Open Access Full Text Article

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacter hormaechei STII03 with IMP-26 Carbapenemase and ESBL Gene bla_{SHV-178}

This article was published in the following Dove Press journal: Infection and Drug Resistance

Jian-Jun Gou^{1,*} Na Liu^{1,2,*} Li-Hua Guo² Hao Xu² Tao Lv² Xiao Yu² Yun-Bo Chen² Xiao-Bing Guo¹ Yu-Ting Rao¹ Bei-Wen Zheng²

¹Department of Laboratory Medicine, The First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou 450052, People's Republic of China; ²Collaborative Innovation Center for Diagnosis and Treatment of Infectious Diseases, State Key Laboratory for Diagnosis and Treatment of Infectious Diseases, The First Affiliated Hospital, College of Medicine, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310003, People's Republic of China

*These authors contributed equally to this work

Correspondence: Jian-Jun Gou; Bei-Wen Zheng Tel +86 371 6627 8237; +86 571 8723 6423 Fax +86 371 6691 3569; +86 571 8723 6421 Email jianjung@zzu.edu.cn; zhengbw@zju.edu.cn



Purpose: To investigate the occurrence and genetic characteristics of the bla_{IMP-26} -positive plasmid from a multidrug-resistant clinical isolate, *Enterobacter hormaechei* L51.

Methods: Species identification was determined by MALDI-TOF MS and Sanger sequencing. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing was performed by the agar dilution and broth microdilution. Whole-genome sequencing was conducted using Illumina HiSeq 4000-PE150 and PacBio Sequel platforms, and the genome was annotated by the RAST annotation server. The ANI analysis of genomes was performed using OAT. Phylogenetic reconstruction and analyses were performed using the Harvest suite based on the core-genome SNPs of 61 publicly available *E. hormaechei* genomes.

Results: The *E. hormaechei* L51 genome consists of a 5,018,729 bp circular chromosome and a 343,918 bp conjugative IncHI2/2A plasmid pEHZJ1 encoding bla_{IMP-26} which surrounding genetic context was *intI1-bla*_{IMP-26}-ltrA-*qacEA1-sul1*. A new sequence type (ST1103) was assigned for the isolate L51 which was resistant to cephalosporins, carbapenems, but sensitive to piperacillin-tazobactam, amikacin, tigecycline, trimethoprimsulfamethoxazole and colistin. Phylogenetic analysis demonstrated that *E. hormaechei* L51 belonged to the same subspecies as the reference strain *E. hormaechei* SCEH020042, however 18,248 divergent SNP were identified. Resistance genes in pEHZJ1 including *aac* (*3*)-*IIc*, *aac*(6')-*IIc*, *bla*_{SHV-178}, *bla*_{DHA-1}, *bla*_{IMP-26}, *ereA2*, *catII*, *fosA5*, *qnrB4*, *tet(D)*, *sul1* and *dfrA19*.

Conclusion: In our study, we identified a conjugative IncHI2/2A plasmid carrying bla_{IMP-26} and $bla_{SHV-178}$ in *E. hormaechei* ST1103, a novel multidrug-resistant strain isolated from China, and describe the underlying resistance mechanisms of the strain and detailed genetic context of mega plasmid pEHZJ1.

Keywords: Enterobacter hormaechei, multidrug-resistant, bla_{IMP-26}, IncHI2/2A, genomics

Introduction

Enterobacter hormaechei is a species of gram-negative bacterium, belonging to the *Enterobacter cloacae complex* (ECC) and intestinal flora 75,¹ which can exist in the intestinal tract of humans and animals, and is an opportunistic infectious pathogen. ECC was first described as nosocomial pathogens in the 1970s.² Then, due to the dissemination of ESBLs and carbapenemases, ECC has become the third crucial drug-resistant pathogen in *Enterobacteriaceae*.³ In addition, it is one of the most common species that produces IMPs in *Enterobacteriaceae*.⁴ As the predominant species and the most commonly isolated nosocomial pathogen of ECC,^{5–7} the infection rate of

Infection and Drug Resistance 2020:13 597-605

© 2020 Gou et al. This work is published and licensed by Dove Medical Press Limited. The full terms of this license are available at https://www.dovepress.com/terms.php and incorporate the creative Commons Attribution – Non Commercial (upported, v3.0) License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-mc/3.0/). By accessing the work you hereby accept the tirms. Non-commercial uses of the work are permitted without any further permission from Dove Medical Press Limited, provided the work is properly attributed. For permission for commercial use of this work, please see paragraphs 4.2 and 5 of our Terms (http://www.dovepress.com/terms.php). *E. hormaechei* is increasing year by year.⁸ So far, ESBLs and carbapenemases were detected in *E. hormaechei*, including *Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemases-2 (KPC-2),⁹ KPC-4,⁷ New Delhi metallo-β-lactamase-1 (NDM-1),¹⁰ NDM-7,¹¹ German-Imipenemase-1(GIM-1),¹² extended spectrum beta-lactamases CTX-M-(15, 9, 2),⁹ SHV-12, TEM-1B,⁷ and so on. However, detection of Metallo-β-lactamase IMP-26 has not been described.

IMP-26 was firstly reported in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* isolated from Singapore in 2008, which was similar to IMP-4 and this sequence was previously stored in the GenBank database as IMP-4, from an *Acinetobacter calcoaceticus* strain (No. ABC24668.1).¹³ Since then, this metallo- β -lactamase type has appeared in China,^{14,15} Australia, Philippines,¹⁶ Malaysia¹⁷ and Vietnam¹⁸ in succession. However, these reports indicated that IMP-26 is located on the chromosome or without reference to its location, and only two reports ever described a copy of *bla*_{IMP-26} on the plasmid.^{19,20}

Here, we identified a clinical isolate of *E. hormaechei* L51 producing both bla_{IMP-26} and $bla_{SHV-178}$, and described the complete sequence of a conjugative IncHI2/2A plasmid. In addition, we performed phylogenetic analyses, S1-PFGE and southern blotting and drug resistance analysis to reveal the homology of isolate and the potential transmission mechanisms of bla_{IMP-26} .

Materials and Methods

Bacterial Isolate and Susceptibility Testing

The isolate L51 was discovered in a routine screening of the intestinal colonization by bacteria resistant to carbapenems in the First Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University (FAHZU) in Hangzhou since 2016. The species identity of the bacteria strain was determined using matrix-assisted laser desorption/ ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS) (Bruker, Bremen, Germany) and Sanger sequencing. The MIC values were determined using the agar dilution method and broth microdilution method. Results were interpreted following the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) standards,²¹ except tigecycline and colistin which were interpreted according to the 2018 EUCAST clinical breakpoints (http://www.eucast.org/clinical_breakpoints/).

MLST, Conjugation Experiments, and SI-PFGE-Southern Blot Hybridization

Multilocus sequence typing (MLST) was conducted as described previously.²² New alleles and sequence type were submitted to the MLST database and approved by PubMLST

(<u>http://pubmlst.org/ecloacae</u>). Conjugation experiments were carried out by co-incubation of *E. hormaechei* L51 and recipient *E. coli* EC600 at a 1:10 ratio in the LB broth at a temperature of 25°C. The transconjugants were coated on Mueller-Hinton medium with rifampicin (100 mg/L) and meropenem (2 mg/L). Colonies were selected from the selective medium and verified as *E. coli* EC600, then screened for bla_{IMP-26} by PCR and sequencing. The size and number of plasmids of *E. hormaechei* L51 were identified by S1-PFGE, as described previously,^{23,24} in addition, the location of bla_{IMP-26} was demonstrated according to southern blot and hybridization experiments using DIG-labeled bla_{IMP} -probe.

Whole-Genome Sequencing and Bioinformatics Analysis

Genomic DNA was extracted using the Bacterial DNA Kit (Omega Bio-Tek, USA). Library construction was performed using a 350-bp small fragment genomic DNA library²⁵ and a 10-kb fragment library. The sequencing was conducted using the Illumina HiSeq 4000-PE150 and PacBio Sequel platforms (Beijing Novogene Bioinformatics Technology Company, China), to obtain short-read data and long-read data, respectively. Hybrid assembly was performed using Unicycler v0.4.2 producing an Illumina assembly graph by short reads and building bridges by long reads.²⁶ Genomic sequences were annotated using RAST 2.0 (http://rast.nmpdr.org/). The Average Nucleotide Identity (ANI) values were calculated using OAT (Orthologous Average Nucleotide Identity Tool) and the proposed cut-off for species demarcation was 95~96%. The resistome analysis was carried out using CARD (https:// card.mcmaster.ca/). Replicon type of plasmid was determined by Plasmid Finder 2.0 (https://cge.cbs.dtu.dk/services/ PlasmidFinder/), insertion sequence (IS) elements and transposons were identified using ISfinder (http://www-is.biotoul. fr/), prophages were predicted by PHAST (http://phast.wishar tlab.com/) and CRISPR arrays were identified using CRISPR Finder (http://crispr.i2bc.paris-saclay.fr/). Plasmid sequence alignment to the GenBank database was performed using BLASTn (https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi). A circular map of the plasmids pEHZJ1 and pIMP26 was plotted using the BLAST Ring Image Generator (BRIG).²⁷

Phylogenetic Analysis

A phylogenic tree was constructed using the Harvest suite, including Parsnp, a fast core-genome multi-aligner, and Gingr, a dynamic visual platform based on core-genome SNPs approach²⁸ that incorporates 61 publicly available

E. hormaechei genomes (<u>Table S1</u>). The genome of *E. hormaechei* SCEH020042 (NZ_CP028538.1) was used as the reference isolate.

GenBank Accession Numbers

The complete genome sequence of *E. hormaechei* L51 has been deposited to GenBank under the accession CP033102-CP033103.

Results

Isolation and Identification of E. hormaechei L51 Harboring bla_{IMP-26} and

bla_{SHV-178}

A female patient, 16-year-old, was admitted to the department of gastroenterology of FAHZU in March 2016 and was diagnosed with Crohn disease. The patient had abdominal pain for more than 2 months. After admission, the amount of excrement of stool was very small, and it was mainly mushy. Stool was collected at the time of admission examination, then a strain of *Enterobacteriaceae* was isolated from the selection medium with meropenem (2mg/L) and designated as L51. The isolate was confirmed as *E. hormaechei subsp. hoffmannii* harboring *bla*_{IMP-26} and *bla*_{SHV-178} by MALDI-TOF MS and ANI analysis.

Antimicrobial Susceptibility Profiles

AST revealed that the strain was resistant to amoxicillinclavulanate, cefotaxime, ceftazidime, cefepime, meropenem, imipenem, ertapenem, aztreonam, gentamicin, tobramycin, ciprofloxacin, tetracycline, chloramphenicol and nitrofurantoin, and was intermediate to levofloxacin and fosfomycin. Among them, resistance to cefotaxime, ceftazidime, tetracycline and chloramphenicol was greater than 128 mg/L. In addition, the strain was sensitive to piperacillin-tazobactam, amikacin, tigecycline, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole and colistin (Table 1).

Molecular Characteristics

PCR and sequencing further demonstrated the presence of bla_{IMP-26} in *E. hormaechei* L51. Based on sequence analysis of seven housekeeping genes, L51 was assigned to a new sequence type ST1103 (59-47-new338-new379-70-new146 -6). The genome of L51 consisted of a circular chromosome of 5,018,729 bp and a plasmid of 343,918 bp. The GC content of chromosomes and plasmids was 54.8% and 48.4%, respectively. Four phages were found on the chromosome and two were found on the plasmid. In addition, two CRISPR arrays

Table I	Antimicrobial	Susceptibility	Profile	of	Enterobacter	hor-
maechei	L5 I					

Drug Class	Antimicrobial Drug	MIC (mg/L)	R/I/S
Penicillins	Amoxicillin-clavulanate	128/64	R
	Piperacillin-tazobactam ^a	16/4	S
Cephalosporins	Cefotaxime	≥128	R
	Ceftazidime	≥128	R
	Cefepime	16	R
	Cefpirome	32	R
Carbapenems	Meropenem	8	R
	Imipenem	8	R
	Ertapenem	8	R
Monobactams	Aztreonam	128	R
Aminoglycosides	Gentamicin	128	R
	Amikacin	2	S
	Tobramycin	16	R
Fluoroquinolones	Ciprofloxacin	1	R
	Levofloxacin	0.5	1
Tetracyclines	Tetracycline	≥128	R
	Tigecycline	1	S
Others	Trimethoprim-	≥8	S
	sulfamethoxazole		
	Chloramphenicol	≥128	R
	Nitrofurantoin	32	R
	Fosfomycin	128	I
	Colistin	0.5	S

Note: a Tazobactam at a fixed concentration of 4mg/L.

Abbreviations: R, resistant; I, intermediary; S, susceptible.

were identified on the chromosome (Table S2). A large number of drug-resistant genes were found in *E. hormaechei* L51, of these, 15 were encoded in the plasmid (Table 2). The phylogenetic analysis of 61 *E. hormaechei* isolates (Figure 1) showed that various subspecies of *E. hormaechei* were separately aggregated, and *E. hormaechei* L51 and the reference isolate *E. hormaechei* SCEH020042 belonged to *E. hormaechei subsp. hoffmannii*. However, some *E. hormaechei subsp. steigerwaltii isolates* and some *E. hormaechei subsp. xiangfangensis* isolates were classified in the same cluster. In addition, 18,248 SNPs were identified between *E. hormaechei* L51 and the reference strain *E. hormaechei* SCEH020042.

Characteristics of IncHI2/2A Plasmid pEHZJI

S1-PFGE and southern blot hybridization confirmed that the mega plasmid, pEHZJ1, contained bla_{IMP-26} (Figure 2). pEHZJ1 was 343,918 bp in length, with 318 CDSs and an average GC content of 48.4%. Replicon typing indicated that pEHZJ1 belonged to the IncHI2/2A plasmid. Conjugation experiments revealed that the transmission of bla_{IMP-26} from *E. hormaechei* L51 into *E. Coli* 600 was successful. pEHZJ1 carried a collection of replication initiation and conjugative

Drug Class	Coding Genes	Gene Family, Description	Position
Aminoglycoside	aac(3)-llc	AAC(3)	297,252–298,061
	aac(6')-llc	AAC(6')	300,146–300,727
Beta-lactamase	bla _{SHV-178}	SHV beta-lactamase	270,538–271,398
	bla _{DHA-1}	DHA beta-lactamase	278,802–279,941
	bla _{TEM-1}	TEM beta-lactamase	117,616–118,476
	bla _{IMP-26}	IMP beta-lactamase	130,800–131,540
Macrolide	ereA2	Macrolide esterase	299,713–299,940
Streptogramin	mrx mph(A)	Macrolide phosphotransferase (MPH)	90,384–91,622 91,619–92,524
Phenicol	catll	Chloramphenicol acetyltransferase (CAT)	261,382–262,023
Fosfomycin	fosA5	Fosfomycin thiol transferase	142,659–143,078
Fluoroquinolone	qnrB4	Quinolone resistance protein (qnr)	284,062–284,709
Tetracycline	tet(D)	Major facilitator superfamily (MFS) antibiotic efflux pump	258,586–259,770
Sulphonamide	sul I	Sulfonamide resistant sul	293,427–294,266
Trimethoprim	dfrA19	Trimethoprim resistant dihydrofolate reductase dfr	128,462–129,031

Table 2 Antibiotic Resistance Genes in Plasmid of Enterobacter hormaechei L5 I

transfer assembly proteins (tra-par-trh-rep region) and transcriptional regulators (padR, tetR, merR, lysR, ygbI, ycjW) and a large number of insertion sequences (ISs), which together constituted the structural backbone of the plasmid. In addition, the plasmid contained tellurium (~15 kb), mercury (~4 kb), arsenic (~4.8 kb) operon that confers resistance to tellurium, mercury and arsenic, and the copies of higA and higB which encode toxin-antitoxin system proteins. pEHZJ1 also contained two-large MDR regions (MDR-1 and MDR-2) of ~46 kb and ~52 kb, respectively. In MDR-1 and MDR-2 regions, there were two copies of class 1 integron and numerous antibiotic resistance genes including to beta-lactam (bla_{SHV-178}, *bla*_{DHA-1}, *bla*_{TEM-1}, *bla*_{IMP-26}), to aminoglycoside (*aac(3)-IIc*, aac(6')-IIc), to tetracycline (tet(D)), to chloramphenicol (catII), to fosfomycin (fosA5), to fluoroquinolone (qnrB4), to sulphonamide (sul1) and to trimethoprim (dfrA19).

Class I Integron Carrying *bla_{IMP-26}* Located in MDR-I Region of pEHZJI

In MDR-1 region of pEHZJ1, a class 1 integron carrying gene cassette contained bla_{IMP-26} , and a group II intron reverse transcriptase. And it was bracketed by ISs (IS*110*, IS5, IS6 and IS4) and contained transposons belonging to the Tn3 family (Figure 3). Moreover, the 5'-conserved segment (5'-CS) of the integron was adjacent to a resistance gene (*dfr19*), and the 3'-CS contained two coding sequences-*qacE* $\Delta 1$ and *sul1* (*orf5* was absent) and was adjacent to *fosA5*. The MDR-2 region contained

another class 1 integron carrying gene cassette aac(6')-IIc-ereA2-aac(3)-IIc-ereA2, which was inserted into an IS1247 backbone. For the integron in MDR-2, its 5'-CS was adjoining to IS15DIV and its 3'-CS region contained $qacE\Delta l$ and sull. The genes surrounding bla_{IMP-26} in pEHZJ1 were identical to pIMP26 (accession: MH399264), but different from *bla*_{IMP-4} in pEI1573 (accession: JX101693). In this study, *bla*_{IMP-26} or *bla*_{IMP-4} in pEHZJ1, pIMP26 or pEI1573 were closely followed by *intI1*, but the gene cassette qacG, aacA4 and catB carried by the integron in pEI1573 was absent in pEHZJ1 (Figure 3B).

Discussion

ECC is a complex group of bacterial species and is one of the leading causes of clinical nosocomial infections worldwide.²⁹ Among *Enterobacter* spp. ECC is the most important complex group in human diseases, accounting for 65–75% of infections.² As one of the most frequently isolated bacteria of ECC, *E. hormaechei* has become an important pathogen causing human clinical infection.^{30,31} Some reports exhibited that an *E. hormaechei* outbreak strain ever occurred nationwide in the Netherlands,³² in addition, this bacterium also appeared in several outbreaks of sepsis, most notably in the United States and Brazil.³³ At present, it is recognized as capable of persisting in the hospital environment and developing resistance to multiple antibiotics.^{14,34} These facts imply that it will be a big



Figure I The phylogenetic tree of 61 completed E. hormaechei genome generated by the Harvest suite, where Enterobacter hormaechei SCEH020042 is used as the standard strain. Enterobacter hormaechei subsp. hoffmannii strains and E. hormaechei subsp. xiangfangensis strains are marked in pink and blue, respectively.

potential threat to human health and may serve as a reservoir for drug resistance transmission in nosocomial infections.

Carbapenems were widely used as effective drugs in the treatment of multidrug-resistant bacterial infections. However, the presence and dissemination of carbapenemases in *Enterobacteriaceae* have emerged as a major challenge to modern medicine.^{12,35} In this study, we obtained a multidrug-resistant strain of *E. hormaechei* L51, harboring *bla*_{IMP-26} carbapenem resistance gene and *bla*_{SHV-178} ESBL gene. AST results showed this strain was high-level resistance to a variety of antimicrobial agents and were consistent with the genomic genes of the acquired resistance to antibiotics, suggesting that the drug resistance genes in chromosomes and pEHZJ1 were the major reason for multi-drug resistance of isolate L51 and our attention should be paid to it.

The phylogenetic analysis of 61 *E. hormaechei* isolates showed that some *E. hormaechei subsp. steigerwaltii* isolates and some *E. hormaechei subsp. xiangfangensis* isolates were classified in the same cluster. This may have been caused by the complex species composition of ECC making it difficult to identify the subspecies of a strain. In addition, 18,248 SNPs were identified between *E. hormaechei* L51 and the reference strain *E. hormaechei* SCEH020042, despite both strains belonged to the same subspecies. This suggested that strains within the subspecies of *E. homaechei* may be more divergent than expected. More complete genome sequences of *Enterobacter* isolates are required to improve the accuracy of identifying *E. hormaechei*.

Previous report has documented that SHV-type ESBL has strong genetic plasticity,³⁶ in addition, pEHZJ1 IncHI2/2A plasmid contains both $bla_{SHV-178}$ ESBL gene and bla_{IMP-26} carbapenem resistance gene, which was consistent with the hypothesis that IncHI2 plasmids carrying ESBL genes are more likely to acquire carbapenem resistance genes through horizontal transfer from integrons.³ Interestingly, it has ever demonstrated that IncHI2-type plasmids were involved in the propagation of bla_{IMP-4} among *Enterobacteriaceae* in Australia.³⁷ Previous studies have shown that most of IncHI2 plasmids are transferable³ and frequently harbor carbapenemase genes,^{38,39} which idea was verified again in our study. In addition, transcriptional regulators, *tra-par-trh-rep*



Figure 2 The identification of plasmid size using SI-PFGE (left) and southern blot and hybridization (right). The pEHZJI plasmid was between 336.5kbp and 398.4kbp, and was positive for a probe against *bla*_{IMP-26}.

region, transposon and insertion sequences, and tellurium, mercury, arsenic operons were found in pEHZJ1, which backbone was similar to pIMP26,²⁰ with 82% query coverage and 99% nucleotide identity. The presence of tellurium, mercury, and arsenic operons in pEHZJ1 was consistent with the conclusion that IncHI2 plasmids usually harbor toxin-antitoxin systems and heavy metal resistance from, Aoki et al.⁴⁰ These metal-resistant operons may make the strains carrying IncHI2type plasmid to be more viable in diverse environments.

Thus far, two reports have studied the genetic features surrounding *bla*_{IMP-26} in *P. aeruginosa*,^{17,18} and one in *Enterobacter cloacae*.²⁰ Among them, the genetic context surrounding *bla*_{IMP-26} in *P. aeruginosa* was *int11-bla*_{IMP-26}-*qacG-aacA4-aac* (6')-orf-catB3 and *int11-bla*_{IMP-26}-qacG-aac(6')-Ib-aac(6')-orf3-orf4-catB3-dfrA1-tnpA-istB-orf5, respectively. In our study, the

genetic environment of bla_{IMP-26} was intI1-bla_{IMP-26}-ltrA $qacE\Delta 1$ -sul1, which was the same as in E. cloacae.²⁰ Integron was first proposed by Strokes and Hall in 1989, which was a mobile DNA molecule with unique structure to capture and integrate exogenous genes.^{41–43} There was one literature ever report that bacteria positive for integrons have higher incidences of resistance against antibacterial drugs beta-lactamase, aminoglycosides, monobactams and fluoroquinolones compared to bacteria without integrons.⁴⁴ In recent years, the transfer of integrons harboring multiple drug-resistant gene cassettes or the joint transfer of two or more integrons into one isolate appears to be the basis for the rapid growth of MDR isolates.⁴⁵ Our conjugative plasmid pEHZJ1 possesses two class 1 integrons and an array of drug resistance genes, which may well pose a threat for the treatment of nosocomial infection. Previous reports showed that bla_{IMP-26} has high genetic similarity to bla_{IMP-4} , with only one position substitution at 145 (G-to-T change),¹³ moreover, bla_{IMP-26} and bla_{IMP-4} were generally carried by a class 1 integron.^{17,18,46} So, we selected pIMP26, pEI1573 and our plasmid pEHZJ1 for comparative analysis of genes surrounding bla_{IMP-4} and bla_{IMP-26} . The results revealed that pIMP26 had the same genetic context surrounding bla_{IMP-26} as pEHZJ1, however genetic environment of bla_{IMP-4} in pEI1573 was intl1bla_{IMP-4}-qacG-aacA4-catB-qacE1-sul1. Although molecular characteristics of bla_{IMP-4} and bla_{IMP-26} are very similar, their genetic context also could be different. Future research is required to understand whether the genes surrounding $bla_{\rm IMP}$ affect the resistance of different strains.

Conclusion

In summary, we describe the complete sequence of a mega conjugative IncHI2/2A plasmid carrying both bla_{IMP-26} and $bla_{SHV-178}$ of *E. hormaechei* L51. Phylogenetic analysis based on core-genome SNPs revealed the huge differences between the subspecies of *E. hormaechei* and provided a reference view that more whole-genome sequencing data are needed for the more accurate identification of *E. hormaechei* subspecies. The spread of the IncHI2-type plasmid carrying IMP resistance genes in ECC is worth worrying about, although only one case was reported in this study. Our results also suggest that focusing on *E. hormaechei* will be important in future studies.

Ethical Approval

The ethical protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of First Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University (no. 2018-1031).



Figure 3 The genetic features of the pEHZJI plasmid.

Notes: (A) Comparison of the pEHZJI plasmid sequence with pIMP26 using BRIG. The MDR-I region, MDR-2 region and *tra-par-trh-rep* region are indicated in orange, pink and dark blue, respectively. Insert sequence and transposons are indicated in green. (B) Genetic features of MDR regions (MDR-1 and MDR-2) and a comparison of genes surrounding *bla*_{IMP-26} on pEHZJI, pIMP26 (GenBank: MH399264.1) and pEI1573 (GenBank: JX101693.1). Gray regions denote regions that are homologous with >95% nucleotide similarity. *bla*_{IMP-26} is indicated in red and class 1 integrons are marked by straight lines.

Written Informed Consent

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient described in the study for the publication of the case details.

Data Sharing Statement

The datasets generated for this study can be found in NCBI, CP033102-CP033103.

Funding

This research was funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, grant number 81741098; Henan Science and Technology Department, grant number 162102310509; Henan medical science and technology project, grant number 201701006; Key scientific research project plan of institutions of higher learning of Henan province, grant number 19A320058; the National Key Research and Development Program of China, grant number 2016YFD0501105; the Zhejiang Provincial Natural Science Foundation of China, grant number LY17H190003.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

References

- O'Hara CM, Steigerwalt AG, Hill BC, et al. Enterobacter hormaechei, a new species of the family Enterobacteriaceae formerly known as enteric group 75. *J Clin Microbiol*. 1989;27:2046–2049. doi:10.1128/ JCM.27.9.2046-2049.1989
- Sanders WE, Sanders CC. Enterobacter spp.: pathogens poised to flourish at the turn of the century. *Clin Microbiol Rev.* 1997;10:220–241. doi:10.1128/CMR.10.2.220
- Zhou K, Yu W, Cao X, et al. Characterization of the population structure, drug resistance mechanisms and plasmids of the community-associated Enterobacter cloacae complex in China. *J Antimicrob Chemother*. 2018;73:66–76. doi:10.1093/jac/dkx361
- Matsumura Y, Peirano G, Motyl MR, et al. Global molecular epidemiology of IMP-producing enterobacteriaceae. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2017;61:e02729–16.
- Delmas J, Breysse F, Devulder G, et al. Rapid identification of Enterobacteriaceae by sequencing DNA gyrase subunit B encoding gene. *Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis.* 2006;55:263–268. doi:10.1016/j. diagmicrobio.2006.02.003
- Paauw A, Caspers MP, Schuren FH, et al. Genomic diversity within the Enterobacter cloacae complex. *PLoS One*. 2008;3:e3018. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0003018
- Chavda KD, Chen L, Fouts DE, et al. Comprehensive genome analysis of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacter spp.: new insights into phylogeny, population structure, and resistance mechanisms. *mBio*. 2016;7. doi:10.1128/mBio.02093-16
- Ohad S, Block C, Kravitz V, et al. Rapid identification of Enterobacter hormaechei and Enterobacter cloacae genetic cluster III. J Appl Microbiol. 2014;116:1315–1321. doi:10.1111/jam.12439

- 9. Andrade LN, Siqueira TES, Martinez R, et al. Multidrug-resistant CTX-M-(15, 9, 2)- and KPC-2-producing enterobacter hormaechei and enterobacter asburiae isolates possessed a set of acquired heavy metal tolerance genes including a chromosomal sil operon (For acquired silver resistance). *Front Microbiol.* 2018;9:539.
- Yang B, Feng Y, McNally A, et al. Occurrence of Enterobacter hormaechei carrying blaNDM-1 and blaKPC-2 in China. *Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis.* 2018;90:139–142. doi:10.1016/j. diagmicrobio.2017.10.007
- Villa J, Carretero O, Viedma E, et al. Emergence of NDM-7-producing multi-drug-resistant Enterobacter hormaechei sequence type ST-78 in Spain: a high-risk international clone. *Int J Antimicrob Agents*. 2019;53:533–534. doi:10.1016/j.ijantimicag.2018.11.009
- Wendel AF, Meyer S, Deenen R, et al. Long-term, low-frequency cluster of a german-imipenemase-1-producing Enterobacter hormaechei ssp. steigerwaltii ST89 in a Tertiary Care Hospital in Germany. *Microb Drug Resist.* 2018;24:1305–1315. doi:10.1089/mdr.2017.0433
- 13. Koh TH, Khoo CT, Tan TT, et al. Multilocus sequence types of carbapenem-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa in Singapore carrying metallo-beta-lactamase genes, including the novel bla(IMP-26) gene. *J Clin Microbiol.* 2010;48:2563–2564. doi:10.1128/JCM.01905-09
- 14. Beyrouthy R, Barets M, Marion E, et al. Novel Enterobacter Lineage as leading cause of nosocomial outbreak involving carbapenemase-producing strains. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2018; 24:1505–1515. doi:10.3201/eid2408.180151
- 15. Xia Y, Liang Z, Su X, et al. Characterization of carbapenemase genes in Enterobacteriaceae species exhibiting decreased susceptibility to carbapenems in a university hospital in Chongqing, China. Ann Lab Med. 2012;32:270–275. doi:10.3343/alm.2012.32.4.270
- 16. Lascols C, Peirano G, Hackel M, et al. Surveillance and molecular epidemiology of Klebsiella pneumoniae isolates that produce carbapenemases: first report of OXA-48-like enzymes in North America. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother.* 2013;57:130–136. doi:10.1128/AAC.01686-12
- Kim MJ, Bae IK, Jeong SH, et al. Dissemination of metallo-betalactamase-producing Pseudomonas aeruginosa of sequence type 235 in Asian countries. J Antimicrob Chemother. 2013;68:2820–2824. doi:10.1093/jac/dkt269
- Tada T, Nhung PH, Miyoshi-Akiyama T, et al. Multidrug-resistant sequence Type 235 pseudomonas aeruginosa clinical isolates producing IMP-26 with increased carbapenem-hydrolyzing activities in Vietnam. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2016;60:6853–6858. doi:10.1128/AAC.01177-16
- Matsumura Y, Peirano G, Bradford PA, et al. Genomic characterization of IMP and VIM carbapenemase-encoding transferable plasmids of Enterobacteriaceae. *J Antimicrob Chemother*. 2018;73:3034–3038. doi:10.1093/jac/dky303
- Wang S, Zhou K, Xiao S, et al. A multidrug resistance plasmid pIMP26, carrying blaIMP-26, fosA5, blaDHA-1, and qnrB4 in Enterobacter cloacae. *Sci Rep.* 2019;9:10212. doi:10.1038/s41598-019-46777-6
- CaLS I. Performance standards for antimicrobial susceptibility testing— Twenty-eighth informational supplement M100-S28. CLSI 2018. 2018.
- Woo PCY, Miyoshi-Akiyama T, Hayakawa K, et al. Multilocus Sequence Typing (MLST) for characterization of Enterobacter cloacae. *PLoS One*. 2013;8:e66358. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0066358
- Tenover FC, Arbeit RD, Goering RV, et al. Interpreting chromosomal DNA restriction patterns produced by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis: criteria for bacterial strain typing. *J Clin Microbiol*. 1995;33:2233–2239. doi:10.1128/JCM.33.9.2233-2239.1995
- Zheng B, Zhang J, Ji J, et al. Emergence of Raoultella ornithinolytica coproducing IMP-4 and KPC-2 carbapenemases in China. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2015;59:7086–7089. doi:10.1128/AAC.01363-15
- 25. Hu Y, Zhang W, Liang H, et al. Whole-genome sequence of a multidrug-resistant clinical isolate of Acinetobacter lwoffii. *J Bacteriol.* 2011;193:5549–5550. doi:10.1128/JB.05617-11

- Phillippy AM, Wick RR, Judd LM, et al. Unicycler: resolving bacterial genome assemblies from short and long sequencing reads. *PLoS Comput Biol.* 2017;13:e1005595. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005595
- Alikhan NF, Petty NK, Ben Zakour NL, et al. BLAST Ring Image Generator (BRIG): simple prokaryote genome comparisons. *BMC Genomics*. 2011;12:402. doi:10.1186/1471-2164-12-402
- Treangen TJ, Ondov BD, Koren S, et al. The Harvest suite for rapid core-genome and visualization of thousands of intraspecific microbial genomes. *Genome Biol.* 2014;15:524. doi:10.1186/s13059-014-0524-x
- 29. Gajdacs M, Urban E. Resistance Trends and Epidemiology of Citrobacter-Enterobacter-Serratia in Urinary Tract Infections of Inpatients and Outpatients (RECESUTI): a 10-year survey. *Medicina (Kaunas).* 2019;55.
- Mezzatesta ML, Gona F, Stefani S. Enterobacter cloacae complex: clinical impact and emerging antibiotic resistance. *Future Microbiol*. 2012;7:887–902. doi:10.2217/fmb.12.61
- Monahan LG, DeMaere MZ, Cummins ML, et al. High contiguity genome sequence of a multidrug-resistant hospital isolate of Enterobacter hormaechei. *Gut Pathog.* 2019;11:3. doi:10.1186/ s13099-019-0288-7
- 32. Leverstein-van Hall MA, Blok HE, Paauw A, et al. Extensive hospital-wide spread of a multidrug-resistant enterobacter cloacae clone, with late detection due to a variable antibiogram and frequent patient transfer. J Clin Microbiol. 2006;44:518–524. doi:10.1128/ JCM.44.2.518-524.2006
- Morand PC, Billoet A, Rottman M, et al. Specific distribution within the Enterobacter cloacae complex of strains isolated from infected orthopedic implants. J Clin Microbiol. 2009;47:2489–2495. doi:10.1128/ JCM.00290-09
- Davin-Regli A, Pages JM. Enterobacter aerogenes and Enterobacter cloacae; versatile bacterial pathogens confronting antibiotic treatment. *Front Microbiol.* 2015;6:392. doi:10.3389/fmicb.2015.00392
- 35. Zheng B, Lv T, Xu H, et al. Discovery and characterisation of an escherichia coli ST206 strain producing NDM-5 and MCR-1 from a patient with acute diarrhoea in China. *Int J Antimicrob Agents*. 2018;51:273–275. doi:10.1016/j.ijantimicag.2017.09.005
- 36. Bourouis A, Ben Moussa M, Belhadj O. Multidrug-resistant phenotype and isolation of a novel SHV- beta-Lactamase variant in a clinical isolate of Enterobacter cloacae. *J Biomed Sci.* 2015;22:27. doi:10.1186/s12929-015-0131-5

- Sidjabat HE, Heney C, George NM, et al. Interspecies transfer of blaIMP-4 in a patient with prolonged colonization by IMP-4-producing Enterobacteriaceae. J Clin Microbiol. 2014;52:3816–3818. doi:10.1128/JCM.01491-14
- Miro E, Segura C, Navarro F, et al. Spread of plasmids containing the bla(VIM-1) and bla(CTX-M) genes and the qnr determinant in Enterobacter cloacae, Klebsiella pneumoniae and Klebsiella oxytoca isolates. J Antimicrob Chemother. 2010;65:661–665. doi:10.1093/jac/ dkp504
- Fischer J, Rodríguez I, Schmoger S, et al. Salmonella enterica subsp. enterica producing VIM-1 carbapenemase isolated from livestock farms. J Antimicrob Chemother. 2013;68:478–480. doi:10.1093/jac/ dks393
- Aoki K, Harada S, Yahara K, et al. Molecular characterization of IMP-1-producing Enterobacter cloacae complex isolates in Tokyo. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother.* 2018;62.
- 41. Stokes HW, Hall RM. A novel family of potentially mobile DNA elements encoding site-specific gene-integration functions: integrons. *Mol Microbiol.* 1989;3:1669–1683. doi:10.1111/mmi.1989.3.issue-12
- Recchia GD, Hall RM. Gene cassettes: a new class of mobile element. Microbiology. 1995;141:3015–3027. doi:10.1099/13500872-141-12-3015
- 43. Li J, Liu C, Li B, et al. Identification and molecular characterization of a novel DyP-type peroxidase from Pseudomonas aeruginosa PKE117. *Appl Biochem Biotechnol.* 2012;166:774–785. doi:10.1007/s12010-011-9466-x
- 44. Martinez-Freijo P, Fluit AC, Schmitz FJ, et al. Class I integrons in Gram-negative isolates from different European hospitals and association with decreased susceptibility to multiple antibiotic compounds. *J Antimicrob Chemother*. 1998;42:689–696. doi:10.1093/jac/42.6.689
- 45. Nógrády N, Gadó I, Pászti J, et al. Analysis of gene cassettes of streptomycin-spectinomycin resistance of Hungarian Salmonella enterica serotype Typhimurium strains. *Acta Vet Hung.* 2003;51:137–151. doi:10.1556/AVet.51.2003.2.2
- 46. Partridge SR, Ginn AN, Paulsen IT, et al. pEl1573 carrying blaIMP-4, from Sydney, Australia, is closely related to other IncL/ M plasmids. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2012;56:6029–6032. doi:10.1128/AAC.01189-12

Infection and Drug Resistance

Dovepress

Publish your work in this journal

Infection and Drug Resistance is an international, peer-reviewed openaccess journal that focuses on the optimal treatment of infection (bacterial, fungal and viral) and the development and institution of preventive strategies to minimize the development and spread of resistance. The journal is specifically concerned with the epidemiology of

antibiotic resistance and the mechanisms of resistance development and diffusion in both hospitals and the community. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peerreview system, which is all easy to use. Visit http://www.dovepress.com/ testimonials.php to read read quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: https://www.dovepress.com/infection-and-drug-resistance-journal