

Identification of *Brucella* by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry

Dr. De Maio Flavio

27/02/2015

Limited Genetic Diversity of *Brucella* spp.

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Multilocus enzyme electrophoresis (MLEE) highlights a limited genetic diversity and supports the proposal of a monospecific genus

Alphaproteobacteria

Rhizobiales

Brucellaceae

Brucella

B. abortus biovar 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9

B. melitensis biovar 1, 2, 3

B. suis biovar 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

B. canis

B. ovis

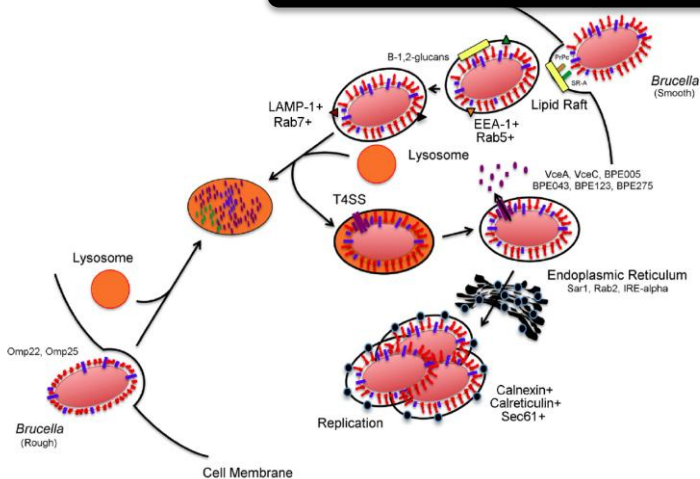
B. neotomae

B. inopinata

B. ceti

B. microti

B. pinnipedialis



Serological agglutination with smooth lipopolysaccharide and associated antigens A and M allows the biovar classification

Why is important to identify *Brucella* species?

- The identification of the *Brucella* species is important and necessary for the different pathogenic impact for the host (specie-specificity)
- Identify the circulating *Brucella* species and biovar may be important for epidemiological studies, to identify the reservoir and deploy informed control strategies to prevent the spread of the infection (relevant economic impact in the primary sector and for public health)
- Rapid automated system often give misidentification
- PCR shows high sensitivity and specificity but remains cumbersome and with standardization problems

Multi locus variable number tandem repeats (MLVA) assay

BMC Microbiology

()
BioMed Central

Research article

Open Access

Evaluation and selection of tandem repeat loci for a *Brucella* MLVA typing assay

Philippe Le Flèche^{1,2}, Isabelle Jacques^{3,4}, Maggy Grayon³, Sascha Al Dahouk⁵, Patrick Bouchon^{1,2}, France Denoeud², Karsten Nöckler⁶, Heinrich Neubauer⁵, Laurence A Guilloteau³ and Gilles Vergnaud^{*1,2}

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY, Dec. 2007, p. 4070–4072
1095-1137/07/\$08.00+0 doi:10.1128/JCM.01096-07
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Vol. 45, No. 12

Comparison of Multiple-Locus Variable-Number Tandem-Repeat Analysis with Other PCR-Based Methods for Typing *Brucella suis* Isolates[∇]

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Received 31 May 2007/Returned for modification 31 July 2007/Accepted 30 September 2007

TABLE 1. Repeat copy numbers at each locus in the MLVA assay for 58 *B. suis* representative isolates

Marker ^a	No. of repeat copies at each locus in the following pattern ^b :							
	S1	S2.1	S2.2	S32.3	S2.4	S3	S4	
bruce04	2–7	9	2	2	2–7	7	4	
bruce06	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
bruce07	0–8	9	5	0–7	0–10	5	5	
bruce08	5	4	7	7	7	3	3	
bruce09	0–8	18	3	0–21	5–17	10	9	
bruce11	6	8	8	8	8	4	9	
bruce12	10	15	15	9	9	11	11	
bruce16	0–5	2	2	2	2	4	6	
bruce18	0–4	6	4	5–6	5–6	4	5	
bruce21	0–9	9	9	9	9	9	9	
bruce30	3	4	8	0–8	0–8	5	3	
bruce42	4	6	5	5	5	3	3	
bruce43	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
bruce45	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
bruce55	3	2	8	0–5	5–6	2	2	

^a MLVA markers are defined as described in references 8 and 12.

^b Patterns are defined as described in the legend to Fig. 1. See text for details.

Perfect correlation of classical typing, omp31 PCR-RFLP, AMOS-ery-PCR and MLVA assay

MLVA was the only assay to highlight epidemiological relationship between strains

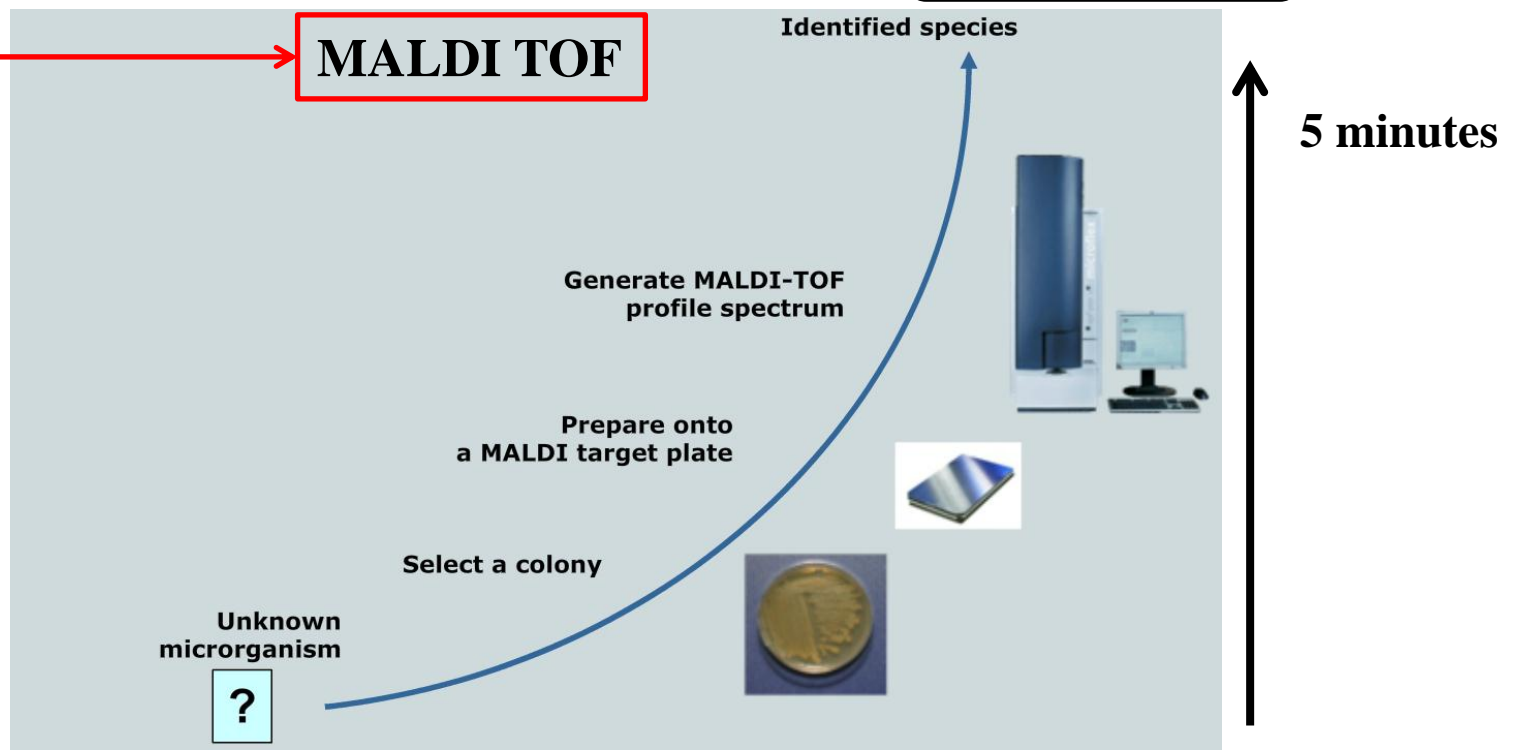
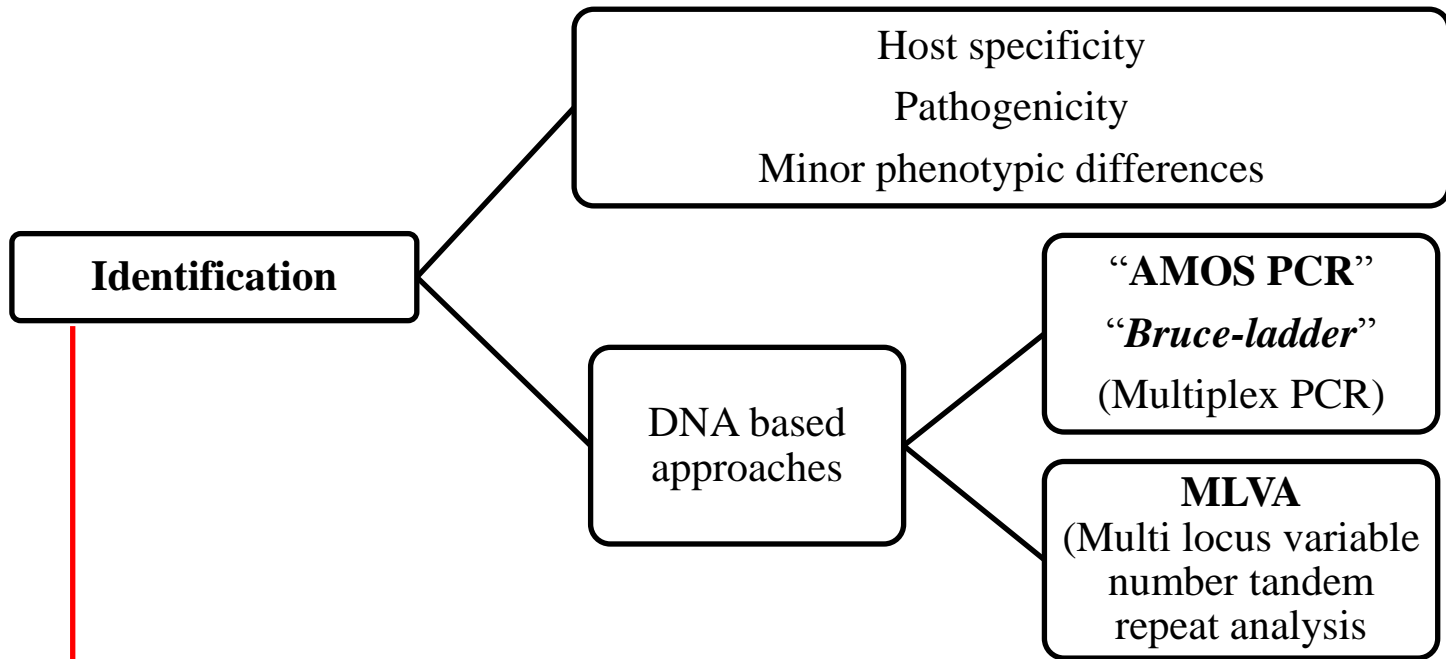
OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS ONE

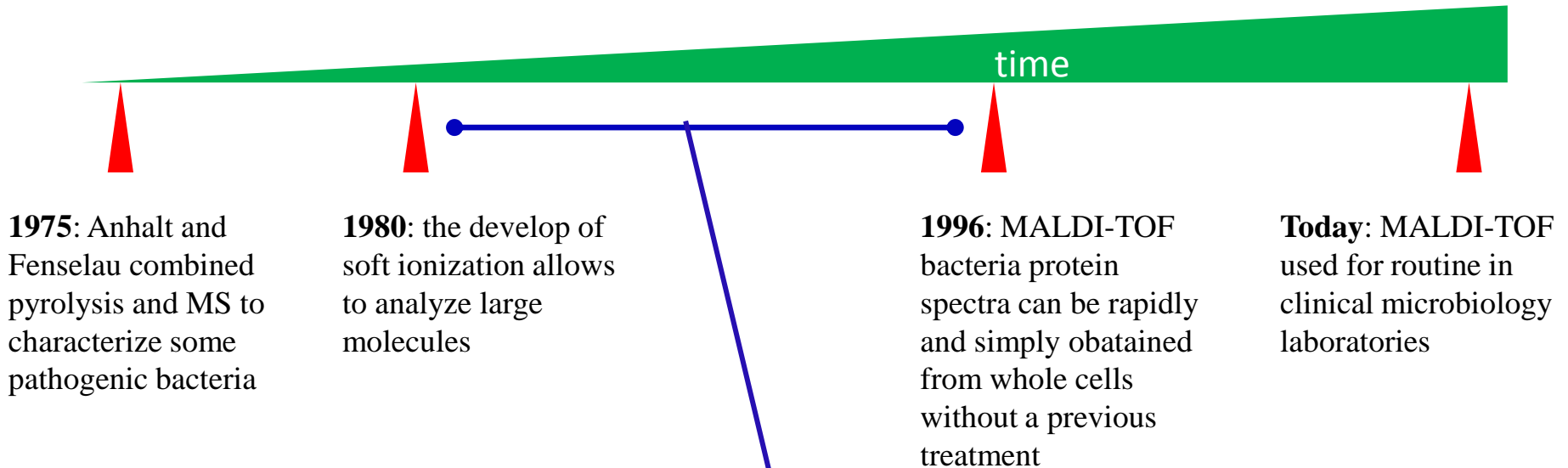
Biotyping and Genotyping (MLVA16) of *Brucella abortus* Isolated from Cattle in Brazil, 1977 to 2008

Sílvia Minharro^{1,2}, Juliana P. Silva Mol¹, Elaine M. S. Dorneles¹, Rebeca B. Pauletti¹, Heinrich Neubauer³, Falk Melzer³, Fernando P. Poester¹, Maurício G. Dasso⁴, Elaine S. Pinheiro⁵, Paulo M. Soares Filho⁶, Renato L. Santos⁷, Marcos B. Heinemann¹, Andrey P. Lage^{1*}

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Mass spectrometry and bacteria identification



- Proteome is very dynamic in living cells: the pattern of proteins could change in response to growth conditions
- Doubts on the differences and similarities in mass spectral patterns to establish taxonomy
- Lack of comprehensive databases covering all clinically relevant species
- From the point of view of microbiologists, the identification procedures seemed too simple relative to the complexity of the task
- Identify an organism in a sample in only a fraction of the time required by an expert seemed unreliable
- Most of the early publications involving MALDI-TOF MS-based identification appeared in journals most microbiologists do not access regularly

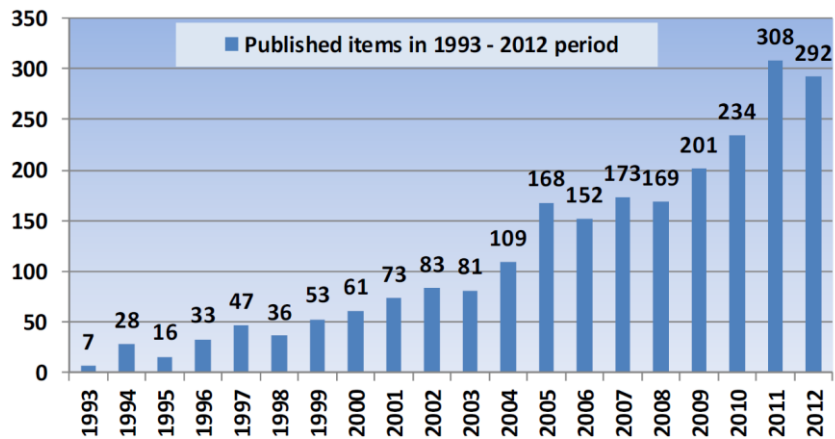


Figure 1: Published item report accessed from Web of Science on Oct 30, 2012 illustrates the number of papers published annually in the field of mass spectral identification of bacteria. In the 1975-1992 time interval, less than 20 papers were published every year.

Analytical chemistry 2012

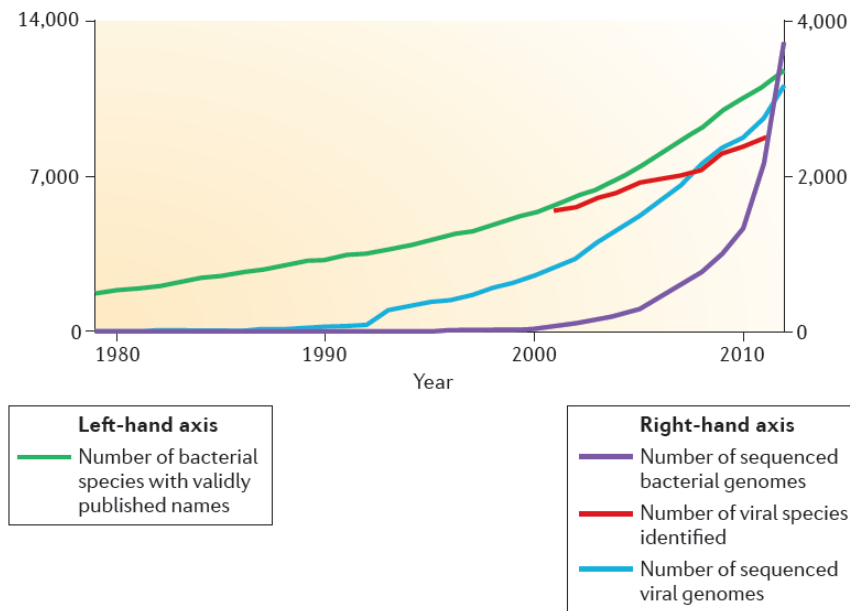
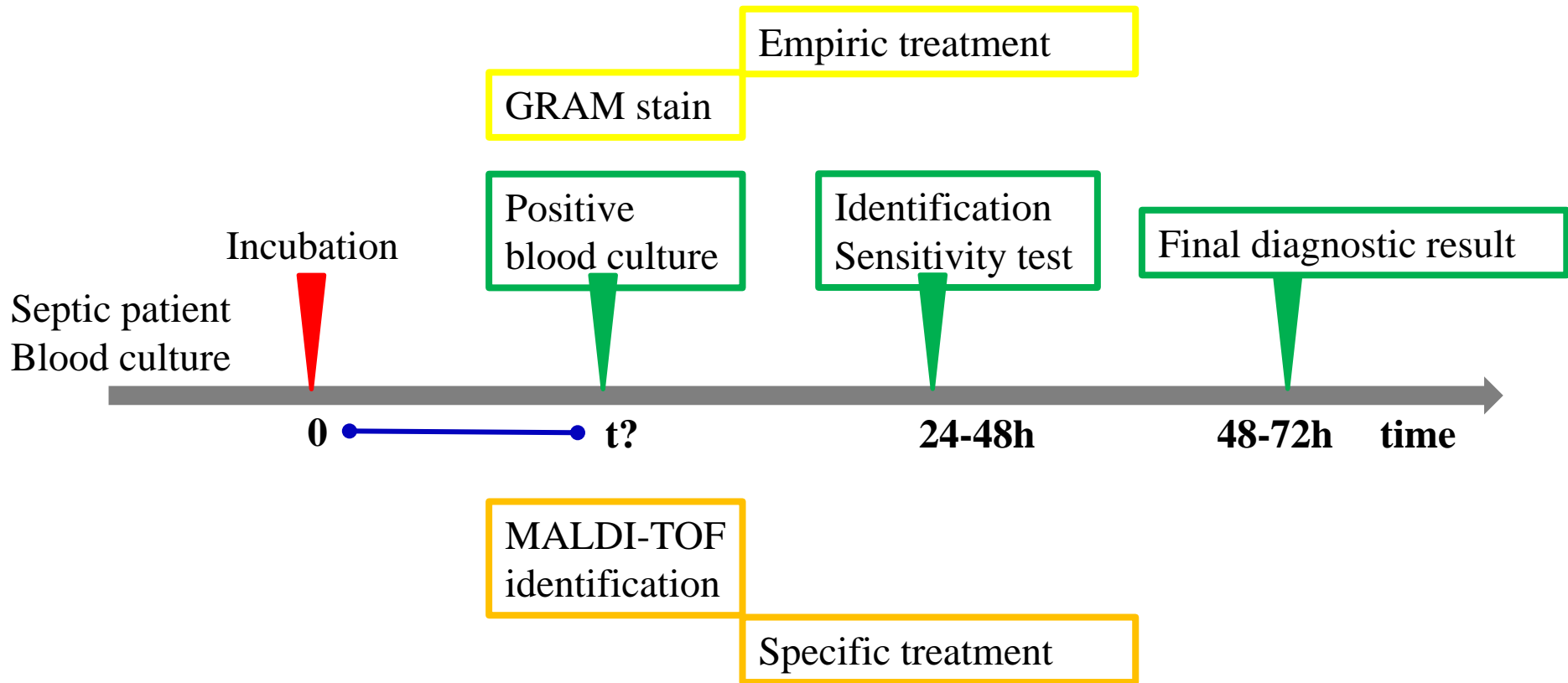


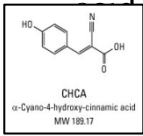
Figure 1 | The number of identified microbial species from 1979 to 2012. The development of new technologies has had a substantial impact on the number of microbial species that are identified each year.

Nature reviews microbiology 2013

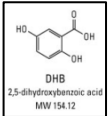
Standard assay vs new MALDI-TOF assay for clinical diagnosis



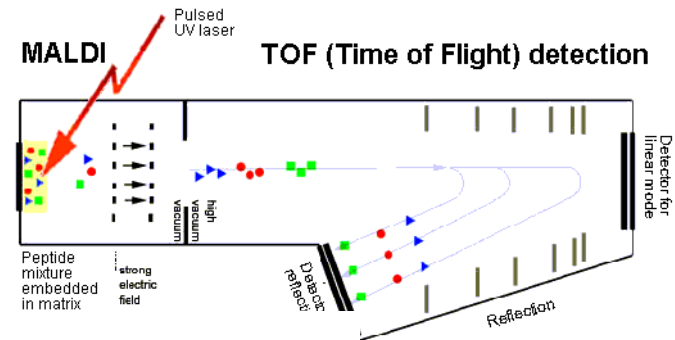
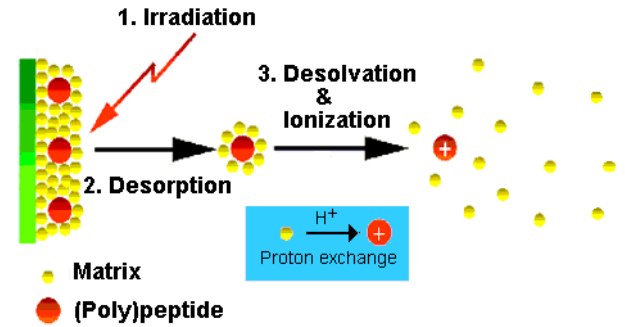
- Alphacyano-4-hydroxycinnamic



- 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid

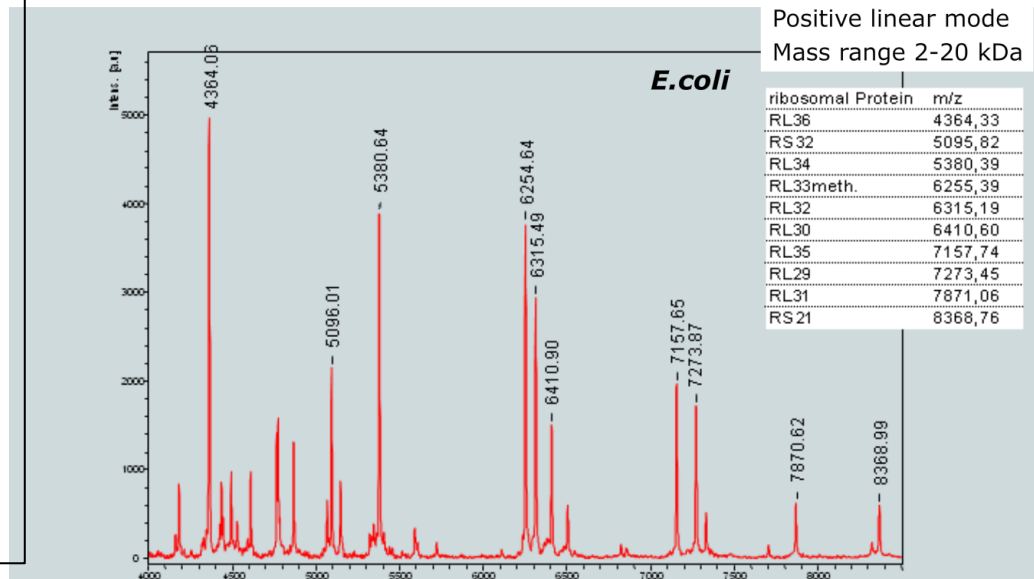


MALDI (Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization)



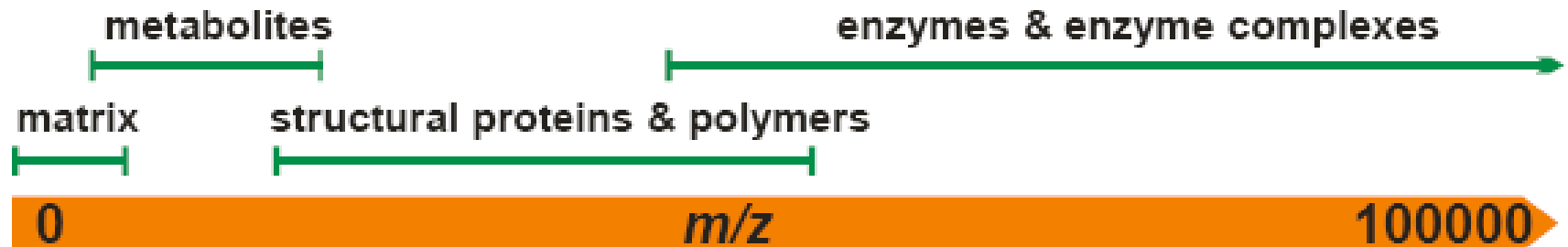
- Spectral fingerprints vary between microorganisms
- Among the compounds detected in the spectra, some peaks (molecular masses) are specific to the genus, species, and sometimes subspecies levels.
- Spectra are reproducible as long as the bacteria are grown under the same conditions

MALDI-TOF MS profile spectrum



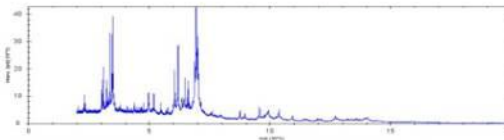
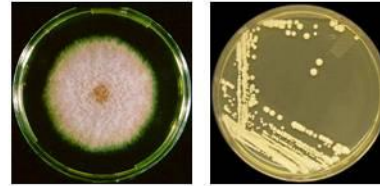
Biomarkers

- **Cellular compounds detected:**
mostly **ribosomal proteins** or DNA-binding proteins but also complex lipids and polysaccharides
- **Proteins detected:**
extractable, soluble, moderately **hydrophilic, stable, and abundant**
- **Determination of proteins mass signal intensities:**
favored by abundance, stability, amino acid composition (esp. Arg and Lys)

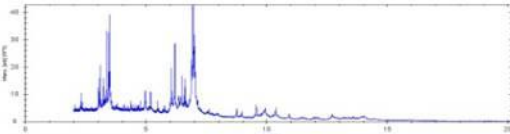


Range of detection MALDI-TOF (2-20kDa)

MALDI-TOF applications

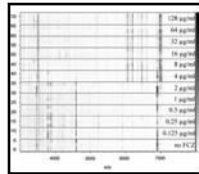


Purification procedure and extraction

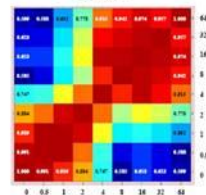


Direct identification

Antifungal resistance detection



Marinach et al. 2010
CCI matrix

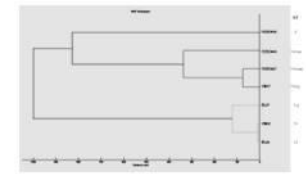


De Carolis et al. 2012

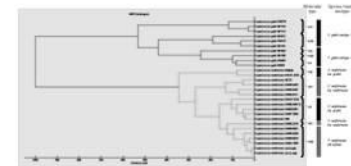
Identification

Analyte Name	Analyte ID	Organism (best match)	Score Value	Organism (second best match)	Score Value
(++)	1	<i>F. solani</i>	2.136	<i>F. solani</i>	2.006
(++)	2	<i>C. albicans</i>	2.502	<i>C. albicans</i>	2.201

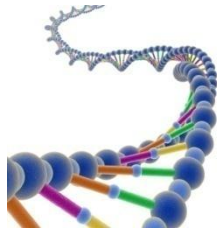
Typing



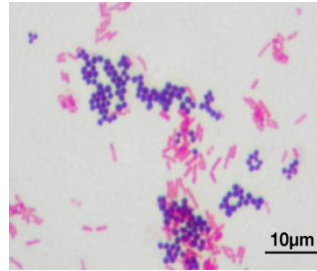
De Carolis et al. 2012



Posteraro et al. 2012



Molecular
(16s rRna)



Microscopy



Growth on selective
media

**It could take 48 h
to identification**

**BACTERIA
IDENTIFICATION**

Antigen detection



Biochemical
Metabolic assays

**MASS
SPECTROMETRY**

old technology with new applications

MALDI-TOF sample preparation

Direct method:

- Touch colony with transfer device, such as toothpick
- Transfer a small amount onto spot
- Cover with 1 μ L of HCCA Matrix, let air dry
- Analyze

**Bacteria
identification**

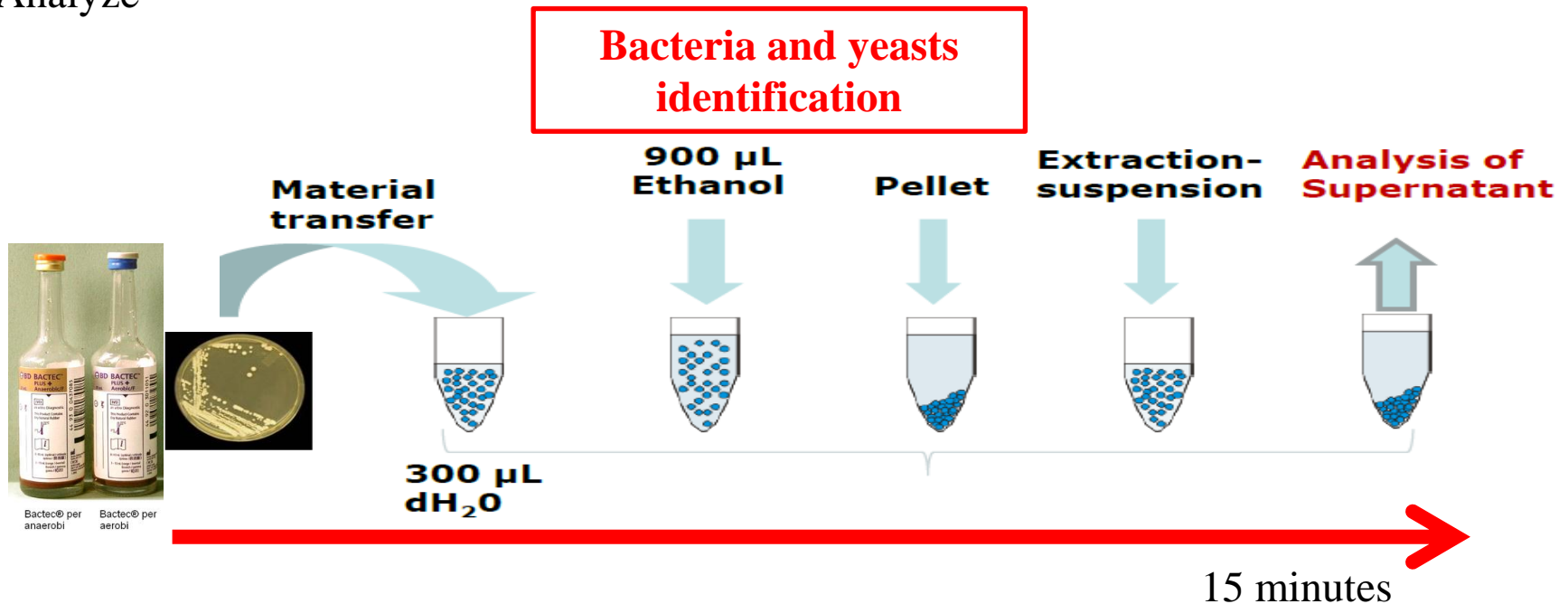


5 minutes

MALDI-TOF sample preparation

Ethanol/Formic Acid Extraction:

- Pick colony
- Resuspend in 300µl H₂O
- Add 900µl ethanol
- **Inactivation/storage/shipment**
- Add 70% formic acid and ACN
- Centrifuge
- Pipette 1µl onto target
- Cover with 1µL of HCCA Matrix, let air dry
- Analyze



Software MALDI Biotyper

Define Project

Definition of Project

Please create a new project for your classification run. The project will record all results generated here. (To continue an existing project, please select the appropriate project name.)

Project Name: 20110229

Description:

Creation Date: 28/02/2011 12:11:24

Creator: pep@NB44113

<< Back Cancel Help

Analyte Placement

Analyte Placement

Please specify the target positions for your analytes by drawing a rectangle, clicking on row/column names or directly on the appropriate spots. Analytes are inserted using the Insert key or with Add Analytes from the context menu. Available target spots are shown in yellow. Spots containing analytes of the current project are white (not yet measured) or green (already measured). Please fill in the ID column if it is empty.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A											
B											
C											
D											
E											
F											
G											
H											

Position	Chp	Creation Date	Name [optional]	ID	Description [optional]
A1	0	28/02/2011 12:13	A1	A1	
A2	0	28/02/2011 12:13	A2	A2	
A3	0	28/02/2011 12:13	A3	A3	
A4	0	28/02/2011 12:13	A4	A4	
A5	0	28/02/2011 12:13	A5	A5	
A6	0	28/02/2011 12:13	A6	A6	
A7	0	28/02/2011 12:13	A7	A7	

Validation Pockets: [None]

Cancel << Back Finish Help

Select Database

Selection of MALDI Biotyper Methods

Please select the MALDI Biotyper methods for data preprocessing (peak picking) and MSP identification (classification). (The methods may be changed using the two buttons on the right side.) Furthermore the MSP Source is defined here, specifying which reference patterns are applied in classification.

Preprocessing Method:

MSP Identification Method:

MSP Source:

MSP from Library

MSP from Taxonomy Tree

All MSPs

Braker Taxonomy

Cancel << Back Finish Help

Start

Project Summary

Please check your project settings. Clicking Finish will start the automatic measurement and classification.

Project Name: 20110229

Description:

Number of Positions to measure: 84

Preprocessing Method: BioType Preprocessing Standard Method

MSP Identification Method: BioType MSP Identification Standard Method

MSP Source: Braker Taxonomy (Taxonomy Tree)

Cancel << Back Help

Get the result

Project: 20110229

A											
B											
C											
D											
E											
F											
G											
H											

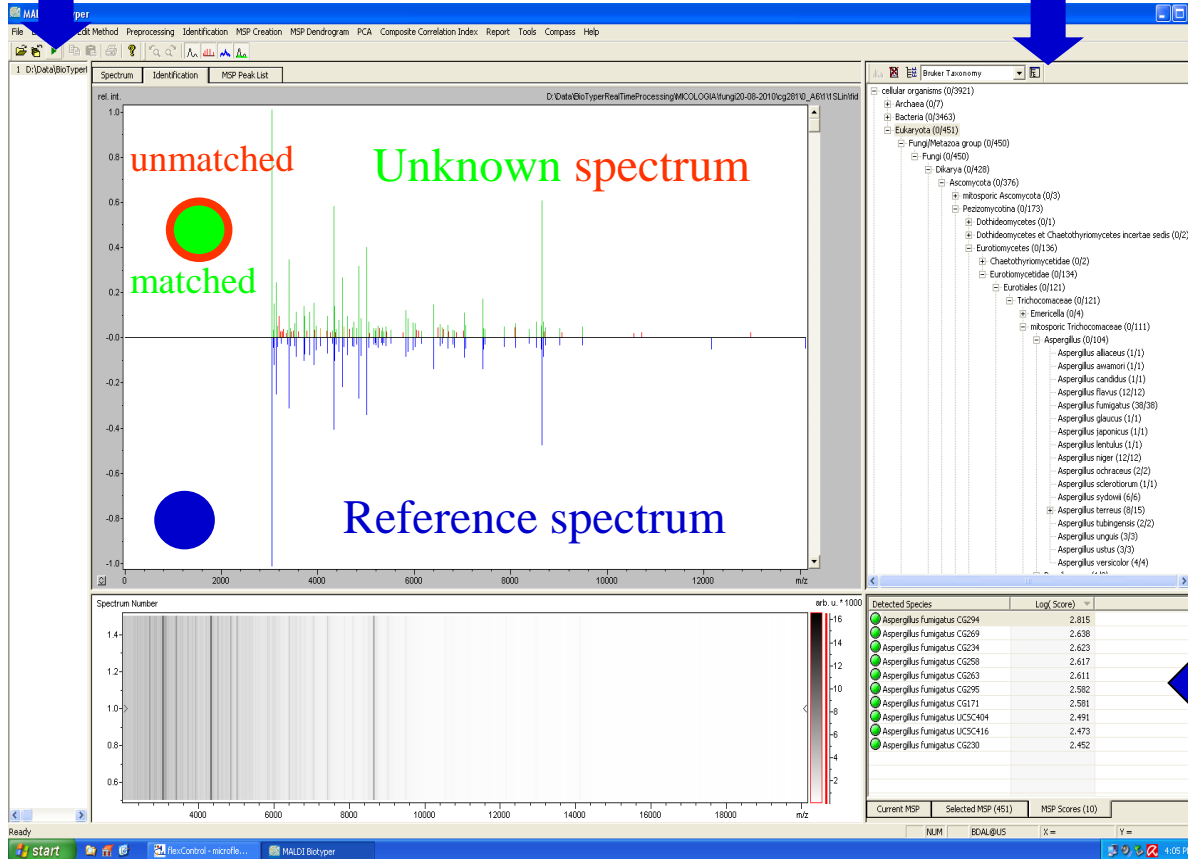
Position	Name	Related Species	Score	Comment	Species	Validation
A1	A1	Aspergillus nidulans	2.712		species	generosity
A2	A2	Capnocytophaga	2.215		species	generosity
A3	A3	Capnocytophaga	2.596		species	generosity
A4	A4	Aspergillus nidulans	2.340		species	generosity
A5	A5	Aspergillus nidulans	2.415		species	generosity
A6	A6	Aspergillus nidulans	1.300		species	generosity
A7	A7	Aspergillus nidulans	1.300		species	generosity
A8	A8	Aspergillus nidulans	2.910		species	generosity
A9	A9	Aspergillus nidulans	1.588		species	generosity
A10	A10	Aspergillus nidulans	2.417		species	generosity
A11	A11	Aspergillus nidulans	2.108		species	generosity
A12	A12	Aspergillus nidulans	0.889		species	generosity
B1	B1	Aspergillus nidulans	1.513		species	generosity
B2	B2	Aspergillus nidulans	2.440	close related to Sigella and not de	species	generosity
B3	B3	Aspergillus nidulans	2.475	close related to Sigella and not de	species	generosity
B4	B4	Aspergillus nidulans	2.475	close related to Sigella and not de	species	generosity
B5	B5	Aspergillus nidulans	2.475	close related to Sigella and not de	species	generosity

Connecting to the Central server! Server: localhost: 4000

Software MALDI Biotyper

Unknown isolate

Match against reference database



Identification result

Calculation of matching score:

Rel. score

= % matches of the reference sample

Rel. P-Num

= % matches of the unknown spectrum

I-Corr

= value of intensity correlation

Range	Description	Symbols	Color
2.300 ... 3.000	highly probable species identification	(+++)	green
2.000 ... 2.299	secure genus identification, probable species identification	(++)	green
1.700 ... 1.999	probable genus identification	(+)	yellow
0.000 ... 1.699	no reliable identification	(-)	red

Analyte Name	Organism (best match)	Score Value	Organism (second best match)	Score Value
Enterococcus faecalis XY 123 BRB (+++)(A)	Enterococcus faecalis	2.348	Enterococcus faecalis	2.198
Enterococcus faecalis XY 123 BRB (+++)(A)	Enterococcus faecalis	2.331	Enterococcus faecalis	2.229
Proteus mirabilis XY 789 BRB (+++)(A)	Proteus mirabilis	2.579	Proteus mirabilis	2.378
Proteus mirabilis XY 789 BRB (+++)(A)	Proteus mirabilis	2.634	Proteus mirabilis	2.394
Pseudomonas aeruginosa MZyme BRB (+++)(A)	Pseudomonas aeruginosa	2.407	Pseudomonas aeruginosa	2.31
Pseudomonas aeruginosa MZyme BRB (+++)(A)	Pseudomonas aeruginosa	2.456	Pseudomonas aeruginosa	2.227
Staphylococcus aureus DSM 19050 BRB (++)(A)	Staphylococcus aureus	2.136	Staphylococcus aureus	2.09
Staphylococcus aureus DSM 19050 BRB (++)(A)	Staphylococcus aureus	2.288	Staphylococcus aureus	2.173

Importance of Using Bruker's Security-Relevant Library for Biotyper Identification of *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, *Brucella* Species, and *Francisella tularensis*

Scott A. Cunningham,² Robin Patel^{1,2}

Division of Clinical Microbiology, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology* and Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine,² Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA

Benefits:

- rapidity
- specificity
- cost
- standardization
- possibility to use *Biotyper* reference or home-made *Brucella* library

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLoS one

Identification of *Brucella* by MALDI-TOF Mass Spectrometry. Fast and Reliable Identification from Agar Plates and Blood Cultures

Aura Ferreira¹, Silvia Vega Castaño², Fernando Sánchez-Juanes¹, Sandra González-Cabrero³, Fabiola Menegotto³, Antonio Orduña-Domingo³, José Manuel González-Buitrago^{1,4,5}, Juan Luis Muñoz-Bellido^{2,5,6}

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Table 2. Identification by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry and conventional identification of 131 blind-coded *Brucella*.

Conventional Identification (n° isolates)	MALDI-TOF Identification	Correlation at the species level (%)			
		Correlation at the genus level (%)			
		3/3*	2/3*	1/3*	0/3*
<i>B. abortus</i> (17)	100	82.4	11.8	0	5.9
<i>B. melitensis</i> (112)	100	10.7	8.9	23.2	57.1
<i>B. suis</i> (2)	100	50	0	0	50
Total (131)	100	20.6	9.2	19.8	50.4

Each strain was spotted three times (replicates 1, 2 and 3).

* No. of replicates.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0014235.t002

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

Reliable identification at the species level of *Brucella* isolates with MALDI-TOF-MS

Florigio Lista³, Frans AG Reubsæet², Riccardo De Santis³, Rene R Parchen¹, Ad L de Jong¹, Jasper Kieboom¹, Anton L van der Laaken¹, Ingrid Al Voskamp-Visser¹, Silvia Fillo³, Hugo-Jan Jansen⁴, Jan Van der Plas⁴ and Armand Pauw^{1*}



Interlaboratory Comparison of Intact-Cell Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization–Time of Flight Mass Spectrometry Results for Identification and Differentiation of *Brucella* spp.

Axel Karger,^a Falk Malzer,^b Markus Timko,^c Barbara Bettin,^a Herbert Tomaso,^b Heinrich Neubauer,^b Sascha Al Dahouk^{d,†}

Friedrich Loeffler Institut, Institute of Molecular Biology, Greifswald Insel Rügen, Germany^a; Bruker Daltonik GmbH, Bremen, Germany^b; Federal Institute for Animal Health and Food Management, Greifswald-Insel Rügen, Germany^c

TABLE 1 Summary of the classification results obtained with MALDI Biotyper and CPT software

Sample	MALDI Biotyper query result			
	No. correct/total	No. incorrect/total ^a	Misdiagnosis ^b	CPT classification
<i>B. abortus</i>	41/44	3/44	<i>B. melitensis</i>	NA ^c
<i>B. canis</i>	21/21			
<i>B. canis</i>	5/9	3/9	<i>B. pinripedialis</i>	<i>B. canis</i> vs <i>B. pinripedialis</i>
		1/9	<i>B. canis</i>	<i>B. canis</i> vs <i>B. canis</i>
<i>B. melitensis</i>	52/53	1/53	<i>B. abortus</i>	NA
<i>B. microti</i>	12/12			
<i>B. ovis</i>	10/10			
<i>B. pinripedialis</i>	8/8			
<i>B. suis</i> biovar 1	9/10	1/10	<i>B. canis</i>	<i>B. canis</i> vs <i>B. suis</i> biovar 1
<i>B. suis</i> biovar 2	29/29			
<i>B. suis</i> biovar 3 or 4	2/6	4/6	<i>B. canis</i>	<i>B. canis</i> vs <i>B. suis</i> biovar 3/4
<i>B. suis</i> biovar 5	3/5	1/5	<i>B. abortus</i>	<i>B. suis</i> biovar 5 vs <i>B. abortus/melitensis</i>
		1/5	<i>B. melitensis</i>	<i>B. suis</i> biovar 5 vs <i>B. abortus/melitensis</i>

^a For *Brucella* species and for the biovars of *B. suis* of which not all representatives were correctly identified by MALDI Biotyper software, statistical models were developed that allowed unambiguous identification. For the parameters of the models (CPT classification column), see Table S2 in the supplemental material.

^b The misdiagnosis column contains the top hits of the MALDI Biotyper query in case of incorrect species identification.

^c NA indicates that no models could be deduced with CPT software that performed better than MALDI Biotyper.

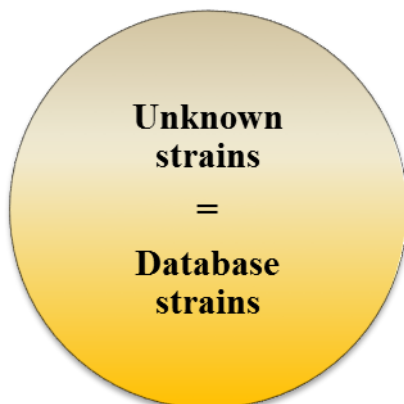
- Home-made reference library
- Bruker standard protocol
- 152 strains analyzed
- 98% was correctly identified

- Bruker reference library
- Bruker standard protocol
- 207 strains analyzed
- 92% was correctly identified at species level

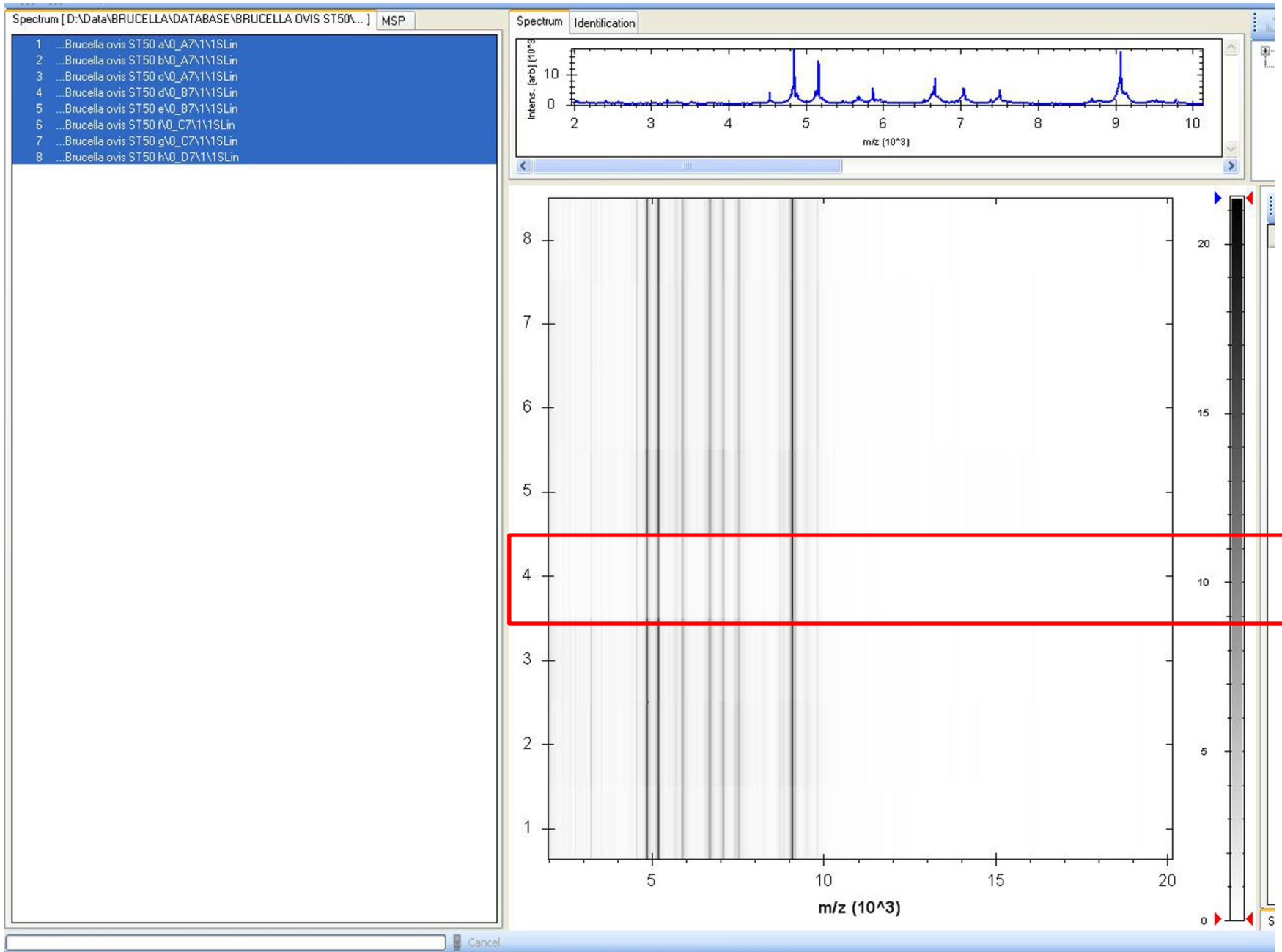
Unknown
strains

=

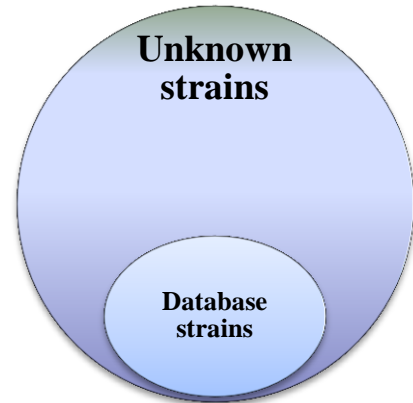
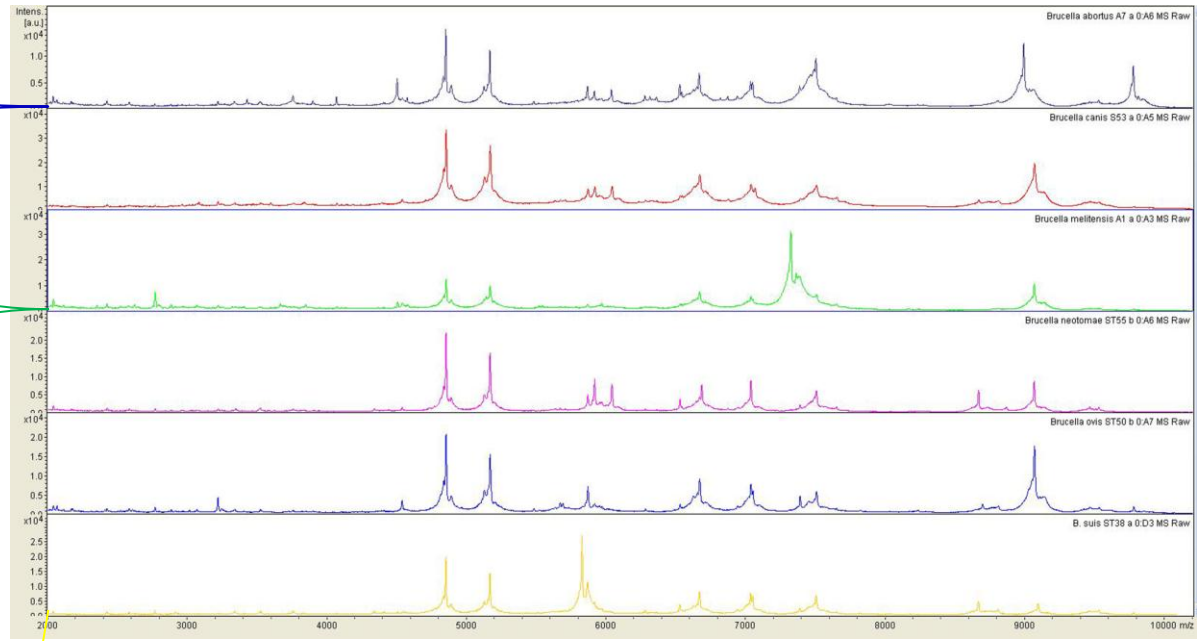
Database
strains



Database creation



Database strains	Biovar	
B.abortus RB51/ST14	1	
B.abortus/A7		
B.abortus/ST19		
B.abortus/ST20		
B.abortus/ST21		
B.abortus/A5		6
B.abortus/ST29		
B.abortus/ST31		
B.abortus/ST33		9
B.abortus/ST35		
B.canis/ST53	1	
B.melitensis/ST1		
B.melitensis/ST4		
B.melitensis/ST7		
B.melitensis/ST10		2
B.melitensis /A1		
B.melitensis /A2		3
B.melitensis /A4		
B.melitensis/PU8		
B.melitensis/PU9		
B.melitensis/PU11		
B.neotomae/ST55	1	
B.ovis/ST50		
B.suis/ST38		
B.suis/ST46		3
B.suis/ST49	5	



At the species level, a total of 93% of bacterial samples were correctly identified...

MALDI Biotyper results

Sample	No. Correct/ total	No. Incorrect/ total	Misdiagnosis (No)
<i>B. melitensis</i>	53/53		
<i>B. abortus</i>	36/39	3/39	<i>B. suis</i> (3)
<i>B. suis</i>	4/5	1/5	<i>B. melitensis</i>
<i>B. ovis</i>	1/1		
<i>B. canis</i>	0/1	1/1	<i>B. abortus</i>
<i>B. neotomae</i>	0/1	1/1	<i>B. abortus</i>

Incorrect biovar assignments were found in:

- *B. abortus* 23/39
- *B. melitensis* 4/53

- Automatic identification
- Analogue identification in at least two well
- View the highest score

Phenotyping

**MALDI-
typing**

Genotyping

- Multiple susceptibility tests
- Phage typing
- Serotyping
- Biochemical typing

- Pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE)
- Whole genome sequencing

Without additional step
Cheap
Easy to perform
Reproducibility
Lack of guidelines



Used to understand the epidemiology of a small community or healthcare – associated infections



Developed for individual bacteria taxa and not transferable to other taxa without considerable adaptation

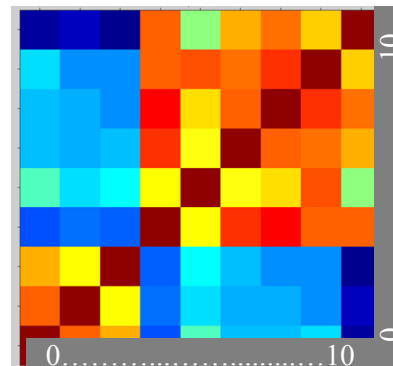


Possibility to look for epidemiological relationships between strains in a larger population range

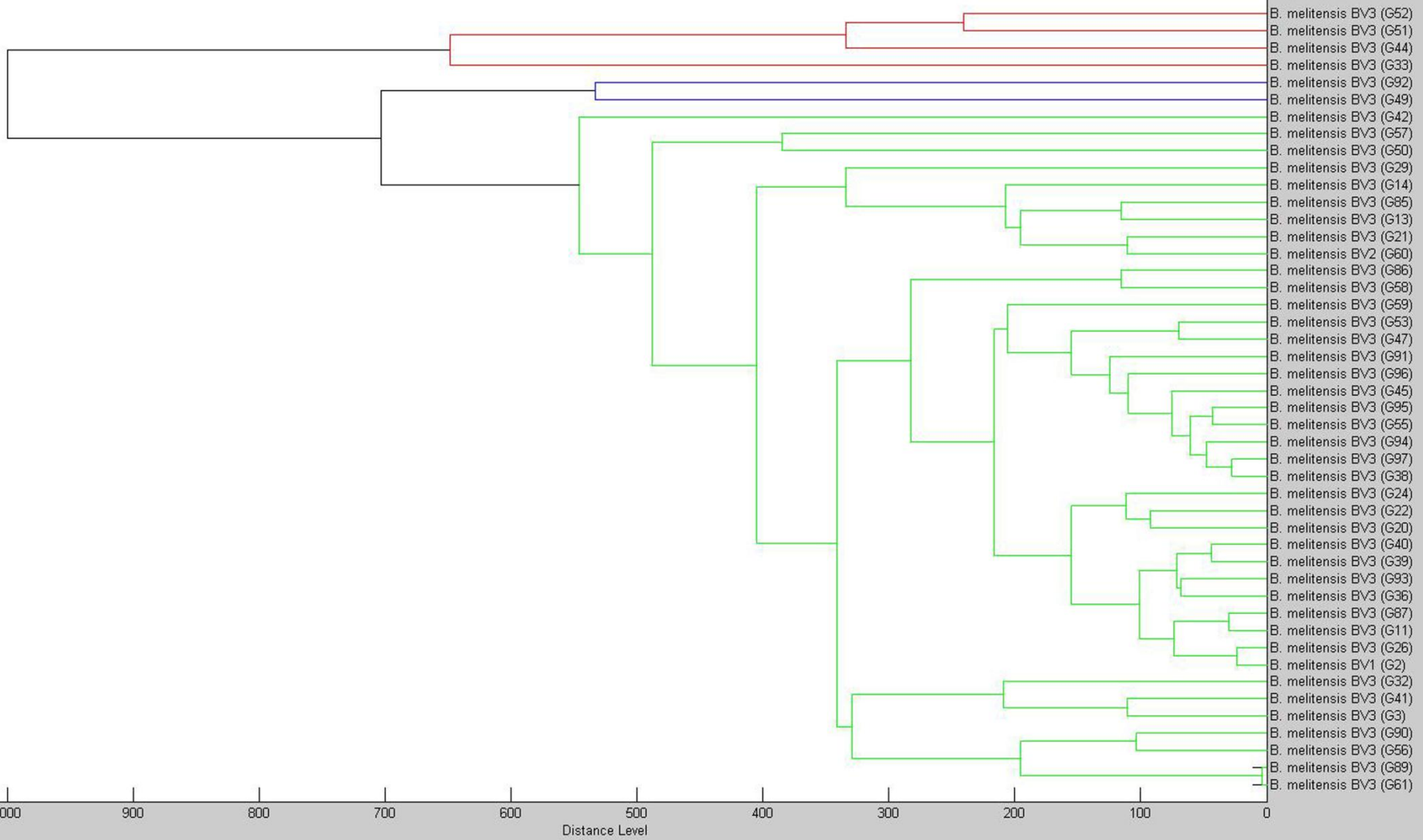


More complex approach

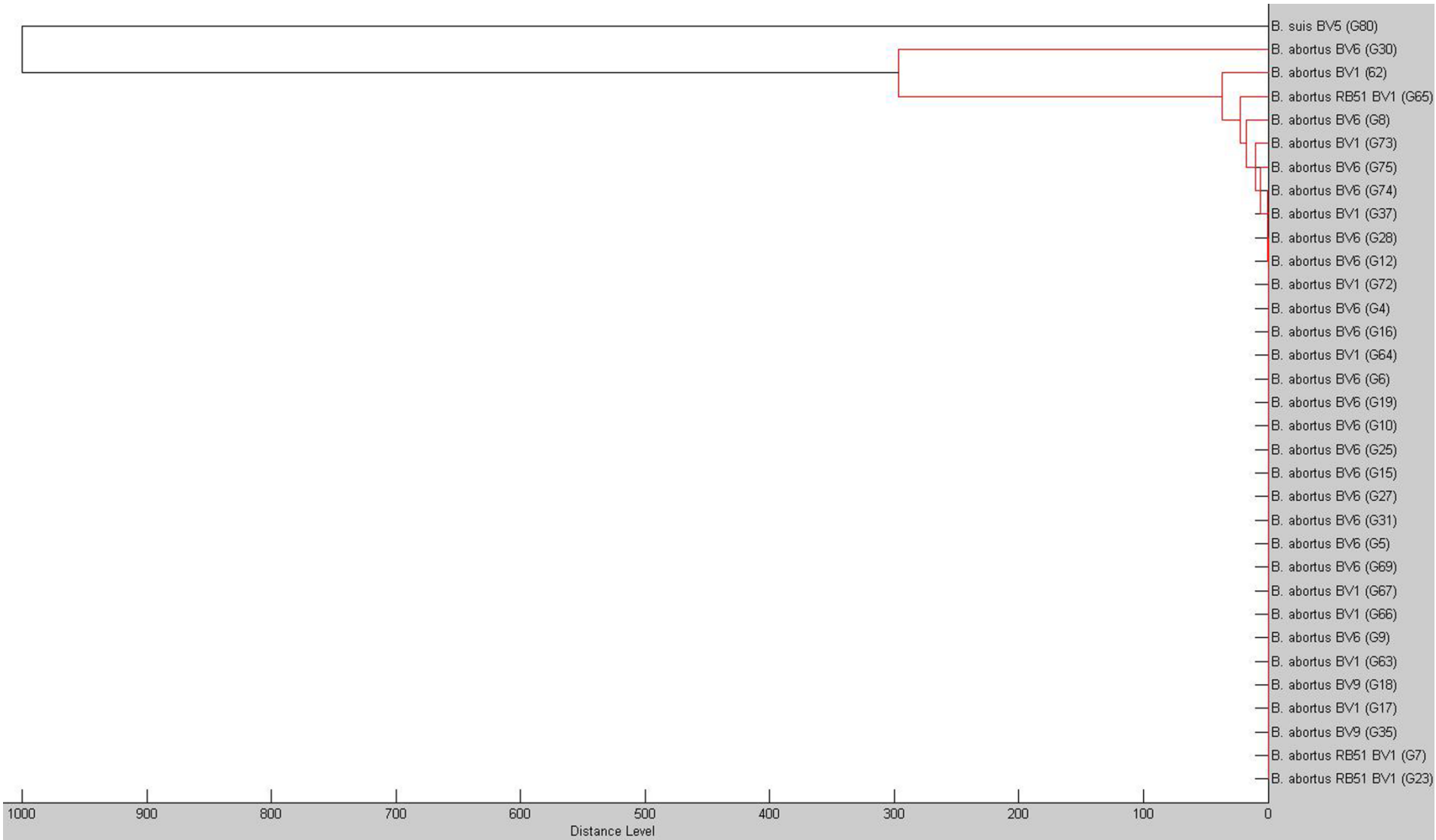
Correlation index



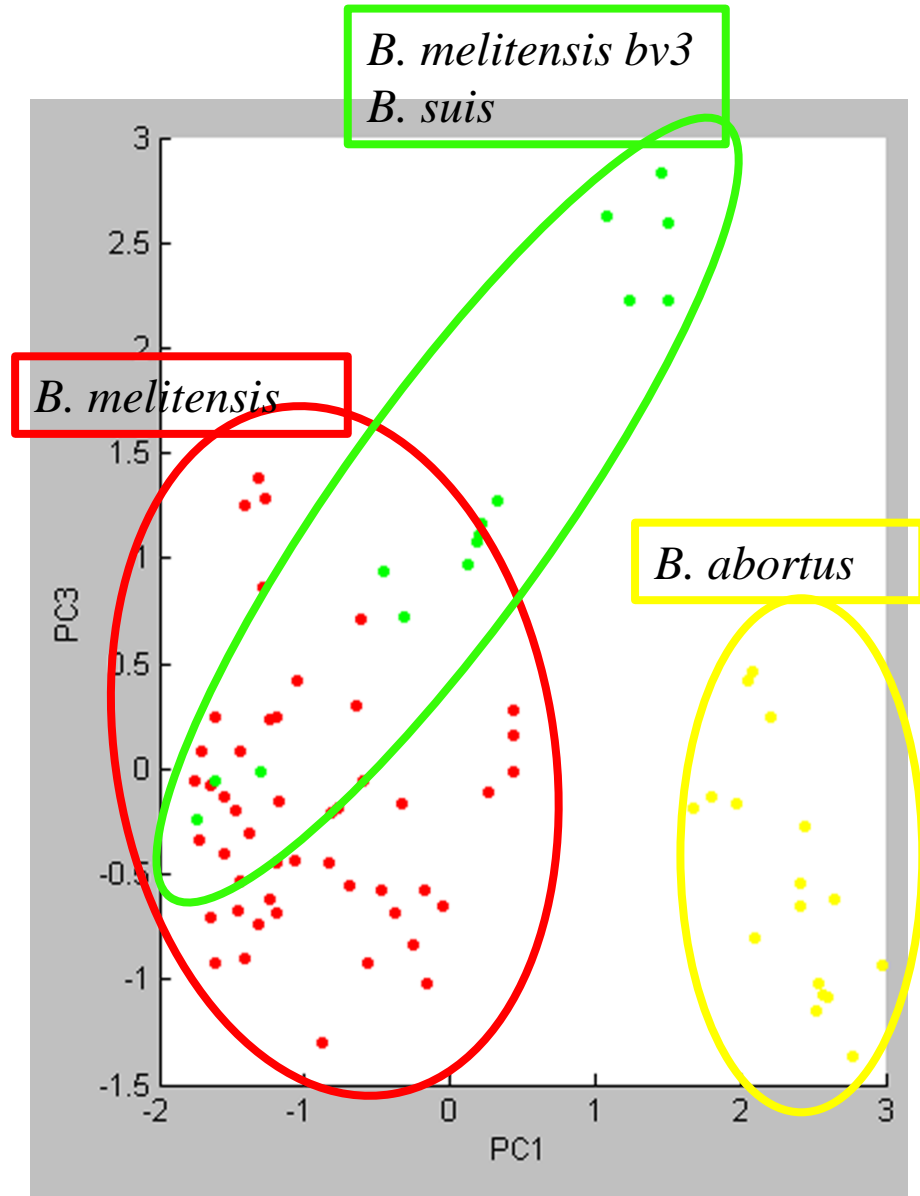
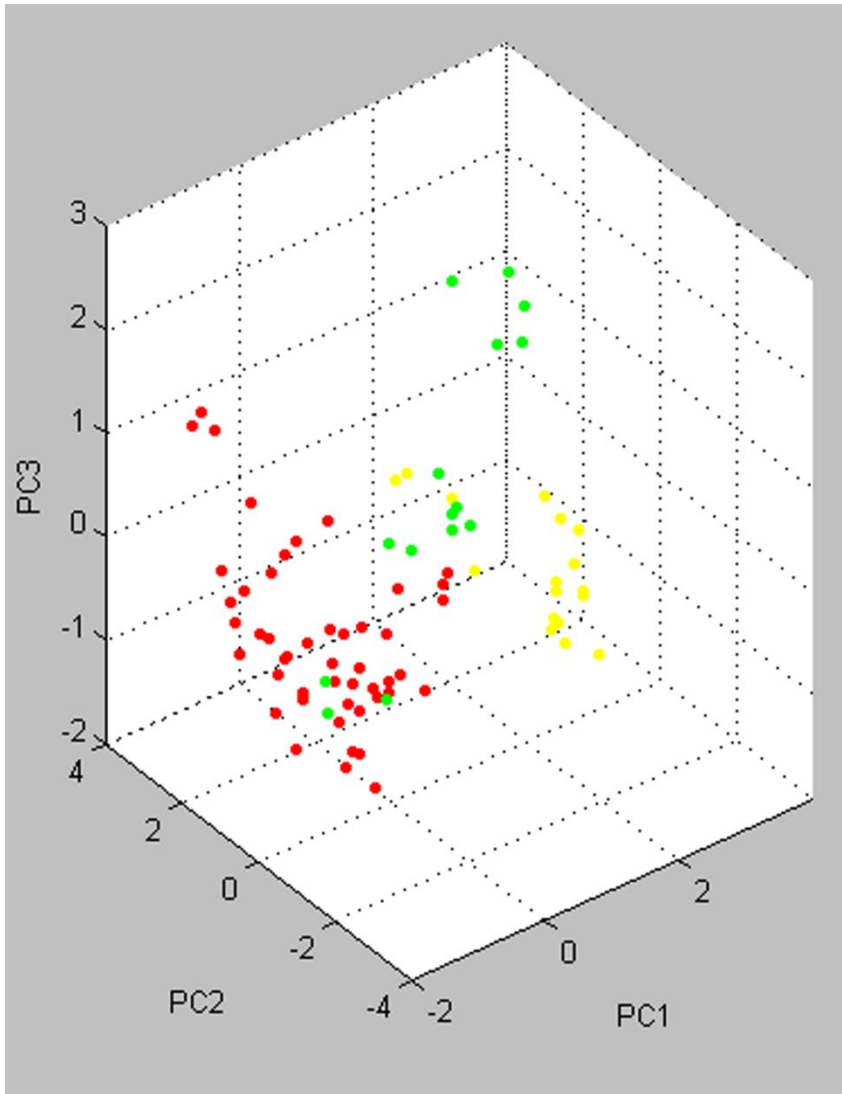
Brucella melitensis dendrogram



Brucella abortus dendrogram



Brucella MALDI-Typing

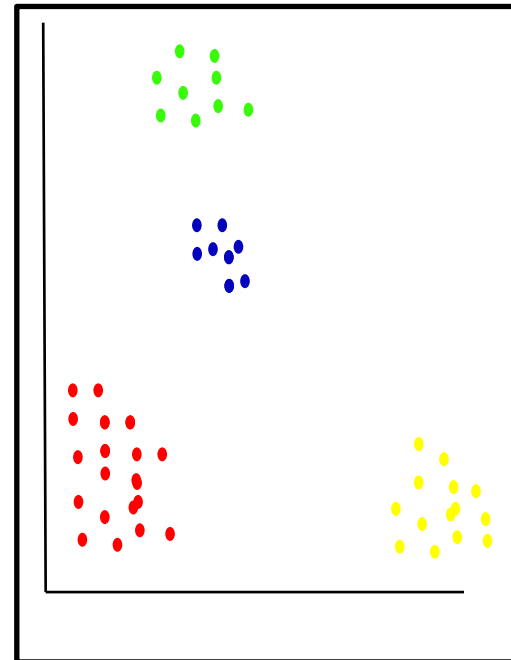
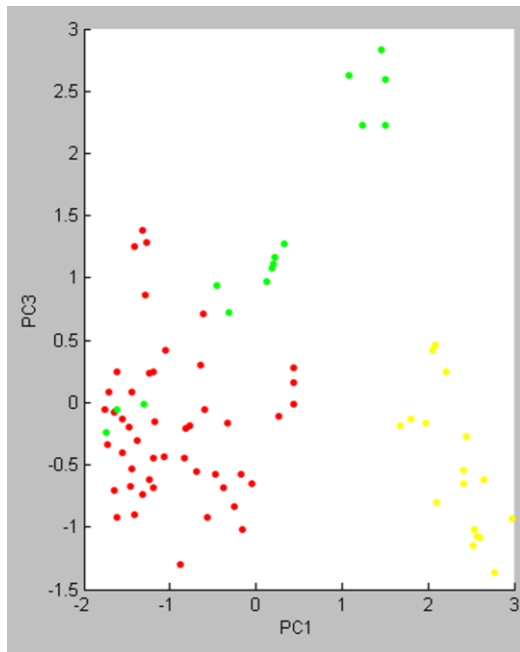


Conclusions

- ✓ Growth conditions show a good standardization of sample treatment
- ✓ Our protein extraction method is faster and safer than “old” methods, with inactivated sample after cell lysis
- ✓ Possibility to analyze inactivated samples shipped from other centers
- ✓ New home-made database highlights an excellent resolution as species identification

For the next future...

- ✓ Include negative controls in the database (*Rhizobium*, *Ochrobactrum*)
- ✓ Increase the number of *Brucella* strains in the database
- ✓ Increase the number of *Brucella* species with different biovar
- ✓ Assess the clustering of different strains using MALDI-TOF assay with gold standard MLVA analysis and more recent whole genome sequencing to better understand the relationship between circulating strains and infected hosts



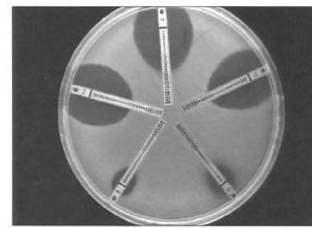
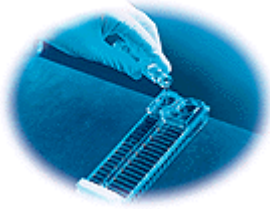
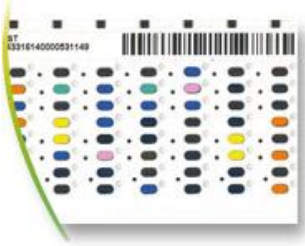


Figure 1- Photograph of a 15 centimeter long Mueller-Hinton plate with five E tests strips (ciprofloxacin, ceftazidime, piperacillin, ticarcillin/clavulanic acid and trimethoprim/ sulfamethoxazole. The microorganism being tested was Xanthoma maltophilia.



Commercial methods

E-Test Kirby-Bauer

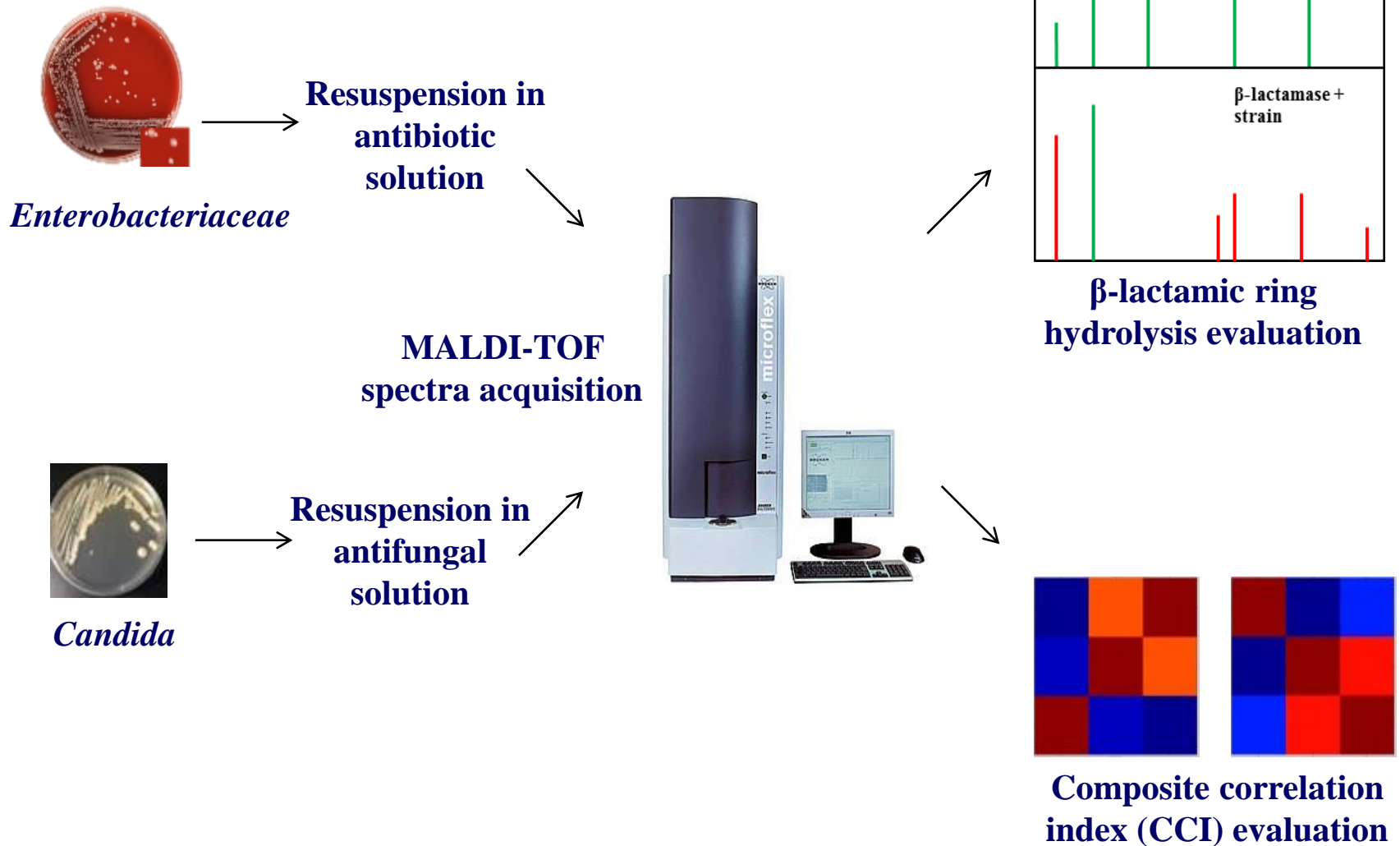
**BACTERIA
SUSCEPTIBILITY
DETERMINATION**



**MASS
SPECTROMETRY**

New generation of
susceptibility tests

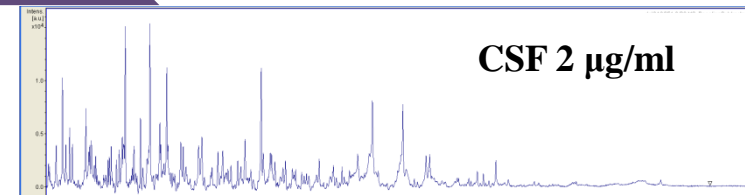
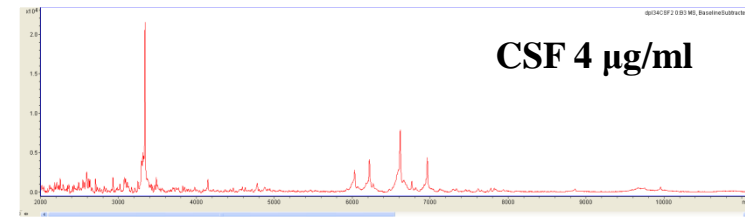
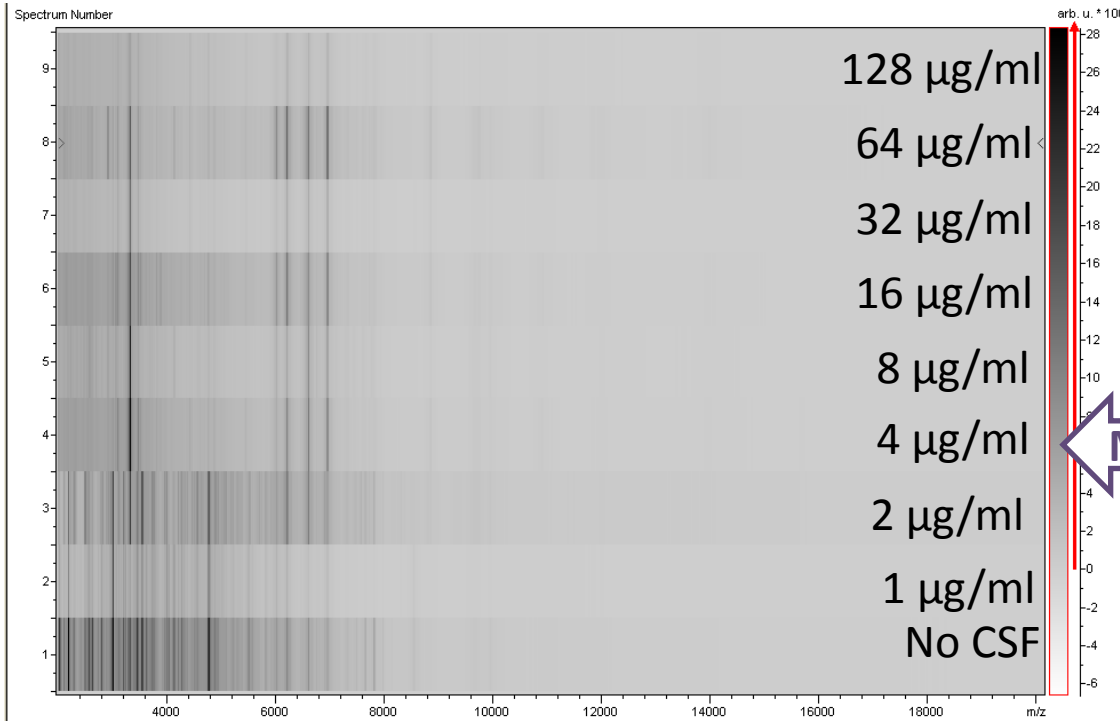
New generation of susceptibility test...



Use of Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization–Time of Flight Mass Spectrometry for Caspofungin Susceptibility Testing of *Candida* and *Aspergillus* Species

Elena De Carolis,^a Antonietta Vella,^a Ada R. Florio,^a Patrizia Posteraro,^b David S. Perlin,^c Maurizio Sanguinetti,^a and Brunella Posteraro^d

Institute of Microbiology^a and Institute of Hygiene,^d Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, Italy; Clinical Laboratory, Ospedale San Carlo, Rome, Italy^b; and Public Health Research Institute, New Jersey Medical School, UMDNJ, Newark, New Jersey, USA^c



C. albicans cells exposed to CSF scalar dilutions

MALDI-TOF in microbiological diagnostic

- Discrimination of highly related species
- Reduced time of identification compared to conventional methods (*Vlek AL et al. 2012*)
- Reduced time (11.9 vs 9.3 days) and costs of hospitalization (\$ 45,709 vs \$ 26,126) (*Perez KK et al. 2013*)
- Reduction of mortality: 20.3 % vs 14.5 % (*Huang AM et al. 2013*)

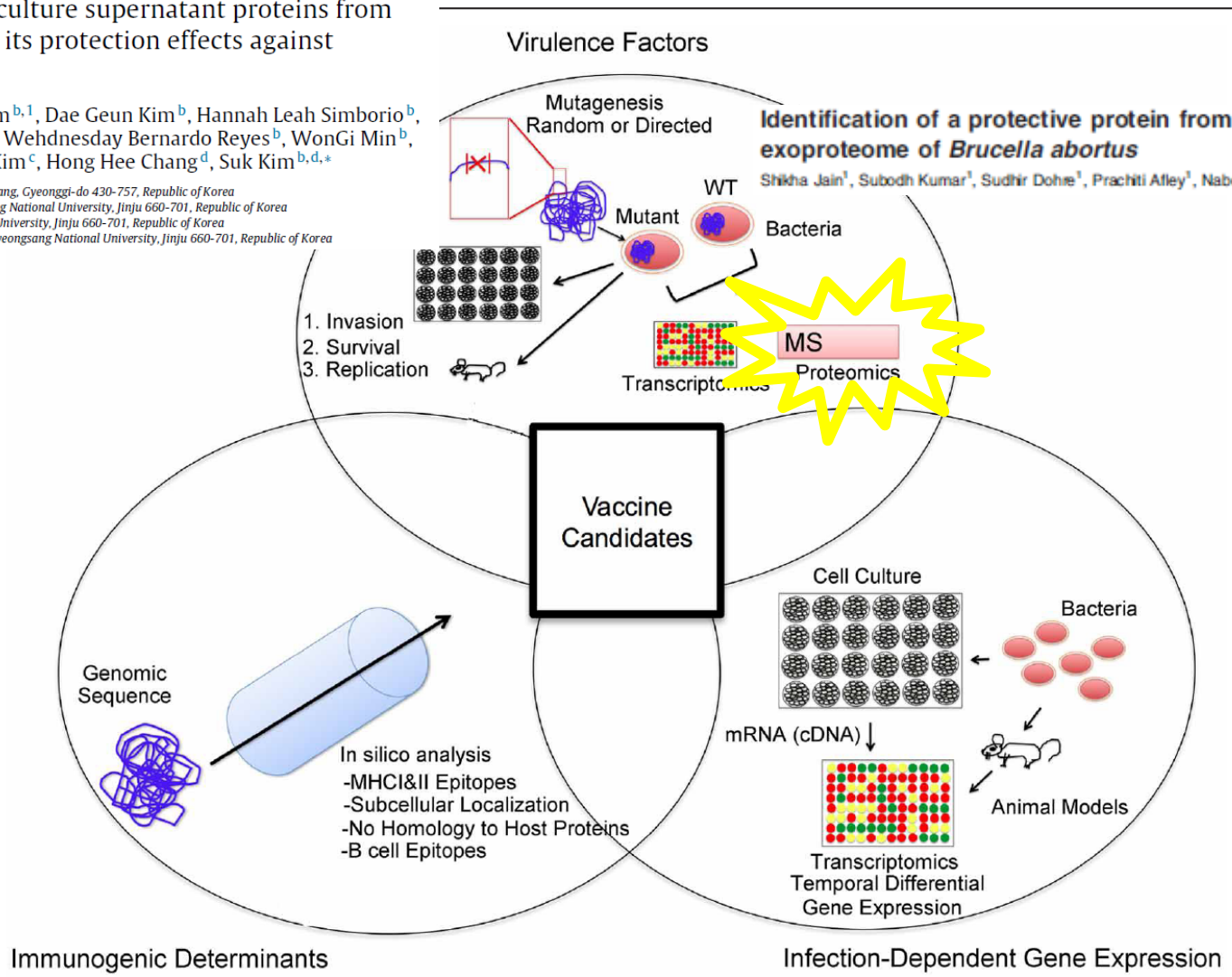


- Exhaustive and shared database
- Typing intra – species
- Revelation bacterial and fungal toxins
- Rapid and automated detection of drug resistance

Characterization of culture supernatant proteins from *Brucella abortus* and its protection effects against murine brucellosis

Jin Ju Lee^{a,b,1}, Jeong Ju Lim^{b,1}, Dae Geun Kim^b, Hannah Leah Simborio^b, Dong Hyeok Kim^b, Alisha Wehdnesday Bernardo Reyes^b, WonGi Min^b, Hu Jang Lee^b, Dong Hee Kim^c, Hong Hee Chang^d, Suk Kim^{b,d,*}

^a Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency, Anyang, Gyeonggi-do 430-757, Republic of Korea
^b College of Veterinary Medicine, Gyeongsang National University, Jinju 660-701, Republic of Korea
^c School of Medicine, Gyeongsang National University, Jinju 660-701, Republic of Korea
^d Institute of Agriculture and Life Science, Gyeongsang National University, Jinju 660-701, Republic of Korea



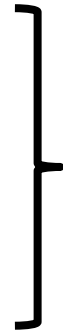
Identification of a protective protein from stationary-phase exoproteome of *Brucella abortus*

Shikha Jain¹, Subodh Kumar¹, Sudhir Dohre¹, Prachiti Atley¹, Naborita Sengupta² & Syed I. Alam²

FIGURE 2 | Vaccine candidate selection approach. An important aspect of a vaccine candidate is antigenicity. *In silico* analysis of available genomic sequences can aid in the selection of open reading frames that code for desired properties such as T and B cell epitopes, subcellular localization (i.e., outer membrane proteins), and a lack of homology to host proteins. Secondly, antigens with evidence for a role in pathogenesis are often targeted in the identification of vaccine candidates. Identification of factors

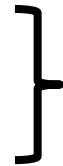
important for invasion, survival, and replication can be performed via mutagenesis studies in the mouse or cell culture systems. Additionally, comparative transcriptomic and proteomic studies of wild type and mutant pathogen strains can be carried out to identify potential virulence factors. Lastly, the priming of an immune response to a specific antigen relies on its availability. In order to identify antigenic targets present during infection, infection-dependent gene expression studies may reveal suitable targets.

Dr. Michela Sali
Dr. Elena De Carolis
Prof. Giovanni Delogu
Prof. Maurizio Sanguinetti



Università Cattolica Sacro Cuore - Roma

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Dr. Paolo Pasquali



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dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale"-
Teramo