfeeding analysis of double *fpv* mutants in the $\Delta pvdI$ -*pchC* background of Pf-5.

Feeding Strains	Pf-5 mutants ^a														
	<i>fpvV</i> , <i>fpvY</i>	<i>fpvZ</i> , <i>fpvV</i>	<i>fpvZ</i> , <i>fpvY</i>	<i>fpvU</i> , <i>fpvV</i>	<i>fpvU</i> , <i>fpvY</i>	<i>fpvU</i> , <i>fpvZ</i>	<i>fpvX</i> , <i>fpvY</i>	<i>fpvX</i> , <i>fpvZ</i>	<i>fpvX</i> , <i>fpvU</i>	<i>fpvX</i> , <i>fpvV</i>	<i>fpvW</i> , <i>fpvZ</i>	<i>fpvW</i> , <i>fpvV</i>	<i>fpvW</i> , <i>fpvX</i>	<i>fpvW</i> , <i>fpvU</i>	<i>fpvW</i> , <i>fpvY</i>
<i>P. fluorescens</i> A506	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. fluorescens</i> WCS374	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. fluorescens</i> DSM50106	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> LESB58	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. fluorescens</i> CLR711	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. fluorescens</i> CTRp112	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. costantinii</i> CFBP5705	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. fluorescens</i> A6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. putida</i> CFML90-40	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. fluorescens</i> Pf0-1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> ATCC 27853	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> Pa6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> 7NSK2	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+